



Environment Matters – 30 August 2005

Welcome to the latest edition of Aardvark's fortnightly news briefing.

- **Nuclear clean-up cost up to £56bn** Decommissioning the UK's ageing nuclear power stations will cost billions of pounds more than originally expected. In its first report, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority estimates that £56bn will have to be spent cleaning up 20 sites. NDA wants to speed up the clean up, including that of the ageing Magnox plants, from 125 years to 25 years. ([BBC News 11/08/05](#))
- **Morecambe Bay Bridge could power 2.2 million homes** A proposed 'green' bridge across Morecambe Bay could produce enough energy to power 2.2 million homes, 80% of the 2.8 million homes in the north west of England, new research has claimed. Plans for the bridge were outlined last year, by private consortium 'Bridge Across The Bay Company'. If built it would stretch from Heysham to Barrow, with tidal, wave, wind and photovoltaic systems built in to connect to the grid. ([EDIE 19/08/05](#))
- **Biodiversity loss 'poses grave threat to human health'** The continued loss of biological diversity threatens human health as well as the survival of wild species, delegates at an international conference heard. If species continue to decline in number at the present rate, pharmaceutical companies will find it harder to develop new drugs and agriculture will lose an irreplaceable source of potential new crops. ([World Business Council for Sustainable Development 20/08/05](#))
- **Planning to protect biodiversity and geology** Valuable habitats such as ancient woodland, heaths, wetlands, and meadows will be given extra protection under a new planning policy. Planning policy statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation sets out the major role the planning system has to play in conserving our natural heritage, on designated sites and in the wider environment. It includes, for the first time, policies to protect valuable habitats that are not already covered by local or national designations." ([EDIE 19/08/05](#))

To watch out for

- **If your tank's ready for September, you'll be oil-right** As of 1 September 2005, farmers and others such as businesses who store more than 200 litres of oil in tanks and containers, outside and above ground, for non-agricultural purposes will need to meet the new strict requirements. These regulations are retrospective and will therefore apply to all existing tanks as well as new tanks. Details are available from the [Environment Agency](#) ([Environment Agency 24/08/05](#))

Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- Aardvark has recently completed for Kingcombe Aquacare Ltd, an assessment and sustainable disposal strategy for silts arising from the refurbishment of an amenity lake in the grounds of a major London University. The job was completed within four days of receiving instructions from the client, including obtaining the Environment Agency exemption.
- For the latest news from the team please visit www.aardvarkem.co.uk

And finally

- **Queen bores hole to heat palace** The Queen is creating an underground network to extract heat from the earth's natural warmth and cut energy bills at Buckingham Palace. She has inspired a fashion among the super-rich for drilling boreholes at their properties as the latest "green" status symbol. The Buckingham Palace system will provide secure, free and inexhaustible energy from beneath the surface of the four-acre lake at the heart of the walled gardens. ([The Times 21/08/05](#))