



Environment Matters – 9 September 2005

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

- **CO2 rise threatens Britain's hope of meeting Kyoto target** Britain may miss its international target to reduce global warming gases, according to government figures which show CO2 emissions rising by 2.5% in the first six months of this year. The figures from the Department of Trade and Industry show that emissions of the main greenhouse gas have risen by 5.5% since 1997, when they should be reducing by 1% a year. The government is obliged by the global Kyoto agreement to reduce emissions of six greenhouse gases to 12.5% below 1990 levels during the 2008-12 period. ([The Guardian 05/09/05](#))
- **Is autumn now starting earlier?** The brambles are ripening across the central belt and the last swift of summer has departed for warmer climes. Autumn is advancing upon the country and experts are trying to find out if the season appears to be starting earlier. Instead of warmer weather leading to a longer summer, scientists believe the earlier start to spring may have a knock-on effect for the start of autumn. They suspect climate change may be responsible. ([The Herald 01/09/05](#))
- **Siberia's melting peat bogs** The world's largest frozen peat bog is melting. An area stretching for a million square kilometres across the permafrost of western Siberia is turning into a mass of shallow lakes as the ground melts. The sudden melting of an area the size of France and Germany combined could unleash billions of tonnes of methane into the atmosphere. It is described as an "ecological landslide that is probably irreversible and is undoubtedly connected to climatic warming". ([New Scientist 30/08/05](#))

To watch out for

- **New EIA (Agricultural) Regulations** DEFRA has launched a consultation on proposed new rules to help protect the rural environment from agricultural damage. The proposed new EIA (Agriculture) Regulations will simplify existing EIA rules which protect uncultivated and semi-natural land from agricultural damage by making them easier for farmers to comply with. They will also apply new EIA rules to operations that aim to restructure rural land holdings. They will apply to certain large-scale removal or addition of hedges, walls and ditches. They will also apply to certain re-contouring of agricultural land, including the creation or filling-in of lakes or reservoirs. ([DEFRA 25/09/05](#))

Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- Adam Robbins has become the latest environmental professional to join the Aardvark team at our Higher Ford office. Adam joins us after completing his Masters in Environmental Impact Assessment - adamrobbins@aardvarkem.co.uk
- For the latest news from the team please visit www.aardvarkem.co.uk

And finally

- **Running out of water** Southern Europe is in the grip of the worst drought since records began caused by a persistent and unusually high-pressure area, which has held at bay the wet weather. Meanwhile 30 litres of water go down the drain when you shower for five minutes, 5 litres are wasted if you run the tap while brushing your teeth and 1,000 litres an hour are used by a garden sprinkler. Just one flush of the loo uses as much water as the average person in the developing world uses for one day's washing, drinking, cleaning and cooking. ([The Week 28/08/05](#))