

## Environment Matters – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2007

### Welcome to Aardvark's fortnightly environmental news briefing,

- **UK 'failing on many key habitats'** The UK is failing to protect many of its most vulnerable habitats and species. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee said 90% of key habitats and 50% of species at risk were affected. ([BBC News 15/05/07](#))
- **UK's Brown Goes Green on Election Battleground** Britain's leader-in-waiting Gordon Brown, eager to seize the green initiative on a vital election battleground, on Sunday announced plans to build five environmentally friendly and affordable "eco-towns." ([Planet Ark 14/05/07](#))
- **Oceans losing ability to soak up CO2** Recent changes in the climate have weakened the Earth's ability to absorb carbon dioxide through the oceans and are speeding up global warming, scientists have found. ([Telegraph 18/05/07](#))
- **Giant wind farm planned for Bristol Channel** The world's biggest wind farm, with 370 turbines towering 150m (492ft) above the waves, is planned for the Bristol Channel. The turbines would cover an area the size of the Isle of Wight and generate 1,500 megawatts, more than half the energy needs of the West Country and enough to power 1.1 million homes. ([The Times 18/05/07](#))
- **Renewable energy: The tide turns** Senior cabinet ministers are pushing for Britain to be the first nation in the world to get much of its power from the tides, as part of a massive new expansion for renewable energy. ([The Independent 20/05/07](#))
- **Energy White Paper falls short again** The Energy White Paper, published this week by the UK Government, has been met with renewed scepticism from the environmental quarter, with Greenpeace reiterating its opposition to a new nuclear programme by calling the move "delusional". ([Green Consumer Guide 24/05/07](#))
- **Miliband publishes strategy to cut waste** Environment Secretary David Miliband today published a new strategy for cutting waste, and said that everyone – businesses, individuals, local authorities and the Government – has a role to play by reducing the waste they produce. ([Defra 24/05/07](#))

### Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- **Aardvark gets greener** Aardvark has joined a local group purchasing scheme to run their site vehicles on biodiesel. Whilst the priority is still to use the local public transport network where possible, access to some sites can be difficult so running the vehicles on green fuel helps to reduce environmental impact. Several members of the team will also run their private cars on the bio fuel.
- For the latest Aardvark news logon to [www.aardvarkem.co.uk](http://www.aardvarkem.co.uk)

### And finally,

- **World Environment Day** World Environment Day, commemorated each year on 5 June, is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. ([UNEP](#))