



## Environment Matters – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2008

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

- **Winds of change: Shell ditches renewable stake amid fears of a retreat to carbons** The future of the world's largest offshore wind farm and a symbol of Britain's renewable energy future was thrown into doubt last night after it emerged that Shell was backing out of the project and indicated it would prefer to invest in more lucrative oil schemes ([Guardian.co.uk](http://Guardian.co.uk) 01/05/08)
- **Britain calls on alien parasites to take fight to Japanese knotweed** An army of jumping plant lice is to be released into Britain in the hope that they can save the countryside from the ravages of Japanese knotweed. ([The Independent](http://The Independent) 05/05/08)
- **Green and pink eco homes line up for Grand Designs** This weeks Grand Designs final on TV and live 'ideal home' show will give the nation an opportunity to see some green buildings in action. ([Green Building](http://Green Building) 06/05/08)
- **Renewable Energy - its role in the UK** The Energy Minister discusses the role of renewable energy in the overall energy mix strategy of the Government and highlights the economic opportunities that renewable energy brings to the UK. He confirms renewable energy as a key priority for the UK. ([eGov Monitor](http://eGov Monitor) 06/05/08)
- **Wasted food costs £10 billion: WRAP** New research published by WRAP shows the cost of needlessly wasted food to UK households is £10 billion a year, £2 billion higher than previously estimated. ([Defra](http://Defra) 08/05/08)
- **Digester push for UK farms** Food and Farming Minister Jeff Rooker has told farmers he is 'pushing' his Department to do more to encourage the uptake of anaerobic digestion on UK farms. Specifically, he is asking Defra to look at the possibility of providing assistance to farmers to meet the capital cost of connecting on-farm plants to the National Grid. ([Farmers Guardian](http://Farmers Guardian) 09/05/08)
- **Chaotic flood defences leave large areas at risk, say MPs** Britain's defences against river floods are "chaotic", with local authorities, water companies and the government still unprepared to handle flooding on the scale that devastated large areas of the north and the Midlands last summer ([Guardian](http://Guardian) 07/05/08)

### Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- Aardvark has been instructed by a care home provider to advise them on environmental matters through their proposals to convert redundant outbuildings into new assisted care accommodation. The sensitive site in Somerset is Grade II\* listed, dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, and sits within 13 acres of parkland. One of the key issues will be the survey and mitigation strategy for several protected ecological species.
- For the latest Aardvark news and services logon to [www.aardvarkem.co.uk](http://www.aardvarkem.co.uk).

### And finally,

- **Compostable poultry packaging launched by UK retailer** In an effort to cut packaging waste, Sainsbury's Scottish So Organic whole chickens are now being sold in compostable trays instead of plastic trays in Scottish stores. ([worldpoultry.net](http://worldpoultry.net) 05/05/08)