

UK-China trade relations championed by investment minister visit

International Trade Minister Graham Stuart MP travels to China today, to bolster the trade relationship between the UK and China post-Brexit.

Beginning his visit in the Chinese capital Beijing, the Minister will meet with key representatives in the Chinese government in the Ministry of Commerce and officials at the Chinese National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), to promote the UK-China economic relationship and champion British business in the region.

While in China, he will meet with dozens of potential investors, hosting roundtables with Chinese life sciences, education, infrastructure and financial services businesses, to promote the strengths of the UK as an investment destination and encourage stronger trade ties between the two countries.

The visit will see Minister Stuart lead a 200-strong delegation of UK business leaders representing sectors such as tech, manufacturing, transport and education to the Smart China Expo in Chongqing , where he will champion the UK's global leadership in smart technology, and attend the UK's flagship pavilion at the Horticulture Expo in Beijing, where the UK is showcasing its leadership in clean energy and sustainable development.

The 10-day visit comes as trade and investment with China reaches record levels, bilateral trade between the 2 countries has more than doubled over the past 10 years, with the latest statistics showing trade has succeeded the £70bn mark for the first time during the last financial year.

Over the last decade, China has been the 3rd biggest contributor to the overall increase in British exports, beaten only by Germany and the USA.

Speaking ahead of his visit, the Minister for Investment Graham Stuart said:

China is a world-leading economy and the UK's largest trading partner outside of Europe and North America, holding unparalleled opportunities for UK businesses.

Britain is committed to strengthening the UK-China trading relationship to ensure UK firms are poised to seize the opportunities the region offers as our trading relationship continues to blossom.

I hope my visit will be instrumental to winning investments into

the UK , while opening up new opportunities for UK firms and fostering greater partnerships between our two great nations.

The Minister's visit follows on from the UK-China 10th Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) which took place in London in June this year.

The EFD saw the former Chancellor, Philip Hammond, and Chinese Vice Premier, Hu Chunhua, launch the London-Shanghai Stock Connect UK, which allowed listed companies to sell their shares in China for the first time, alongside the announcement of £500 million worth of commercial deals and partnerships.

Minister Stuart's visit is expected to secure a number of commercial deals and new partnerships between British and Chinese businesses.

North Yorkshire farmer admits Wildlife & Countryside offences on Site of Special Scientific Interest

A farmer from Pickering in North Yorkshire has admitted three offences under the Wildlife & Countryside Act after being prosecuted by Natural England.

These offences included the creation of a track at Newtondale [Site of Special Scientific Interest \(SSSI\)](#) and significant earthworks and the felling and removal of trees and vegetation, without Natural England's consent. These actions had a damaging effect on the woodland, mire and physiographic features of the SSSI.

Newtondale SSSI is one of the most important nature conservation sites in North Yorkshire and it is particularly noted for its post-glacial valley landscape with ancient woodlands and extensive semi-natural grassland and mire vegetation. Sites of this nature are rare nationally and particularly rare in North Yorkshire.

At a hearing of York Magistrates Court in mid-July, Brian Eddon, 50, pleaded guilty to three charges and was handed down a fine and ordered to make a contribution to Natural England's costs.

Adelle Rowe, Natural England's Area Manager for Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire, said:

When we find cases of damage, such as this, in some of England's most important and iconic countryside, we will take action and prosecute those responsible. We take our role as a regulator seriously and we look forward to working with Mr Eddon in order to

avoid damage to the SSSI in future.

Background

- [Newtondale SSSI](#) was first notified in 1955. It is a large site (935.5 ha) situated within a deep valley extending from north of Pickering towards Goathland, within the North York Moors National Park. It is of geological importance as a large glacial meltwater channel and for sections of exposed Callovian age strata. The site is also of importance for its biodiversity and provides a fine example of the succession of habitats between the upland and lower valley regimes which includes woodland, grassland, fen, valley mire and moorland edge.
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[£1 million project to reduce flood risk in Earby is complete](#)

A culvert in a Lancashire town has been repaired to protect homes and businesses from flooding.

[£1 million project to reduce flood risk in Earby is complete](#)

Essential work to reduce the risk of flooding to 91 homes and 17 businesses in Earby is now complete.

A £1 million culvert repair project started in the Lancashire town in July 2018 to make Victoria Clough structurally sound.

Culverts are structures which carry water underground. They were often built to allow development to take place around them such as roads, homes and businesses. Many people live and work near culverts and may not even know they are there.

A new 40m length of culvert has been installed using a technique known as pipe bursting beneath the disused railway embankment to replace the existing one which had partially collapsed. Environment Agency contractors JBA Bentley also lined a number of sections totalling 60m along the length of the culvert at locations under Victoria Road and the A56 Skipton Road.

A new and improved 2-tier trash screen has been installed at the inlet of the culvert, to help reduce the risk of it becoming blocked with debris and making it easier and safer to clear when water levels are high.

Paul Swales flood risk advisor at the Environment Agency said:

Earby has suffered devastating flooding over recent years, most notably the Boxing Day 2015 flood. We're delighted that this project is now complete and will bring significant flood risk benefits to homes and businesses in Earby.

While we carried out this work, traffic management was in place for some time and delays were encountered, so we'd like to thank residents and businesses for their patience and understanding while we carried out this essential work to reduce flood risk.

Funding for the project came from £813k of Grant in Aid and £200k of Yorkshire Local Levy.

Since the floods of Boxing Day 2015, the Environment Agency has worked in partnership with Pendle Borough Council, Lancashire County Council, Yorkshire Water and Earby Town Council to develop schemes to reduce flood risk in Earby. The Environment Agency has kept local MP Andrew Stephenson informed about the scheme during construction and upon completion.

The Environment Agency continues to develop other options to reduce flood risk from all sources in and around Earby. Staff will continue to develop the leading options in more detail, which includes a flood storage area on Victoria Clough and installing a flood defence wall at Boot Street adjacent to the New Cut. Subject to funding and further investigation, construction on the Victoria Clough storage area and New Cut flood wall could start towards the end of 2020.

By signing up to the Environment Agency's free Flood Warning service residents and businesses can receive flood alerts and flood warnings for Earby Beck and/or Earby New Cut directly to their phone and emails, 24/7.

To find out if you're at risk and register for flood warnings visit:
www.gov.uk/flood

[Detailed guide: Record and report F](#)

gas and equipment you produce or import

Uses of fluorinated gas (F gas) that you must record and report on.