

# Press release: Tis the season for filling Christmas stockings

They may not be Santa's 'elvers' but the Calverton team has been hard at work delivering fish to rivers, ponds and lakes the length and breadth of England including waters around Durham in the north, Isle of Wight in the south, Herefordshire in the west, Suffolk in the east and the River Parchey at King's Sedgemoor Drain in Somerset.

In the first 4 weeks of the stocking season (14 November to 14 December) 143,000 fish reared for up to 18 months have been driven from the Fish Farm in Nottinghamshire and released into 41 still waters and 30 rivers with plenty more planned for the coming weeks.

The main reasons for stocking Calverton-bred fish and larvae are: replacing stocks lost to pollution or following habitat or water quality improvements; improving stocks where natural reproduction is low; and helping to create fisheries in areas where there is a shortage of angling opportunities.

The species raised at Calverton include Barbel, Bream, Chub, Roach, Dace, Rudd, Tench, Crucian carp, and Grayling. Fish are reared for up to 18 months.

These fish play an important role in the work of the Environment Agency and its partners to restore, improve and develop sustainable fisheries in England.

Kevin Austin, Environment Agency Deputy Director of Fisheries said:

We encourage anglers to enjoy fishing through the festive holidays. A [fishing rod licence](#) also makes an excellent Christmas gift for someone who doesn't have one but wants to give it a go.

The work of EA's National Fish Farm is funded by income from licence fees, so in the lead up to Christmas it's great to see the fish farm continuing to produce the strong and healthy fish needed for restocking and recovery.

Alan Henshaw, Calverton Fish Farm Team Leader said:

The Christmas stockings have been extra full this season thanks to a lot of hard work and the exceptional growth of the fish during the warm summer.

Stocking more than 70 different waters in a month shows what our busy team can do at this time of year as the stocking season starts. There's still a lot of work ahead to complete the program and deliver more great healthy young fish to benefit our lakes and

rivers this season.

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## **News story: Winfrith land transfer secures £1.7 million savings**

Tradebe Inutec, an existing tenant, has operated a facility at the Dorset site for more than 30 years and now has greater flexibility to expand or diversify its operations on land adjacent to the former civil nuclear research site – which is now being decommissioned by Magnox Ltd. The agreement will safeguard up to 70 skilled jobs.

Before the sale can be finalised, the controls covering the nuclear facility need to be lifted through approval by the Government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The deal is expected to conclude next year and will mean that the NDA's mission will be completed for this part of the site.

Work under way at the facility

The Tradebe Inutec site occupies almost 3 hectares, around the same size as 4 football pitches.

The transfer aligns to the NDA's strategy for surplus assets. To date this has raised more than £500 million for the UK taxpayer, including the sale of non-operational land at Wylfa, Oldbury, Hinkley and Bradwell.

NDA Chief Financial Officer David Batters said:

As part of its decommissioning mission, the NDA is committed to disposing of its assets and freeing up its land for alternative uses, wherever appropriate. I am delighted that we have signed this agreement with Tradebe Inutec, which reduces our liabilities while supporting the supply chain and the local economy.

Tradebe Inutec provides a wide range of radioactive waste management services to UK and overseas markets, including recycling and thermal treatment. Its Winfrith site processes low-level wastes (LLW) and borderline Intermediate Level Waste (ILW).

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# Press release: Illegally dumped waste at Redbrook Lane cleared

Environment Agency and partners have worked to enable a new landowner to safely remove over 2,500 bales of illegally dumped waste from the former AMI Blaymires site at Redbrook Lane, Rugeley.

In 2013, in a matter of days, baled waste was illegally deposited without the warehouse owner's knowledge. Sadly this type of organised waste crime has a devastating effect: warehouses are filled very quickly and landowners are left with the responsibility and costs of disposing of the waste dumped on their land. These costs can be astronomical. At Redbrook Lane, the Environment Agency has estimated the clear up costs to be in the region of £400,000.

The site is now owned by South Staffordshire Commercials Limited, after Environment Agency action to persuade creditors to write off any debt associated with the site. This has meant that the land could be sold to new owners with the means to safely remove the waste and bring the site back into business use.

Adam Lines, Staffordshire Environment Manager said:

This is very good news. Working with partners and with compassion for the victims of this crime we've worked tirelessly to address the challenges of clearing illegally deposited and abandoned waste from the site.

The Environment Agency take every action we can to clear sites and bring those responsible to account. Unfortunately, as long as there is profit to be made from managing waste illegally there will always be people who are prepared to break the law in pursuit of that profit. We are going hard after that criminal minority.

Since the crime, the Environment Agency has worked in partnership with Cannock Chase District Council, Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service to get the site cleared, to reduce issues with flies, increase security and to reduce the risk of fire at the site. Cannock Chase District Council provided funding to supply shutters and regularly carried out pest control work. Staffordshire Fire & Rescue has also carried out regular site visits and maintained an active plan on how to tackle and contain a fire at the site.

Councillor John Preece, Cannock Chase Council's Portfolio Holder for Environment said:

We are pleased to see the waste removed because it's been a blight

on the local area and a potential hazard to the local community.

Whilst it has been a long time coming, it is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the staff of all organisations involved. It represents an excellent example of how agencies can work together productively.

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) Director of Response, Tim Hyde said:

SFRS is fully involved in managing the risks of identified illicit waste sites around the county, regularly monitoring sites and feeding into the county's multi-agency work to tackle the issue.

The news that this site has been cleared is very welcome. Sites like this are a blight on the community and are becoming an increasing problem both locally and nationally. Getting them cleared can be difficult and expensive but we will continue to work with our partners to reduce the risks of fire while they try to achieve this.

Everyone has a part to play to help crack down on waste crime. If you suspect someone is disposing of your waste illegally, or you want to alert us to other illegal waste operations, call our incident hotline on 0800 70 60 50 or Crimestoppers anonymously on: 0800 555 111, or alternatively use the online form at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

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## [News story: Wearable technology for injury prevention](#)

The Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) is seeking novel ways to use data science to prevent injury in service personnel, after a successful event to assess market interest.

The use of wearable and/or nearable technology presents a significant opportunity for the UK Armed Forces to reduce injury. The 3 areas of focus are musculoskeletal injury (MSKI), environmental injury (heat and cold) and noise induced hearing loss (NIHL).

The British Army is seeking rapid innovations to improve the deployability and overall health of service personnel through the use of data science and technology. The aspiration is to employ practical sensors and supporting data analysis that will provide indicators and warnings prior to injury, to allow for early intervention and prevention of injuries.

Consideration must be given to the working and living environments in which the military operate. Technology proposed must function in all climates and environments, and in extreme conditions, with challenges such as dust, sand, wet and extreme temperatures, and it must address security, legal and ethical implications (for instance, encryption, geographical information, transmission and data protection).

DASA is interested in technologies that can be trialled in a realistic military environment within 6 months, reaching a minimum of around technology readiness level (TRL) 6 (technology model or prototype demonstration in a relevant environment) at the end of this phase.

This competition will comprise of 2 challenges:

- hardware to collect data (wearable and/or nearable sensor technology)
- data analysis, management and ability to predict and/or warn of potential injury

This competition has up to £1 million available to fund a number of proposals.

A dial-in session providing further detail on the competition will take place on 8 January 2019 providing a chance to ask questions in an open forum. If you would like to take part in this dial-in, please register on the [Eventbrite page](#).

This competition closes at midday on 25 January 2019

Full details are available in the [competition document](#).

If you have any queries on this competition, please do contact us at [accelerator@dstl.gov.uk](mailto:accelerator@dstl.gov.uk).

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## **[Press release: Homes England opts modular build specialist for south east base](#)**

The government's housing agency, which is a leading advocate of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC), has selected McAvoy for the off-site manufacture of the two-storey building designed by architects Proctor and Mathews.

Homes England is leading a long-term project to deliver 8,500 new homes in the centre of Northstowe new town.

This includes the off-site construction of a modular build office for Homes

England staff, demonstrating the agency's commitment to MMC alongside reducing on-site build time and disruption to the wider Northstowe site.

Paul Kitson, General Manager for Homes England in the South East said: "Homes England champions MMC as a means of increasing building productivity and improving energy efficiency.

"MMC has the potential to be significantly more productive than traditional methods of construction and greatly increase the pace of delivery. It can also improve the quality of construction and help address labour and materials shortages."

"Opting for an office built using MMC shows our strong commitment to non-traditional building methods."

"Working with McAvoy and Proctor and Matthews Architects will enable us to create an office that allows our workforce to experience first-hand the capabilities of modular construction."

Raymond Millar, Construction Director of The McAvoy Group added: "This project is a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate the potential of offsite construction and how the approach can realise an ambitious architectural design and deliver a high-quality and flexible office environment. By moving construction into a highly efficient factory environment, we will be significantly reducing the build programme, minimising disruption to local residents and offering greater certainty of completion to the highest quality standards, on time and on budget."

The open plan building will provide a modern, purpose built office environment for Homes England's south east team, along with meeting rooms, a breakout area, conference room and multi-use space which may be used for other events such as public consultation meetings as the Northstowe development progresses.

Stephen Proctor, director at Proctor and Matthews Architects said: "We're pleased to be working alongside Homes England and McAvoy Group on the new office building at Northstowe, which will be a focus for the emerging new town and a showcase of the benefits of flexible design and modular construction. The design references the local crafts, heritage and textures of this edge of Fenlands location."

The development reflects Homes England's commitment to the Northstowe new town project and to the increased pace of delivery offered by MMC.

The organisation has recently tendered its first parcel of land at Northstowe, with a requirement for developers to use panellised construction on at least half of the 400 homes on site. Plans for a plot solely using MMC techniques are also under consideration.

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For more information contact Sarah Foulkes, Communications Officer at Homes England. Tel: 0161 200 6130 or 07967 782162, or email

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