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South Crofty tin mine environmental conditions approved

Cornwall County Council has approved the environmental conditions for mine operation at the South Crofty mine owned by BaseResult Holdings Ltd. South Crofty closed in 1998 and was bought by BaseResult in 2001. BaseResult said they hoped to start production at South Crofty in two years.



South Crofty mine

Photo Copyright: BGS NERC

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/cornwall/5323908.stm>

Snowdon café will use Welsh granite

The new café at the summit of Snowdon, the highest mountain in Wales standing 1085 m above sea level, is to have granite walls and exterior floors from the Cwt y Bugail quarry near Blaenau Ffestiniog. The roof will be constructed of granite from Portugal. The old café, long considered an eyesore, is currently being demolished. The new building will be completed by the summer of 2008.



Snowdon summit

Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC

Source: <http://www.snowdon-summit.co.uk/>

UK Coal reports an operating profit of £12 Million



UK coal production

Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC

UK Coal has returned to profitability in the 6 months to 30 June 2006 after a comprehensive restructuring. The performance of the company's 5 deep mines improved substantially. Coal sales were up 19% at 5.7 million tonnes while the selling price rose 7.5% to £1.39 per gigajoule. Planning consent has also been received for two open cast sites containing 1.6 million tonnes of coal.

Source : <http://www.ukcoal.com/>

New geodiversity report from English Nature



Hutton's unconformity, a site of special geological interest

Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC

English Nature (soon to be a part of Natural England) has announced the publication of a major report on geodiversity which sets out priorities for better conservation, management and enhancement of geodiversity. The 132 page report, available from <http://www.english-nature.org.uk/pubs/publication/PDF/GeologySON.pdf>, contains many colour photographs of some of the most striking areas of English geology and their links with natural habitats and man-made structures.

Source: www.englishnature.org.uk/

New North Sea gas condensate discovery



North Sea platform

Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC

ConocoPhillips, operator of a consortium which includes ENI SpA and BG Group, has confirmed the discovery of a new gas condensate field in Blocks 30/6 and 30/7 in the UK sector of the North Sea, about nine kilometres west of the Judy Field. A sidetrack of the discovery well to a total depth of 4 800 metres has confirmed the presence of a substantial commercial hydrocarbon accumulation which BG Group estimates contain recoverable reserves of between 100 million and 275 million barrels.

Source : http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=35970

Parys Mountain drilling success continues



Parys Mountain shaft
Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC

Anglesey Mining has announced results from recent drilling of the White Rock Zone near the Morris Shaft which was sunk to 300m depth in 1990-1991. Six holes have intersected the White Rock Zone of copper-lead-zinc sulphide mineralisation with intersections of up to 24 m (down hole) at 0.54% Cu, 4.19% Pb and 6.9% Zn with 55 ppm Ag and 0.54 ppm Au. The White Rock Zone has previously been calculated to contain an indicated resource of 840 000 tonnes at 0.49% Cu, 3.44% Pb, 6.84% Zn, 42 ppm Ag, and 0.45 ppm Au . This new drilling demonstrates the continuity in both thickness and grade of the White Rock Zone upwards from the previously explored 280 m level. The holes are also close to the planned decline access to the Engine Zone which forms the main part of the Parys Mountain mineral resources. A hole has been drilled to test the upward extension of the Engine Zone to surface and successfully intersected it at 200m vertical depth. Another hole is planned to intersect the Engine Zone at 150m.

Further information, including a plan of the drilling area, can be found on <http://www.angleseymining.co.uk/>

Source: <http://www.angleseymining.co.uk/>

Cemex to set up a new grinding and blending plant at Tilbury



UK cement production
Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC

Cemex have announced plans to construct a new grinding and blending facility at Tilbury for the manufacturing of blended cements in the UK. The facility will have an annual capacity of 1.2 million tonnes and should be completed during the first half of 2008. The primary product manufactured on-site would be CEM3 - a blend of traditional cement (Ordinary Portland Cement) and slag - which gives improved workability in unhardened concrete and helps to improve the long-term durability of

concrete structures that are subjected to harsh environments.

Source: http://www.cemex.com/qr/mc_pr_091106.asp

Omagh gold mine close to production

The Galantas Gold Corporation's Omagh gold mine should be producing gold within a month, according to Mr Roland Phelps, the President and CEO. The processing plant is largely complete and commissioning trials will be starting soon from a small open pit mine. Channel sampling at 1 to 3m intervals along a 150m length of the main Kearney vein structure, including part which has only recently been exposed, gave a weighted average grade of 16.25 grammes per tonne of gold. The Omagh mine (formerly known as the Lack or Cavanacaw deposit) is about 5 km southwest of Omagh in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland.

Source: <http://www.galantas.com/corporate/s/NewsReleases.html>

Extension sought to the Aldbrough Gas Storage facility in East Yorkshire

Statoil and Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) are to jointly seek consent to extend the Aldbrough Gas Storage facility, near Hornsea in East Yorkshire, by constructing a further nine gas storage caverns within salt strata at about 2000m depth. This will double the capacity of the facility from 420 million cubic metres to around 840 million cubic metres and help to ensure that the UK can meet its gas demand during periods of high-energy use. The facility is due to come on stream in stages from early 2007.

Source: http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=36489

Brett Concrete's Ridham Terminal Comes on Stream

Brett Concrete's new cementitious terminal at Ridham near Sheerness on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent, is now open. It receives the product ground granulated blast-furnace slag (GGBS) from Germany in self-discharge ships. The material can then be transported to any of the 22 Brett Concrete plants across South East England, as well as the Brett Landscaping and Building Products' plant at Cliffe, near Gravesend.

Source: <http://www.brett.co.uk/page.aspx?pointerID=D45A83AECDC74DDF834DCAFA236A65CE>

INEOS ChlorVinyls to build CHP facility at Runcorn, Cheshire

INEOS ChlorVinyls intend to build a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) facility at Picow Farm near Runcorn in Cheshire. A detailed planning application will be submitted later this year. The plant that will use the latest 'Energy from Waste' technology to burn Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) derived from domestic refuse will generate up to 20 percent of the energy needs at INEOS's neighbouring manufacturing operation at its Runcorn Site.

Chris Tane, INEOS ChlorVinyls CEO, commented: "Developing the UK's Energy from Waste capability forms a vital part of the Government's overall waste strategy. All local authorities across the UK have been set very tough targets to reduce the amount of waste that they send to landfill. In this context Energy from Waste technology creates a double benefit in that waste can be diverted from landfill to create energy. The CHP facility will be controlled by stringent regulatory requirements concerning emissions and will meet the highest safety and environmental standards."

Energy from Waste is a tried and tested technology that is already being used extensively in

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/downloads/start.cfm?id=>

Denmark, the Netherlands, France and Sweden, where at least 25% of waste is treated through Energy from Waste schemes.

Source: http://www.ineos.com/new_item.php?id_press=142

French wasp causes a buzz at Sandy



UK sand and gravel quarry

Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC

A French spider-eating wasp has been found in Britain for the first time at Lafarge's Sandy Heath Quarry, Bedfordshire, which is being restored in conjunction with the RSPB to create a custom-built habitat ideal for rare insects. Normally a Mediterranean species, *Episyron gallicum* – as the wasp is known to entomologists – was discovered after Lafarge agreed to fund a survey of the quarry to see if restoration work had been successful in attracting insects to the site. It turned up a huge variety of unusual bugs on the restored parts of the quarry site, including the spider-munching newcomer.

RSPB site manager Peter Bradley is convinced the work done by the RSPB and Lafarge to create areas of loose sand had made it possible for the creature to make its home on this side of the Channel. He added: "The results were pretty amazing really. This is a way of managing quarry restoration that is exceptionally good for interesting wildlife. It's obviously worked very well here."

In all 135 species were found at the quarry. Among the other stars of the survey were an endangered robberfly, which was previously confined to the Brecks area of Norfolk and Suffolk, a ground-nesting, weevil-hunting wasp and several kinds of rare bees.

Source: <http://www.lafarge-aggregates.co.uk/wps/portal/%22mailto:Kellie.Tillyer@lafarge-UKaggregates.lafarge.com%22>