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ISSUE 245 • **JUNE 2026**

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EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

By **Brendan Gilligan**

For many years, various organisations that deal with waste have pointed out that the current licensing system is too weak. This makes it easy for dishonest companies to enter the waste management industry, appearing legitimate while actually posing a risk. As a result, businesses often hand over their waste - and their money - with the risk that it could be disposed of illegally.

Recently, the UK Government (Defra) has begun making important changes to the rules governing how waste carriers, brokers, and dealers operate. These new rules have now been presented to Parliament for approval. If they get the green light, the changes are set to take effect in 2027, following a year of preparation.

So what changes?

- *The current registration system will be replaced with a permit-based regime - meaning operators will need to actively demonstrate they are fit to operate, rather than simply filling in a form.*
- *Mandatory identity and criminal record checks will make it harder for organised criminals to infiltrate the sector.*
- *Operators will need to demonstrate technical competence for handling and managing waste.*
- *The Environment Agency will gain stronger enforcement powers, including the ability to revoke permits and issue enforcement notices more quickly.*
- *Illegal waste operators could face penalties of up to five years' imprisonment - a major escalation from the current regime.*
- *Permit numbers will need to be displayed in advertising and on vehicles, making it easier for customers, regulators and the public to identify legitimate operators.*

These reforms sit alongside wider Government efforts on waste crime, including the rollout of Digital Waste Tracking and proposals to strengthen action against fly-tipping and illegal waste sites. However, the efficacy of these measures will be highly contingent on the details of their implementation.

For waste management companies operating in this space, this reinforces a wider trend they're already seeing: partners don't just want the job done; they want confidence in how it's done and proof of what happens afterwards.

The operators who stay ahead of this won't be the ones reacting to enforcement. They'll be the ones already treating compliance, traceability and responsible disposal as standard practice.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: 0161 482 6200

ADVERTISING: 0161 482 6200

PRINTERS: Buxton Press Limited.

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Registered in England as a magazine: **ISSN 2756-0279**
Skip & Waste magazine is published by:
Perfect Associates Limited,
Floor 2, Unit 7, Rhino Court, Station View,
Hazel Grove, Stockport, SK7 5ER
Telephone: 0161 482 6200
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CONTENTS
JUNE 2026

REGULARS

05 INDUSTRY NEWS
14 WASTE MANAGEMENT & SKIP SERVICES/ INDUSTRY VEHICLES
49 WASTE & RECYCLING
66 JOHN CRAWFORD

BUSINESS CLINIC

12 LISA GILLESPIE
14 DANIEL HOLLOWAY
50 JESSICA MORGAN-SMITH
54 DR ANNA WILLETTS
58 TRACEY WESTBURY
60 MARCO MUIA

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

10 DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME
The Government has announced £60 million in grants for independent retailers. Nick Yeatman, CEO of Trovr, highlights that those who see the funding as an investment in revenue-generating infrastructure will succeed with DRS

22 30 YEARS OF AI SORTING
A Q&A session with TOMRA Recycling about the history of AUTOSORT™, three new GAINnext™ applications, and their future implications for recycling

26 PREVIEW: RTX 2026
The UK's highly anticipated event for the road transport sector is returning this summer, and it's expected to be its most ambitious yet

28 HILLHEAD 2026
An overview of new products and services that will be showcased at the UK's leading exhibition for quarrying, construction, and recycling equipment

49 GAME-CHANGING SORTING SYSTEM
German-based WeSort.AI expands its AI-based sorting solutions to the UK and Ireland, partnering with Kaizen Recycling Ltd.

52 INNOVATION
FlyMax® ULV Waste Management is a new product from Barrettine Environmental Health, a Bristol-based manufacturer, designed to control flying insects in waste management facilities

PM announces plans to triple food redistribution

Keir Starmer has said the new programme will tackle the huge amounts of food we waste

Food charities and social enterprises in the UK have united to create a plan that aims to triple the amount of surplus food available for redistribution. This initiative is called the National Programme to Redistribute Surplus Food.

The plan was developed by leaders in the food sector and is co-authored by IGD, and the newly merged FareShare and The Felix Project. It will involve collaboration between the food industry, charities, social enterprises, philanthropists, and the Government.

After the King's Speech last month, Prime Minister Keir Starmer addressed Parliament, stating: *"When facing challenges, we uphold our Labour values. We will continue to support those in need by creating a national programme to redistribute surplus food."*

This plan aims to direct more food to those who need it most. It is inspired by the Coronation Food Project and will be carried out with the support of the Government, businesses, and community leaders.

This initiative positions food redistribution as a key part of the UK's strategy to change food systems. The variety of organisations involved highlights the importance of this moment.

Redistributing surplus food doesn't replace the need for reforms to address the causes of poverty. However, it is a positive action that strengthens communities, improves health, and builds resilience.

Community organisations that benefit from redistribution networks do more than provide food. They offer connections for older people, financial and housing advice for families, and opportunities for young people. By increasing the amount of food available, these organisations can do even more work and use valuable resources to expand their services. This effort is not just about reducing waste; it is also an investment in the country's social fabric.

With rising food prices and tighter household budgets, the demand for help from charities is expected to grow. The partners involved hope the funding from this programme will reach communities soon to assist those turning to organisations for support.

The Government, businesses, philanthropists, social enterprises, and charities each have important roles to play. Tripling surplus food redistribution requires collaboration, and today marks the first step towards reaching that goal. This effort will reduce waste, strengthen communities, and show what can be achieved through working together.

Dawn Tyrer elected to TRA Council

Newport Recycling is excited to announce that Managing Director Dawn Tyrer has been elected to The Recycling Association (TRA) Council.

Alongside Sarah Sanpher-McDowell from Clearpoint and Agnieszka Pychowska from Panda, Dawn will represent the plastics recycling division and engage in industry discussions on compliance, legislation, material quality, and market challenges.

Tyrer stated: *"I'm grateful for the opportunity to represent Newport and contribute to plastics recycling discussions. Collaboration is key for quality and compliance, and I look forward to addressing operational challenges and ensuring practical perspectives are included."*

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The packaging tax could lead to a higher rise in food prices than necessary

Industry chiefs slam packaging tax that could push food prices higher

Industry leaders are criticising the Government for a tax on packaging that they say will unnecessarily raise food prices. The Government is looking for ways to control rising prices, and Chancellor Rachel Reeves has announced discounts for families at leisure spots this summer.

However, industry experts are upset that the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) tax will not be cancelled. This tax will raise fees on certain containers by about 19% and increase plastic taxes by 15%. The money raised will go to local councils to improve recycling, but those councils can also spend it on social care and planning.

Last year, the Bank of England warned that this new tax could add 0.5 percentage points to inflation. Recent reports say the government might drop the tax if supermarkets agree to keep food prices stable.

Nick Kirk, director at British Glass, expressed disappointment, saying the Government's response fails to recognise the negative impact on UK manufacturing. He told reporters that this policy is hurting domestic glass production, leading to more imports and less investment in the industry.

Vidrala, which owns the glass manufacturer Encirc, employing 2,000 people in the UK, may cancel a £500 million investment in greener furnaces due to this tax, as they feel it will hit them especially hard.

Supermarket and food manufacturing leaders have also criticised the tax, saying it will lead to higher food prices for consumers. They mentioned that costs from the Iran war and rising energy prices will also impact consumers.

The Government stated: *"EPR moves the cost of waste management away from taxpayers and brings in over £1 billion each year. It's part of a significant investment in the UK economy, creating 25,000 jobs, and we will keep working with industry as these changes happen."*

UK pilot facility converts waste plastic into SAF

A new pilot facility that converts hard-to-recycle waste plastic into sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) has opened, being touted as the world's first of its kind. Operated by Clean Planet Technologies at Discovery Park in Sandwich, Kent, the facility will focus on developing technologies for non-recyclable plastic waste.

The Sustainability Innovation Centre integrates key processing stages into a single controlled system designed to transform waste plastic into SAF. It will support fuel testing and progression through the ASTM qualification process, backed by funding from the UK SAF Clearing House.

Katerina Garyfalou, COO of Clean Planet Technologies, emphasised that the facility will demonstrate its patented waste-plastics-to-SAF process at a pilot scale.

The process involves shredding and pre-processing the waste plastic, which is then converted into synthetic crude oil in one of the two pyrolysis units under oxygen-free conditions. This crude oil is purified and upgraded using a hydroprocessing system to meet SAF requirements. The larger pyrolysis unit can process up to 1 tonne of plastic per day.

According to Clean Planet Technologies, the core processes used (pyrolysis, purification, distillation, and hydroprocessing) are already commercially viable elsewhere, making scaling up feasible.

Garyfalou noted that this facility will help the UK achieve its SAF mandate, which calls for 2% of jet fuel demand to be SAF, increasing to 10% by 2030 and 22% by 2040.

Recycling sector raises alarm over calls to end PRNs

The UK recycling industry has urged Chancellor Rachel Reeves to keep the Packaging Recovery Note (PRN) system in place.

In a letter to ministers, more than 20 organisations, including recyclers warned against abolishing the PRN, which they described as crucial to supporting material recycling in the UK.

Concerns arose after an INCPEN newsletter suggested that the PRN could end after 2026, following calls to remove it from the Food and Drink Federation (FDF) and the British Retail Consortium (BRC). INCPEN, a founding member of the UK Packaging PRO, has ties to major food brands and retailers.

The signatories argued that eliminating the PRN would lead to the collapse of recycling businesses and threaten sustainable jobs in the circular economy. Organisations like The Recycling Association (TRA), Environmental Services Association (ESA), and British Glass signed the letter, highlighting that the PRN has supported investment in UK recycling infrastructure for nearly 30 years by helping producers cover recycling costs.

The letter emphasised that previous PRN support has funded paper mill infrastructure and stressed that future investments in plastics and glass recycling could falter without ongoing support. It noted that several plastics reprocessors have already closed facilities, reflecting the industry's fragility in challenging global market conditions.

Acknowledging imperfections in the system, the signatories noted ongoing discussions with Defra officials on reforms to modernise the PRN. However, they cautioned against "short-term cost-cutting measures" that could hinder the UK's ability to meet recycling targets and compete with EU investments in recycling infrastructure.

The letter concluded by urging ministers to maintain the PRN system for the sake of the economy and the circular economy.

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MADE IN BRITAIN

Circular infrastructure investment showcased during ministerial visit to Walshestown facility

Enva, one of the UK and Ireland's leading recycling and resource recovery specialists, recently welcomed Alan Dillon, Minister of State at the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment with responsibility for the Circular Economy *(pictured centred below)*, to its Walshestown Resource Recovery Facility, showcasing how private sector investment is delivering the infrastructure needed to support Ireland's housing, climate and resource ambitions.

Located in Co. Kildare, the facility represents one of the most advanced construction and demolition (C&D) waste recovery operations in Ireland. Designed to recover high-quality recycled sand, soil and aggregate products, Walshestown demonstrates how waste can be transformed into valuable secondary materials, reducing reliance on virgin resources and lowering the carbon footprint of construction and infrastructure projects.

With over €100 billion in planned infrastructure investment and a target to deliver 300,000 homes by 2030, Ireland faces growing demand for materials while construction continues to be its largest waste stream. Meeting these challenges requires domestic circular infrastructure at scale.

Developed in partnership with CDE and backed by I Squared Capital, a leading infrastructure investor in Enva, the 180 tonnes-per-hour wet-processing facility demonstrates how private sector investment, enabled by clear policy and regulation, is already delivering the infrastructure required to support Ireland's circular transition.

Operating under EPA licensing and End-of-Waste frameworks, the facility processes up to 330,000 tonnes per annum and recovers around 70% of incoming material into reusable aggregates, reducing landfill dependency and supporting a more resource-efficient construction sector.

Alan Dillon, Irish Minister of State at the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment with special responsibility for the Circular Economy, stated: *"I welcome that Enva and I Squared Capital are leading the way in providing recycling and resource recovery solutions that supports the full life cycle of products. Construction and demolition waste makes up half of all waste generated in Ireland, with 75% sent for backfilling. The Circular Economy Strategy sets the ambition to reduce this by 12% by 2030.*

"This facility delivers a fully aligned circular infrastructure solution, supporting Government objectives, enabling national housing and infrastructure delivery, reducing reliance on virgin resources, lowering carbon, and attracting long-term, sustainable investment to support enterprise."

Ireland has a significant opportunity to lead in circular construction through the continued alignment of policy, regulation, procurement and industry investment.

While facilities like Walshestown demonstrate that this capability now exists, scaling this model to meet national demand will require continued support across policy, regulation and market frameworks.

WATA welcomes UNEP call for sustainable sand management

The Washed Aggregates Trade Association (WATA) has welcomed a new United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report calling for urgent action to address the growing global "sand gap" and improve the sustainable management of sand resources.

The report, *Sand and Sustainability: An Essential Resource for Nature and Development,* warns that global demand for sand is outpacing natural replenishment rates, threatening biodiversity, ecosystems and long-term resource security.

WATA says the findings of the report reinforces the importance of increasing the use of washed recycled aggregates within UK construction and infrastructure projects.

Andy Hill, CEO for WATA, said: *"The UNEP report highlights the urgent need to reduce pressure on virgin sand extraction while continuing to meet the demands of modern construction and infrastructure. The washed aggregates sector can play a major role in helping to deliver a sustainable solution to the sand crisis by washing and recycling high-quality aggregates, including sand.*

"Washed recycled aggregates are already helping to conserve natural resources in the UK. It's a growing sector which is reducing waste sent to landfill and supporting a more circular economy.

"WATA is keen to see a greater use of recycled aggregates in public and private sector projects because they significantly reduce reliance on primary extraction while helping to meet the UK's construction targets and circular economy goals," added Andy.

The UNEP report says the demand for sand for buildings is expected to rise by 45% by 2060.

WATA is continuing to call for stronger policy support to encourage the use of washed recycled aggregates across UK construction projects, including the introduction of minimum recycled content requirements within public procurement contracts.

The Association says clearer national targets, improved resource planning and greater recognition of recycled aggregates within sustainability policy will help accelerate the transition towards more responsible mineral use.

"The construction sector must balance development needs with environmental protection," said Andy. *"The washed aggregates industry is ready to contribute to that transition and support a more sustainable future for the built environment."*

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SCAN ME

The Government's £60 million for DRS compliance is welcome, but the real opportunity is worth far more

NICK YEATMAN
CEO and founder of Trovr

The Deposit Return Scheme, launching in October 2027, will require grocery retailers in the UK to accept empty drinks containers back from customers and refund a 20p deposit - and the Government has recently announced £60 million in grant funding to help independent retailers get ready.

It's a signal that Westminster understands what those of us working closely with convenience stores have been saying for some time: DRS compliance will not be cost-free or simple for the UK's 50,000+ independent retailers, and without targeted support, a significant number will struggle to meet the deadline.

But funding alone won't be enough. The bigger challenge is one of mindset. Too many retailers - and frankly, too many industry commentators - are still talking about DRS purely as a cost burden. That framing does independent retailers a disservice. If you approach DRS correctly, with the right infrastructure and the right thinking, it becomes one of the most powerful footfall drivers your business has ever had.

The ATM lesson

Cast your mind back to when ATMs and PayPoint terminals became standard fixtures in independent convenience stores. At the time, there was scepticism: Is it worth the cost? Will customers actually use it?

Today, those services are recognised as essential anchors that bring people through the door on a regular, habitual basis. Parcel lockers are following the same curve. DRS return points will too.

In Denmark, Germany, and Sweden - countries where DRS is well established - return points became routine community infrastructure. Customers make regular trips to return containers, and while they're in-store, they pick up bread, milk, a coffee. Return rates consistently exceed 90%. The footfall is real, measurable, and repeatable. The UK will follow that pattern.

The £60m opportunity

The retailers that will win with DRS are those who treat this grant as an investment in revenue-generating infrastructure, not just a compliance fix. A well-chosen, space-efficient return system earning handling fees of 1–2p per container, integrated with a rewards and offers platform, is a commercial asset. In a busy store processing hundreds of returns a week, those fees add up - and the repeat visits they generate are worth considerably more.

The operational reality

The three things I hear most often from independent retailers are: we don't have the space, we're worried about hygiene, and we can't add another job to the team.

These are legitimate concerns, and they're precisely why the solution has to be purpose-built for independent retail - not a scaled-down version of the £10,000+ supermarket-grade machines that dominate the DRS conversation. Those machines were designed for high-volume, large-format stores. They have no place in an 800-square-foot convenience store with three staff members.

Take meaningful steps to boost your recycling efforts today! For more information, please scan the QR code

Compact systems roughly the size of an ATM, verifying containers automatically through barcode and weight sensing, and managing secure storage without staff intervention - these are the technologies that will make DRS workable for independents.

The **TrovrQUBE**, already deployed in Malta, Romania, Poland, and Austria, and now rolling out with UK independent retailers, is built precisely around these constraints. Plug-and-play setup and digital integration with the Trovr app, enabling customers to earn rewards and retailers to run promotions. DRS compliance and commercial opportunity in one unit.

Prepare now. Not in 2027.

October 2027 sounds like a long way off. It isn't. The retailers who will have turned DRS into a competitive advantage are the ones engaging now - assessing their space, trialling technology, understanding what the scheme requires of them.

The £60 million signals that the government wants independents to succeed. I'd encourage every convenience retailer to take that seriously, engage with their trade association, speak with technology providers early, and, above all, stop thinking of DRS as something that's happening to them. With the right approach, it could genuinely transform how their store sits at the heart of its local community.

Biffa and FCC Environment use AI for EA compliance reporting

Biffa and FCC Environment are among the first waste management companies in the world to utilise AI for compliance reporting.

These companies have begun using AI to submit waste composition data for outbound material streams directly to the Environment Agency (EA) as part of their ongoing compliance reporting.

Since October 2024, the expanded Material Facilities (MF) regulations have aimed to enhance the accuracy and consistency of composition reporting from UK Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs).

Recent collaboration between Biffa, FCC Environment, and AI company Greyparrot has focused on applying AI-supported sampling to selected outbound products for compliance reporting.

Biffa and FCC Environment's facilities have been utilising Greyparrot Analysers for several years. These devices employ AI cameras to monitor waste streams in real time along conveyor belts.

This system produces continual compositional data shift by shift, replacing the need for periodic manual sampling of outbound material streams and thereby supporting reporting activities. To facilitate this transition, Greyparrot developed an AI-supported sampling methodology that aligns with the Environment Agency's MF regulations and reporting requirements.

Mikela Druckman, CEO of Greyparrot, stated that the technology represents a *"turning point"* in the understanding of waste infrastructure. *"Operators like Biffa and FCC Environment are setting the standard for how technology can transform facility operations - a model I believe the rest of the world will look to."*

Pedro Faraldo García, Senior Technical Manager at FCC Environment, noted: *"Access to continuous compositional data enables our teams to concentrate on operational performance, with compliance being one of many areas where these tools can deliver significant value."*

Ian McSpirit, Head of PRFs at Biffa, added: *"Access to reliable, real-time data is helping the industry shift from reactive processes to smarter, data-driven actions - an essential change if we want to accelerate the circular economy on a large scale."*

British Steel nationalisation ends uncertainty for scrap operators

The proposed nationalisation of British Steel has been positively received by the metals recycling industry. Operators are hopeful that this move will bring stability to the UK scrap steel market.

The British Metals Recycling Association (BMRA) stated that this announcement ends months of uncertainty for companies that supply recycled scrap steel to British Steel.

The BMRA now wants to talk with British Steel about its future plans, especially regarding the shift to electric arc furnace (EAF) technology. They said: "*We look forward to productive discussions with British Steel about setting goals for the company and ensuring that funds are available to support these plans, particularly the shift to EAF technology.*

"If this shift happens, and Tata Steel's electric arc furnace in Port Talbot starts operating, the demand for recycled scrap steel could rise to as much as seven million tonnes."

Last month, the Government announced proposed legislation that would allow the nationalisation of British Steel, provided a public-interest test is met. Ministers are also considering options to help rebuild the UK steel sector.

They believe this legislation will help protect UK steelmaking and prevent sudden production stops at the Scunthorpe site.

The Government intervened to support British Steel in April 2025 under the Steel Industry (Special Measures) Act. This was done to ensure steady steel production and to avoid sudden closures of blast furnaces at the Scunthorpe site, which could disrupt supply chains and threaten thousands of jobs.

Since then, the Government has been in talks with British Steel's current owner about the future of the business. However, they have not been able to agree on a commercial sale that would be acceptable and beneficial for taxpayers.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer emphasised that steel is important for the economy and national security. He stated: *"That's why we acted last year to prevent a sudden halt to production at Scunthorpe, protecting workers and the community depending on the site. We are now advancing legislation to help protect Britain's steelmaking capacity."*

This announcement follows the release of the UK Steel Strategy, which places recycled scrap steel at the heart of efforts to boost domestic steel production.

Published on 19th March 2026, this strategy aims to reverse the ongoing decline in UK steelmaking capacity, currently estimated to meet around 30% of UK demand. Ministers want this number to rise to between 40% and 50% as the industry shifts to lower-carbon "green steel."

The strategy also highlights the UK's abundant supply of scrap steel as a competitive edge and stresses the importance of recycling for both reducing carbon emissions and ensuring resource security.

Send your stories, press releases and feature ideas to ***editor@pal-media.co.uk***

HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD

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Lisa has over two decades' experience in leadership roles in the HR and employment law sectors. With qualifications in employment law, psychology, NLP and mediation, she isn't afraid to challenge dogmatic thinking. She approaches everyday people's issues with one mission: to put the human back into human resources.

You may not like what I'm about to say but...

For years, employers have operated with a relatively comfortable assumption: new hires would not gain ordinary unfair dismissal protection until they had completed two years' service. That is about to disappear faster than you think!

Don't be distracted by certain Labour ministers trying to dismiss their leader before he gains two years' service, because from 1st January 2027, the Employment Rights Act 2025 reduces the qualifying period for unfair dismissal claims from two years to just six months. The impact is immediate, retrospective, and potentially expensive for employers who are still recruiting as though the old rules apply.

The key date employers should focus on is not January 2027. It is actually 1st July 2026. So, if you are hiring right now, do it with this in mind: any employee recruited on or after 1st July 2026 will reach six months' service by 31st December 2026 and will therefore automatically acquire full unfair dismissal protection on 1st January 2027.

That means employers recruiting this summer are hiring people who could gain statutory dismissal protection in a matter of months - not years.

This is one of the most commercially significant employment law reforms in decades because it fundamentally changes the risk profile of early employment. Employers can no longer rely on the traditional 'two-year buffer' when assessing performance, conduct, capability, or cultural fit.

Under the new regime, once an employee reaches six months' service, dismissal will require both a fair reason and a fair procedure. Informal conversations, vague concerns, undocumented frustrations, or loosely managed probationary periods will not provide adequate protection.

The retrospective nature of the legislation may catch many employers out, so just to be clear folks, an employee hired on 1st July 2026 qualifies for unfair dismissal protection on 1st January 2027. However, an employee hired on 1st March 2026 gains protection immediately on 1st January 2027 because they will already have ten months' service, and employees recruited before the legislation comes into force are automatically swept into the new framework.

In practice, this means employers entering recruitment drives in mid-2026 are already building a workforce that will become legally protected almost immediately after the Christmas break.

Are you prepared?

The greatest misconception likely concerns probationary periods. Employers with a six-month probation period need to rethink and reduce it to ensure they are fostering conversations about concerns early in employment and, above all, documenting them. Probationary periods are contractual concepts. Unfair dismissal rights are statutory rights that can't be avoided.

An employee can still be on probation while still having full unfair dismissal protection, so organisations that use extended probation periods without structured reviews, documented feedback, or formal performance processes are at risk.

From January 2027, dismissing an employee in month seven of a probation period could carry the same unfair dismissal risk as dismissing a longer-serving employee.

The financial exposure is also increasing dramatically.

The compensatory award cap for ordinary unfair dismissal claims is being removed from 1st January 2027. Currently, compensation is limited to the lower of 52 weeks' gross pay or the statutory cap. Under the new rules, compensatory awards will no longer be capped.

That change alone is likely to increase settlement values, litigation risk, and the costs of making mistakes.

Recruitment, onboarding, line management, and performance processes all need to tighten significantly before the end of 2026.

Organisations should already be asking themselves difficult questions:

- *Are managers identifying concerns early enough?*
- *Are probation reviews happening consistently?*
- *Is feedback being documented properly?*
- *Are underperforming employees drifting through probation periods without formal intervention?*
- *Do contracts, policies, and handbooks still refer to the old two-year rule?*

The employers best positioned for the new regime will be those that treat the first couple of months of employment as a critical risk-management window rather than an informal settling-in period. That means clear expectations from day one, regular check-ins, documented conversations, and decisive management action where problems arise.

The organisations most exposed are likely to be those still relying on informal management cultures - businesses where concerns are discussed verbally, performance issues are tolerated for too long, and dismissals happen reactively rather than procedurally.

January 2027 may sound distant, but the recruitment decisions being made right now will be affected. Not that I'm trying to scaremonger here, but this is a significant shift. If you have weak managers who don't do 'difficult conversations' well, you need to be having a difficult conversation with them now, and I mean now! Let's face it, difficult conversations seem to be all the rage these days, particularly in government.

Schools celebrate STEM success in industry-backed challenge

Hundreds of students across 35 schools in Glasgow, South Lanarkshire and Clyde Valley have unveiled bold, real-world solutions to today's biggest industry challenges after completing a hands-on STEM programme backed by Viridor.

S1 and S2 pupils took part in the 12-week programme, working in teams to tackle real-world challenges linked to sustainability, the circular economy and mental wellbeing. The initiative aims to give young people a practical insight into science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) careers while building confidence and employability skills.

The programme culminated in a celebration held at Glasgow Caledonian University, where pupils presented their projects to industry experts, local stakeholders and teachers.

From innovative recycling ideas to creative solutions supporting wellbeing, the projects demonstrated the imagination and ambition of the region's next generation. Judges praised the high standard of work and the pupils' ability to apply STEM thinking to real-life issues.

On the day, winners included St John Ogilvie High School, Whitehill Secondary and Woodfarm High School for Project of the Year *(pictured)*.

Every student graduated from the programme with a Bronze Industrial Cadets accreditation, a nationally recognised award that highlights their skills and commitment to STEM learning.

As part of the experience, pupils also had the opportunity to visit Viridor's Glasgow Recycling and Renewable Energy Centre and Bargeddie facility, giving them a behind-the-scenes look at how waste is managed and transformed into valuable resources and low-carbon energy.

Viridor, which works in partnership with local authorities across Scotland, supported the programme to help inspire future talent and raise awareness of careers in the growing green economy.

The initiative was delivered by EDT (Engineering Development Trust), a national education charity that provides hands-on STEM experiences to young people across the UK. Viridor has partnered with the charity for 13 years, ensuring that young people across Scotland gain access to the STEM industry.

By connecting education with industry, the programme helps equip students with the skills, knowledge and inspiration needed for future careers, while supporting the development of a more sustainable, circular economy.

Segregate waste wood at source to maximise recycling potential

Waste producers are being urged to segregate their waste wood at source to ensure that as much as possible is recycled.

The Wood Recyclers' Association (WRA) is encouraging those who produce or receive waste wood - such as waste management companies and local authorities - to remove contaminants and ensure material meets the specifications of their destination end markets.

In particular, the WRA is advising operators who would like their wood to be recycled that they must remove MDF. This is important because the panel board sector - the UK's largest recycler of waste wood - cannot accept MDF, as it causes processing problems and can lead to machinery blockages.

While this may not be possible at every site due to logistical constraints, the WRA says that separating out MDF can significantly increase recycling potential and improve environmental outcomes.

It also allows waste producers to work with multiple outlets, reducing reliance on a single processor or energy facility and providing more offtake options during periods of market volatility.

Mark Hayton, Chair of the WRA, said: *"Over the past year, market conditions have made it more challenging to find markets for waste wood. As a result, quality has become more important than ever with more offtake options for those producing a contaminant-free product which meets the necessary specifications of different end markets."*

Mark noted that many local authorities and waste management companies are now keen to supply both the panel board and biomass industries, but stressed that quality and correct segregation are essential.

He said: *"If waste producers want to maximise recycling potential and help the environment, they need to keep wood suitable for recycling separate from other material.*

"Focusing on quality and segregation gives producers the widest possible choice of outlets and helps protect against future market volatility."

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BUSINESS CLINIC INSIGHT

Is it time to sell? Here's what the buyers already know about your business

DANIEL HOLLOWAY
Founder of GRAFTT

Last month I wrote about 71.4%. Commercially strong, long-established operators, almost entirely offline in how they transact. That profile faces real pressure from digital-first competitors, but it also represents exactly what outside investors are actively looking for. Sometimes that interest comes from within the industry - sometimes it comes from outside.

Private equity has found skip hire, and it is not going away.

Why your business is attractive

The fundamentals of a well-run skip hire business are close to ideal for outside investors. Recurring B2B revenue, an essential service, hard assets, regulatory complexity that has built a barrier to entry and a fragmented market of owner-managed businesses, few with institutional-grade financials.

The private equity thesis is straightforward: acquire regional operators with synergies, keep the local brand and relationships and enhance margin currently lost to duplicated overhead. The result is worth considerably more than the sum of the parts.

The businesses being targeted are not distressed - they are the good ones.

The profile being targeted

This is what surprises people - acquirers are not looking for struggling businesses. They are looking for profitable, established operators with strong client relationships and, critically, limited digital infrastructure. That combination tells a buyer exactly where they can add value after the deal closes.

The operator's strengths become the buyer's upside, and the operator's gaps become the justification for the price being offered.

What to do with this

For some, the right move is to sell. A well-run business with a clean story can command a strong multiple right now, but preparation matters. Operators who know their numbers, have clear financials and understand what buyers are looking for will always negotiate from a stronger position than those who don't.

For others, calculus is different. Being independent is important, but there is a nuance - what got you here won't get you there. With operating costs rising, market conditions tightening, and margins under pressure from all sides, the logic of going it alone is harder to sustain than it once was.

Strength in this market increasingly means strength in numbers, whether that is a formal merger, a shared services arrangement, or a strategic partnership. The operators who thrive in the next decade will not be the ones who stayed most independent, but the ones who were most deliberate about who they aligned with.

The consolidation of skip hire is already underway. The question is not whether your business will attract interest - the question is whether you'll be ready when it does.

*Whether you've had an approach or never considered selling, a conversation costs nothing - **hello@daniel-holloway.com***

Please mention *Skip & Waste* magazine when replying to any adverts

Papilo expands into Scotland with third acquisition in a year

Papilo, a waste management group based in Swinton, Manchester, has strengthened its geographical reach with the acquisition of Scottish company REKK Recycling.

Based at Uddingston near Glasgow, REKK provides total waste management solutions to its food production, manufacturing, and industrial clients across Scotland and England.

Its founders, Steven Dodds and John Byrne, are remaining with the business as it becomes part of Papilo, which is backed by private equity firm Palatine's Impact Fund.

In February 2026, Papilo acquired Midlands-based Allwood Recycling Solutions, creating a £60 million revenue business with more than 200 employees.

Michael Gibson, who joined Papilo as CEO earlier this year, said: *"REKK is an excellent strategic addition for Papilo and enhances our geographical presence into Scotland.*

"Like ourselves, the company's ethos is built on best-in-class customer service and on supporting better environmental outcomes through recycling. Founders Steven and John have done a fine job in building the business, and I am pleased that, along with their team, they are remaining with the group for the next phase of growth."

Greg Holmes, Senior Investment Director at Palatine Impact Fund, said: *"REKK is an excellent fit for Papilo - not just geographically, but in its shared commitment to diverting waste from landfill and supporting clients to take a more responsible approach to resource management.*

"This is Papilo's third acquisition in under a year as we build a business of true scale in the circular economy in partnership with the ambitious management team, and we are well-positioned to continue that growth through further strategic M&A."

New weighbridge office delivers faster service for S Roberts Group customers

S Roberts Group's new weighbridge office in Bridgwater in action

Customers at one of the South West's leading waste management companies will experience faster turnarounds and a smoother service following the opening of a new purpose-built weighbridge office in Bridgwater.

The facility at S Roberts Group has been designed to significantly reduce waiting times for customers collecting aggregates or dropping off materials for recycling, streamlining a previously time-consuming process.

Operations Director at S Roberts Group, Richard Butcher, explains: *"Our new weighbridge office represents a significant step forward in how we support our customers. By simplifying the route through the site and removing unnecessary delays, we're making pick-ups and drop-offs faster, safer and far more efficient."*

After checking in, clients proceed directly to the weighbridge next to the office to either collect aggregates or drop off recyclable materials. A final weigh-out completes the process before customers exit the site.

Richard adds: *"For regular customers, the system is even faster. Frequent users can go straight to the weigh-in point and will be issued a unique card, further reducing processing times and allowing for a smoother, more efficient visit.*

"Overall, the new system enables customers to complete collections and drop-offs in a fraction of the time previously required, which is good for everyone as it helps boost productivity and reduces costs, which is better for business."

The weighbridge initiative is the latest in a series of developments by the family-run business, reinforcing its long-term commitment to operational excellence, customer service and sustainable waste management.

S Roberts Group's wealth of experience spans more than 95 years. It's also one of the South West's leading waste management companies. It provides specialist industry and geographical knowledge to advise commercial and domestic clients on the best possible waste solutions.

Based in Bridgwater, Somerset, the third-generation firm is run by the founder, Sammy Roberts' granddaughters, Beccy and her sister Vicky Owens, who took over the business from their father, Terry, in 2004.

S Roberts Group also offers skip, tipper, and plant hire, bulk earthmoving, grab hire, recycled aggregates, and demolition services for domestic and commercial clients across the South West, as well as professional asbestos sampling, surveys, removal, and encapsulation.

SUEZ electric refuse vehicle fitted with Fleetclear Connect

Fleetclear partners with SUEZ for new integrated fleet safety system

SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK is switching its vehicle fleet to a fully integrated safety platform following a comprehensive tender process that led to the fleet technology company Fleetclear being awarded the nationwide contract.

In the UK, SUEZ operates across hundreds of sites and handles approximately 11 million tonnes of waste materials every year - a significant proportion of the UK's total waste. Through collection, treatment, recycling and logistics, it operates 1700 vehicles across multiple locations.

Dave Shaw, Head of Fleet at SUEZ, said: *"We went out to tender and Fleetclear came out as the clear winner with their fully integrated system. It's much easier now to pull together the information we need, which means we can properly analyse the performance of our vehicles and use the information to improve safety and enhance service delivery."*

The transition to the new system has been well managed, as Dave explains: *"We didn't go for the big bang approach and opted instead for a phased roll-out. We selected certain vehicles we wanted to fit with the system first, including all new vehicles."*

One of the first tranche of vehicles to be equipped with the Fleetclear system was the new fleet that SUEZ manage on behalf of Milton Keynes City Council as part of their collections and street cleansing contract.

Dave commented: *"The transition at Milton Keynes has been executed very well with minimal disruption to operations. We received the new fleet of vehicles at the depot, and Fleetclear came in en-masse to fit the equipment over a few weeks."*

The company is currently trialling other Fleetclear technologies, such as the Live Lane Information System (LLIS), which uses AI to detect oncoming traffic in the adjacent live-lane and alert operatives, reducing the risk of collisions.

Dave added: *"The team at Fleetclear are easy to deal with and very collaborative. We want to work with them to engage with new technologies such as AI to help us further enhance our safety and our performance."*

Why Fleetclear?

With over 15 years of expertise delivering credible solutions proven in the field, Fleetclear helps fleets operate safely, efficiently and responsibly. With fully qualified in-house engineers, leading after-sales support and comprehensive warranties, Fleetclear is your fleet safety partner.

Expert-led webinar to address growing complexity and risk in waste management

Waste management is an increasingly complex area, with growing regulatory scrutiny and heightened expectations around environmental responsibility. To help members understand their responsibilities and learn how to reduce risk, the Cleaning & Hygiene Suppliers Association is hosting an expert-led one-hour webinar on Wednesday, 24th June at 11am.

Titled ***Introduction to Waste Management - understanding and managing your risk,*** the session will provide a structured, practical overview of the legal, regulatory and operational landscape shaping waste management in the UK.

The waste management arena is evolving, with Digital Waste Tracking on the horizon and the arrival of Simpler Recycling. Customers expect compliance to all regulations and adherence to best practice and there are risks in getting it wrong. Assuming the waste service provider has it in hand could be costly, with financial and criminal penalties liable, whether or not the error was intentional. This introductory webinar will provide delegates with initial guidance on the practical steps they can take to manage their liabilities and implement robust waste management processes.

The experts presenting are:

• **Tina Benfield,** Technical Manager at the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM), will cover the current landscape, the impact of Simpler Recycling and the implications of closed-loop schemes.

• **Craig Burman,** Solicitor at Burman Environmental Law, will cover legal definitions, obligations under environmental legislation, duty of care, and potential offences and penalties.

• **Mike Hibbert,** an experienced waste management consultant, will provide practical insights into implementing robust systems and managing contractor relationships effectively, including the key questions to ask.

Scan the QR code above to book your place.

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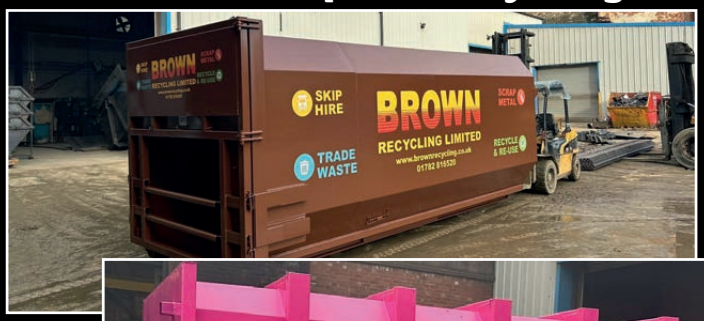

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Waste company given six-figure fine for stockpiling skips

A waste and recycling company in South East London has been fined £167,000 for stockpiling skips, a situation described as 'potentially catastrophic.'

During a visit by Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspectors, they found skips stacked unsafely, with some deformed, contributing to instability.

In some areas, the stacks were three skips high, increasing the likelihood of collapse or falling. This stacking was also in a location regularly accessed by company staff.

Inspectors noted the absence of effective segregation for designated pedestrian routes or crossing points.

Various vehicles, including tipper lorries and loading shovels, were freely moving around the site. Moreover, the pedestrian entrance was chained and padlocked, forcing pedestrians to use the vehicle entrance typically used by lorries and other vehicles.

The company received several improvement notices requiring action to address health and safety violations within a specified timeframe.

The subsequent HSE investigation revealed that the company had previously faced enforcement action, including prohibition notices issued in 2019 regarding stockpiling and associated collapse risks.

Recycled Material Supplies Ltd pleaded guilty to failing to protect employees, agency workers, and other individuals on site from the risk of death or serious injury. At a hearing at Southwark

Picture credit: HSE

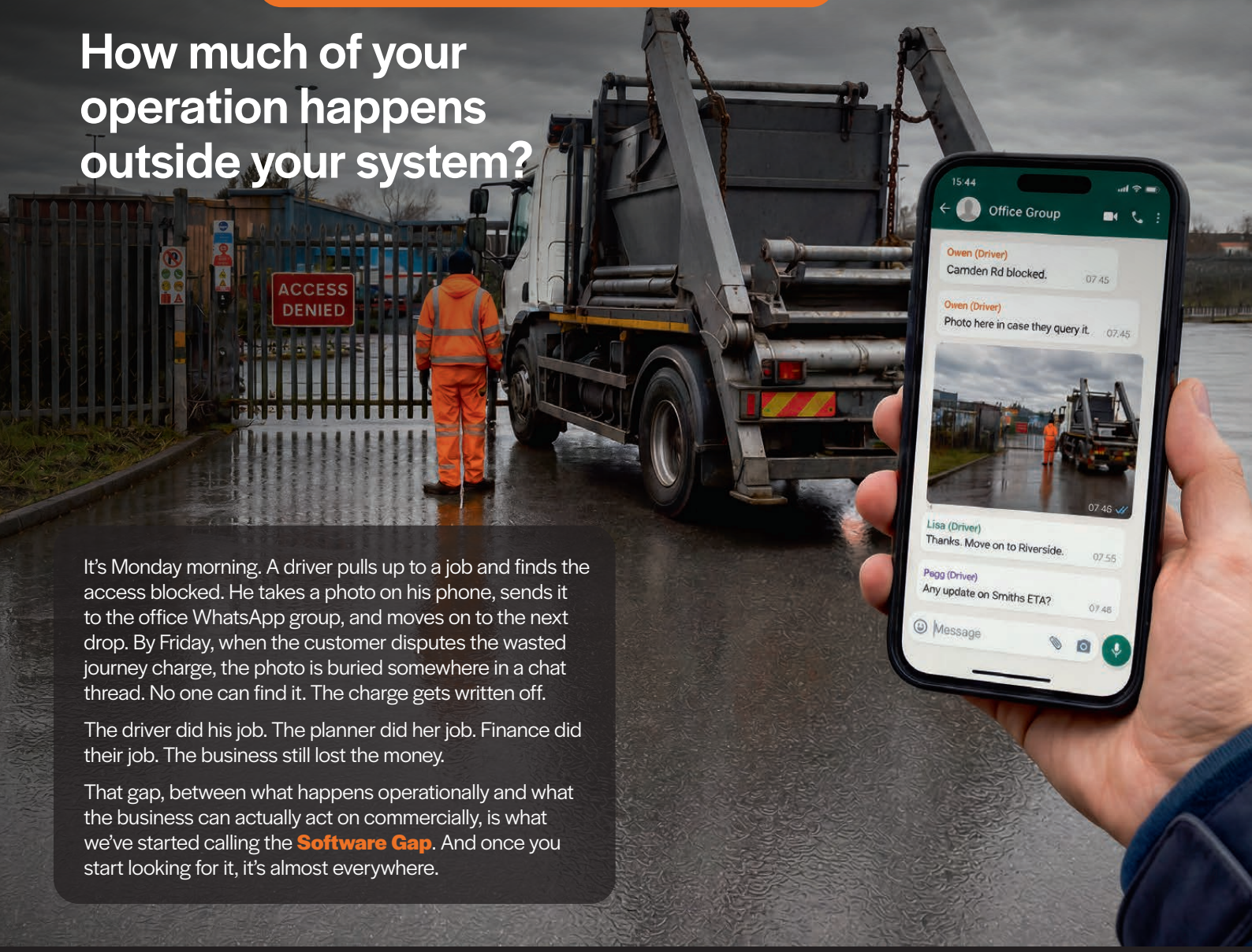
Crown Court on 5th May, 2026, the company was fined £167,000 and ordered to pay £16,195 in costs.

Commenting on the case, HSE enforcement lawyer Rebecca Schwartz stated: *"This company put the lives of its workers in danger in numerous ways."*

She added: *"Given the size and weight of skips, the potential consequences of any collapse could have been catastrophic. The waste and recycling industry has a poor safety record, and it is only by sheer luck that nobody was seriously injured or killed."*

The Software Gap

How much of your operation happens outside your system?



It's Monday morning. A driver pulls up to a job and finds the access blocked. He takes a photo on his phone, sends it to the office WhatsApp group, and moves on to the next drop. By Friday, when the customer disputes the wasted journey charge, the photo is buried somewhere in a chat thread. No one can find it. The charge gets written off.

The driver did his job. The planner did her job. Finance did their job. The business still lost the money.

That gap, between what happens operationally and what the business can actually act on commercially, is what we've started calling the **Software Gap**. And once you start looking for it, it's almost everywhere.

You already have software. That's not the problem.

Most established waste operators have been running on dedicated software for years. Bookings, transport, weighbridge, invoicing, reporting, and customer records. The core is there. You moved away from paper diaries and whiteboards a long time ago.

But having software doesn't always mean the whole operation is truly connected.

In most waste businesses, the system handles part of the process, and important work still happens around it. Drivers send updates by WhatsApp, phone or radio. Weighbridge tickets get printed, scanned and attached manually. Reports get built in spreadsheets. Finance teams check invoices line by line because they don't trust what's going out. Skips sit on customer sites for weeks because no one has live visibility of which containers are overdue.

None of these workarounds seem dramatic on their own. But over a busy month, they add up to something significant: slower invoicing, missed chargeable extras, harder reporting, more firefighting. And a quiet but steady leak of revenue that the business never sees on a report.

Where the gap shows up

The Software Gap doesn't sit in one place. It shows up across the operation in different forms.

It's there at the dispatch desk when a customer changes a skip size mid-job, and the planner has to delete the original order and rebook it from scratch, tripling the time it takes to make a simple change.

It's there on site when a driver collects an extra mattress or an overloaded skip to keep the round moving, but the office isn't told, and the charge never makes it onto the invoice.

*Visit **wastelogics.com/software-gap** or scan the QR code in the sidebar.*

It's there at month-end, when finance spends two weeks resolving queries before invoices can go out, or after they've gone out, when customers send them back into query because something was wrong. Either way, someone has to amend the lines manually, and the system can't handle the pricing complexity on its own.

And it shows up in a different way, too. In the relationship with the software vendor itself. Where simple changes come with extra charges. Where the only time anyone calls is to sell you something new. Where the team would love to move to something better, but the thought of migrating data and retraining feels impossible.

These aren't software failures in the dramatic sense. The system still runs. The jobs still get done. But the team is working harder than it should, the relationship with the vendor is colder than it should be, and the business is paying for both. In admin hours, in margin, and in visibility, it doesn't quite have.

Why this matters more than it used to

The waste industry is changing fast. Commercial customers are demanding live recycling and carbon data. Compliance reporting is getting more complex, not less. Margin pressure on every job is real. And operators who can give customers clean data on demand are starting to win tenders that operators who can't aren't.

In that context, the Software Gap stops being a small admin inconvenience and starts being a commercial risk.

For a CEO, it means less visibility into what's actually happening day-to-day. For a CFO, it means slower billing and quiet revenue leakage. For operations and transport teams, it means more firefighting and less time on the work that grows the business.

The question for established operators is no longer *"do we have software?"* That ship sailed years ago. The better question is the one we put at the top of this piece.

If any of the scenarios in the sidebar feel familiar, you might have a Software Gap of your own. We've built a short scorecard for waste operators who already use software, but want to understand where manual workarounds may still be costing them time, margin or visibility. It takes around 3 minutes. You'll get your result, your biggest gap area, and practical next steps to review internally, straight to your inbox.

The Software Gap Check

A quick self-check. Tick any that happen in your operation.

- ☐ Drivers send job updates, blocked access notes or photos to the office by WhatsApp or text
- ☐ A customer changes a skip size mid-job and the planner has to delete the order and start again
- ☐ Wasted journey charges get written off because there's no time-stamped photo proof
- ☐ Month-end invoicing takes days or weeks because tickets, weights and queries need manual cross-checking
- ☐ Someone physically walks the yard to count skips because the system's stock numbers aren't trusted
- ☐ We only hear from our software provider when they're trying to sell us something new

Ticked three or more?

There's a gap & it's costing you. Get your full score & see where manual workarounds are holding you back.

Get your Software Gap Scorecard

3 minutes. Practical result. Yours to keep.

WASTE LOGICS

North West Recycling marks 30 years of sustainable waste management

North West Recycling (NWR), Cumbria's largest privately owned waste management company, is marking its 30th anniversary with the launch of its first-ever brand campaign and a series of community celebrations.

Founded on a family farm in Brampton by Rick Allan, alongside his late father, Roy Allan, and his mother, Pam, the business began as a soil and stone landfill operating under the name Brampton Skip Hire. Three decades on, it has grown into a 120-strong workforce operating from a 30-acre purpose-built facility near Carlisle, processing over 150,000 tonnes of waste every year - and diverting 97% of it from landfill.

Cumbria's largest independent waste company marks '30 Years of building from what you left behind'

The campaign

Launched across outdoor and digital channels across the region, NWR's debut brand campaign carries the strapline **'30 Years of building from what you left behind'** - a line that speaks to the materials the company handles, the loyal customer base that's been with them since the beginning and the communities they serve.

The campaign activations include:

- ***£30 off skip hire for 30 days throughout June - available to new and existing customers when booking online.***
- ***A 'Spot the Skip and Win' competition launching at the end of July for six weeks.***

Rick Allan, Managing Director of North West Recycling, said: *"Reaching 30 years is a proud milestone for North West Recycling. It reflects the dedication of our team, the loyalty of our customers, and our commitment to building a cleaner, greener future for Cumbria. We look forward to celebrating with our community and continuing to innovate for the decades ahead."*

Services and sustainability

NWR's end-to-end capabilities span skip hire, commercial roll-on roll-off containers, business waste collections, a domestic man-and-van service, wood recovery and reuse, and a growing range of recycled aggregates.

The business also runs a purpose-built Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) on site and produces Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF), a lower-carbon alternative to traditional fossil fuels. When used in place of coal in industrial processes, SRF can reduce CO^2 emissions by up to 70%.

NWR's investment in advanced processing technologies, including glass and stone processing lines, and green energy initiatives, reflects its longstanding commitment to innovation.

Community roots

NWR is woven into the fabric of Cumbrian life. The company serves hundreds of businesses and thousands of households across Cumbria, Northumberland, and South West Scotland. In 2024/2025, NWR became an official sponsor and waste management partner of Carlisle United Football Club, a relationship set to continue into the 2026/2027 season.

The company has also supported local charities and community initiatives over the years, including Carlisle Youth Zone and Eden Valley Hospice.

Looking ahead: The next 30 years

Waste management is a critical challenge of our time that starts at home, within the communities that produce it.

North West Recycling (NWR) is facing a planning appeal this month against a proposed gasification plant, highlighting the urgent need for local waste solutions and discussions on how we generate energy from waste.

NWR aims to be a solutions provider by expanding access to services for households and businesses, leveraging data for smarter recovery, and collaborating with technology innovators to develop cleaner processing methods. One such example is NWR's Man & Van service, which offers regulation-compliant waste removal to domestic customers, tackling issues like fly-tipping by providing an affordable alternative.

Education is central to NWR's vision, as they seek to empower communities and businesses to understand the benefits of responsible waste management, making it easier to contribute positively.

After 30 years of building from what others left behind, our work is far from finished.

To find out more, scan the QR code.

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>>The Doppstadt Inventhor 9 is a high-performance slow-speed shredder designed to handle a wide range of waste streams, including commercial and industrial waste, wood, green waste and construction materials.

Its versatile shredding technology allows operators to achieve consistent output sizes while maintaining high throughput, helping to optimise downstream processing and maximise material recovery. With transportability, ease of maintenance and low operating costs at its core, the Inventhor 9 is a valuable asset for modern recycling operations.

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>>The Dupuy TankVac is a powerful industrial vacuum solution designed for the safe recovery of dusts, powders, sludge and other difficult materials commonly found across waste and recycling facilities.

Its robust design enables operators to maintain cleaner, safer working environments while reducing manual cleaning requirements and associated downtime.

Compact, mobile and easy to operate, the TankVac helps improve site efficiency, support compliance and recover valuable material that may otherwise be lost during processing.

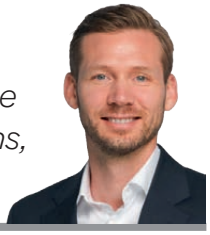
READY TO IMPROVE YOUR RECYCLING OPERATION?

Discover how the Inventhor 9 and Dupuy TankVac can help increase productivity, maximise recovery rates and reduce operating costs.

Get in touch with our team today!

Technical innovation: 30 years of AI sorting

*A Q&A with **Lars Enge, EVP and Head of TOMRA Recycling**, highlighting the history of AUTOSORT™, the significant launch of three new GAINnext™ applications, and their implications for the future of recycling*



Scan the QR code to read the full 30-year journey of AUTOSORT™ and AI

Q: Given the 30-year history of AUTOSORT™, how does TOMRA distinguish between the traditional AI principles used in earlier systems and the current deep learning turning point?

A: There is a common misconception that AI is new to our industry. AI has always been part of our DNA. Even the first AUTOSORT™ systems used basic AI principles to make intelligent decisions about which materials to eject or reject. The ability to make decisions like a human is the very definition of AI. For us, AI is not a trend. What has changed is the use and scale of deep learning - a subset of machine learning that allows us to move beyond the physical limits of traditional sensors.

Q: How does the combination of deep learning and traditional sensors solve sorting challenges that were previously considered impossible?

A: The true power lies in combining deep learning with traditional sensors to solve complex classification challenges. TOMRA was the first to launch a deep learning technology in 2019 (GAINnext™), and today we offer the largest ecosystem of deep learning applications on the market.

Whilst traditional systems sort by, for example, material type or colour, today's deep learning systems use object recognition via RGB cameras. This enables sorting by shape, size, dimensions, and other visual characteristics such as labels, allowing them to address some of the most complex sorting challenges, including long standing issues like food grade sorting. This demonstrates how TOMRA continues to expand the capabilities of AI-based sorting, building on decades of industry expertise.

Q: You recently launched three new GAINnext™ applications at IFAT and PRSE. What specific bottlenecks do they address?

A: Our three new GAINnext™ applications make it cost effective to scale processes that were once manual, inconsistent or difficult to automate. We are introducing a solution to identify and sort food-grade PET trays, a metal recovery application to remove 'copper meatballs' from shredded ferrous scrap, and a high-throughput solution for used beverage can (UBC) aluminium recovery from packaging streams

Q: Why has food-grade PET tray sorting been such a persistent challenge for the industry?

A: Until now, food-grade and non-food trays could not be reliably separated using conventional optical sorting as they share the same material composition and spectral signature. GAINnext™ overcomes this limitation by distinguishing takeaway or supermarket trays from non-food trays, including consumer goods and medical packaging. It achieves purity levels of over 95% without manual sorting. As demand for food-grade rPET grows, PET trays are becoming a critical new feedstock alongside bottles. PET tray sorting is no longer a technical challenge: it is a viable business case.

GAINnext™ achieves 95% purity in PET tray sorting, turning a technical challenge into a viable business case

Q: How does this help recyclers meet the stricter requirements of the EU's Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)?

A: Regulatory pressure is intensifying, and the PPWR introduces stricter requirements for recyclability and recycled content. By enabling tray-to-tray recycling, GAINnext™ supports the transition toward closed-loop systems for plastic packaging. It allows recyclers to secure feedstock, meet regulatory requirements and remain competitive by turning previously lost trays into high-value, food-grade rPET.

Q: What makes the 'copper meatballs' application a breakthrough for ferrous recyclers?

A: The steel market is starting its journey towards decarbonisation, and copper contamination remains one of the most critical challenges in steel recycling. GAINnext™ automatically identifies and removes copper-steel composites, such as copper meatballs or motor armatures, from shredded ferrous scrap. The technology uses deep learning object recognition to detect complex shapes, structures and surface patterns that cannot be reliably separated by conventional sensors, even in oxidised or visually degraded material.

Q: What is the specific value for steel producers seeking high-purity scrap?

A: The solution helps upgrade rebar-grade scrap to specification-ready furnace feedstock. For steel manufacturers, this means more stabilised melting performance and greater confidence in recycled input materials. In meatball-rich fractions, GAINnext™ delivers outstanding selectivity and helps lower operational costs by reducing the need for manual picking.

TOMRA introduces three new deep learning applications for its GAINnext™ ecosystem to boost sorting precision

With 11,900 sorting systems installed in more than 100 countries, TOMRA Recycling is a global leader in sensor-based sorting solutions for the recycling and waste management industry. The company's mission is clear: harness the latest AI technologies to help customers turn waste into value.

Q: The third application focuses on UBC aluminium recovery. How does this improve on-site efficiency for a MRF?

A: Manual sorting averages approximately 60 picks per minute, but the GAINnext™ UBC application offers up to 33 times more throughput. It delivers 98% purity or higher by recognising UBC based on shape, size and dimension, and removes aluminium bottles, food cans, and trays from the UBC stream. Its granular sorting can even differentiate aluminium UBC from metal and plastic UBCs.

This breakthrough technology automates the sorting line to improve UBC capture efficiency, increasing revenue and reducing costs.

Q: The GAINnext™ UBC Cleaner application was first launched in North America and is now being introduced in Europe. Why are some applications developed for specific regions?

A: The GAINnext™ deep-learning technology recognises materials using visual cues such as shape, size and labelling. These characteristics vary between regions due to differences in packaging designs and local collection systems, so applications must be trained with region-specific data to deliver optimal performance.

The UBC Cleaner application was first launched for the North American market in 2024 and has now been adapted for Europe, using data that reflects European UBC formats and material streams. This regional approach ensures consistently high purity and throughput while meeting local market needs.

Q: How do these new applications integrate into existing sorting lines?

A: These solutions integrate seamlessly within TOMRA's sorting system portfolio. For example, in metals applications, GAINnext™ can be deployed as an intelligent add-on to the brand-new FINDER™ platform. In our full PET tray solution, upstream AUTOSORT™ systems separate monolayer PET trays from multilayer materials, enabling GAINnext™ to perform high-precision classification. Downstream, our flake sorters provide additional purification and quality control to support the production of high-purity rPET.

Additionally, the Waste Analyser by PolyPerception can serve as an automated compliance system, ensuring adherence to stringent regulations governing food-grade recycling at key points in the sorting process.

Terex Recycling Systems to deliver processing plant for Newtown Waste Solutions

Terex® Recycling Systems (TRS) has been appointed to design and install a new waste processing facility for Newtown Waste Solutions in Glasgow, Scotland.

Operating from Motherwell, Newtown Waste Solutions provides skip hire and waste management services across Glasgow and the Central Belt. The company serves both domestic and commercial customers, with a fleet capable of supporting applications ranging from small-scale clearances to larger construction and industrial projects. Its existing materials recovery operations are focused on maximising recycling performance from collected waste streams.

Kenny Hull, Commercial Product Manager, Terex Recycling Systems, said: *"Terex Recycling Systems is working with Newtown Waste Solutions to deliver a facility aligned with their operational requirements and material profile. The system has been designed to support efficient processing across multiple waste streams, alongside improvements in material recovery and product quality."*

The plant, scheduled for installation in summer 2026, will incorporate a combination of screening, mechanical separation and automated sorting technologies. It is designed to process a range of waste streams, including commercial and industrial (C&I), construction and demolition (C&D), and household waste.

The installation forms part of the company's ongoing infrastructure development, supporting recently secured contracts and anticipated increases in material volumes. The system has also been specified to deliver consistent throughput and to support compliance with regulatory requirements and recycling targets.

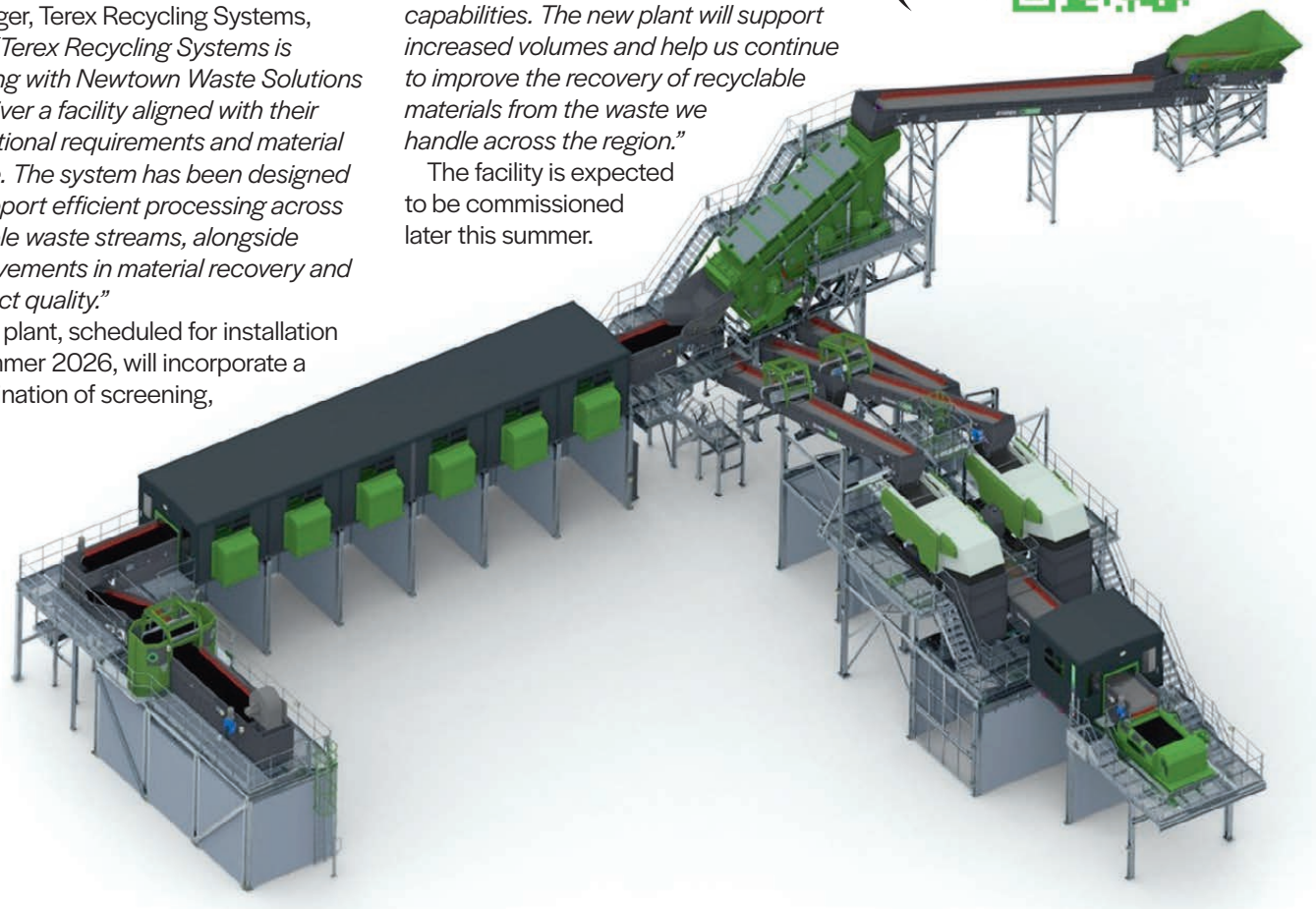
Martin McLindon, Director at Newtown Waste Solutions, added: *"This project represents an important step in expanding our processing capabilities. The new plant will support increased volumes and help us continue to improve the recovery of recyclable materials from the waste we handle across the region."*

The facility is expected to be commissioned later this summer.

"This project represents an important step in expanding our processing capabilities. The new plant will support increased volumes and help us continue to improve the recovery of recyclable materials from the waste we handle across the region" -
Martin McLindon, Director at Newtown Waste Solutions

Terex Recycling Systems provides engineering and project delivery services for recycling and waste processing facilities, including the design, manufacture and integration of complete systems for the treatment of mixed waste and recyclable materials.

SCAN ME!



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RECYCLING SYSTEMS

Putting waste back to work!

Terex Recycling systems specialises in the design and build of stationary and modular recycling systems.

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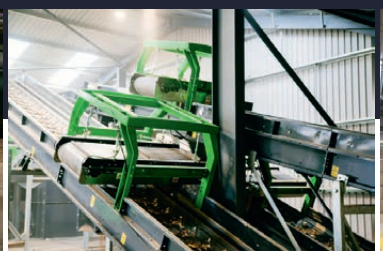
1	9	(UP TO) 12
PLANT	MODULES	PRODUCTS



Feeding / Conveying / Screening / Shredding / Sorting / Separation

For more information, email
recyclingsystems@terex.com

terex.com/recycling

Bigger, bolder and ready to roll

The UK's much-anticipated event for the road transport sector is gearing up for its return this summer - and it's set to be its most ambitious outing yet.

Road Transport Expo (RTX) will once again take over NAEC Stoneleigh in Warwickshire from 30th June to 2nd July 2026, marking its fifth consecutive year and cementing its status as an industry must-attend showcase for vehicles, technology, equipment and expertise.

Since its launch in 2022, RTX has rapidly evolved from a newcomer on the exhibition scene into a cornerstone of the transport calendar.

For fleet owners and operators, HGV engineers, workshop managers and logistics professionals, it has become a trusted destination to see innovation up close, meet the people shaping the sector, and get hands-on with the kit that keeps Britain's road transport industry moving.

If you run, maintain, or specify commercial vehicles, RTX is where you go to get answers and discover what's coming next.

RTX show director Vic Bunby says: *"We've been working hard behind the scenes to bring you a fantastic line-up of exhibitors, conference content and networking opportunities.*

"This year's show has expanded its footprint even further to bring you more of the latest vehicles, fleet equipment and services you need to keep your business running smoothly.

"We can't wait to welcome you all to RTX 2026 this summer."

HIAB will be showcasing its MULTILIFT hooklifts and skiploaders on ***Stand B14***

WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2026

RTX 2026 builds on a proven formula, but this year's show will expand on all the areas you've told us you like. Visitors can look forward to...

A vast line-up of exhibitors

More than 350 exhibitors are expected on-site, ranging from truck OEMs and trailer builders to component suppliers, technology innovators, fuels and infrastructure providers, aftermarket specialists and service partners. Whether you're sourcing parts, scouting new vehicles, or exploring ways to improve fleet efficiency, the range of solutions will be extensive.

Live demonstrations and drive experiences

For many visitors, the chance to see the latest equipment in action is the highlight.

RTX will once again host live demonstrations, ride-and-drive sessions, product walk-arounds and operational showcases, offering a practical look at new technologies - from electric trucks and forklifts to advanced safety systems and diagnostic tools.

WHERE IS RTX LOCATED?

The sprawling NAEC Stoneleigh site once again provides the ideal backdrop.

Its combination of expansive outdoor areas and flexible indoor halls allows manufacturers and suppliers to showcase everything from compact urban delivery vehicles to 44-tonne tractor units and the latest trailer technology.

Operators can climb into cabs, walk through workshop equipment and see infrastructure such as charging and fuelling solutions whilst visiting the show.

Stoneleigh's central location, strong road links and plentiful free parking make it a practical choice for visitors travelling from across the UK.

And for exhibitors, the ability to bring large fleets and demonstrate specialist equipment adds a level of realism that gives RTX its appeal.

Visit the PALFINGER UK team at ***Stands 026, 027***

Expert-led knowledge-sharing sessions

A full programme of seminars and panel debates will bring together respected names from across the transport sector.

Topics will cover the issues keeping operators awake at night: decarbonisation strategies, compliance updates, skills shortages, operational efficiency, maintenance best practice, and the realities of running modern fleets.

Expect honest discussions, practical advice, and actionable insights.

Networking with the industry's best

RTX prides itself on being a relaxed yet professional meeting place. Whether you're catching up with suppliers, meeting new contacts, or bouncing ideas off fellow operators, the show offers countless opportunities to build relationships that can make a real difference to your business.

Five years of bringing the industry together

This year's show marks a milestone: five years of RTX.

What began as an ambitious idea has grown into a vibrant gathering for the people who power the UK's transport and logistics network.

More than 14,000 visitors attended last year's three-day event, and 2026 is expected to surpass that as the community comes together to celebrate achievements, discuss challenges and look ahead to the future shaped by new fuels, digitisation, and continued demand for resilient, efficient fleets.

Be a part of it

Exhibitor space is already in high demand, with many returning brands expanding their presence for 2026.

For businesses across the transport supply chain, RTX offers an unrivalled platform to meet customers face-to-face and demonstrate solutions in a real operational context.

Visitor registration remains free for all industry professionals, making it an easy win for anyone looking to stay ahead of market trends and explore new opportunities.

ROAD TRANSPORT EXPO 2026
30 JUNE – 02 JULY | NAEC STONELEIGH

Join the industry at NAEC Stoneleigh for three unforgettable days of innovation, insight and inspiration.

Scan the QR code to find out more and reegister for your free ticket today!

UK LOGISTICS WEEK

UK Logistics Week

RTX this year forms part of an unmissable three days in the UK logistics calendar.

From 30th June to 2nd July, the West Midlands will be the central hub for the UK's logistics and supply chain industries, with a number of key events running in parallel.

A short 30-minute drive away from RTX will take you to Birmingham NEC, where you'll find MultiModal, Warehouse and Yard and eDX events co-located.

Your free entry ticket for RTX will also grant you entry to all UK Logistics Week events.

Hillhead 2026

Event dates
Tuesday 23rd June: 9am-6pm
Wednesday 24th June: 9am-6pm
Thursday 25th June: 9am-4:30pm

Hillhead stands as the UK's foremost exhibition for quarrying, construction, and recycling equipment. Held every two years in a working Derbyshire quarry, this prominent event, supported by leading manufacturers and specialist suppliers, will showcase 600 exhibitors and attract nearly 20,000 visitors over three action-packed days. This edition is set to be the largest in the show's impressive 44-year history.

Hillhead is unequivocally the destination for industry professionals seeking to stay informed about the significant shifts shaping our sector. Attendees will gain invaluable insights into the ongoing transition as we fully embrace digitalisation and alternative fuels, driving our commitment to a low-carbon and sustainable future.

See demonstrations like never before

The working demonstration areas are what make Hillhead unique. Having the opportunity to see plant and equipment doing a real 'job of work' in a live quarry environment is invaluable for both exhibitors and visitors alike.

If you have not registered yet, scan the QR code to book your visitor pass.

There are four separate demonstration areas:

Quarry Face - multiple benches make up this impressive demonstration area, where over 35 machines can work in tandem. Large excavators, wheel loaders, dumptrucks, dozers, hydraulic breakers, screening buckets and mist cannons can work in this area.

Rock Processing - also known as 'Crusher Alley', where a range of tracked and skid-mounted crushers, screens, scalping grids and stockpiling conveyors can be viewed.

East Demo Area - located east of the exhibition site, this area showcases a range of specialist crushers, shredders, screens, and washing equipment.

Registration - this area hosts rock processing and recycling demonstrations.

This featured section provides an overview of the highlights, including new products and service solutions being showcased at the event. For the full A-Z list of exhibitors, please visit: **https://www.hillhead.com/exhibitor-list**

Zappshelter. Stand: U13

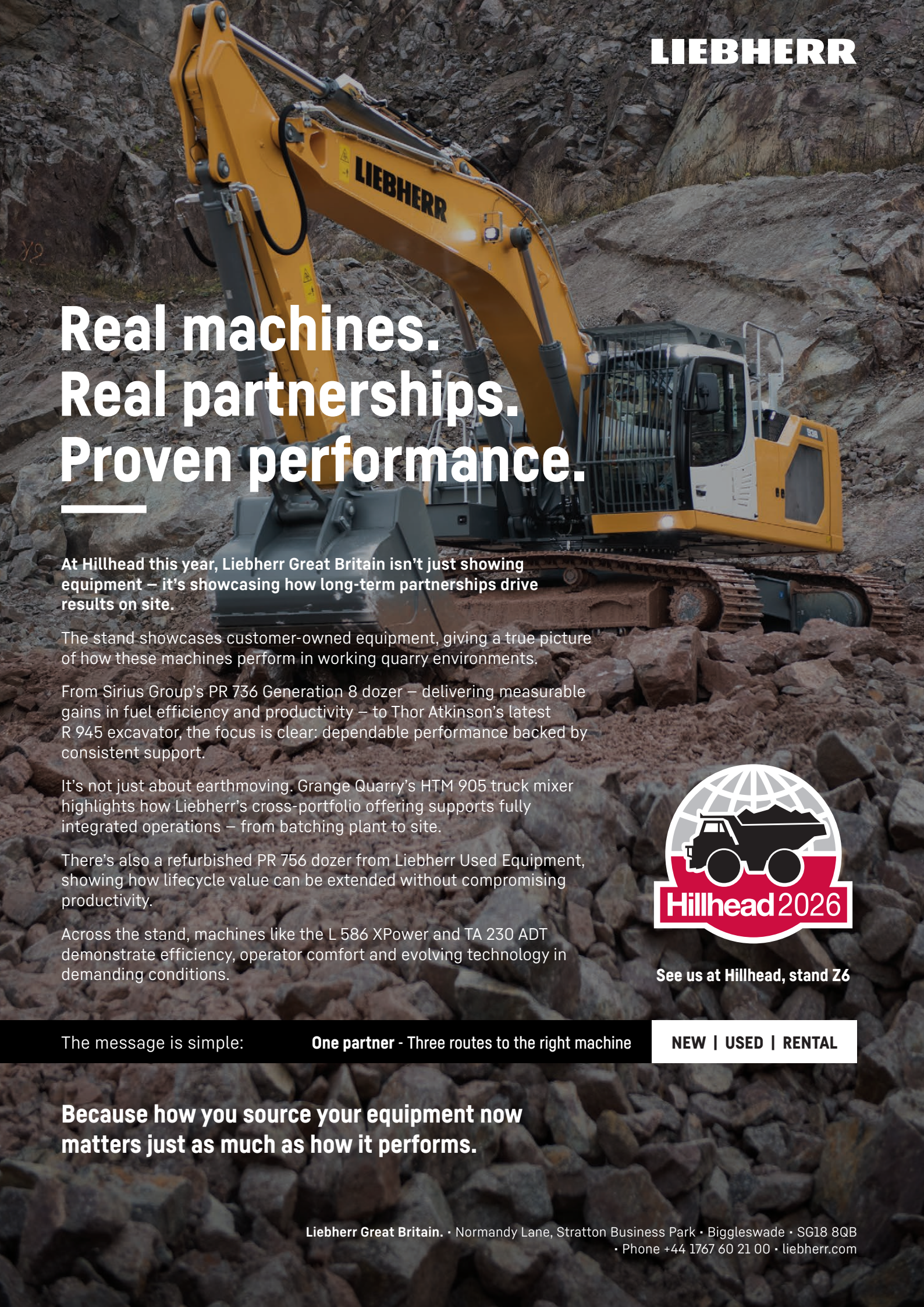
Zappshelter has announced an unprecedented 10-year all-inclusive warranty for its industrial shelter systems, effective from 1st June, 2026.

This milestone follows the company's 10th anniversary, during which it has built a reputation for quality and reliability among renowned international firms.

Previously offering a five-year warranty, Zappshelter has set a new industry standard with this extension, highlighting their confidence in their products, backed by in-house engineering, high-tensile steel, and resilient fabric.

To celebrate, Zappshelter will showcase 'The Bull,' a custom-built 300hp V8 Land Rover Defender, at Hillhead 2026, alongside the launch of their brand mantra, 'Cut the BS, Follow the Bull.'

The new 10-year warranty and rapid-deployment shelter systems are designed to support operators in sectors such as plant hire, construction, aggregates, and recycling, where weather protection and reduced downtime remain key operational priorities.



LIEBHERR

Real machines. Real partnerships. Proven performance.

At Hillhead this year, Liebherr Great Britain isn't just showing equipment – it's showcasing how long-term partnerships drive results on site.

The stand showcases customer-owned equipment, giving a true picture of how these machines perform in working quarry environments.

From Sirius Group's PR 736 Generation 8 dozer – delivering measurable gains in fuel efficiency and productivity – to Thor Atkinson's latest R 945 excavator, the focus is clear: dependable performance backed by consistent support.

It's not just about earthmoving. Grange Quarry's HTM 905 truck mixer highlights how Liebherr's cross-portfolio offering supports fully integrated operations – from batching plant to site.

There's also a refurbished PR 756 dozer from Liebherr Used Equipment, showing how lifecycle value can be extended without compromising productivity.

Across the stand, machines like the L 586 XPower and TA 230 ADT demonstrate efficiency, operator comfort and evolving technology in demanding conditions.

Hillhead 2026

See us at Hillhead, stand Z6

The message is simple: **One partner** - Three routes to the right machine

NEW | USED | RENTAL

Because how you source your equipment now matters just as much as how it performs.

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LIEBHERR

TAYLOR-MADE PERFORMANCE

"We know we will always have a fresh machine supported by the manufacturer and that helps us obtain the best resale value"
- Ellis Taylor, Managing Director

Why Taylor chooses Liebherr every time

A Midlands recycler has used Liebherr material handlers for almost two decades, and there's a reason: 'They're the best money can buy.'

As the metals recycling market becomes more competitive with each passing year, there can be a temptation to cut corners, skimp on the essentials, or defer capital investment. E. Taylor Metal Recycling refuses to do any of those things, especially when buying a new frontline material handler.

For nigh on 20 years, the company has specified that only Liebherr equipment will get the job done at its small but busy yard on the outskirts of Hinckley, and the latest acquisition is an LH 24M Industry model, a direct replacement for a two-year-old machine. *"We try to change the material handler every couple of years as it suits us best,"* says Managing Director Ellis Taylor. *"We know we will always have a fresh machine supported by the manufacturer, and it helps us obtain the best resale value on the outgoing machine, which is hardly run-in at that point.*

"We find Liebherr machines the best money can buy. The LH 24M is an ideal size for us as it can quickly load out

eyeline from around 2.7 metres above ground to over 5.3 metres for the best sightline when loading tippers.

While Taylor's business model is based on quality rather than quantity, a reliable and productive machine is still crucial to the site's smooth operation. *"We shear almost all of the material we handle, which allows us to add value to the product and allows us to ship it out far more cost-effectively,"* said Ellis. *"We could chase volume, but with the required volumes not available within a reasonable travelling distance, the cost of transport then becomes prohibitive."*

The business was launched in 1969 by founder Ellis Taylor Snr., with son Ellis joining the business upon completing his education and taking over the reins in the 1990s. Previously, the company handled both scrap metal and general skip waste, but Ellis Jnr. and his wife, Becky, decided to sell half of the yard and concentrate on the more stable and profitable metals markets. *"General waste was a time- and labour-intensive operation with huge inputs and low profit margins,"* explained Becky. *"The move away from that market was probably the best move we could have made."*

With the handler on the fleet for such a short time, the package developed by Liebherr's area sales manager, Sean O'Hara, included a maintenance agreement, a factor that will help Taylor achieve the highest possible trade-in value.

bulkers with sheared material, handle the heaviest items being delivered and isn't too large and cumbersome to work effectively around the yard."

At the smaller end of Liebherr's material handling range, the LH 24M features a D924FPT engine delivering 150hp and mounted longitudinally in the upper structure. The 12-metre reach is achieved through a combination of a 6.6-metre straight boom and a 5-metre angled stick, and the handler carries a Liebherr GM65 five-tine grab with a 0.6m3 capacity. The hydraulically elevating cabin lifts the operator's

Liebherr-Great Britain Ltd at Hillhead 2026

Liebherr GB represents the Liebherr Group across the UK and Ireland, providing sales, service and technical support for a broad range of construction equipment. Serving sectors including quarrying, aggregates and infrastructure, the business offers new, rental and used equipment solutions, supported by a comprehensive aftersales network.

Stand Z6

Liebherr GB works in close partnership with customers to deliver reliable equipment and long term operational value.

Be sure to stop by **Stand Z6** to explore an exciting array of offerings showcased at this year's event. You won't want to miss the impressive machines and products highlighted there.

01767 602100 **info.lgb@liebherr.com**

SCAN ME!

LOOKING AHEAD - FUTURE FEATURES

JULY 2026: ISSUE 246
Energy from Waste (EfW) - renewable energy sources. Shredders

AUGUST 2026: ISSUE 247
Material recovery facilities (MRFs). Sorting & separation solutions

SEPTEMBER 2026: ISSUE 248
RWM Expo preview, plus exhibitor spotlights

OCTOBER 2026: ISSUE 249
Software systems for skip hire & waste management. Digital Waste Tracking (DWT)

NOVEMBER 2026: ISSUE 250
Plant machinery & waste management equipment

DECEMBER 2026: ISSUE 251
Wash plant solutions. C&D waste / aggregates

JANUARY 2027: ISSUE 252
Material recovery facilities (MRFs). Sorting & separation solutions

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Maskin Mekano to showcase electric screening solutions

Stand: M10

Swedish aggregates equipment specialist Maskin Mekano will present its electrically powered screening solutions at Hillhead 2026, with a focus on the SH 1202 mobile final screen, designed for high-capacity production of precisely defined fractions in demanding applications.

With nearly 70 years of experience, family-owned Maskin Mekano are known for producing robust, Scandinavian-built crushing and screening equipment. The company is now expanding into the UK market with fully electric solutions designed to meet growing demand for low-emission, energy-efficient operations in recycling, quarrying, and mineral processing.

At the heart of the SH 1202 is the proprietary STE screen, delivering high capacity alongside precise screening accuracy. Its aggressive, controlled stroke prevents clogging and maintains performance when handling fine, damp, or sticky materials - conditions where conventional screens often struggle. The three-deck SH 1202 is well-suited to high-spec applications, such as paving materials, producing clean, well-defined fractions while reducing the need for reprocessing.

The electric SH 1202 unit delivers high-capacity, precise screening with lower emissions and energy use

Built on a fully electric platform, the unit can reduce energy consumption by up to 70% compared with diesel-driven alternatives, while also lowering noise levels and CO^2 emissions - key advantages for urban and environmentally sensitive sites. A compact design, high-jacking legs, and integrated safety and service features further support easy setup, maintenance, and reliable operation.

"Bringing our electric screening technology to the UK is a natural next step," said Richard Hopkins, sales agent for Maskin Mekano. *"With SH 1202, we offer a solution that combines productivity, precision, and sustainability without compromise."*

From quarry face to final product

Stands Y5 and L1

SMT and AGGPRO will be exhibiting across two stands, showcasing a broad range of equipment and solutions to support quarrying, recycling, and construction environments.

Whether you're looking to explore new equipment, improve site performance, or understand what's possible across the wider operation, our team will be on hand to help.

In Great Britain, SMT is the exclusive dealer for Volvo Construction Equipment, Dynapac, and K-Tec Earthmover products, as well as one of the authorised dealers for Unicontrol and Volvo Penta Industrial.

In 2024, SMT GB acquired AGGPRO, expanding into the crushing, screening, and recycling sector, representing McCloskey, GIPO, Jonsson, Terracon, and Arjes Impaktor.

This year, SMT further expanded its portfolio with the acquisition of Kioti, strengthening its presence in the compact tractor and equipment sector.

In addition to delivering industry-leading products and support throughout England, Scotland, and Wales, SMT provides a growing range of digital solutions designed to help customers optimise site performance, improve efficiency, increase return on investment, and support more sustainable, data-driven operations.

Clearing the air with Air Spectrum's dust management systems

Air Spectrum Environmental will return to the iconic 'Hillhead 2026' to showcase its industry-leading dust suppression range and discuss the importance of air quality control. Tthe event provides the perfect live working environment to demonstrate the effectiveness of advanced dust control solutions in real-world quarrying, recycling, and construction applications.

Founded in 1994, Air Spectrum Environmental has spent more than 30 years developing innovative air quality management systems for industries where dust, odour and airborne particulates present operational and environmental challenges. The Worcestershire-based company supplies a comprehensive portfolio of solutions, including dust cannons, rotary atomisers, Jetstream systems, Pacific nozzle line systems, and electrostatic air cleaning technology, alongside consultancy, monitoring, and maintenance services.

At Hillhead 2026, visitors will be able to explore Air Spectrum Environmental's extensive dust suppression range designed for quarrying, demolition, bulk material handling, recycling and industrial applications.

The company's systems use high-pressure misting and atomisation technology to capture airborne particles at source, helping operators improve air quality, reduce nuisance dust and support compliance with increasingly stringent environmental regulations.

Among the highlights expected on display are the company's highly regarded Dust Cannon range, Rotary Atomisers and precision misting systems, all engineered to deliver efficient dust suppression while minimising water consumption. Air Spectrum Environmental also offers bespoke fixed installations and mobile solutions tailored to individual site requirements, supported by its in-house consultancy and laboratory services.

With live demonstrations remaining at the heart of the Hillhead experience, the 2026 exhibition will offer visitors the opportunity to see Air Spectrum Environmental's technology in action in a real quarry environment. As the industry continues to prioritise sustainability, worker welfare and environmental compliance, the company's presence at Hillhead 2026 will highlight the growing importance of effective, intelligent dust management solutions.

With customers throughout the UK and globally, the company continues to support quarrying, construction and recycling businesses by providing the engineered conveyor solutions needed to keep heavy materials moving safely, efficiently and reliably

Quarrying, construction and recycling: Keeping heavy materials moving

Aggregate, asphalt, bricks, blocks, waste and heavy materials all have one thing in common: they need reliable systems to keep operations moving efficiently. Across the quarrying, construction and recycling industries, conveyor chains and associated equipment play a critical role in ensuring that production lines continue to operate under some of the harshest working conditions imaginable.

For over five decades, Chain & Conveyor has supported these demanding sectors with specialist conveyor chain, sprockets, and engineered solutions designed to withstand intensive industrial use. Chain & Conveyor has grown steadily to become the UK's largest provider of conveyor chain and sprockets, supplying OEMs and end users across a broad range of industries.

In sectors where downtime can have significant operational and financial consequences, availability, technical knowledge and rapid response are essential. Chain & Conveyor holds one of the UK's largest stocks of imperial and metric conveyor chain, with more than half a million feet of British Standard and metric conveyor and elevator chain available at any one time. Alongside this, the company also stocks thousands of cast and fabricated steel sprockets, slats and attachments to support a wide variety of applications.

Chain & Conveyor has the largest stock of conveyor chains in the UK. Scan the QR code to visit their website

CHAIN+ CONVEYOR

The environments encountered in quarrying, recycling and construction are unforgiving. Abrasive materials, constant loading cycles and exposure to the elements place heavy demands on conveyor systems. Selecting the correct chain and sprocket combination is therefore vital not only for operational efficiency but also for extending equipment life and reducing maintenance requirements.

While standard conveyor chain remain widely used throughout the industry, many applications now require bespoke solutions tailored to specific operating conditions. Chain & Conveyor provides chains to British and ISO standards while also offering specialist attachments and chain pin configurations for more complex installations. Custom-built chain solutions are often required where unusual loads or challenging conditions make off-the-shelf options unsuitable.

Sprockets remain another crucial component in conveyor system performance. Incorrect sprocket selection can accelerate wear, increase noise levels and reduce overall system reliability. To support a wide range of industrial applications, Chain & Conveyor supplies and stocks a broad selection of cast iron and fabricated steel sprockets designed to complement conveyor chain systems across multiple sectors.

Steel slat conveyors also continue to play an important role, particularly in applications where rubber belt systems would deteriorate rapidly. Industries handling hot, abrasive or heavy materials rely on slat conveyor assemblies for their durability and long service life. From twin strand scrapers and apron slat assemblies to piano hinge belts and bespoke fabricated systems, these solutions remain central to many heavy-duty conveying operations.

Attachments and ancillary components are equally important in ensuring conveyors perform their intended task. Welded and bolted attachments, guide blocks, support bars, scrapers and bucket fittings all contribute to the effectiveness and reliability of modern conveying systems. Access to both standard and bespoke attachment manufacture allows operators to tailor systems to their operational needs.

As industrial processes become increasingly demanding, technical support and engineering expertise are becoming just as important as product availability. Alongside manufacturing and stockholding capabilities, Chain & Conveyor also provides design support, fabrication, welding, machining and on-site visits to support customers with technical requirements and operational challenges. We offer fast turnarounds during breakdown situations, which is particularly valuable when every lost minute impacts productivity.

With customers throughout the UK and globally, the company continues to support quarrying, construction and recycling businesses by providing the engineered conveyor solutions needed to keep heavy materials moving safely, efficiently and reliably.

CHAIN+ CONVEYOR

The UK's Leading Conveyor Chain Experts

With over 500,000 ft of conveyor chain held in stock in the UK, Chain & Conveyor is ready to respond whenever our customers need us.
Fast service, expert technical support, and a comprehensive range of high-quality conveyor chain products and accessories - all available for immediate dispatch to help keep your business moving.

Hillhead

See you at Stand **PA21**

Call: +44 (0)1565 830 747
Email: experts@chainandconveyor.com
Visit: chainandconveyor.com

Recycleye launches QuantiSort 2.0 AI-powered waste sorting system

Stand: PB49

Recycleye Ltd will be presenting QuantiSort 2.0, the latest version of AI-driven optical sorting systems designed for modern waste streams, including WEEE, metals, DMR, and construction and demolition materials.

Building on the success of its predecessor - the QuantiSort 1.0 - the new system integrates improved AI models, higher-resolution sensing, and patented ejection technology to enhance material recognition and sorting accuracy.

The upgraded platform provides increased detail, capable of differentiating between complex materials such as food-grade and non-food-grade plastics, aluminium cans and foil, and even difficult black plastics.

QuantiSort 2.0 also features a redesigned pneumatic ejection system for more precise separation with less contamination, along with durable hardware built to perform dependably in demanding, real-world environments.

The pneumatic ejection bar features the SpiralShield nozzle, which provides increased ejection power, a compact design for simpler maintenance, and durability in harsh conditions. The closely spaced nozzles along the bar allow more precise ejections, reducing the risk of collateral damage. Operating at up to 4.5m/s, the system features the company's NoRoll technology for high-capacity sorting without requiring strict belt cleanliness.

Designed to operate effectively in dust, moisture, and fluctuating ambient light, the waste sorting system maintains consistent performance where traditional optical sorters often struggle.

A newly developed control interface, combined with an advanced analytics dashboard, provides operators with detailed performance data and compositional insights, delivering a more efficient, data-driven approach to material recovery.

With processing speeds of up to 28 billion calculations per second and double the previous image resolution, the system provides faster decision-making while reducing energy consumption.

Operators also benefit from access to Recycleye's online analytics dashboard, which offers detailed compositional trends, performance monitoring, and full visibility into plant runtime. Flexible reporting - ranging from minute-by-minute insights to long-term analysis - can be easily exported to Excel or CSV for further evaluation.

QuantiSort 2.0 allows materials recovery facilities to precisely measure sorting performance with the optional TrackEject system, which accurately monitors each material's ejection zone, providing operators with objective, real-time validation and a deeper insight into their processes.

Finlay. Stand: L3

Finlay, a global manufacturer of mobile crushing, screening, and conveying equipment, will showcase a variety of crushers and screens at Hillhead 2026. This event will feature prototypes and new impactors, marking their first public appearances.

A major highlight will be the new I-130RS impact crusher, making its public debut on static display. This model fits between the I-120/I-120RS and the larger I-140/I-140RS, meeting the need for a machine that offers strong impact performance while being easier to transport and set up for different tasks.

In the quarry demonstration area, the main machine on display will be the 694 inclined screen, which was launched in 2025 and designed for high-production tasks. Also running in the demonstration area will be the prototype of the C-1540+ cone crusher, which will go into production in 2027. This new model features an upgraded cone chamber that improves processing performance and serviceability.

The live demonstration lineup will also include the J-1170+ jaw crusher, known for its high production capacity, large reduction ratios, and versatile operations suitable for quarrying or construction and demolition recycling.

Finlay's static display will feature four machines, including several public debuts. Alongside the I-130RS impact crusher, visitors will see the Finlay TC-60 stacker conveyor, the Finlay 883+ heavy-duty scalper, and the Finlay J-1280 jaw crusher, which will also be shown publicly in the UK for the first time since its launch in 2025.

Terex Washing Systems. Stand: L6

Terex Washing Systems (TWS) will showcase the new AggreScrub P80 log-washer with pre-screening at Hillhead 2026. This will be its first public presentation.

The AggreScrub P80 is a high-performance wet-processing machine designed for construction and demolition waste, excavation material, and aggregates. It is mounted on a single chassis and combines pre-screening, log-washer scrubbing, post-screening, contaminant removal, and slurry management in one system.

This setup helps separate materials efficiently while maximising output and reducing downtime. The AggreScrub P80 is built to remove clays, silts, organic materials, and lightweight contaminants. This design lowers operation costs, simplifies plant layout, and enhances product quality. Its compact and modular design also allows for faster transport, installation, and setup, making it ideal for modern wet-processing plants.

At the core of the AggreScrub P80 is the PowerScrub twin-shaft log-washer. It has spiral-arranged blades that create strong stone-on-stone rubbing and continuously move materials. An adjustable angle lets operators optimise the washing time for different feed types.

Independent high-torque drives help the machine start smoothly under load, reducing blockages and downtime. After scrubbing, the material passes through a 2.4m x 1.2m triple-deck aggregate screen, which produces up to three clean washed products. Integrated spray bars provide a second rinse to eliminate leftover contaminants before final sizing.

A dedicated 1.8m x 0.6m trash screen removes lightweight contaminants, such as plastics and organic matter, improving product cleanliness and protecting other equipment. An integrated sump tank and pump maintain steady slurry levels for consistent washing.

The AggreScrub P80 is safe and easy to maintain. It has wide walkways so workers can move around safely. It is built to last and can work well in tough conditions.

Doctor Air Brake targets reversing risk in quarry operations with autonomous braking technology

Doctor Air Brake will use Hillhead 2026 to demonstrate its ReverseSmart system - a radar-based autonomous braking solution designed specifically for heavy plant operating in high-risk environments.

Reversing incidents remain one of the most persistent causes of serious injury and fatality in quarries. Articulated dump trucks, rigid hauliers, and loading shovels operate in confined zones with limited visibility, where traditional controls - alarms, mirrors and cameras - rely heavily on driver reaction time and situational awareness.

ReverseSmart is engineered to remove that dependency.

At the core of the system is a 77GHz radar platform, continuously scanning a programmable detection field behind (and optionally in front of) the vehicle. Unlike optical systems, radar performance is not degraded by dust, rain, darkness or debris - a critical factor in quarry environments. The sensor tracks both distance and closing speed, building a real-time model of objects within the vehicle's path.

When an object or person enters the defined danger zone, the system escalates through a staged response. Initial detection triggers audible and visual alerts in the cab, giving the operator time to react. If no corrective action is taken and the risk increases, ReverseSmart transitions from warning to intervention.

At that point, the system autonomously applies the service brake - not the park brake - using a controlled pulsing action. By modulating braking force rather than

locking the drivetrain, the system delivers a controlled stop without introducing mechanical stress or instability.

The braking logic itself is configurable. Detection zones, beam width, trigger thresholds and braking response can all be tailored to the vehicle type and duty cycle. The system can also factor in parameters such as vehicle speed, steering angle and braking force, allowing it to adapt its intervention dynamically rather than operating as a fixed on/off safety device.

Integration sits at the centre of the architecture. ReverseSmart communicates directly with the vehicle via CAN bus, enabling seamless interaction with existing braking and control systems while maintaining OEM integrity. It can also be linked to onboard camera and MDVR platforms, automatically recording every autobrake event with time-stamped footage for post-incident analysis.

For quarry operators, this creates a system that does more than warn - it actively controls the outcome.

Alongside the autonomous braking function, ReverseSmart provides a continuous stream of operational data. Each intervention is logged, allowing fleet and safety managers to review near-misses, analyse driver behaviour and verify that braking systems are performing within safe parameters. This moves safety management from assumption to evidence.

Jeff Lowe, Managing Director of Doctor Air Brake, said the technology addresses a long-standing gap in site safety systems. *"Operators have had warnings for years, but warnings don't stop vehicles. This system physically intervenes - and just as importantly, it records exactly what happened. That combination of control and evidence is what the industry has been missing."*

The system is designed for integration across a wide range of heavy plant, including articulated dump trucks, rigid hauliers, loading shovels and ancillary quarry vehicles, regardless of powertrain.

From a compliance perspective, systems that can both intervene and provide verifiable data are becoming increasingly relevant under the Quarries Regulations 1999 and the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, particularly where operators must demonstrate that risks are not only identified but actively controlled.

*Doctor Air Brake will be exhibiting at Hillhead 2026, **Stand: RA14**, where live demonstrations of ReverseSmart will focus on real-world quarry scenarios rather than controlled test conditions.*

See SMILEY MONROE at **Stand: E5.**

Case study: Extending belt life on an inclined aggregate conveyor

The challenge

Operating on an incline, this conveyor faced continuous abrasion from aggregate briquettes. The standard multi-ply conveyor belt lasted just 12 months, wearing through to the fabric plies before requiring full replacement.

The inclined nature of the system increased the severity of wear, as the material placed constant pressure and friction on the belt surface while being conveyed uphill. The aggregate briquettes themselves were highly abrasive, with a rough, angular composition that steadily degraded the belt cover over time.

Although the original multi-ply belt was suitable for general conveying applications, it was not ideally suited to this combination of incline operation and abrasive product. As a result, wear progressed steadily until the belt reached the fabric reinforcement layer, at which point replacement was required to maintain safe and efficient operation.

Frequent replacements meant increased downtime, higher maintenance costs and reduced operational efficiency. Each belt change required planned shutdowns, labour allocation, and production interruptions, which, over time, added up to a significant operational burden. In addition, the recurring need for replacement reduced overall system reliability and made long-term maintenance planning more difficult.

It became clear that a more durable belt solution was required to better withstand the application conditions and improve service life.

The solution

The customer switched to a Smiley Monroe ToughFlex® belt, engineered for high-impact and abrasive applications. The belt was selected specifically for its enhanced resistance to surface wear and its ability to perform in demanding conveying environments such as inclined aggregate transport.

ToughFlex® is designed to withstand continuous abrasion while maintaining structural integrity over extended operating periods and can last up to four times longer than standard EP multi-ply belts. This made it a suitable upgrade for an application where both the material type and incline operation were contributing to accelerated belt wear.

By implementing this change, the customer aligned the belt specification more closely with the actual operating conditions of the system, improving overall durability and performance consistency.

The result

Belt life extended from 12 months to 24+ months.

Featured products on show at Hillhead

The belt was still in good working condition after two years, showing significantly reduced wear compared to the previous installation. The surface remained intact for longer, and the progression to fabric exposure was greatly delayed.

This improvement demonstrated a clear increase in resistance to abrasion and overall service life, particularly in a challenging incline conveying environment.

The impact

Reduced downtime and maintenance interventions were achieved as a direct result of the extended belt life. With fewer replacements required, the customer experienced improved operational continuity and reduced disruption to production schedules.

Maintenance costs were lowered due to the reduced frequency of belt changes, and operational efficiency improved through more consistent conveyor performance. The longer service interval also allowed for better planning of maintenance activities, reducing unplanned interruptions.

By upgrading to ToughFlex®, the customer achieved a significant increase in belt lifespan, helping maximise uptime and reduce total cost of ownership while maintaining reliable performance in a demanding application.

Built for the hardest hits.
Proven in the real world

Across multiple demanding applications, ToughFlex® consistently delivers longer belt life, fewer repairs, and maximum uptime, helping customers move more, stop less, and stay ahead.

Built for the toughest jobs: The Giants of Belting to showcase their conveyor belt range at Hillhead

At the end of the month, global conveyor belt supplier Smiley Monroe will attend Hillhead 2026, the UK's premier quarrying, construction and recycling show. The Giants of Belting will be showcasing how its conveyor belt range is designed to maximise machine uptime, extend machinery lifespan and reduce operational costs.

With demand continuing to grow across the GB market, Smiley Monroe is also building on the success of its Midlands Hub in Ilkeston, Derbyshire. Launched in response to customer demand for faster lead times and improved service, the facility has strengthened the company's support offering across GB through increased stock availability, **next-day delivery and same-day collection.**

With a huge variety of flat and chevron conveyor belt options available, and what the company describes as one of the largest stocks of conveyor belts across the UK and Ireland, the Midlands Hub enables customers to access full conveyor belt rolls and cut lengths quickly and efficiently, helping to minimise downtime and keep operations running smoothly.

The expansion reflects Smiley Monroe's continued commitment to supporting customers across the quarrying, recycling, construction and environmental sectors, particularly its long-standing network of service and vulcanising companies.

Chris Monroe, CEO, said: *"GB has always been an important market for us. Our customers wanted faster access to the products they need, and the Midlands Hub allows us to respond quickly and efficiently."*

At Hillhead 2026, Smiley Monroe will continue that momentum, with visitors invited to explore how its conveyor belt range helps customers improve productivity and reduce downtime across demanding applications.

Featured products at the show will include **TOUGHFLEX**®, the company's all-round solution for extreme conveying applications, engineered to withstand the toughest operating conditions and last up to four times longer than standard EP multi-ply belts.

Also on display will be **ZIP CLIP**®, a ready-to-fit replacement belt solution designed to get machines back up and running in as little as one hour, eliminating the need for vulcanising and significantly reducing downtime.

Smiley Monroe will also showcase **INTEGRACLEAT**™, its range of custom cleated belts with integrally moulded profiles, developed to move materials efficiently and reliably across a wide range of operations. The company supports industries including crushing and screening, recycling, agriculture, road construction and environmental operations, delivering conveyor belt solutions focused on durability, efficiency and real-world performance.

Hillhead 2026 will provide visitors with the opportunity to see first-hand why Smiley Monroe continues to be trusted across industries for conveyor belts that are fast, tough and reliable, backed by proven results in the field.

TURNING WASTE INTO REVENUE!

*Join us at **Hillhead** to experience our new, yet unnamed, 3-way screener firsthand. Take this opportunity to participate in our **COMPETITION** and help us choose a fitting name for this exceptional product*

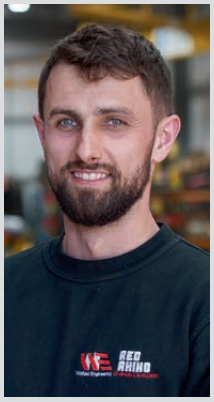
The waste and recycling industry has changed dramatically over the past decade. Rising landfill taxes, tighter environmental regulations, and growing pressure to demonstrate sustainable practice have all pushed operators to look harder at how they handle material on-site. Red Rhino, the Lincolnshire-based British manufacturer, has unveiled a brand-new screener designed to meet the evolving demands of the waste and recycling industry.

The company has spent more than a decade refining its range of crushers and screeners with these challenges firmly in mind. Red Rhino's latest screener model has been developed to give waste and recycling operators a practical, profitable way to process material wherever the work takes them.

Developing Red Rhino's latest screener

Red Rhino's new 3-way screener, which will be displayed and then officially named after its debut at Hillhead 2026, is the latest addition to the Red Rhino range. Designed and built at the company's Grantham facility, it was developed in response to operator feedback that machines of this scale were too often let down by the difficulty of moving them between sites.

The new screener has been engineered to remove that problem entirely. The machine folds down without any mechanical intervention and, once folded, fits inside a standard 40ft high cube shipping container. Performance has not been compromised in pursuit of transportability. Red Rhino's latest screener model is capable of processing up to 300 tonnes of material per hour, making it suitable for quarries, recycling operations and large-scale construction sites.



"Our new screener is unlike anything else on the market," said Job Winfield *(pictured)*, Director at Red Rhino. *"We've focused on quick site establishment and ease of operation, because that's what our customers are asking for. Being able to fold the machine down and move it in a standard container is a breakthrough for this size of screener."*

The new screener has been designed to complement the Red Rhino crusher range, in particular the RR 8000 Crusher, the flagship model. The RR 8000 has earned its reputation through consistent performance on demolition sites, in quarries and across recycling yards, processing high volumes of rubble and reclaimed material.

Its 800mm x 500mm jaw crusher is built to handle demanding workloads, while the hydraulically driven vibrating tray keeps material feeding through at a consistent rate. The wireless remote control system allows the operator to work safely from a distance, and foldable grizzly feeder sides simplify both transport and setup. Like every Red Rhino machine, it has been designed with serviceability in mind, giving access to key components without specialist tools.

Real benefits for waste and recycling operators

Pairing the jaw crushers like RR 8000 crusher with Red Rhino's latest 3-way screener gives operators a complete crushing and screening capability that delivers tangible commercial benefits.

Processing waste on-site removes the recurring cost of skip hire and third-party disposal services. Rubble, concrete, and other materials that would previously have left the site as waste can be crushed and screened into graded aggregate, ready for reuse on the next project or sold as a product in its own right. This turns a disposal cost into a revenue stream and reduces the need to buy in fresh hardcore from external suppliers.

"What we're seeing from our customers is that the economics of on-site processing have shifted significantly," said Winfield. *"Operators who invest in their own crushing and screening capability aren't just saving on disposal costs, they're creating a valuable product they can sell."*

Red Rhino will be unveiling the new screener model and demonstrating the RR 8000 Crusher at Hillhead 2026 at the end of the month. Along with these two machines, the Red Rhino team will be displaying a selection of other models from the Red Rhino range.

"We can't wait to chat with members of the industry at Hillhead. We'll be putting the RR 8000 through its paces and talking through the features of our latest screener model, too. We also look forward to your creative suggestions in naming our new product."

Come and find us at Stand: A32!

NEW SCREENER LAUNCH

WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS

A BRITISH MANUFACTURER

LOCALLY MADE, GLOBALLY SOLD

Why pay for waste removal when you can screen and crush it on site? Red Rhino's British-built crushers and screeners turn your waste into reusable aggregate. Compact, reliable and simple to operate – they're built to work smarter on every single job.

From robust screeners to heavy duty jaw crushers, great groundwork starts here.

COME SEE OUR RANGE ON DISPLAY

Visit our stand to see the new screener and enter our competition to name the new machine.

SEE OUR RR 8000 IN ACTION

Hillhead

STAND NO. A32

TUESDAY 23RD - THURSDAY 25TH JUNE 2026

RED RHINO
CRUSHERS & SCREENERS

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Call us: 01476 590790 or
email: info@redrhinocrushers.net

redrhinocrushers.co.uk

SCAN HERE

See INMALO at **Stand: A37.**

INMALO: 80 years supporting waste recycling

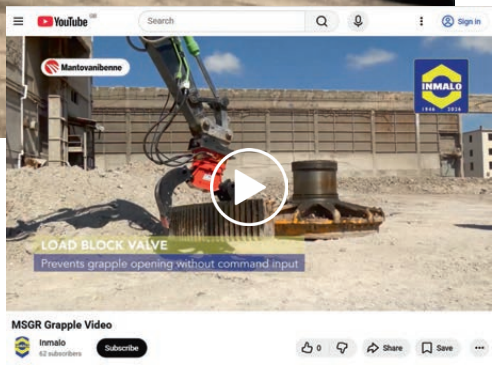
Eighty years of experience brings clarity, know the job, supply the right equipment, and support it properly. That's the approach that has made INMALO a trusted name in the waste recycling sector.

At Hillhead 2026 (**Stand: A37**), INMALO will mark this milestone by showcasing the strengths that have defined the business for decades: long-standing customer relationships, proven equipment and reliable aftersales support.

Partnerships with leading manufacturers such as Mantovanibenne, Montabert and MB Dust Control continue to underpin INMALO's reputation. With nearly three decades of experience representing Mantovanibenne, the company remains a go-to supplier for high-performance attachments.

In waste recycling, efficiency is everything. INMALO supplies a range of specialist attachments designed to process materials faster, reduce handling costs and maximise recovery value. From scrap magnets to Grapples, the focus is on helping operators separate and process waste streams cleanly and efficiently, reducing contamination and improving output quality.

Dust control is a critical part of that process. INMALO offers one of the most comprehensive ranges of dust suppression systems available, suitable for everything from compact urban sites to large-scale recycling operations, ensuring safer, cleaner working environments.



INMALO's MSGR Grapple range from MBI is built for the demolition and waste recycling industry. Scan the QR code to see it in action.

What sets INMALO apart is the support behind the equipment. Strong stock availability, a substantial hire fleet, and in-house and mobile engineering teams mean customers get fast access to machinery, parts and servicing when it matters most.

After 80 years, the formula hasn't changed: high-quality equipment, backed by people who understand the industry and respond when needed.

Scan the QR code to watch the MB SC60 and SC60 Articulated Mast Dust Suppression Cannons in action as they control airborne dust across a large waste and recycling site.

GIDA

SCRAP MAGNETS

Features & Options

- Collect scrap efficiently
- Runs from your machines hydraulics
- Powerful pick up
- Rental or Purchase

INMALO VIDEO

INMALO 1946 - 2026

80 YEARS

Mantovanibenne

MSGR GRAPPLE

Features & Options

- Large powerful cylinders
- 360° Hydraulic rotation
- High capacity
- Robust reinforced body
- Oversize pins & bushes

INMALO VIDEO

MOTOFOG BUY RENT

ROTOFOG

MOTOFOG
MFJ10 15m throw

MOTOFOG
MF20D 25m throw
MF40D 35m throw

MOTOFOG
MF60D 55m throw

ROTOFOG
RFW60 35-55m throw
RFW80 55-85m throw

ROTOFOG
RFA10 15m throw
RFA20 25m throw
RFA40 35m throw

MFJ10 INMALO VIDEO

MF20/40D INMALO VIDEO

RFW60/80 INMALO VIDEO

RFA10/20/40 INMALO VIDEO

MB DUSTCONTROL BUY RENT

MB DUST CONTROL
SC40M
Teliscopic mast

MB DUST CONTROL
SC60

Hillhead

SEE US ON STAND **A37**

Quarrying, Construction & Recycling

June 23-25 2026 Hillhead Quarry Buxton UK

MB DUST CONTROL
SC40SS
Available with telescopic mast

SC40M INMALO VIDEO

SC60 INMALO VIDEO

SC40SS INMALO VIDEO

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250TPH construction and demolition waste recycling plant for the NWH Group on the outskirts of Edinburgh

Hillhead 2026: Circular Group to present its wet processing solutions

Circular Group will be exhibiting at Hillhead 2026 on Stand: V20. This event will provide attendees the opportunity to interact with Circular Group's team of experts and gain comprehensive insights into their cutting-edge wet-processing equipment. Featured products on show will include the SandPro® Sand Washing Unit, Titan® Logwasher, dewatering screens, and the innovative i-Floc® auto flocculant system.

Circular Group specialise in the supply of tailored wet processing solutions for sand, aggregates and recycling applications. Their team have more than 25 years' experience in the wet processing industry.

They are based in Northern Ireland, one of the world's premier locations for producing aggregate processing equipment, and are known for their excellence in engineering and manufacturing. Their key markets are the UK, Ireland, Europe, Scandinavia, North America and Australia.

Offering complete solutions from feed system through to filter press, and everything in between - including plant upgrades and spare parts.

Their direct, personal approach to meeting its customers' needs and developing unrivalled technical and commercial solutions is at the forefront of what they do.

They adapt their approach and project delivery to suit its customer profile, ranging from private family enterprises to large stock-listed and national producers.

Circular Group supplied the UK's largest and most advanced wet processing plant for construction and demolition waste recycling. The plant, delivered to the NWH Group on the outskirts of Edinburgh, enables the recycling of inert construction and demolition waste using the

Circular Group specialise in the supply of tailored wet processing solutions for sand, aggregates and recycling applications

latest technology, including washing, screening, scrubbing, crushing, and water treatment equipment. Notably, the plant includes the largest Logwasher commissioned in this application in the UK: Circular's Titan® 350R Logwasher, which is an impressive 3.5m wide x 9m long x 2.5m high and weighs close to 30 tonnes.

The plant increased the NWH Group's processing capabilities from 75 tonnes per hour to 250 tonnes per hour, and is capable of diverting more than 450,000 tonnes per year from landfill.

Not only does the plant further increase recycling rates, but it also improves the quality, reliability, grading and breadth of recycled resources available and expands the product range from three to six product types to include 10mm aggregate, 20mm aggregate, 40mm aggregate, type 1 aggregate, washed concrete sand and building sand.

Circular Group's focus on recycling applications covers a wide range of waste streams, which include:

- **Construction & Demolition Waste**
- **Excavated Soils**
- **C&D Fines**
- **Road Sweepings**
- **Hydro Excavation Waste**
- **Crushed Concrete**
- **Railway Ballast**

A key challenge with recycling these materials is the continuous variability. For example, the silt, sand, trash and aggregates content varies greatly. Circular developed an advanced automation system (i-Pro®) which continually monitors the volume of each fraction in the material. Based on the volumes, the plant can self-regulate, adjusting the feed rate up/down to ensure all key areas of the plant are fully utilised. The system ensures maximum output from the plant whilst removing the need for plant operators to continually monitor plant operation.

Circular Group are delighted to welcome guests to Hillhead, where they'll enjoy a closer look at the products on show and the opportunity to speak directly with the people behind them.

Titan® 350R Logwasher: the largest Logwasher commissioned in construction waste recycling in the UK

Circular Group's core products include:

- SandPro® - Sand washing units
- Titan® - Logwashers and screening units
- SiltPro® - Hi-Rate Thickeners
- i-Floc® - Auto polymer dosing
- XScalp® - Scalping Units
- i-Pro® - Advanced automation, displays and self-regulating systems
- Hoppers and Conveyors
- Dewatering Screens
- Washing and Sizing Screens
- Filter Presses

Hillhead
Stand: V20

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Plant layout

High-performance C&D washing solution for Neal Soil Suppliers Ltd

Parnaby Cyclones has successfully designed and delivered a high-capacity construction and demolition (C&D) washing solution for Neal Soil Suppliers Ltd at their Rumney project site in Cardiff, South Wales.

The installation features a 170–200 tonnes per hour (TPH) C&D wash barrel plant, engineered to process mixed C&D materials with a maximum feed size of <100mm. The project highlights Parnaby Cyclones' ability to deliver advanced processing solutions within tight timeframes and with minimal consultation time.

Following initial discussions and a site visit to one of Parnaby's high-capacity barrel washing plants operating on a run-of-mine coal project in Merthyr Tydfil, Dauson Environmental Group placed the order in Q3 2022. The new plant was commissioned in August 2023, demonstrating a swift progression from order to operation.

Parnaby Cyclones collaborated closely with a partner equipment provider to complete the full installation, including mechanical and electrical works. From the outset of commissioning, the wash barrel line consistently achieved its design throughput, producing visibly clean, high-quality materials free from organic contamination.

At the heart of the system is the Parnaby 8/36 wash barrel, which processes and separates inert materials from organics, then sorts the aggregates into three primary fractions: >60mm, <60mm x 4mm, and <4mm fines. The <60mm coarse fraction is further treated in an existing twin shaft log washer to ensure effective removal of clay contamination, maximising product quality.

Post washing - washed aggregates are sized to the following product range:

- ***<2mm sand;***
- ***<4mm sand;***
- ***4mm x 10mm pea gravel;***
- ***10mm x 20mm gravel;***
- ***20mm x 40mm gravel;***
- ***40mm x 60mm washed aggregates;***
- ***60mm x 100mm.***

Final grading is achieved using Neal Soils Suppliers' existing sand cyclones and screening plant, with the new system fully integrated into their established processing infrastructure.

The impact of the new installation has been immediate and significant. Neal Soils Suppliers reported excellent product cleanliness and confirmed that the plant is exceeding its original throughput design targets.

Commenting on the installation, Liam Neal noted an additional operational benefit: *"The improved cleanliness of both aggregates and sand from the Parnaby barrel wash has enabled higher throughput across our existing log washer and sand cyclone circuits."*

This project not only demonstrates the performance and reliability of Parnaby Cyclones' wash barrel technology but also highlights its ability to enhance downstream processing efficiency.

PARNABY CYCLONES
PROCESSING EXCELLENCE SINCE 1973

Parnaby Cyclones would like to thank Neal Soils Suppliers Ltd for their confidence and collaboration on this successful project.

Feed

Product

Trash

Unrivalled Materials
Wet Processing Solutions

Hillhead
Stand N3

Our expertise covers:

- Sand and gravel process lines
- C+D and muck away
- Soils non haz and haz
- Skip waste fines
- Skip waste coarse fractions
- Hydro excavated materials
- Utility dig
- Road sweepings
- Glass MRF and kerbside

Parnaby Cyclones offer a wide range of aggregate washing systems in either modular or mobile solutions.

50 YEARS PROCESSING EXCELLENCE SINCE 1973

PARNABY CYCLONES
PROCESSING EXCELLENCE SINCE 1973

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BESPOKE DESIGN | PRODUCT QUALITY | FLEXIBLE DESIGN FOR PRODUCT EXPANSION

European premieres and global launches to feature on Astec stand

Astec will use this year's Hillhead show as a European launch pad for its patented Multi-Frequency screen technology

Stands: J11, E11

Astec Industries Inc. will place customer productivity, performance, and profitability at the centre of their Hillhead 2026 showcase, unveiling eight new crushing, screening, washing, and material-handling innovations for the European market.

The company will demonstrate a range of new technologies to improve operational efficiency, maximise output, and support demanding quarrying and recycling applications. Several machines will run live throughout the show, allowing visitors to see the latest equipment in action and speak directly with Astec specialists.

Among the headline launches will be the European debut of the new Frontier tracked mobile crushing and screening range, designed for rapid setup, flexibility, and high-performance production in hard-rock environments. Astec will also introduce the Kolberg Eco-Scrub modular washing solution, designed to deliver efficient wet processing in semi-mobile applications.

The company will also showcase its patented Vari-Frequency technology on the Pioneer 6203LPV horizontal screen, designed to minimise blinding and maximise throughput. Another key highlight will be the European launch of Astec's patented Multi-Frequency screen technology, proven across a wide range of difficult materials, including sticky aggregates, recycled asphalt planings (RAP), topsoil, and quarry scalpings.

Material handling solutions will feature prominently on the stand, with products on display including the Telestack TCL 1031 Zero heavy-duty stacker and the new Telestack LF527 low-feed hopper feeder, both engineered to improve efficiency, reduce double handling, and support high-tonnage operations.

Astec will also highlight its integrated end-to-end material handling systems for pit-to-port and port-to-plant logistics applications, alongside the company's in-house Signal telematics platform, which provides operators with real-time performance insights and simplified fleet maintenance management.

Damian Power, Managing Director of Astec Europe, said: *"Everything we're bringing to Hillhead is designed for our European customers. Whether it's increasing throughput, improving product quality, or reducing operating costs, these solutions deliver measurable, real-world results.*

"Backed by our expanding network of dealers and partners across Europe, we provide strong local service. Our experienced team and parts inventory in Omagh, Northern Ireland, are supported by the global reach of Astec's 4,500-strong workforce, creating a compelling offering for our customers."

Through their extensive Hillhead 2026 display, Astec say they aim to demonstrate how their latest technologies can help producers improve efficiency, increase uptime, and maximise operational performance across the aggregates, quarrying, and recycling sectors.

Ron Earl, Group Vice-President of Sales and Marketing at Astec, commented: *"Customers expect more than performance; they expect results they can rely on. Hillhead gives us the opportunity to showcase our equipment in action and to have real conversations about how we can help customers increase productivity, reduce operating costs, and achieve their long-term business goals."*

The company's leadership team will be available throughout the Hillhead event to collaborate directly with customers and partners.

Malachy Gribben, Vice-President of Channel Management at Astec, said: *"We're not only here to support existing and new customers, but we're also looking to grow our dealer network. We offer a wide range of proven, credible solutions trusted by customers and channel partners worldwide. If you're interested in representing a strong, trusted brand with a clear growth strategy, we'd encourage you to meet us at Hillhead to explore the opportunities."*

Red Knight 6 has been appointed by Astec Europe as its official distributor for England and Wales, marking a significant step in strengthening the Astec presence across the GB market.

As a trusted and well-established name in the industry, Red Knight 6 will lead the rollout of Astec's new Frontier track crushing and screening range, bringing cutting-edge equipment and expert support directly to customers.

Paul Donnelly, Managing Director at Red Knight 6, commented: *"Astec is a proven and globally respected brand, and this partnership allows us to offer customers a highly competitive lineup backed by RK6's technical expertise and support, whilst supporting our existing range of products.*

"This is about more than adding another product range - it's about giving the industry access to high-performance, proven technology, including patented innovations unique to Astec, that deliver real productivity gains across a wide range of applications."

O'Kane Equipment Solutions Ltd has been appointed as Astec Europe's official Frontier dealer for Scotland and Northern England.

Pictured L-R: Malachy Gribben, Channel VP, Channel Management Astec; Kieran O Kane, MD O'Kane Equipment; Damian Power, Managing Director, Astec Europe; Paul Donnelly, MD Red Knight 6; Dan Flack, Sales Director Red Knight 6

Pictured L-R: Daniel Hayn (Head of Sales & Marketing at WeSort.AI); Nathanael Laier (CEO & Co-Founder of WeSort.AI); Richard Mawson (Director of Kaizen Recycling Ltd); Johannes Laier (Co-Founder & CFO of WeSort.AI) and Duncan Bowett (Managing Director of Kaizen Recycling Ltd). Picture credit: WeSort.AI

Kaizen Recycling appointed official UK & Ireland partner for WeSort.AI

Kaizen Recycling Ltd and WeSort.AI have teamed up to expand their services in the UK and Ireland. Kaizen Recycling Ltd is now the official partner for WeSort.AI in these regions. This partnership started last month at IFAT 2026 in Munich and will bring WeSort.AI's AI-based sorting and safety solutions to the British and Irish markets.

Kaizen Recycling Ltd brings experience in waste processing optimisation and technology deployment across the UK and Ireland. Working closely with operators, integrators and plant owners, Kaizen supports the introduction of advanced solutions that improve safety, operational resilience and plant performance.

WeSort.AI provides AI-powered object recognition technologies using deep learning, advanced segmentation and X-ray analysis for the recycling sector. With systems already deployed by major industry operators such as Korn Recycling in Germany and PreZero International in Austria, WeSort.AI has proven its value in real-world recycling environments.

Among its portfolio, the most significant innovation addressing current market challenges is X.Sort.

X.Sort - fire prevention instead of fire detection or suppression

Lithium-ion batteries are increasingly present in mixed waste and recyclable material streams. Across the UK and Ireland, battery-related fires are one of the fastest-growing causes of incidents in waste and recycling facilities. When batteries enter shredding or screening, the risk of puncture and thermal events rises sharply - putting people, infrastructure, insurance coverage and plant uptime at serious risk.

X.Sort addresses this challenge at source. Installed at the front end of a waste processing plant, the system uses X-ray scanning combined with AI recognition to identify and eject lithium-ion batteries and other hazardous elements from the material flow, even through layers of material up to 50cm thick.

Unlike fire detection or suppression systems that respond after ignition, X.Sort prevents incidents before they occur by physically removing batteries before they can cause damage. In doing so, it acts as a protective barrier for the entire downstream process.

What this means for UK & Ireland operators

X.Sort is designed to help operators:

- *Significantly reduce the likelihood of battery-triggered fires by acting upstream;*
- *Protect critical plant assets and infrastructure;*
- *Reduce unplanned downtime and improve business continuity;*
- *Increase operational confidence when processing increasingly battery-contaminated inputs;*
- *Support compliance, insurance discussions and long-term operational resilience.*

"Battery fires are one of the most serious and disruptive risks facing our industry. X.Sort is a genuine game-changer because it targets the issue early - protecting people, plant and productivity. We're proud to bring this technology to the UK and Ireland with WeSort.AI", said Richard Mawson, Director, Kaizen Recycling Ltd.

Daniel Hayn, Head of Sales & Marketing, WeSort.AI, added: *"The UK and Ireland represent a highly dynamic and forward-thinking recycling market. Partnering with Kaizen Recycling Limited allows us to combine advanced AI technology with strong local expertise, ensuring X.Sort delivers maximum impact for operators on the ground."*

Alongside X.Sort, the Vision.Sort system rounds off the portfolio for recycling operations. Utilising AI-powered pattern recognition helps to separate valuable materials precisely where needed.

WeSort.AI is bringing order to the transition to renewable resources. Founded in Wuerzburg in 2022, this deep-tech company specialises in identifying valuable resources within waste streams and mitigating risks.

BUSINESS CLINIC CONSULTANCY

England's high priority waste sites listed

JESSICA MORGAN-SMITH
Partner at MPG, based in Bingley, Bradford and Skipton, North Yorkshire

On 22nd May, the Environment Agency (EA) published a list of 117 'high priority waste sites in England', making an improvement (albeit small) to communication with the public. As part of a wider crackdown on waste crime, the document suggests the EA are moving towards more transparency, but it also raises important questions.

The EA recently reported "there are currently around 700 known illegal waste sites across England", but some independent research suggests the actual scale of illegal waste activity could be significantly larger, with thousands of sites potentially remaining unreported. While the 117 sites listed in the new document appear to represent a small part of England's wider waste issues, it's also important to note that the list is not limited to illegal sites, it can include locations under investigation, permitted facilities with ongoing concerns, and sites linked to legacy environmental issues.

The document lists waste sites by Site Name, Site location, Waste Type and Waste Amount (tonnes), with the site name generally matching the location. The scale of some of the sites involved is interesting, with reported tonnages ranging from just one tonne to 281,000 tonnes.

The list identifies sites that are currently causing concern to local communities or are considered a priority for regulatory attention. While the EA has noted that inclusion on the list does not automatically mean illegal activity is taking place, publishing the document does shine a spotlight on the sites that can be identified by their generic location. The EA has stated that investigations are ongoing and that the courts ultimately determine whether illegal activity has taken place.

Residents living near illegal or problematic waste sites can be affected by noise, odour, dust, fire risks, visual impacts, or fears around pollution, and have regularly hit a wall with how long enforcement can take. The EA appears to be responding to those concerns by increasing visibility around where it is actively focusing resources and encouraging local reporting of suspected waste crime (which we are pleased to see). The EA has also confirmed the watchlist will be updated monthly as investigations evolve.

The big question is what happens next? Will the publication of these sites lead to faster intervention and more decisive enforcement vvaction?

Will some operators be supported back into compliance, or will the focus be on prosecution and closure?

For the list itself, will it continue to grow, or will we see some of these site issues resolved?

And, importantly, what role will compliance, planning, restoration/redevelopment play in resolving some of the larger legacy sites?

What is clear is that scrutiny of waste activities appears to be increasing. For operators, maintaining strong environmental standards, robust documentation and proactive engagement with regulators is likely to become even more important in the months and years ahead.

The publication of this list is not just about highlighting sites, it reflects a broader but discreet shift in regulatory tone. The challenge now will be ensuring that enforcement is targeted effectively, communities are protected, and confidence in the wider waste sector is strengthened rather than undermined.

Scan the QR code to view the list of high priority sites, which the EA say will be updated every month.

Jessica has a wide experience of planning, permitting, operations, compliance, management systems and enforcement support. If you have any queries about planning, permitting or compliance, please contact ***jessica@mpgyorks.co.uk***

MPG

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SCAN ME

20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

In 2024, a regional site in Leicestershire began using FlyMax® ULV Waste Concentrate

Designed for the waste sector: Rapid fly control with FlyMax®

By **Will Kirkpatrick, Barrettine Group**
willk@barrettine.co.uk
01179672222

Fly control is a persistent challenge at waste management sites. In these specialised operational environments, fly infestations can lead to downtime, regulatory risk, and reputational damage.

Traditional fly control products rely on chemistry developed decades ago and often force operators to choose between effectiveness and operational efficiency, potentially requiring shutdowns to allow for "airing out" and preventing operator exposure to neurotoxic compounds. To this end, Barrettine Environmental Health, a Bristol-based manufacturer of professional pest control products, has formulated several innovative non-biocidal products over the past nine years. FlyMax® ULV Waste Concentrate is our latest offering, specifically designed to address the unique and industrial nature of the waste management industry.

FLYMAX ULV
WASTE MANAGEMENT

When using traditional insecticides over extended periods, resistance to the active ingredient can develop and spread throughout the population over several generations. Under optimal conditions, the housefly *(Musca domestica)* can complete its life cycle in only seven to ten days,

with a single female capable of laying up to 500 eggs at once. This rapid turnover means that advantageous traits *(such as resistance to insecticides)* are quickly passed on and can reduce the efficacy of traditional formulations. FlyMax® Waste Concentrate addresses this issue through its purely physical mode of action, which is equally effective against populations already resistant to standard treatment.

The product's physical mode of action is key to its rapid knockdown. The patented cellulose technology begins to spread over the pest on contact, coating the insect in a film which then rapidly dries, becoming sticky *(on the micro scale, no sticky residues are perceptible to humans or machinery)* and preventing further movement or feeding. Additionally, this method of neutralising insect pests is not considered biocidal, therefore, FlyMax® ULV Waste Concentrate is exempt from both GB BPR and EU BPR.

FlyMax® ULV Waste Concentrate can be applied as frequently as needed, with minimal downtime required. There is no requirement to allow the product to "air out" for a specific amount of time before it is safe for staff to return to the treatment area - a brief 20-minute break for the mist to settle is all that is necessary.

Barrettine's patented water-based formulation easily disperses when diluted and does not solidify if left unagitated for a prolonged period, a major benefit over synthetic oil-based products, which may drop out of solution if any residues remain in the plumbing of integrated spray systems and cause costly repairs. This makes FlyMax® ULV Waste Concentrate an ideal candidate for use at sites with indoor odour/dust suppression systems, available in pack sizes up to a 1000L IBC. The product can be applied through these systems at a rate of 1:50 (product to water) on a set schedule without the need for a dedicated operator to walk the site and apply directly.

FlyMax® ULV Waste Concentrate has no residual effect. At first impression, this may appear less advantageous, however, in the context of the waste management industry, the majority of traditional insecticide residues are rapidly broken down and dispersed as treated waste items move through the site.

A regional site in Leicestershire switched to using FlyMax® ULV Waste Concentrate in 2024 and has found that the lack of residual effect has not led to any reduction in efficacy of the IPM strategy for fly control at their premises.

The Barrettine Environmental Health team are always happy to offer hands-on support to both prospective and existing customers. If you are interested in FlyMax® ULV Waste Concentrate and would like to discuss the fly control needs of your site in more detail, please reach out to Will, who will be happy to arrange a site visit or a call.

Barrettine
Environmental Health

FLYMAX® ULV

WASTE MANAGEMENT

RAPID INSECT KNOCKDOWN THROUGH ENCAPSULATION

AGAINST ALL FLY SPECIES - PATENT NO. EP 3319422

PLASTIC | **FOOD** | **TIN**

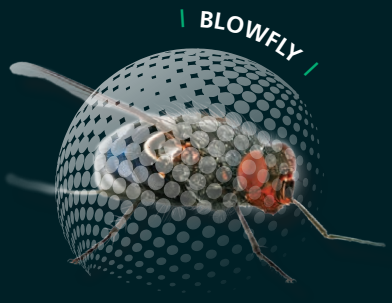
INSECTICIDE FREE

CELLULOSE FORMULATION

- **Rapid Knockdown of Adult Flies**
- **No Known Resistance**
- **Re-entry Time of 20 minutes**
- **No Potential Insecticide Resistance**

FlyMax® ULV Waste Management is an innovative product intended to control flying insects in and around Waste Management facilities. Its rapid action allows for effective control of flies in the environment while also facing no known resistance. The non-insecticidal formulation of FlyMax® ULV Waste Management permits site personnel to return to work in as little as 20 minutes.

FlyMax® ULV Waste Management has no maximum treatment frequency, allowing for control as needed without risking the development of resistance. FlyMax® ULV Waste Management is compatible with handheld sprayers and misting apparatus from portable foggers to integrated fogging systems, FlyMax® ULV Waste Management is the next generation of flying insect control for Waste Management facilities.



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T: +44 (0) 117 967 2222 **E:** beh@barrettine.co.uk
www.barrettineEnv.co.uk

Barrettine Environmental Health

FlyMax® is a non biocidal product due to its physical mode of action and is exempt from EU Reg. 528/2012

DR ANNA WILLETTS

Anna is an environmental criminal lawyer, specialising in defence work in the waste and recycling industry. She is dual-qualified, having completed a PhD in geochemistry and worked as an environmental consultant for five years before qualifying as a lawyer.

Anna represents waste and recycling businesses and directors who are prosecuted by the regulators for environmental and waste offences.

BUSINESS CLINIC LEGAL

'New' waste crime powers

It has been interesting to see the Government's response to the ongoing waste crime crisis with the 'new' enforcement powers.

'Stronger powers to revoke permits.' There are powers to revoke permits in place. You either revoke a permit or you don't. I'm not clear what stronger powers are needed or will be. But also... this is dealing with regulated, legitimate operators. Not those who dump 30,000 tonnes of waste illegally at Kidlington.

'New legislation giving up to five years' prison terms for illegally transporting waste.' The EPA already allows for prison sentences of up to five I'm not clear how this is going to help much with waste crime. In my view, this also addresses the tail end of criminality. Before you can even get to this stage of locking them up, the regulators have to find them, charge them and get them into Court. Which, if it happens, will be years after the offence has taken place, and they will probably be in the Cayman Islands sipping on a cocktail, laughing at all the pollution and damage they have caused under the regulators' noses. Maybe the Government thinks this will act as a deterrent, but given there are numerous known waste criminals on the run overseas who have not been caught and sent to prison, I am sceptical.

It's surely better to tackle the problem before it happens, or as it's happening, not years after it's happened and hope that you can catch them. My frustration with this tinkering around the edges is that it is not actually getting to grips with the hard end of the problems. The public was reporting Hoads Wood, Northwich Over (the list goes on) to the regulators for months and months, and nothing was done. The lorries kept coming, the waste kept coming, whilst the regulators appeared to sit by and watch. Until the press got involved and exposed it all, the Government had been forced to do something.

Forgive me if I sound cynical, but these 'new' powers are not going to fix it.

Anna is 'Past President' of the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management and Co-Convenor of UKELA's Waste Working Party. E: ***anna.willetts@gunnercooke.com***

Specsavers rolls out recycling scheme to stores nationwide

Specsavers has expanded its recycling initiative to all UK stores, adding an additional 300 locations to the scheme.

The optician announced that every UK branch will now offer customers a way to recycle unwanted glasses, cases, and contact lens packaging.

This initiative, launched in 2022, is part of the retailer's broader sustainability efforts to reduce landfill waste and keep materials in circulation.

The programme is run in partnership with MyGroup, a recycling and waste management business that specialises in processing hard-to-recycle plastics that would otherwise end up in landfills. The recycled materials are then transformed into products such as joinery boards and furniture.

Specsavers allows customers to recycle products regardless of whether they were originally purchased from Specsavers or another retailer. In 2025, the scheme recycled 72 tonnes of material from 659 stores and laboratories, an increase of nearly five tonnes from the previous year.

"At Specsavers, we believe that sustainability should be integrated into our everyday operations," said Helen Curran, Specsavers Head of Sustainability.

"Investing in customer recycling in all of our UK stores is a practical step that keeps valuable materials in circulation and makes it easy for our customers to be part of the solution."

ReCAM project to advance battery recycling tech

A UK group has received funding to develop technology for recycling lithium-ion batteries. This project, called ReCAM, includes the UK Battery Industrialisation Centre (UKBIC), Watercycle Technologies, Recyclus Group Ltd, and Polaron.

The goal is to improve how we process old lithium-ion batteries and reuse recovered materials, especially black mass, in local manufacturing.

The need for this project is urgent because battery waste is rising quickly. As more people use electric vehicles, the UK could generate up to 94,000 tonnes of black mass each year by 2040. This material, which contains important battery metals such as lithium, nickel, cobalt, and manganese, is mostly sent abroad for processing.

ReCAM plans to solve this problem by using a patented method that directly converts black mass into cathode active material (CAM), which is needed to make new batteries.

Unlike traditional methods that separate materials into individual metals, this new approach aims to convert them in a single step. It also focuses on recovering lithium effectively and ensuring no waste is produced.

The technology will be designed as a modular system for use at recycling sites. It will be able to process about 250kg of material per hour, enabling more flexible recycling options and making it more cost-effective to recover battery materials in the UK.

Polaron is also contributing by using its AI-driven materials platform to analyse and improve recycled cathode materials. The company seeks to connect processing conditions with the resulting microstructure and performance, aiming to enhance the quality of recycled outputs.

This project is funded through the UK's £452m Battery Innovation Programme, which Innovate UK runs on behalf of the Department for Business and Trade.

Kiverco launches new Mobile Eddy Current Separator at IFAT

Kiverco proudly announces the launch of its new Mobile Eddy Current Separator, which was revealed to the industry during a successful week at IFAT last month.

Designed to meet the growing demand for efficient non-ferrous metal recovery, the new system combines high-performance separation technology with a modular, mobile platform that offers operators greater flexibility, lower operating costs and the ability to scale alongside their business.

The new Mobile Eddy Current Separator has been engineered for a wide range of recycling applications, including C&D waste, incinerator bottom ash, shredded metals and other non-ferrous recovery operations. Its mobile design allows the machine to be deployed across multiple sites and integrated easily into existing processing lines.

A key feature of the new machine is its electric-first drive system, helping operators reduce fuel consumption, minimise maintenance requirements, and achieve cleaner day-to-day operation. For sites without access to mains power, a hybrid electric power option is also available, giving operators the flexibility to run in remote or temporary operating environments.

"Our goal with this launch was to develop a machine that not only delivers strong separation performance, but also gives customers flexibility for the future," said John Irwin, Managing Director at Kiverco. *"The industry is changing quickly, and operators are looking for equipment that can adapt to their business. This machine has been designed with exactly that in mind."*

Key features and benefits include:

- ***Mobile design for flexible site deployment;***
- ***Modular platform designed to grow with operational requirements;***
- ***High-performance non-ferrous metal recovery;***
- ***Fully electric drive for cleaner and lower-cost operation;***
- ***Integrated conveyors for continuous material flow;***
- ***Heavy-duty industrial construction for demanding environments;***
- ***Adjustable operating settings to suit varying material streams;***
- ***Hybrid electric power option for remote locations.***

Following its debut at IFAT, the new Mobile Eddy Current Separator generated strong interest from visitors across the recycling and waste processing sectors, with positive feedback highlighting the machine's flexibility, modern design and operational efficiency.

The machine is now available for enquiries, demonstrations and further technical discussions.

NEW!

KIVERCO MOBILE EDDY CURRENT SEPARATOR

BUILT TO MOVE. BUILT TO GROW.
BUILT WITH BACKBONE.

The Kiverco Mobile Eddy Current Separator delivers efficient non-ferrous recovery today, with the flexibility to integrate additional modules and adapt your system as your operation evolves.

MODULAR DESIGN
That grows with your business.

ALL-ELECTRIC DRIVE
Lower running costs. Cleaner operation.

HIGH PERFORMANCE
Advanced separation for non-ferrous metals.

MOBILE & FLEXIBLE
Deploy on multiple sites and adapt to any project.

HYBRID ELECTRIC
Electric where available. Independent power when needed.

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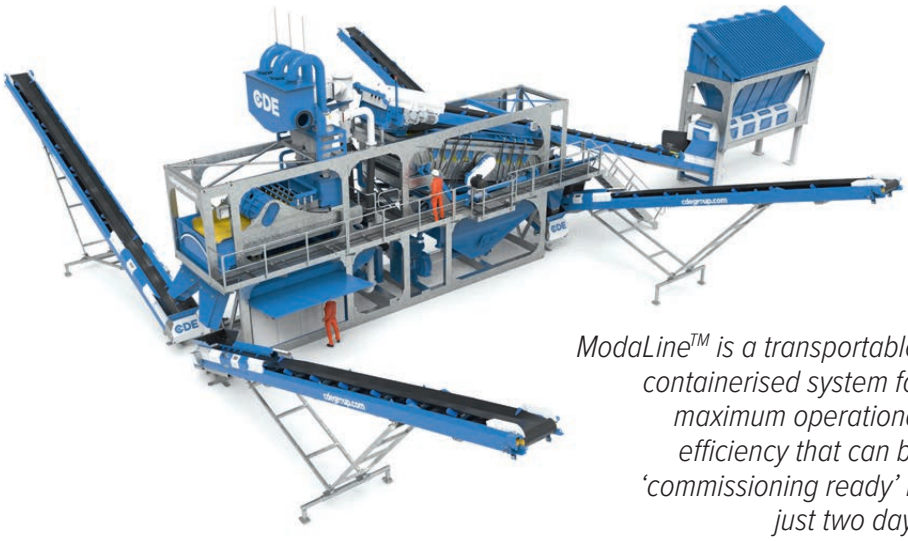

ModaLine™ is a transportable, containerised system for maximum operational efficiency that can be 'commissioning ready' in just two days

CDE reveals fast-deploy high capacity washing system

In a revolutionary move, CDE, a global leader in the wet processing of recycled and natural materials, has revealed its latest innovation, the ModaLine™, the first in a new series of containerised sand washing solutions designed for plug-and-play operation, unlike ever before.

The ModaLine™ can help materials processors get their operations up and running faster thanks to its unique, transportable design, which reduces on-site build time by up to 60% compared to similar scale washing solutions.

"We're taking plug-and-play to the next level," CDE's chief engineer, Kevin Vallelly *(pictured)*, said. *"This is a site-ready solution unlike anything that has come before it. We've packed 35 years of CDE engineering excellence into a fast deploying unit that is simple for dealers to sell and for customers to operate."*

Featuring CDE's proven dual-pass cyclone with integrated Infinity™ dewatering screen, Sand blending chute, high-capacity sump, single point connection for process water, an on-board control panel and the flexibility to add your own stockpile conveyors, the ModaLine™ offers the full gamut of CDE's sand washing technologies in an effortlessly portable, pre-configured unit that delivers consistent results.

Uniquely, it is constructed within a robust steel frame designed to ISO container dimensions for easy shipping and installation. The first models in the line offer feed capacities of up to 250 and 450 tonnes per hour.

CDE's head of partnerships, Jullian Fegan, said ModaLine™ has been developed with equipment dealers in mind.

"We've removed the complexity involved in the commissioning of the typical wash plant. ModaLine™ is pre-wired, pre-tested, and pre-assembled with fixed spec, so by the time it rolls onto site, the hard work is done. For our dealers, that means fewer variables allowing for rapid, low-risk commissioning, and for materials producers, it means your solution is on site faster than before and running material sooner rather than later with the same high degree of efficiency expected of any CDE plant."

Tom Childs, Business Development Manager at Goodfellows, one of CDE's partners in North America, has hailed the ModaLine™as a *'gamechanger'.*

"We're really excited about the new ModaLine™. It opens up genuine opportunities for plants that need the flexibility to move in and out quickly and operate at remote job sites. The simplicity of the installation is a major advantage, and we see this as a product that will add real value to our customers' operations."

For more information about CDE and ModaLine™, visit **www.cdegroup.com**

New Majestic facility up and running in Wrexham

Majestic Corporation Plc is a provider of sustainable circular economy solutions, specialising in recycling precious and non-ferrous metals. Following announcements made in July and November of last year, the firm's new 50,000 square foot processing facility at Wrexham Industrial Estate is now operational.

This site is the largest in Majestic's UK network and central to the company's strategy to build a vertically integrated circular economy platform across the UK and Europe. Commissioning has been completed on schedule, and the facility is actively processing inbound materials using newly installed equipment that enhances Majestic's processing capabilities.

The new site represents a significant increase in Majestic's processing capacity and is a cornerstone of the company's objective to increase annual processed volumes to 100,000 tonnes by 2030.

Combined with Majestic's existing 4,000-square-foot facility in Deeside, the Wrexham plant substantially expands the company's ability to manage the rising volumes of complex waste streams directed to its end users.

The Wrexham facility employs Majestic's proprietary processing methods, which enable the company to improve recovery yields of both precious and base metals from the processed materials. This results in a higher volume of high-grade output materials sold directly to smelter and refinery partners.

The facility processes a wide range of feedstocks, including printed circuit boards and IT infrastructure, catalytic converters and end-of-life solar panels. From these streams, Majestic recovers an extensive range of metals, including:

Precious metals: including gold, silver, and palladium, primarily recovered from circuit boards.

Non-ferrous and base metals: including copper, aluminium, nickel, lead, zinc and tin, recovered from electronics, cabling and IT hardware.

Peter Lai, Chairman, CEO and Founder of Majestic Corporation, commented: *"Bringing the Wrexham facility online is a defining moment for Majestic. It gives us the scale, proprietary capability, and operating leverage we need to drive towards our targets, while materially increasing the value of what we deliver to our customers."*

CSG invests in hazardous waste facility in Blackburn

Leading waste management specialist CSG has completed the construction of a new hazardous waste storage facility in Blackburn.

CSG Recovery, part of the wider CSG group, has added the 20m^2 covered unit to its existing Stanley Street site, with building work completed at the end of April.

The new storage facility allows the business to store, consolidate and repackage hazardous waste before it is sent to recovery facilities elsewhere in the UK or in Europe.

The majority of the incoming waste consists of damaged or out-of-date confidential products sent by retailers, including bleaches, acids, and solvents.

Greg Smith, General Manager at CSG Recovery, said: *"We can now receive hazardous waste in bulk, primarily from retailers, and we will safely repackage those materials for treatment elsewhere.*

"This will reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill by recovering, recycling and reusing as much material as possible.

"We acquired the Blackburn site in 2019 and have been using it for the manual dismantling and recovery of problematic products such as electric toothbrushes, e-cigarettes and pregnancy tests, as well as the processing of aerosols, oily rag by-products, clinical waste and photographic waste.

"This investment has increased our capacity for work in Blackburn, and we have further plans which will improve our capabilities further, resulting in several new jobs for the local area."

CSG Recovery has an impressive environmental record, with 95% of everything passing through Blackburn being diverted from landfill over the last year.

With more than 650 employees, CSG helps households and organisations by offering a comprehensive range of services, from waste collection through to treatment, recovery, and disposal of countless waste streams.

The enclosed building deadline is here: Are you ready?

TRACEY WESTBURY
Director – Westbury Environmental Limited
Tracey has worked in the waste industry for over 35 years across all sectors. She now acts as a consultant supporting small - medium site operators providing advice and services in waste regulation including permitting, waste recovery, end of waste and environmental management systems.

BUSINESS CLINIC CONSULTANCY

By the time you read this, the enclosed building deadline for operators of waste transfer stations working under the new Standard Rules permits will be only days or weeks away.

For operators under Environmental Permit SR2022 No. 4 and SR2022 No. 5, one of the most significant requirements is that certain waste activities must be carried out within an enclosed building. For existing facilities, the improvement condition gave operators until June 2026 to comply. That deadline is now upon us.

This is not a minor paperwork issue. The Standard Rules define an "enclosed building" as a construction designed to provide sheltering cover and minimise emissions of noise, particulate matter, odour, and litter. It must be enclosed on all sides, and doorways must be as small as practicable.

That definition matters. An enclosed building does not simply mean a roof over the activity or a partially covered bay. For some sites, it may require real physical changes to the way the operation is run.

If you have already completed the necessary works, now is the time to make sure your paperwork has caught up. Your site layout plan, Environmental Management System, inspection procedures, dust management measures, fire prevention plan and maintenance records should all reflect how the site now operates. It is no good having new doors, new controls or a revised layout if the EMS still describes the old arrangement.

If you have not yet completed the works, the position is more difficult. The key point now is to understand and document where you stand. Have you assessed the requirement properly? Have you obtained quotes? Are works booked in? Have you considered the impact on vehicle movements, ventilation, fire prevention, dust, odour, noise, drainage and staff working areas? If the Environment Agency visits, you need to be able to explain what you have done, what remains outstanding and why.

For some operators, full enclosure may not be practical or proportionate. Site layout, planning restrictions, building design, landlord consent, operational constraints, or cost may all be factors. In those cases, a bespoke permit may be the more appropriate route. However, this should now be treated as urgent and properly justified. A vague intention to "look at it later" is unlikely to be a comfortable position if the regulator asks questions.

This is also not something to consider in isolation. Enclosing a building can change the risk profile of a site. It may affect fire spread, access for plant, emergency response, dust build-up, odour control, noise breakout, and traffic management. A change made to satisfy one permit condition can create problems elsewhere if it has not been properly thought through.

My advice is simple: do not assume that, just because the deadline is approaching, there is nothing useful you can do. Check your permit. Walk the site. Compare the actual building and operations against the permit requirement. Review your EMS. Gather evidence of any works completed or planned. If you cannot comply, take advice and prepare a clear position.

The deadline for the enclosed building is no longer a future problem. It is here, and operators need to be ready to show what they have done about it.

GOT A QUESTION
ASK THE EXPERTS

If you need assistance with any of the issues mentioned in this article, please get in touch. We are happy to help. Tel: 01952 879705.

Please visit our website for further information: www.westburyenv.co.uk or drop us a line at info@westburyenv.co.uk

WESTBURY ENVIRONMENTAL

EFDC operations hub at North Weald Airfield

Council celebrates first anniversary of in-house waste and recycling service

Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) is celebrating the first anniversary of its new waste and recycling service, delivered since the end of 2024 by its wholly owned Teckal company, Terra Verde Services Ltd (TVS), alongside the completion of the build of its new permanent operations hub at North Weald Airfield, which is now fully operational.

TVS was established by EFDC to deliver frontline environmental services on the Council's behalf, combining public sector oversight with a dedicated operational focus, enabling the Council to retain strategic control while benefiting from a flexible, commercially aware delivery model.

The first year of operation has been very successful, as James Warwick, Service Director, Contracts, Partnerships & Procurement, EFDC, explains: *"It's been a great first year. We have hit all the deadlines, which included setting up a temporary workshop, transferring 140 staff into TVS and sourcing a new fleet.*

EFDC refuse truck

The new service schedule went live in November 2024, and performance has been excellent.

"The new operations hub has been well received by staff and features a canteen, showers and ample parking."

Since the launch of the new service, no disruptions have been reported, and the Council credits its fleet partner, Specialist Fleet Services Ltd (SFS), for helping to achieve this. In May 2024, following a comprehensive tender procurement process, SFS was awarded an eight-year contract for the provision and maintenance of a new fleet of 52 waste and recycling vehicles to be housed at the Council's new environmental operations hub at North Weald Airfield.

James added: *"The collaborative relationship with SFS and TVS has been pivotal to enabling us to deliver the new service in an efficient, sustainable and professional way. SFS has extensive experience in municipal fleet and workshop provision, and they have left no stone unturned to fully understand the operational challenges we face."*

During this first year, SFS also helped EFDC meet the 31st March deadline for the launch of a dedicated food waste collection service, 'pulling out the stops' to deliver a fleet of waste collection vehicles.

SFS has over 30 years' experience running workshops for councils as well as its own facilities, and currently operates a network of 15 depots across the UK.

MARCO MUIA, BSc (Hons) MSc MCIWM,
Managing Director at Oaktree Environmental Limited.

Marco specialises in all aspects of waste planning, environmental regulation and training, including CIWM/WAMITAB COTC/OCC assessment.

BUSINESS CLINIC ENVIRONMENTAL

Permit reviews

This year, we have seen an increase in the issue of notices requiring information issued under Regulation 61(1) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016. The notice may relate to general compliance information that the Environment Agency or Natural Resources Wales require, relating to site operations or your permit.

What should you do when you receive one? Well, the simple answer is to respond in writing, as there is no right of appeal against these notices. Most of the notices we deal with on behalf of operators have already missed the response deadline, which is an offence. Still, prosecution is extremely unlikely if a late response is sent that provides the required information

It's always better to respond promptly, even if the response isn't as complete as the regulator would like. It is important to provide accurate information as making a false, reckless or misleading statement is also an offence. They can always write back to ask for further information if the response is not comprehensive.

Notices are increasingly used in sector reviews to gather information on older permits, enabling a determination of whether the permit needs to be updated. Not a bad thing, as there are still plenty of permits more than 25 years old out there. Some more recent permits probably don't need an update, but may be flagged if they were issued within the past 10 years due to recent guidance changes.

In most cases, an update will likely be required following the issue of a notice, even if only a minor amendment to the conditions is issued, mainly to comply with the appropriate measures guidance for the sector.

The permit variation is a unilateral process in which the regulator will charge you the same application fee for their review as you would have paid had you applied for a permit. The downside is that you may not get all of the amendments you would like had you submitted an application yourself. The upside is that responses to the notices are processed relatively quickly and permit variations to be issued within several months, rather than the geological timescales that apply to permit application queues.

If you do receive a notice, consider the following when responding, as the process is an opportunity to review problems you may have with your permit:

- ***Is your permit boundary OK? Could it be reduced or increased?***
- ***Do you have EWC codes on your permit, require more codes or need some taken off (such as hazardous codes that affect your subsistence fees)?***
- ***Are the storage limits and throughputs accurate?***
- ***Are there treatment activities that are not listed or need clarification?***
- ***Are there outdated conditions that could cost you money that would not appear on newer permits?***
- ***Could some changes be accommodated by an update to your management system?***

There is a lot more to this process than I can cover here, but if you do receive a notice as part of a sector review, make sure you respond, as failure to do so could result in receipt of new permit conditions that are unworkable and more costly to comply with.

It's a negotiating process, and as much as the regulator may suggest that the permit conditions are final in the draft variation notice, remember that you have a right to appeal any permit variation.

If you have any questions about this article contact Marco on ***01606 558833*** *or e-mail him at* ***marco@oaktree-environmental.co.uk***

GOT A QUESTION **ASK THE EXPERTS**

Metals recycling firm buys established waste site for £3.21m

An established waste transfer site in Birmingham has been sold to a Singapore-owned metals recycling firm in a multi-million pound deal sealed by commercial property agency Bromwich Hardy.

Jedi Temple Group has bought the 2.35-acre site at 24 Ebury Road in Kings Norton for £3.21 million.

Ed Bunbury, a partner at Bromwich Hardy, said: *"This sale once again shows that robust confidence in the industrial property market continues to emerge despite international volatilities.*

"Jedi Temple Group is a metals recycling business owned by a Singapore-based group, and they were keen to make use of this established site, which already has all the necessary consents.

"The site has a solid concrete base and benefits from an open, lean-to building fitted with solar panels to the north.

"As well as the large open storage space, the front of the site has two temporary office buildings, with car parking"

Mittal Vora, chief financial officer at Jedi Temple Group, said: *"We are pleased to begin operating a metal recycling yard with the acquisition of the property.*

"This acquisition marks the beginning of a broader expansion strategy, with plans to add more recycling yards over time.

"The company remains committed to supporting its customers in their sustainability goals by promoting the principles of reduce, reuse, and recycle."

Pilkington UK unveils industry first fire glass recycling route

Pilkington United Kingdom Limited, part of the NSG Group, has launched a pioneering recycling route for fire-rated glass through its renew:glass circularity programme, in collaboration with Fire Glass UK.

This initiative addresses the long-standing challenge of recycling fire-rated glass, which has a complex, multi-layered construction that makes processing difficult.

Traditionally, fire-rated glass has been sent to landfill due to the risk of contamination, despite being fully recyclable. However, Pilkington UK and Fire Glass UK began trials last year to find a solution. They developed a system to collect and process fire-rated glass without compromising quality, implementing strict contamination-control measures at Fire Glass UK's Manchester and Oldbury sites.

Since launching the programme in April 2025, Fire Glass UK has processed over 500 tonnes of fire-rated glass, resulting in savings of 356.09 tonnes of CO^2e. This material is now reintroduced into Pilkington UK's manufacturing cycle, with plans to explore incorporating post-consumer fire glass in the future.

"Recycling fire-rated glass has been challenging," said Adrian Parker of Pilkington UK. *"Our project shows that collaboration can overcome these barriers, proving specialised products can be reused through the renew:glass™ initiative, and working with Fire Glass UK has enabled us to prove that even highly specialised products can have a life beyond landfill."*

Sean Haynes, Managing Director at Fire Glass UK, said: *"Every day our teams handle large volumes of fire rated glass off cuts, with most of it destined for landfill. Being able to change that is a huge step forward for us. Partnering with Pilkington UK has given us a route to recycle a product that previously had none, and that's something we're genuinely proud of."*

With the process proven, Pilkington UK and Fire Glass UK plan to expand their efforts to locations in Colchester, Edinburgh, and Bristol over the next six months and are considering similar methods for other specialised glass types to enhance recycling across the sector.

'The Big Green Recycling Machine' visiting a local school

Stop and notice 'The Big Green Recycling Machine' in Maidstone

Maidstone Borough Council is using the latest addition to its refuse vehicle fleet to encourage residents to recycle and highlight its commitment to creating a cleaner, greener borough.

The new 26t vehicle, which has been wrapped by CVW and emblazoned with 'The Big Green Recycling Machine', is sure to turn heads as it carries out recycling collections.

The eye-catching design was inspired by the two winners of an art competition run in partnership with Maidstone Borough Council and SUEZ. Adults and children from across the area were invited to submit their artwork to encourage people to recycle. Over 500 entries were received, and after sorting through hundreds of entries, the judges whittled it down to two designs, submitted by Becky Planck, a primary school art teacher and resident artist, and Zak, a pupil at St Simon Stock Catholic School. CVW's design team adapted the winning designs to achieve maximum coverage across the entire vehicle.

Councillor Clive English, Maidstone Borough Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Enforcement, said: *"Our recycling vehicles are out in our communities every day, so they're a powerful way to grab attention and start conversations. Eye catching designs help people stop, notice, and think about what happens to their waste once it's collected. If seeing a vehicle pass by encourages even one household to recycle more or recycle better, then it's doing an important job in supporting a cleaner, greener and more sustainable Maidstone."*

In October 2025, the Council introduced a fully electric refuse vehicle, Binosaurus Rex, to its fleet. The vehicle was wrapped by CVW in bright dinosaur graphics and the slogan "From fossils to the future, Maidstone is ROARING towards net zero," to reflect the council's determination to move away from fossil fuels and embrace sustainable solutions. The council is promising to share residents' pictures of The Big Green Recycling Machine or Binosaurs Rex out on rounds on Instagram or Facebook if they tag Maidstone Borough Council.

Jonathan Thomas, Managing Director, Creative Vehicle Wrapping, said: *"Refuse vehicles are like slow-moving billboards, and Maidstone Borough Council is doing a great job of using these vehicles to communicate with residents and raise awareness about recycling and sustainability."*

An Avery Dennison accredited Specialist Converter and Installer, and the UK market leader in refuse vehicle wrapping CVW provides a one-stop shop for wrap design, printing and installation. The company has its own fully equipped installation unit and has built a reputation for creating impactful wrap campaigns for commercial fleets. CVW has achieved both ISO 9001 Quality Management and ISO 14001 Environmental Management certifications.

Why politicians can't fix potholes permanently

ALI RAHMAN
Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering, University of Leeds

PHILL WHEAT
Professor of Transport Econometrics, University of Leeds

Potholes are a safety risk, a source of vehicle damage and a recurring annoyance in the UK. They gain special visibility at times of local elections, given that local authorities maintain the vast majority of roads. A survey conducted in April found that road condition was the top local issue for voters throughout Britain ahead of the 7th May elections.

The Asphalt Industry Alliance's (AIA) 2025 report indicates that 17% of the local road network in England and Wales is in poor condition. It estimates that clearing the backlog of repairs would take a staggering 12 years and cost £16.81 billion.

While it's easy for politicians to point to the number of potholes filled as a way to gain votes from frustrated drivers, this does nothing to solve the problem in the long run.

Where do potholes come from?

Potholes are not isolated road surface defects but rather the end product of a hidden road deterioration process. In typical asphalt roads, bitumen ages, stiffens and becomes brittle over time. Traffic passage causes the road surface to crack.

Once cracks form, water enters the road structure. The weight of vehicles and freeze-thaw cycles over winter cause these cracks to expand and widen, eventually resulting in a pothole. By the time it appears on the road surface, the structural integrity of the subsurface is already compromised.

In the wake of climate change, the UK's increasingly wet winters accelerate this process, especially on roads that have reached the end of their structural life.

The UK's approach to repairing potholes is largely reactive: a short-term, localised patch job after the road has failed. Experimental studies show that while this approach is relatively inexpensive per intervention, it suffers from severe underperformance.

These repair jobs often last for just weeks or months in wet or winter conditions before needing to be done again. This "patch and repeat" cycle leads to escalating costs, network disruption and inconsistent road quality.

A much better approach would be preventative maintenance - intervening before failure occurs. Preventative treatments, including surface dressing and crack sealing, yield superior cost-effectiveness because they substantially reduce the frequency of patch failure and replacement.

It's important to note that filling potholes, in itself, does not add life to roads, apart from temporarily keeping them safe. It is the construction equivalent of throwing good money after bad.

More ambitious would be to establish a predictive and proactive road management system that spans the road's entire lifecycle. This includes designing and constructing resilient road structures, conducting frequent monitoring, and applying targeted, timely preventive maintenance.

Emerging technology, such as advances in data analytics, AI, automation, digital twins, and non-destructive testing, may make this approach increasingly feasible.

Economics of potholes

Evidence suggests that preventative maintenance would be longer lasting and significantly more cost-efficient. Spending £1 today on preventative maintenance leads to £4.20 saved within 10 years.

This payback reflects the current poor condition of the local road network in Britain. More sustainable road maintenance would have a rapid effect.

Similar evidence exists for the climate impact. Traditionally, potholes are fixed again and again using cold-mix or hot-mix asphalt - a mixture of stones and petroleum-based bitumen derived from crude oil. This makes the process incredibly carbon-intensive.

Preventative maintenance reduces the long-term carbon costs because roads

stay in good condition for longer. As extreme weather events such as floods and heatwaves become more frequent, the risk of damage to road surfaces increases, making resilience a crucial factor in highway maintenance.

Put another way, preventative road maintenance could be a key part of local authorities' net zero ambitions - whereas the current approach is a liability to this goal.

The electoral focus on fixing potholes, therefore, seems odd, since the medium- to long-term solution (from a cost, road quality and carbon perspective) is more preventative maintenance.

Why are Britain's roads so pothole-plagued?

The simple reason that local authorities can't fix potholes permanently is a lack of funding. However, like many political issues, it is more nuanced.

Our work with the National Highways & Transport Network has found that the public's satisfaction with roads is substantially driven by the condition of roads within a one-kilometre radius of where they live.

Politically, potholes are obviously visible - they are also classed as safety defects, so there are legal requirements for local authorities to "fix" them in a timely manner. But the underlying road condition, while crucial to the emergence of potholes, is more hidden and does not get as much political bandwidth.

Local authorities receive various funding pots for road maintenance, but this funding can sometimes be reallocated to other services within the authority, such as adult social care. This seriously constrains funding for road maintenance, although the UK Government has recently announced new rules to stop councils from diverting road maintenance funds.

Taken together, this means that preventative maintenance is crowded out by limited funds and the need to repeatedly fix holes caused by a lack of preventative maintenance.

A review of current local road maintenance budget allocations reveals that reactive maintenance consumes 25% of budgets. But the pothole problem is getting worse, which suggests this figure will rise over time.

The relatively recent extra money for road maintenance (allocated at £0.5 billion annually) could help, but it won't go very far unless it's put into preventative treatments.

Changing to a longer-term solution requires different approaches to government funding and policymaking. But this demands political will at all levels of government, at a time when local authority budgets are already very constrained.

This article first appeared at www.theconversation.com

Preventative maintenance is a cost-effective alternative to the UK's 'patch and repeat' approach

HAVE YOUR SAY!

"What about not building new roads and therefore creating new liabilities whilst not solving congestion problems (induced demand, etc.) and spending the money on maintaining existing public transport and active travel promotion?

"It appears that the maintenance of roads in my locality is dependent on reactive risk-based assessments and yet there are several very expensive major road projects planned to 'alleviate' congestion, which of course they will for a year or two before it's worse than it ever was...."
- A. Whitby

"Is the weight of vehicles a factor? It seems that vehicles in general have become bigger and heavier over the last 50 years. Maybe the Government should think about trying to reverse this trend as well as introducing measures to reduce traffic flow and encourage public transport."
- W. Rothwell

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John trained at Saltcoats Burgh in the late 60s. After a decade he moved to PD Beatwaste Ltd/ Wimpey Waste Management Ltd. He then joined the Civil Engineering Dept at Strathclyde University before posts at Renfrew, Hamilton, Inverness and East Ayrshire Councils.

A Fellow of CIWM, he served on their Scottish Centre Council from 1988-2009. He is a Fellow of the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland and was their President between 1991-92.

JOHN CRAWFORD

Industrial disputes

The only benefit I ever saw from any industrial action in our service was that it brought home to the population our essential role in visiting every home most weeks of the year. Other than that, it was a pain in the neck, especially when strikers in other services picketed our depots and disposal sites to try to disrupt our work, despite our having no influence on the contentious issue.

Over the years, I worked in five separate municipal cleansing services and three (one as a Consultant) in the private sector. In one of the latter, we had a Closed Shop Agreement (that's how long ago it was!) with the GMBU, and it worked very well to maintain a healthy working relationship between Management and the Trade Union.

My public sector experience, however, was a curate's egg. Three of the services were well-run and had little to no disruption, as the workforce knew that if they didn't follow our agreed-upon procedures, they'd be disciplined: end of story. Final warnings were rare, as we took time when recruiting new workers to ensure they were suitable for the job. There was very little interaction between the workforce and the Councillors unless an employee had raised a Grievance that the Management was unable to resolve.

However, one Council was a bit different. There were five different Trade Unions represented in the Department. They had a Joint Convenor (one of our mechanics) who was also a big player in the political party that ran the Council, as he chaired the Party Committee that selected and approved candidates to stand for election to the Council, so most of the senior Councillors felt obligated to him.

Grievances were common: he refused (on medical grounds) to wear the protective boots we supplied, so I offered to buy him safety shoes if he produced a Certificate from his GP. When I refused to pay for the GP's note, he lodged a Grievance.

When the Director sacked a Street Sweeper found drinking in a pub in the afternoon, our man argued that as there wasn't a Personnel Officer present when the Sweeper was sacked, he should be reinstated (the Head of Personnel backed him up, and the bloke got his job back).

If one of the Specialist Engineers retained by the RCV Manufacturers called into the workshop to offer some assistance, I'd have this Steward at my office door demanding I formally note his objections, ignoring my observation that neither he nor any of the other mechanics had the skills to do work of this nature.

After one of these Engineers died suddenly, he lodged a Grievance at my refusal to allow all (19) Mechanics time off to attend the funeral, as it was to be conducted over 20 miles away. The Councillors (reluctantly) accepted my argument that I couldn't run a maintenance service for 250 vehicles and plant if it closed for four hours in a normal working day.

He also instructed the mechanics not to highlight any repairs found during routine services that may have been due to drivers' negligence, saying *'we're not going to *clype on our Brothers'.* I got around it by having one of my staff plough through the mechanics' job sheets instead.

If I disciplined an employee or refused any of his requests, we'd be back up in front of the Committee, where the Councillors would spend the initial 10-15 minutes trying to find procedural omissions on my part to uphold his case 'on a technicality.' But it began to dawn on the workforce that I wasn't being heavy-handed with them: just trying to streamline the service to ensure that when the Thatcher Government's Compulsory Competitive Tendering legislation came along, they'd have a good chance of keeping their jobs.

And when I left after three years to go to a better job, he berated me for *'being a traitor and abandoning his members in pursuit of wealth and status'!*

Sometimes you just can't win.

**In Scotland, to 'clype' is to carry tales about others to get them into trouble.*

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