



Environmental
Protection
Scotland

Newsletter

AUGUST 2019

WELCOME

This month we interview Andrew Mackenzie, Managing Director of ERS Remediation, about the potential for Scotland's vacant or derelict land to be unlocked.

Mr Mackenzie said he supports the work of the Vacant and Derelict Land Task force and discusses some of the other issues facing the private sector and contaminated land officers.

We also report on the Task force's phase one report which was published last week.

We interview PhD student Carly Woods and Dr Iain McLellan of the University of the West of Scotland about their work on The Border and Regions Airways Training Hub (BREATH) project which is examining the links between air pollution and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) within semi-rural areas.

“There are still many greenfield sites that pass the planning approval system – theoretically, there should be more brownfield sites that pass this stage”

ANDREW Mackenzie entered the land remediation business in the 1990s just as the potential of Scotland's post-industrial derelict land legacy was beginning to emerge. Mr Mackenzie joined Environmental Reclamation Services Ltd (ERS) after the 1990 Environmental Protection Act created the Contaminated Land Regime (Part IIA) in the UK.



But it would take another decade before the legislation's potential for the land remediation industry was unlocked after the then Scottish Executive introduced guidance in 2003 for dealing with contaminated land.

ERS was initially established in 1995 as a Scottish company by the Tulloch family who had recently sold Tulloch Construction Ltd, but ERS soon became US owned.

Mr Mackenzie was involved in a management buyout of the Bishopbriggs-based company, which also has offices in Edinburgh, Inverness and Jersey, in 2003.

In 2016 ERS became 100% employee owned which gives its 34 staff influence in the company's decision making through an employee appointed trust.

Read our interview [here](#).

VACANT AND DERELICT LAND TASKFORCE PRODUCES INITIAL REPORT

THE Vacant and Derelict Land Task force published its initial report on August 19th which sets out how Scotland's derelict land can be reinvigorated.

The study, produced on behalf of the Task force by chartered surveyors and commercial property experts Ryden, was the first major piece of work it has commissioned to identify how much land can be potentially unlocked to reach its potential for housing or other developments. The report is 'phase one' of an enormous project and it suggested that one in three people in Scotland live within 550 yards of a disused site with the figure even higher in deprived communities. Read our report about the document [here](#).

“Is there a correlation between high levels of air pollutions in semi-rural areas and hospitalisation of COPD patients?”

ANYONE without an in-depth knowledge of air quality issues could be forgiven for believing that the health impacts of pollution are confined to cities.



The health risks from transport emissions, particularly in urban areas have been well documented, but what effect do air pollutants have on people living in semi-rural towns and communities.

Work has started on a study which aims to explore links between PM_{2.5} PM₁₀ NO₂ O₃ and high rates of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) in Dumfries and Galloway and Ayrshire.

PhD student Carly Woods, pictured with an AQ Mesh, of the University of the West of Scotland wants to understand why COPD is more prevalent in these areas. Rates of cigarette smoking are no higher than elsewhere, so what could be causing this? Read our report [here](#)

CLEANER AIR FOR SCOTLAND (CAFS) STRATEGY REVIEW WORKSHOP – SEPTEMBER 18th

With the findings of the Cleaner Air For Scotland Review's independent steering group due to be published shortly, the Scottish Government have organised a CAFS Review Stakeholder Event on **Wednesday 18th September**.

The event is to take place at the COSLA Centre at Haymarket Yards, Edinburgh. It aims to provide an opportunity for local authorities to provide initial feedback and comment on the proposals submitted by the independent steering group, which undertook the first stage of the CAFS review, which has been led by Professor Campbell Gemmill. The Scottish Government is seeking the views of local authorities as of the wider public consultation process on the review, which will be making recommendations around transport, planning, climate change, noise, domestic emission and agriculture as these areas all relate to air quality.

The event is open to people working across local authorities, including those whose specialist interests lie in transport, planning as well as those in senior management. Anyone who wishes to attend should send an email to register their interest to louise.cameron@gov.scot.



FLIGHTPATHS MODERNISATION CONSULTATION

GLASGOW Airport last year launched a 13-week consultation on proposals to modernise the flight paths currently used by aircraft taking off and departing from the airport.

However, just as it was about to close in April 2018, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) announced a policy change which would alter how the proposals would be taken forward.

Since then, the airport has been working with the National Air Traffic Service (NATS) and the CAA to establish what is required of them from the new process.

The airport now intends to launch a second consultation, known as the Airspace Change Programme (under current legislation called CAP1616), from afresh. It plans to feed into the programme already received from the first consultation from local communities, but is also contacting key stakeholders, including local communities and EPS, to ensure their feedback is included in the CAP1616 process.

It is now seeking the views of people and organisations on how it should progress its part in a UK-wide Airspace Modernisation Strategy (AMS). Along with four other airports in Scotland and the north of England, Glasgow will be required by the Department for Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to re-design the departure and arrival routes currently used by the airport.

People can find out more about AMS by clicking the following links www.glasgowairport.com/airspace
<https://www.caa.co.uk/News/New-Airspace-Modernisation-Strategy-launched-to-overhaul-UK-airspace/>

In the first stage of this process, the airport is to hold a stakeholder event to help guide its decision making when it comes to designing new flight routes. This will take place on **Tuesday September 10th** at The Corinthian Club in Ingram Street, Glasgow. It aims to hold a follow up event in early October.

EPUK ANNUAL CONFERENCE – NOVEMBER 13th

THE EPUK conference will discuss the degree of uncertainty surrounding the UK Government's plans for a new Environmental Bill and the future alignment with EU policies.

Held at the University of Birmingham on **Wednesday November 13th**, the event will also consider the challenges of ensuring adequate protection for the environment in the Bill and the adequacy of the powers given to the newly-created UK Government body, The Office for Environment Protection.

Among the speakers are Sarah Legge, the Chair of EPUK's Air Quality Committee, who will discuss the Environment Bill. Marian Markham of Jacobs will give a presentation on asbestos risk in ground investigation and Dr Antonio J. Torija Martinez of the University of Salford will give an update on drone noise. To register click this link <https://www.environmental-protection.org.uk/events/epuk-events/epuk-annual-conference-2019/>

SCOTTISH TRANSPORT EMISSIONS PARTNERSHIP

EPS gave a Clean Air Day presentation at the Scottish Transport Emissions Partnership (STEP) meeting, held at the Scottish Government offices in Edinburgh, on August 16th.

Policy and Communications Officer John Bynorth outlined how our organisation had successfully coordinated CAD 2019 in Scotland, on behalf of the Cleaner Air For Scotland (CAFS) strategy, on June 20th.

He told the meeting how the event saw two Cabinet Secretaries, Roseanna Cunningham (Environment) and Michael Matheson (Transport) take part along with 112 participating organisations, including 21 Scottish local authorities; various health boards, schools, cycling, other active travel organisations and private companies. He also discussed the success of the main free public events in Glasgow's George Square and Aberdeen's St Nicholas Square as well as numerous other smaller events from Plockton to Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

CONSULTATIONS

The Scottish Government's draft National Transport Strategy is being updated for the first time in 10 years. It runs until October 23rd and details can be found by clicking this link <https://consult.gov.scot/transport-scotland/national-transport-strategy/>

EXPERT ADVISORY GROUPS

AIR QUALITY

THE air quality group met on Wednesday August 21st with an excellent presentation given by the University of the West of Scotland's Carly Woods on her research project investigating the links between COPD and pollution in semi-rural areas. There was a separate presentation on Clean Air Day, and Chair Dr Stuart Sneddon thanked the Scottish Government and members of the group for supporting the event.

The group welcomed Annie Danskin of ITP Energised as a new member.

There were updates from Andrew Taylor of the Scottish Government on the CAFS strategy review, Graham Applegate of SEPA on the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) programme and SEPA's on-going sector plan consultations. Dr Colin Ramsay of Health Protection Scotland outlined a long-term project involving the universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde, which is to look at air pollution impacts and outcomes related to Low Emission Zones. Shauna Clarke of City of Edinburgh Council said an online consultation on the capital's LEZ proposals had attracted 3,000 responses with the results to be presented to the Transport Committee in September. Dominic Callaghan of Glasgow City Council said two new 'bus gates' will come into operation in two streets close to the Central Station from September 2 to help improve bus services, reduce congestion and to improve pedestrian safety.

Dr Sneddon announced that regrettably after 10 years he had decided to step down as Chair of the group. An election to find a successor will be held at the next meeting in November and expressions of interest in the post by group members should be emailed to john.bynorth@ep-scotland.org.uk

NOISE

THE Scottish Noise Advisory Group met at EPS's offices on Thursday August 22nd with issues covered including Glasgow Airport's AMS strategy (see earlier story), the World Health Organisation's noise guidelines and Brexit. Long-standing member Brian Carmichael of West Lothian Council has stepped down from the group. Chair Steve Williamson has written a letter thanking Mr Carmichael for all of his work with EPS and EPUK over the years. Julie Robertson (Glasgow City Council) and Simon Waddell (ITP Energised) have formally joined the group. The next meeting will be held in late November.

LAND

THE land group is progressing towards a conference to launch its land contamination and development guide, which aims to provide guidance for assessing and addressing land contamination issues to meet the requirements of contaminated land regulators. The next meeting is to be held in early October.

Policy and Communications Officer John Bynorth also attended, on behalf of the group, a meeting of the Soil Engagement Group on August 15th. There were presentations on soil health and discussions about soil and peatlands within the Scottish Government's Climate Change Adaptation Plan. We would like to thank the group for making EPS feel so welcome at the meeting.

IN THE PRESS AND ON TV

BBC SCOTLAND - 'THE NINE'

EPS appeared in a live discussion on the BBC Scotland's flagship 'The Nine' evening news show on August 22nd about the merits of electric and hydrogen-powered vehicles as part of the Government's efforts to slow climate change and improve air quality, public health.



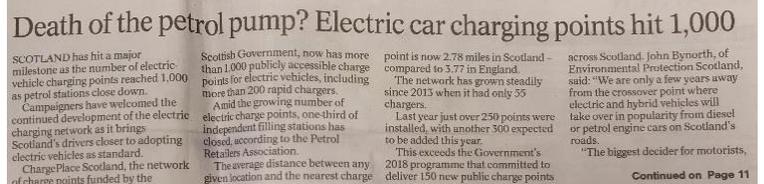
Interviewed by presenters Martin Giessler and Rebecca Curran, John Bynorth, pictured second from the left, argued that that they were not the only solution to climate change, improving air quality and public health and that Scotland needed to reduce its reliance on private vehicles to cut congestion and encourage people to exercise more which would help cut obesity rates and improve people's health. Alongside him, motoring journalist Alan Douglas argued for the continued use of mass private vehicle use and claimed that motorists were being

'hammered' by restrictions in cities, vehicle taxes and that people, particularly in rural areas, were reliant on their cars. The video can be found on the EP Scotland Twitter and Facebook accounts. The coverage was prompted by a report by the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee which can be read here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-49425402>

THE HERALD

EPS was quoted on the front page of The Herald on August 16th about ChargePlace Scotland's research that found the number of electric vehicle charge points in Scotland had reached 1,000, as more and more petrol stations closed.

We explained our belief that the country is only a few years away from the 'crossover' point where EV and hybrid vehicles will take over in popularity from diesel or petrol models. The Scottish Government has set a 2032 deadline to phase out the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles – eight years ahead of the rest of the UK.



Read the article here <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17840715.electric-car-charging-points-hit-1000-petrol-stations-close/>

THAT'S TV

EPS's John Bynorth was interviewed by Freeview-based local news channel 'That's TV' about the introduction of two new 'bus gates' in Glasgow city centre, which aims to deter private vehicles from using specific, congested streets. John said that gates were unlikely to be popular with motorists, but would help free up bus services to deliver more reliable services, cut congestion and make the streets safer for cyclists and walkers. The interview is scheduled to appear on 'That's TV's' Facebook account.

NEXT MONTH – CAFS STRATEGY REVIEW & DR DAVID CONNOLLY INTERVIEW

We aim to bring you all the latest news on the on-going CAFS strategy review.

We will also publish an interview with Dr David Connolly, Director of Innovation at SYSTRA, which was held over from this month's issue due to lack of space.

Dr Connolly has discussed his extensive work on modelling public behaviour in relation to transport and how modelling traffic flow's impacts on air quality and his views on the future of electric vehicles and the accompanying infrastructure. The next issue will be emailed to members at the end of September. If you have any news items or articles for this issue please email admin@ep-scotland.org.uk and mark 'NEWSLETTER' in the subject header.

EPS is the continuation of an eminent line of charities going back to the days of the National Society for Clean Air and more recently Environmental Protection UK. Our objectives include the support and development of the work of Scotland's environmental regulators and scientists based on sound science, objectivity and best practice. We seek to work towards a cleaner, quieter, healthier sustainable Scotland.

Environmental Protection Scotland

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