



Providing independent advice on environmental issues

## Development Consent Orders- two out of two!

Following on from the success of obtaining the first Development Consent Order for a hazardous waste facility (in Northamptonshire) in July 2013 MJCA obtained the second Development Consent Order for a hazardous waste facility (in Lancashire) in May 2015. The first Development Consent Order was for an increase in the capacity of a hazardous waste treatment facility and the construction of a hazardous waste landfill for Augean. The Development Consent Order for the facility in Lancashire is for a hazardous waste landfill near Skelmersdale at Whitemoss Landfill. MJCA have been involved in the Whitemoss project since May 2012. In accordance with the regulations we worked with the applicant to carry out extensive pre application consultation. We led the project team

and prepared and submitted the application in late 2013. A robust case was presented to the Examining Authority in 2014 and following the six month examination period the Examining Authority recommended to the Secretary of State that the Development Consent Order should be made. The Secretary of State accepted the findings of the Examining Authority and the Development Consent Order was made in May 2015. MJCA are continuing to work with Whitemoss Landfill in respect of implementing the Development Consent Order and we have prepared and submitted the Environmental Permit application for the facility.



To celebrate Halloween this year MJCA held a ghost face drawing competition! You can probably see why we chose science rather than art as a career path!



## The 12 (plus) resources of Christmas

With the excitement of Christmas the last thing on our minds is the natural resources that bring such pleasure to this jolly season. Have you ever thought about materials that make up Christmas? The majority of these raw materials are furnished by the minerals, mining and petroleum industries.

### Christmas trees

Most Christmas trees are grown on farms with the help of fertilizers like many other crops. About half of the world's production of sulphur and over 90% of the production of phosphates and potash go into fertilizers.

### Christmas lights

With all the different components of Christmas lights there are lots of different resources involved in making them! Wires are made of copper with the plastic insulation and wall plug made with petrochemicals combined with pumice, limestone, marble, vermiculite, silica, feldspar or trona. Modern LED lights use metals such as arsenic, gallium, indium and some rare-earth elements. Many of these materials are produced as by-

products from the production of aluminium, copper, lead and zinc.

### Decorations

Some of the decorations used in your house this year may have been made from metals such as iron, copper, lead, aluminium or silver. To make ornaments in beautiful Christmas colours paints and glazes are based on petrochemicals, mica or clay with ingredients such as lithium, titanium, manganese and rare-earth elements for pigmentation.

However, as we all know, the excitement and joy associated with Christmas holidays is of course totally resource free!



### Quality Assurance

MJCA prides itself in providing quality work and carrying out work under a strict Quality Auditing regime. At our recent annual audit by BSI they confirmed that we have had no non-conformances over the past three years which is a huge achievement for the company and an excellent sign of the consistent quality of our work. This means clients can confidently rely on MJCA providing top quality work.

## Leslie joins NERC Council

In August 2015 the Managing Director and a Principal Consultant of MJCA, Leslie Heasman, stepped into her new appointment as a member of the Council of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). Leslie is passionate about science and the role that good science has to play in informing us about how we interact with and benefit from the environment without affecting it detrimentally. NERC was created in 1965 when a number of environmental research organisations and surveys were brought together by Royal Charter and has been celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The vision of NERC is to place environmental science at the heart of responsible management of our planet. NERC science has a critical role to play in carrying out and sharing the outputs from world class science to help the UK deliver innovation and growth with responsible environmental management. The NERC Charter sets out its responsibilities which are:



- to promote and support, by any means, high-quality basic, strategic and applied research, survey, long-term environmental observation and monitoring and related post-graduate training in environmental and related sciences

- to advance knowledge and technology ... and to provide services and trained scientists and engineers which meet the needs of users and beneficiaries ... thereby contributing to the economic competitiveness of the UK, the effectiveness of public services and policy and the quality of life

- and to generate public awareness, communicate research outcomes, encourage public engagement and dialogue, disseminate knowledge and provide advice in relation to those activities.

Leslie is delighted to join the NERC Council and to be able to contribute to the work of the organisation, the knowledge generated by which she has used as a reference source throughout her career to date. NERC publish an excellent quarterly online magazine which summarises some of the work NERC is carrying out:

<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/latest/publications/planetearth/>

## New starters at MJCA part 2!

Since introducing the new employees at MJCA in our last newsletter we have been joined by a further four new faces.

**Nicholas Spear** joined MJCA in May 2015 with previous experience working in the offshore oil and gas sector followed by 2 years' experience within the ground investigation sector. In 2014 he studied for a postgraduate qualification in Geotechnical Engineering. Previously achieving his BSc in Applied and Environmental Geology at the University of Leicester. His interests include indoor rock climbing, golf and reading.



**Luke Menzel** joined MJCA's environmental permitting department in August 2015 from Lafarge Tarmac. Before this he achieved a BA in Geography from the University of Birmingham with his dissertation involving an evaluation of the 'Adaptation Action Cycles' concept and applied framework using the English Wine Industry as a case study. In his spare time he captains Hampton-in-Arden Hockey Club 2XI and has played for Warwickshire and Worcestershire counties.



**Joe Rogers** started work full time in September 2015 after carrying out work experience at MJCA in July 2011 and August 2014 followed by a summer placement in 2015. His initial visit in 2011 inspired him to study for a BSc in Geological Sciences at the University of Leeds. His interests include hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and contaminant hydrogeology. In his spare time Joe is a keen cricketer.

**Geoff Land** joined MJCA in September 2015 after 1 years' experience in the ground investigation sector following studying for a postgraduate degree in Geotechnical Engineering and achieving his BSc in Geology at the University of Birmingham. He is currently sad to see the decommissioning of XH558; the last flying Avro Vulcan.

## Uxbridge English Dictionary

We have chosen our favourite (vaguely) environmental consultancy related words from the finest lexicography work to come out of the BBC Radio 4 comedy show *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue*. Can you think of any more to use in our next newsletter?!

**Abundance:** Similar to Morris Dancing but with cakes instead of sticks

**Alternative:** To modify a member of the indigenous population

**Approximate:** Sort of a friend

**Exorbitant:** the now retired first insect astronaut

**Geodimeter:** An instrument designed to measure how long a person has been living in Tyneside

**Nanometer:** A device for counting grannies.