

Technology in the environment

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Double commendation for remediation scheme

The Hull scheme used techniques imported from Australia.

A remediation project for the National Grid has been highly commended in the Brownfield Briefing awards scheme.

Consulting engineer Grontmij was runner-up in two categories, 'best use of combined treatment systems' and 'most innovative remediation method'.

The Hull project is National

Grid's flagship remediation scheme and was developed by a team that also included VHE Construction (principal contractor), EESI (bioremediation sub-contractor), RSK Health and Safety Ltd (CDM coordinator), Davis Langdon (cost consultant) and Proscot (communications centre).

Vehicle traffic movements were reduced by more than 900,000 truck miles, representing an emissions reduction of 1925 tonnes of carbon and requiring less than 40% of the fuel usually needed for a project of similar scale.

The consultancy was responsible for design and delivery of the remediation of a 17-hectare former gas production works at the site, with one of the main elements being the bio-remediation of more than 33,000 cub. metres of contaminated soil.

Techniques imported from Australia were combined with materials management and stabilisation techniques to help achieve more than 75% materials recovery for soil that would previously have ended up as hazardous waste in a landfill.

Mike Wilyman, land regeneration director at Grontmij, said: "It's a fantastic achievement to have this project recognised in two key innovation categories at these awards. The processes

and technologies used on this project significantly reduced the environmental impacts normally associated with remediation, including the use of fewer quarried resources usually required to replace materials going to landfill."

Paddy Daly, National Grid regeneration manager for the project, said the project was playing a major part in helping the organisation deliver its own environmental targets to achieve sustainable solutions in the regeneration of land.

He added: "The techniques used at this site have resulted in a significantly reduced long-term impact on the environment."

Grontmij recently retained its position on National Grid's geotechnical and environmental consultancy services framework.

Wilyman said: "Over the coming years we will be working with the company on the remediation of its historical gas and electricity land portfolio, ensuring the land is returned to productive use."

Essex plants get go-ahead

A waste treatment facility that will help Essex increase recycling rates and reduce the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill is to be built near Colchester.

Permission for the mechanical and biological treatment (MBT) and anaerobic digestion (AD) plants was granted by Essex County Council to Cory Environmental.

The plants will be built at Stanway Hall Quarry, south west of Colchester. The AD plant will process up to 50,000 tonnes a year of green waste and organic kitchen waste and will generate electricity for the local area. The MBT plant will process up to 250,000 tonnes a year of other household waste after dry recyclables such as paper and glass have been removed.

Both plants will be in wholly-enclosed buildings and will have a lifespan of 25 years. Residue will be used to restore the 7.3 million cub. metre quarry for recreational purposes.