

QUARTERLY CSR UPDATE

Autumn 2024



SOME OF OUR HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

We have seen some great progress towards our CSR goals and ambitions this year, with the retention of our Gold EcoVadis award, investment in projects to increase efficiency and some great charity and employee initiatives across all of our sites!

Great efficiency savings achieved from our new fleet!

- In April we received a new fleet of efficient HGV's, with data to date showing a 13% reduction in diesel use since it's introduction! This is a great step forward in reducing our transport emissions, supporting our target to halve our emissions by 2035.

- As well as our new fleet, in April we also received our second electric HGV unit which is being used for deliveries out of Lichfield. Along with our first electric HGV at Wigan, this now means **approximately 8% of all of our deliveries are now being completed with an electric truck!**



- To further reduce our CO2 emissions from transport, **we have introduced Microlise, a transport route planning and journey optimisation tool.** As a result of this in 2025 we will be reviewing our fleet to identify any further reduction opportunities.

Ongoing work to enhance biodiversity at the Farm!



- Throughout the year we have continued ongoing actions from our Landscape & Nature Conservation Plan to increase biodiversity at the farm, including **managing hedges and ditches to support wildlife, taking part in No Mow May, and managing wild flower areas.**
- As outlined in the Spring update, in February representatives from Operation Turtle Dove came to the farm as part of **The Big Farmland Bird Count, highlighting the incredible array and number of birds present across the site.**
- In October we installed **five bat nesting boxes** in areas across the site close to trees and running water, **as well as two solitary bee hotels!**

Site fundraising events!

Across all sites staff have been completing a **series of miles challenges for GroceryAid.** Challenges have taken place each quarter, with staff walking, running, cycling and swimming to meet their chosen target for the month. **Collectively, we have raised an amazing £1,200, completing 8103 miles across the year!**

Lichfield have held a number of fundraising events throughout the year, including **raising £251 for GroceryAid** at the EPIC positivity fair in May, and **£15 for anti-bullying week for odd socks day.**

Wigan have undertaken an extraordinary number of events throughout the year:

- **£50 for Marie Curie** - site bake sale
- **£100 for Grocery aid** – Burger King Support
- **£250 for Alder Hey** - swifties charity to support all impacted by the tragedy in July
- **£200 for Gregg's foundation** through the Great North Run & Gregg's foundation breakfast
- **£100 for warriors against cancer and Movember** in September
- **£100 for Andy Man's Club** - Walking from Wigan UK to Wigan, Philippines in September



HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH GOOD CAUSES THIS CHRISTMAS

Keep an eye out for volunteering opportunities and donation boxes across your site in the next few weeks.

- **At Lichfield,** opportunities are available to volunteer with FareShare & Lichfield Foodbank across December, and collection boxes are available in reception for both toys and non-perishable food.
- **Lichfield, Axgro and the Farm** will be taking part in **Christmas Jumper day for Save the Children!**

Look out for updates from your HR department for more details!



A HUGE SHOUTOUT TO ALL STAFF TAKING ON AMAZING CHALLENGES FOR CHARITY...

Thank you to all of those going the extra mile to raise money and awareness for a number of different causes!

Earlier this year, **Marvin O'Brien** from Lichfield took part in the Equinox24 Ultra Marathon challenge in support of Alzheimer's Research. Incredibly **Marvin completed an amazing distance of 80km (49.7 miles), raising over £1,548!** To put this in perspective, this is only a little bit short of 2 marathons in 24 hours!

In September, **Michelle Thornton** from Agrial Fresh Farms, **walked 30 miles for Dementia UK, raising an incredible £317!**

Amanda Irvine at Wigan was involved in a 3 hour bootcamp in conjunction with Castle Hill St Philips Primary School, **raising £100 for the Little Princess Trust.**

Alan Wolstenholme at Wigan once again took part in the **Race for Life, raising £100 for Cancer Research.**

Thank you also to all staff who participated in **Movember this year!** Movember is an annual charity event that encourages men to grow moustaches throughout November to raise awareness of men's health issues, including prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health, and suicide prevention.

Whether by growing a great looking 'stache - such as **Joshua Fishburn, Morgan David and Henry Prutton** - or supporting the cause in other ways, such as through donations, your efforts in raising awareness and funds for men's health have been incredible!



Want to Donate?

Scan the QR code or check out Joshua's Mo Space [here](#)



THANK YOU ALL FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

WIGAN'S LITTLE GEM GARDEN PROJECT

Spring preparation is underway for the little gem garden at Wigan, with EPIC being planted in daffodil bulbs! We look forward to seeing what it looks like when they come through next year...





SUPPLIER SPOTLIGHT!

KEMP HERBS: REVIVING THE EAST HARLING COMMON SSSI

As part of our commitment to engage with suppliers, in September we visited Kemp Herbs, a supplier of baby leaf, to explore their efforts in restoring a section of the East Harling Common. Renowned for unique glacial pingo ponds and rich biodiversity, the area was designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in 1989, but has faced challenges due to neglect and encroachment by trees and scrub.

Before: SSSI area prior to any conservation work



After: Tree & scrub removed around the existing pingo ponds (top)

Two ghost ponds restored (bottom) after previously being filled in

What are pingo ponds?

Pingos are periglacial landforms, dating back to the ice age, developed from seasonal thawing and freezing. As glaciers retreated they left hard masses of ice, and as this melted the soil on the top formed depressions leaving a hole filled with water – a pingo pond. Most of the pingos in the Brecks area have been lost to farming so the ones remaining are historically, ecologically and internationally important for wildlife.

A Commitment to Restoration

Kemp purchased part of the site in 2017 and initiated restoration efforts, starting with clearing the first pingo pond fringe in 2021. Collaborating with Natural England, they have focused on pond restoration and the removal of invasive vegetation. In 2023, they partnered with UCL and the Norfolk Ponds Project to restore a ghost pingo pond adjacent to the SSSI. This ongoing project included clearing fallen trees and scrub to promote grazing, enhance light levels for plant growth, and support the recolonisation of native grass species.

Recent surveys conducted on the farm have presented exciting results. A flora survey identified several rare species, including Hairy Rock-cress, Great Fen Sedge, and Pepper Saxifrage. Additionally, the farm is now home to 88 bird species, illustrating the positive impact of the restoration efforts on local wildlife.



After: Flora and fauna thriving following the restoration

Some findings from the ghost pond restoration including historic seeds



Education and Community Engagement

Beyond ecological restoration, Kemp are dedicated to education and host events that engage children and the community, teaching them about pingo ponds and the importance of conservation.

The next phase of scrub and tree removal, as well as further pond restoration is scheduled for 2025, and we look forward to seeing their progress in the next few years!