



## NEWS RELEASE

21<sup>st</sup> July 2009

### **YORWASTE ENSURE NO FEATHERS ARE RUFFLED**

WORKERS at a North Yorkshire recycling facility were faced with a problem of a feathery kind when they stumbled upon a pair of nesting birds.

The Oystercatchers (which is a large black and white wading bird) had set up home among 20 tonnes of plasterboard that is brought in for recycling at Yorwaste's Tancred facility, near Scorton.

After doing their research, staff at the site discovered they would face a fine of up to £5,000 if they removed the nest so they left the birds in peace until nature took its course – and found an alternative place to stack other pieces of plasterboard that came into the site.

Since then, three chicks hatched (sadly only one survived) and staff discovered that their parents were very protective over their new offspring.

Lindsay Skelton, Yorwaste's site manager at Tancred, said: "The plasterboard recycling facility is very near to where we compost garden waste so whenever anyone got too close for comfort, they were warned off by the birds.

"When we realised the nest couldn't be moved, we ensured that the birds would remain undisturbed and this meant that the 20 tonnes of plasterboard could not be sent for recycling until the chick was old enough to fly away.

"In the meantime, we created another facility to keep the plasterboard, which is then taken away in bulk to be recycled into new plasterboard.

"This is the first time something like this has happened to us at Tancred and everyone has been really protective of the birds.

"They have now left the nest in the plasterboard and moved to another part of the site, so they obviously like living here."

Tancred is a waste transfer station, which means various types of waste are brought to the site for sorting, recycling and disposal.

Oystercatchers breed on the coast and inland and in the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) category of conservation importance (red, amber and green) they is classed as amber.

**ENDS.**

**Notes to Newsdesks/Reporters:** A photograph of the Oystercatchers nesting in the plasterboard is attached on email.

**For more information contact:**

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**About Yorwaste:**

Yorwaste is an innovative waste management and recycling company owned by North Yorkshire County Council and City of York Council. Managing more than one million tonnes of waste each year, it provides a comprehensive range of services from engineered landfill and recycling to liquid waste treatment and supply landfill gas for power generation.

The company's Yorventure operation supports local communities and has provided more than £7m in grants for approved projects over the past ten years. Further information can be found at [www.yorwaste.co.uk](http://www.yorwaste.co.uk)