

SEMBCORP CLEAN UP OF RIVER FRONTAGE NETS A TONNE OF WASTE



Andy, Dave and David take a break during the clean up.

A two-hour “spring clean” of Sembcorp land next to the River Tees has resulted in the recovery of an alarming amount of plastic waste.

In total, more than 100 sacks of waste – containing around 2,000 plastic bottles, cans and other items with the potential to cause damage to marine life - were recovered by a team of environmentally-conscious employees.

The team – David Miles (works coordinator in the Infrastructure team), Dave Morris (engineering manager) and Andy Fisher (utilities planner) with additional support from Steven Moody (senior commercial analyst) – all volunteered to take part in the Great Tees Tidy Up, a campaign organised by Tees Rivers Trust.

The Darlington-based charity encouraged scores of groups and organisations throughout the area to collect debris along both banks of the 81-mile River Tees over four days.

The Sembcorp team collected more than a tonne of rubbish along a 100-yard section of riverfront close to the No 2 Tunnel which carries pipelines under the river.

Organiser David Miles said: “The volume of waste washed ashore or blown by the wind to a relatively remote part of our site was shocking. It makes you realise just how much ends up in our rivers and seas each year.

“We all have a duty to dispose of our litter responsibly and safely and it was great to get involved in the Great Tees Tidy Up and bring about a real improvement in this area.”

Zoe Fraser, who works for the Tees Rivers Trust which operates in partnership with River Tees Rediscovered, organised the Tees Tidy Up event.

She said: “Sembcorp has done a fantastic job. The enthusiasm shown from the start by Dave Miles and the other volunteers has made a real difference to this stretch of the river.

“The volume of litter collected just goes to show how important events like the Tees Tidy Up are. Many organisations like Sembcorp have been giving up a few hours but they have all made a big difference and really highlighted what an important issue litter is in the Tees catchment area.”



Anything but a rubbish job: Dave, David and Andy at the end of their mammoth litter pick



The scale of the problem: the collection netted around 2,000 plastic bottles as well as other plastic debris.