

News Release



Immediate release

British Sugar TOPSOIL hosts PlantNetwork trustees' strategy day

The Chair and four trustees of the charity PlantNetwork held their summer strategy day at British Sugar TOPSOIL's Wissington factory near King's Lynn recently. British Sugar TOPSOIL sponsors the charity, which promotes and supports plant collections and arboreta in Britain and Ireland.

National TOPSOIL Manager Andy Spetch first took the PlantNetwork trustees on a tour of the topsoil manufacturing facility, showing them how HortLoam premier planting topsoil is produced from the rich arable soils that adhere to the sugar beet brought in by farmers to British Sugar factories across East Anglia.

HortLoam is a blend of BS3882:2015 certified topsoil with coarse sand and additional reserves of organic matter in the form of BSI PAS 100 & CQP compliant 'green' compost. This gives it a more open and free-draining structure and provides additional nutrients for establishing young plants and encouraging healthy root growth. It is already used by a number of PlantNetwork's member gardens, including RHS Garden Hyde Hall and the University of Bristol Botanic Garden.

Following the tour, Chair of the Trustees Simon Toomer – National Trust Specialist for Plant Conservation, and his fellow trustees Ros Burnley – Director, Adrow Ltd; Rupert Wilson - RHS Principal Data Manager; Will Ritchie – Curator, National Botanic Garden of Wales; and Nick Lightfoot - Garden & Collections Manager, Ness Botanic Gardens, retired to a meeting room arranged for them by British Sugar TOPSOIL where they continued with their strategy deliberations.

Commenting after the visit, Andy Spetch said: "It was a very great pleasure to welcome the PlantNetwork trustees to Wissington and to have the opportunity to show them how sustainable quality topsoil is produced. British Sugar TOPSOIL is a keen supporter of the aims of PlantNetwork and any

opportunity we have to inform and educate horticulturists on the benefits of using quality manufactured soils will, in turn, help to prevent further depletion of this most valuable of resources.”

Andy Spetch will be one of the speakers at this year’s industry soils conference – SoilsCon 2019 – which takes place once again in Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, on 26th September. For the full programme and to book online visit www.toha.co.uk.

www.bstopsoil.co.uk Twitter @Tospoil_BS

E N D S

Image Caption:

Trustees of the charity PlantNetwork visit British Sugar TOPSOIL’s Wissington topsoil manufacturing facility near King’s Lynn

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Note to editors:

TOPSOIL

British Sugar TOPSOIL is the largest suppliers of quality TOPSOIL in the UK. Our products, Landscape20, HortLoam and Sports&Turf, are successfully used by the construction, landscaping and amenity industries. For further information on British Sugar TOPSOIL go to www.bstopsoil.co.uk

British Sugar is the leading supplier to the British and Irish food and beverage markets. We operate four advanced manufacturing plants across East Anglia and the East Midlands employing around 1,400 permanent and contract staff directly at our facilities and support up to 9,500 UK jobs in the wider economy.

Around 3,500 growers supply us with 8 million tonnes of sugar beet each year, which we process into approx. 1.4 million tonnes of sugar.

Sugar production is at the heart of our operations but using our highly integrated approach to manufacturing, we aim to transform all of our raw materials into sustainable products. We produce 500,000 tonnes of animal feed from sugar beet pulp. We recycle stones for building, lime for soil conditioning and soil for landscaping. Using our Combined Heat & Power plants, we export enough electricity for over 120,000 homes; we were also the first company to manufacture Bioethanol in the UK.

Over the past five years, we have invested over £250 million to improve efficiency and competitiveness; in addition, we invest over £2m every year in research, development and education.

For further information visit www.britishsugar.com or find us on Twitter @BritishSugar