

# Equipment Review

## Low maintenance interpretation boards that reduce landfill use too!

Champion angler Bob Nudd recently unveiled one of a number of low maintenance interpretation boards that recycled material specialists Filcris supplied to Lincolnshire's innovative REEL (Recreation and Environmental Enhancements in Lincolnshire) project. The REEL project aims to enhance rivers and drains in Lincolnshire for angling and quiet recreation. Benches are installed for those who want to sit and enjoy the countryside and information panels are provided to help identify the local wildlife. The REEL project is part of the Lincolnshire Waterways Partnership and is funded by Lincolnshire County Council, the European Regional Development Fund and the Environment Agency.

Whilst, as with all projects, capital costs are an important consideration, it is equally vital that furniture such as interpretation boards should be tough enough to guarantee extended life without the need for regular or emergency maintenance.

The Filcris units are manufactured from sturdy recycled plastic making them long lasting, vandal resistant and maintenance free, while maintaining the appearance of timber. The image is protected against UV so should last a minimum of seven years before there is any sign of fading, whilst the shatter resistant polycarbonate image board adds a useful degree of vandal proofing. The units are easy to assemble and install, and should the board ever need updating or renewing this is equally simple.

As befits their use in a conservation project the environmental credentials of the boards are impeccable. The frames are made entirely made from UK

sourced post-consumer recycled plastic, reducing the impact of waste on the UK's environment in the form of landfill.

Claire Redmond from the REEL project comments "We initially ordered just a single A1-size board for assessment. We were impressed with how quickly Filcris responded and the quality of the product. Then we set them the task of producing a different design for three additional sites and they responded with the new version in days"

Filcris is a small family business employing skilled, local craftsmen in Cambridgeshire. By innovative use of recycled plastic they provide tough and resilient alternatives to natural materials for walkways, signage, fishing platforms, border edging and many other applications that would previously have used wood and required renewal within a relatively short time frame.

The boards are available from: Filcris Limited, The Old Fire Station, Broadway, Bourn, Cambridge, CB3 7TE.

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