



Centre of Excellence
for Decarbonising Roads

Q3 REFLECTION 2026

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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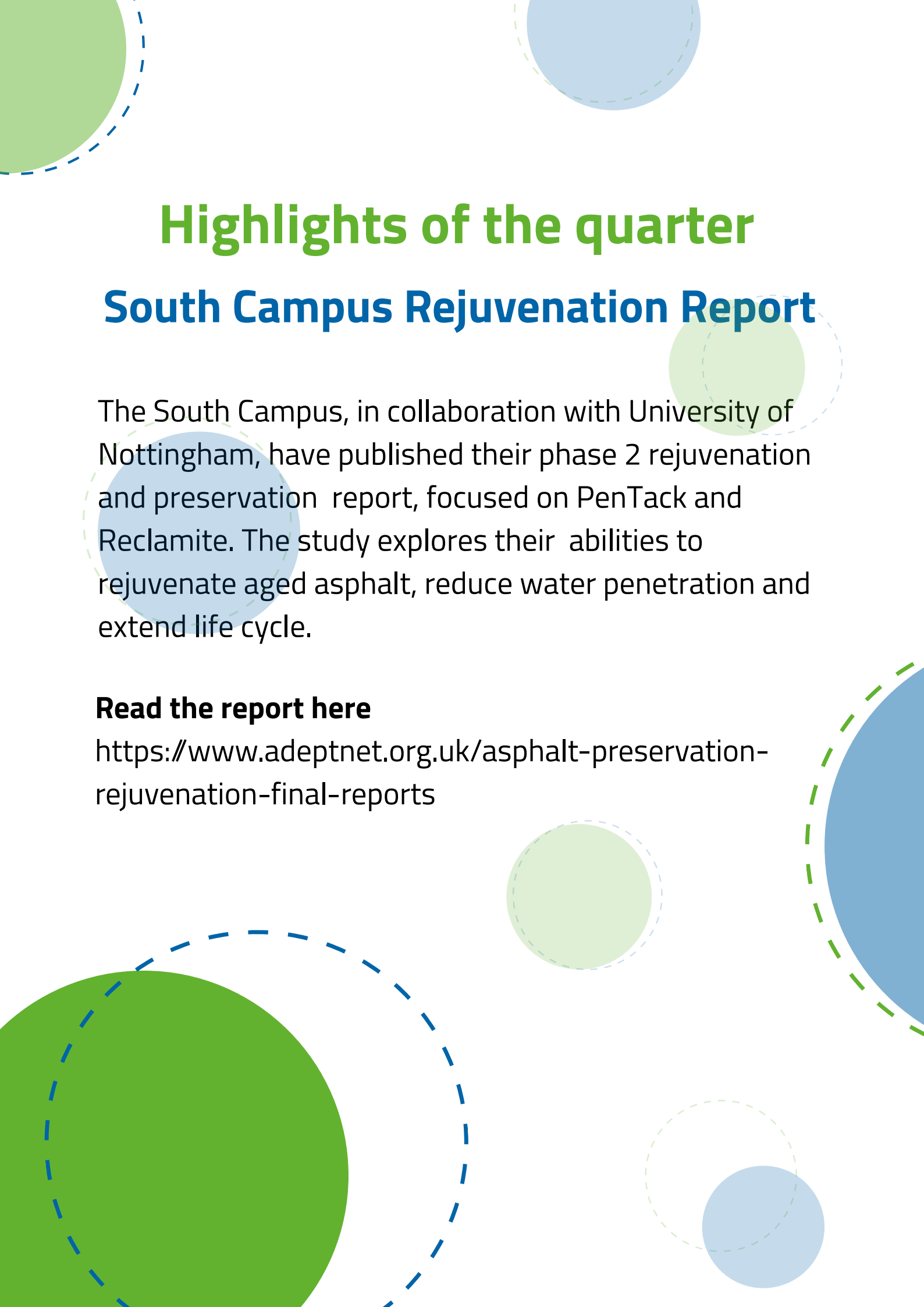
Welcome back to our quarterly newsletter looking at the second quarter of 2026 for the Centre of Excellence for Decarbonising Roads (CEDR), a Live Labs 2: decarbonising local roads theme – part of the ADEPT Live Labs 2: decarbonising local roads programme, a three year £30 million UK-wide initiative, funded by the Department for Transport that aims to decarbonise the local highway network.

UK CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR MATERIALS

A hub for research and innovation for the decarbonisation of local roads materials, developing a knowledge bank, real-life conditions testing and sharing and learning insights.

Lead Local Highways Authorities (LHAs):
North Lanarkshire Council & Transport for West Midlands.

In this issue, you will find the latest highlights, trials, evaluations, and thought leadership from the Centre.



Highlights of the quarter

South Campus Rejuvenation Report

The South Campus, in collaboration with University of Nottingham, have published their phase 2 rejuvenation and preservation report, focused on PenTack and Reclamite. The study explores their abilities to rejuvenate aged asphalt, reduce water penetration and extend life cycle.

Read the report here

<https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/asphalt-preservation-rejuvenation-final-reports>

Recent events

ADEPT Triage Session

Monthly triage sessions are now available through ADEPT Live Labs 2, led by Programme Director Giles Perkins. These sessions offer tailored advice, practical signposting and direct access to specialist expertise from across the UK's largest local roads innovation programme.

You can drop in to sessions via:



Microsoft Teams



Second Tuesday of every month

Register for an invitation via:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLIImFM0tHdFA674M3Kg_ar9X9dwTIPpc34ONv1OrEFCn9E7g/viewform

ADEPT Regional Workshops

September marked the beginning of the ADEPT Regional Workshops, with Giles travelling the nation to share insights from three years spent on the seven projects of Live Labs 2.

Three workshops remain, find your closest:

- 21st October, Aberdeen
- 10th November, London
- 19th November, Taunton

Sign up: <https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/live-labs-2-year-4-events>

Department for Infrastructure

In July, Giles Perkins, the ADEPT Live Labs 2 Project Director and Elaine Nicol, the Road Maintenance Manager at North Lanarkshire Council attended the Department for Infrastructure (Northern Ireland) to deliver a workshop providing an overview of the £30m ADEPT Live Labs 2 Decarbonising Local Roads Programme.

The pair highlighted strategic case studies, outlining how local authorities across the UK are reducing carbon emissions in highways and infrastructure services. The workshop outlined:

- Practical trial outcomes
- Carbon management principles
- Collaborative approaches to accelerating decarbonisation

The workshop's core message was that decarbonising roads is about changing the entire system of decision-making, procurement, maintenance, design and collaboration. It highlighted evidence-based innovation, carbon literacy, knowledge sharing and practical trialling to create a new business-as-usual model for local highway authorities - the Knowledge Bank.

For roads maintenance professionals, this workshop essentially reaffirmed the UK's emerging best practices for achieving lower-carbon highway services while maintaining network performance and value for money.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

KNOWLEDGE BANK

A hub of open-source information, the Knowledge Bank offers a catalogue of case studies focused on low-carbon road materials. This database allows suppliers to upload key details about their innovations, whilst giving local authorities the opportunity to explore this information and testimonials of products trialled.

Key features:

- Engineers tool kit, allows engineers to input specifications to be given results of the best suited product
- Video library, allows users to see products used in real-world trials
- Dashboard, connects users with peers and provides share knowledge opportunities
- Specification Online Tool, specifically created to help Local Authority engineers update their Contract/ Project Specification

If you'd like to learn more about how the CEDR Knowledge Bank can help your local authority with low-carbon material adoption on existing budgets contact us to organise a Connect and Collab session.



Quarterly Spotlight

Alex Morgan

Project Manager

Can you describe your role as Project Manager?

I'm an Innovation Project Manager within Amey. My role is incredibly varied and sits at the intersection of project management, innovation, stakeholder engagement and knowledge sharing. I work with local authorities, industry partners, universities and suppliers to identify, trial and evaluate low-carbon materials and techniques.

A typical day might involve coordinating live trials on road networks, managing project governance and reporting, facilitating workshops, engaging with stakeholders, or helping communicate research findings across the highways sector. One of the key aspects of my role has been supporting the development of the Knowledge Bank, an open-access platform designed to share evidence, case studies and lessons learned from our trials. Ultimately, my role is about turning innovative ideas into practical, evidence-based solutions that can be adopted across the industry, helping local authorities make more informed decisions on their journey towards net zero.

What inspired you to pursue this career?

I enjoy bringing people together to solve problems and make positive change happen. Early in my career, I realised I prefer working on projects that have a clear purpose and the potential to create long-term benefits. Innovation project management offered the perfect combination of structure, collaboration and creativity, allowing me to work with a wide range of people while helping turn new ideas into reality.

The opportunity to contribute to sustainability and decarbonisation within an industry that has a huge impact on everyday life attracted me to my current role. We all rely on roads, but traditionally they have been associated with significant carbon emissions. Through Live Labs 2 I have seen first-hand how innovation can challenge established ways of working and help the sector move towards a more sustainable future.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

The most rewarding part of my job is seeing innovative ideas develop from concept to real-world impact. Through Live Labs 2, we worked with partners across the UK to identify, trial and evaluate low-carbon materials and techniques, then share the findings across the highways sector. Seeing evidence from these trials influence decision-making and industry practice has been really satisfying.

I also enjoy the collaborative nature of the role. Bringing together different stakeholders often leads to the most innovative solutions, and it is rewarding to see different perspectives create practical outcomes.

Another highlight is knowledge sharing. Through initiatives such as the Knowledge Bank, we have developed resources that enable others to learn from our experiences and accelerate the adoption of low-carbon innovation. Knowing that our work can help reduce carbon emissions, improve infrastructure delivery and create lasting benefits for both communities and the environment is something I am extremely proud of.

Upcoming Events

Road Expo Scotland **24th - 25th November 2026**

As Scotland's biggest roads, transport and traffic event, this exhibition brings together professionals from the industry to explore new technologies and innovations introduced to the sector. With attendance from local authorities, supply chain and local government visitors have the opportunity to hear evaluations of major projects. Visit us at stand C15 to learn about our contribution to the road sector.

What's next?

- ADEPT are continuing their monthly triage sessions for local authorities to receive guidance on their problems and challenges within adopting low-carbon solutions.
- Read about our time at Road Expo.

Sign up to our free Knowledge Bank for a catalogue of tried and tested low-carbon products: <https://kb.decarbonisingroads.co.uk>

What's next?

- ADEPT are continuing their monthly triage sessions for local authorities to receive guidance on their problems and challenges within adopting low-carbon solutions.
- Read about our time at Strictly Highways, Highways UK and Road Expo.

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