Proposed outline brief for a Framework for Sustainable Remediation v2

The mission statement for SURF-UK is to deliver a framework for assessing Sustainable Remediation. This is as opposed to a specific tool or methodology.
It is anticipated that tools and methodologies would sit below a framework.

It is proposed the framework uses CLR11 as a template. CLR11 is the short-hand reference to the Contaminated Land Report No.11 entitled 'Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination' that is jointly published by UK Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and Environment Agency of England and Wales.
(http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/landquality/113813/881475/).

The model procedures are intended to provide the technical framework for structured decision-making about land contamination and is a process can be applied in a range of regulatory and management contexts.

The CLR11 framework is summarized in Figure 1 of the CLR11 document. It illustrates that it is a process framework that can be characterized by a series of decision-making points that are objective, consistent and transparent. It requires information to be collected to underpin the process. It allows scope for iteration within the process and encourages formal records of decision.

It is proposed that the outline brief for a framework for assessing sustainable remediation takes Figure 1 from CLR11 as a template and seeks to identify the timelines and decision-making points. Whilst capturing the CLR11 references to 'sustainability' (see Box1 below) it is not proposed a sustainable remediation frameworks rigidly mirrors the risk assessment, options appraisal and implementation components of CLR11 but rather integrates these phases as part of a wider scope of when and how sustainable remediation should be assessed.

Box1. CLR11 references to sustainability:

Section 1.1 Understanding land contamination (page 7) ".....the goal is to find solutions that identify and deal with risks from contamination in a sustainable way."

Section 1.2 Managing risks from land contamination (Costs and benefits) (page 8) "At several stages of the risk management process, judgements have to be made about the relative costs and benefits of particular courses of action or decisions. This "cost–benefit analysis" is an inherent part of the management of environmental risks in a sustainable way, and is a formal component of particular stages of regulatory regimes."

Section 3.1 Options Appraisal - Overview (Setting objectives at the outset) (page 23) "Objectives will be linked to the: .....Sustainability of the strategy (i.e., how well it meets other environmental objectives, for example on the use of energy and other material resources, and avoids or minimises adverse environmental impacts in off-site locations, such as a landfill, or on other environmental compartments, such as air and water."

Part 2 - Supporting Information for Implementation of the Remediation Strategy (Design, Implementation and Verification - Design considerations, Figure 4B, Input 3, overall scope) (page 134) "The design should:.....be sustainable."

An important part of any 'sustainability' assessment is the indicators used to make the assessment. If the framework identifies the decision-making points in a timeline then a further question is what indicators need to be examined at these points. There are several related publications that can provide a baseline set of indicators to consider.

The purpose of a further workshop to develop a framework would be to identify how sustainable remediation framework would look and what indicators should be used.

The output would likely be

- a draft flow diagram/process
- supporting notes that will eventually form the framework
- a draft list of indicators to consider
- a format that can be presented at Nov08 open forum and which can be used to put in context relevant case studies and tools

Taking CLR11 Chapter 1 as an example, the framework may only be in the order of 10 pages long with tools and case studies forming the supporting appendices.