



National Brownfield Forum

Meeting Notes

10th July 2018, 11.00am – 4.00pm

Location: WSP Office, 70 Chancery Lane, Jacobs, London WC2A 1AF

FINAL

Present:

Lucy Thomas
Nicola Harries (*Secretariat*)
Paul Nathanail
Jane Thrasher
Alex Lee
Angela Haslam
Julia Reynolds

Frank Evans

Max Heaver & Andy Ruck

Paul Burden
David Rudland
Vivien Dent

Seamus Lefroy Brooks
David Middleton
Lisa Hathway
Fiona Mannix
Mike Smith

By telephone:

Andrew Williams
Matthew Llewhellin &
Trystan James
Rachael Davies

Hallan Sambrooke

Apologies:

Fiona Siequien
Richard Boyle
Paul Sheehan

Euan Hall
Mark Edwards
Theresa Kearney

Caroline Thornton

Chair
CL:AIRE
Geological Society & Deputy Chair
Environmental Industries Commission (EIC)
Society of Brownfield Risk Assessment (SoBRA)
Environment Agency (EA)
Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Pollution Advisory Group
(YALPAG)
Soil and Groundwater Technology Association (SAGTA)
from 2pm
Department of Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)-
Biodiversity Net Gain Team (until 12pm)
Specialist in Land Condition (SiLC)
Environmental Protection UK
Association of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental
Specialists (AGS)
Chair of NQMS Steering Group
Defra Soils Team
National House Building Council (NHBC)
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
representing BSI

Welsh Government

Natural Resources Wales
Flintshire Council & Welsh Contaminated Land Working
Group
Newcastle under Lyme Council, Staffordshire
Contaminated Land Working Group

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
Homes England
Chair of Land Stewardship/Natural Capital Working
Group
Land Trust
Lancaster City Council
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural
Affairs and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency
(NIEA)
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

Steve Manning
Rob Ivens
Peter Witherington

Wiltshire Council
Mole Valley Council
Home Builders Federation (HBF)

Corresponding Members:

Tony Lewis
Julia Thrift
Philip Ridley

Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH)
Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA)
Planning Officers Society

Agenda

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Introductions of represented organisations
3. Review of previous minutes & actions
4. Presentation from Defra's Land Use Team on Biodiversity Net Gain (25 Year Environment Plan commitment)

Question & Answer Session
5. Terms of Reference review & update
6. Update from Government Departments and Environment Agencies
 - Welsh Government & Natural Resources Wales
 - Scottish Government & Scottish Environment Protection Agency
 - Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs & Environment Agency Northern Ireland
 - Housing, Communities & Local Government
 - Defra Soil and Contaminated Land Team
 - Environment Agency
 - Homes England
7. Presentation from Mike Smith on Standards – understand better how they are developed, who drives their development and how to ensure that industry gets involved.
8. Brief Roundtable Update from Industry Groups including but not limited to:
 - AGS
 - SiLC
 - NHBC
 - SoBRA
 - EPUK
 - UKELA
 - CL:AIRE
 - EIC
 - HBF
 - RICS
 - SAGTA

- CIEH
 - Contaminated Land Fora
9. NQMS Steering Group – update
 10. Natural Capital/Land Stewardship - update
 11. AOB
 12. Date and location of next meeting

Meeting Notes

1) Welcome & Apologies

Lucy Thomas (LT) welcomed everyone and apologies were given. Housekeeping was provided along with thanks to Alex Lee and WSP for hosting the meeting.

2) Introductions of represented organisations

Introductions were performed around the table and on the phone.

3) Review of Previous Minutes & Outstanding Actions

All actions were completed except for.

a. Future Direction of Land Forum

Lucy Thomas to think of some simple statements that could be prepared to help raise the National Brownfield Forum's profile.

b. Natural Capital Working Group

Paul Sheehan to formulate a plan for the Natural Capital Sub Group.

4) Presentation from Defra's Land Use Team on Biodiversity Net Gain (25 Year Environment Plan commitment)

A short introductory presentation on biodiversity net gain, and the 25 Year Environment Plan, preceded a discussion on how a net gain policy might work best alongside a range of other development priorities. This discussion focussed on the government's commitment in the 25 Year Plan to consult on a mandatory requirement for biodiversity net gain. Anyone wishing to continue the discussion is encouraged to respond to the biodiversity net gain consultation when it is published, or to contact Lindsay.roome@defra.gsi.gov.uk or max.heaver@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

5) Terms of Reference review & update

In general the updated Terms of Reference that was circulated was accepted except for the following minor amendments required to be made:

- Remove footnote and reference
- Remove s from "Chatham Hose Rules"
- Remove all "Land Forum" references and replace with Forum
- Update

ACTION: Nicola Harries (NH) to amend Terms of Reference and upload onto the dedicated website.

6) Update from Government Departments and Environment Agencies

Welsh Government

Andy Williams (AW) provided an update on behalf of Welsh Government (WG). AW confirmed the projects funded as part of the 2017/2018 Welsh Government Contaminated Land Capital Fund are nearing completion. WG are currently looking at developing a new fund for 2018/2019 but this is yet to be finalised. It is hoping that the funding will not be restricted to Part 2A sites and will help to address general contamination issues that will provide wider benefits.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Matthew Llewellyn (ML) and Trystan James (TJ) provided an update on the activities of NRW. TJ confirmed that they are currently finalising work on the three projects that they received funding for from the Capital Funding Programme and also fed into the consultation on the planning policy for Wales. ML confirmed that they have also been feeding into a number of key infrastructure projects including Wylfa Nuclear Power Plant and M4 relief road.

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Theresa Kearney was unable to attend in person and confirmed that currently there was nothing specific to report to the NBF since the last meeting.

Scottish Government & Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Caroline Thornton (CT) was unable to attend in person but sent a report.

Scottish Government Update

Very little to report at the moment in terms of contaminated land. Neil Ritchie, who was the head of Environmental Policy, has moved on. He has been replaced by Thekla Garland who has just been in post for a couple of weeks now. CT will be meeting with Thekla this week to discuss land contamination and Scottish Government priorities.

SEPA update

A huge amount of work has been ongoing in relation to groundwater standards, entry of hazardous substances, pollution and impact on status in terms of definitions and risk assessment. It has been a fairly long and painful task as the objective has been to align the approach across various different regimes (e.g. ppc, waste, contaminated land) so that it is consistent, fair and works across all of these regimes. As a result a number of pieces of SEPA guidance (e.g. WAT-PS-10-01 and Water Pollution Arising from Land Containing Chemical Contaminants) have been revised. These will be taken to Scottish Government soon for comment after which they will be consulted upon externally.

There has been a lot of organisational change over the last year and a large focus on better ways to 'go beyond' compliance to bring more land back to beneficial use. Contaminated land now has a team (consisting of CT as the policy officer and 4 contaminated land specialists) which sits within the Planning and Contaminated Land Function and is part of the Circular Economy Directorate.

Defra Soil and Contaminated Land Team

David Middleton (DM) provided an update on behalf of Defra. He confirmed that the Contaminated Land Expert Panel has now been disbanded and all experts have been written to. He wished to convey Defra's thanks for the experts' involvement in the panel. DM confirmed that there is now a new Head of Soils – Sophie Chapman, he is hopeful that Sophie will attend a NBF meeting soon.

DM confirmed that the Asbestos in Soil research project report titled "Determination of typical background concentrations of asbestos in near-surface soils of selected public open space areas of England and Wales to define representative concentrations in areas not expected to be subject to significant contamination" is now with the Deputy Director for sign off. It is hoped that this will be published soon.

DM wanted to make the NBF members aware of a consultation and recently published guidance document:

- Development of an Environmental Principles and Governance Bill – closes 2nd August 2018.
<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/eu/environmental-principles-and-governance/>
- Updated Part 2A Statutory Guidance for Radioactive Contaminated Land was published by BEIS on 22 June 2018
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-guidance-covering-radioactive-contaminated-land>

DM was asked whether he knew why BEIS had deviated from the definition of contaminated land in Environmental Protection Act? DM will make enquiries.

ACTION: DM to enquire with BEIS about their definition of contaminated land.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

Fiona Siequien (FS) was unable to attend but sent the following report.

A new Housing Minister was appointed yesterday, Kit Malthouse. FS confirmed that this doesn't change MHCLG's current commitment to publish the NPPF before summer recess.

Following conversations with colleagues in the Permitted Development Rights and Brownfield Registers teams, they confirmed there aren't any significant updates on these topics.

FS confirmed that as the House of Commons rises for summer recess on Tuesday 24th July, the Planning directorate are busy finalising the revised NPPF (and related documents such as the Government's response to the consultation) for publication following the many thousands of responses that were received to the consultation.

Homes England (HE)

Richard Boyle unfortunately was unable to attend and was unable to provide an update of activities.

Environment Agency (EA)

Angela Haslam (AH) from Environment Agency attended and provided an update of their activities. She confirmed that she had worked with SAGTA to bring together a workshop on 20th April 2018 to discuss the possibility of updating the Guiding Principles. They were delighted in the attendance and had representation from most industry groups (both nuclear and non nuclear) and all developed regulators. SAGTA will provide further update.

AH confirmed that they are currently working on a number of capital works projects from the part 2A 17/18 budget that are coming to reporting stage and are looking at starting projects from the 18/19 budget. AH confirmed that they are in discussions with Defra regarding future funding for Contaminated Land.

AH was asked whether funding for projects may becoming easier following BREXIT as State Aid rules would no longer apply? This has been a problem in the past with government funding projects.

ACTION: AH to discuss with Defra

7) Presentation from Mike Smith on Standards

Mike Smith (MS) provided a presentation on the background to how standards are derived and the process of development. He explained the history of the different committees and how British Standards (BS) committee (BSI TC EH4 Soil Quality) interacts with CEN TC 345 and ISO TC 190 committees. He explained that normally ISO standards are directly adopted as BS unless there is a conflict with existing UK guidance. MS explained that it may seem that there are a lot of new BS recently published but these are primarily updates as part of the BS ISO 18400 series. MS explained that there were still a number of BS still to be published as part of the BS ISO 18400 series, which should be published in July 2018, these are:

- BS ISO 104 – Strategies (FDIS published July 2018)
- BS ISO 202 – Preliminary investigations (FDIS published July 2018)
- ISO 203 - Potentially contaminated sites (FDIS published July 2018)
- BS ISO 205 – Natural, near-natural and agricultural sites etc. (FDIS Published July 2018)
- BS ISO 206 – Sampling for aerobic microbial assessments etc. (will replace BS ISO 10381-6) – FDIS published 2018

MS then explained the new BS in the pipeline are:

- [BS] EN ISO 15175 Soil and groundwater protection
- BS ISO 15176 Re-use of excavated soil
- [BSI] ISO 15799 Ecotoxicological characterization
- [BS] ISO 15800 Human exposure
- [BS] ISO 17924 Human bioaccessibility
- [BS] ISO 19258 Background concentrations
- [BS] ISO 21365 Conceptual site models

MS explained the make up of the BS TC EH4 committee explaining that it has very wide representation but unfortunately these committees are not always that well attended and those people who do attend do not always disseminate to the membership groups that they represent which is unfortunate. He explained that a huge amount of effort goes into moving the development of standards forward as no funding is provided by UK government.

MS explained the process of the development of a standard and encouraged all Land Forum members to provide feedback when requested, because if people do not provide feedback it is assumed that people are happy with the content. MS did highlight that much of the work is not developing new standards but reviewing and updating.

MS then went on to highlight a new standard that is currently being developed BS 10176 – Sampling for VOCs in soil, drafting started in May 2018. MS also explained that BS 10175 is due for review (as part of BS rolling 5 year review programme), at present he has not had an indication from industry that this is needed or wanted. MS finished on explaining that ISOTC 190 themes are mainly focusing on climate change and sustainable use of soils.

LT thanked MS for his presentation and opened the room for a short question and answer session.

Land Forum members had concerns that there were so many standards that it was difficult to keep up with the development. It was felt that industry is overwhelmed by the number of documents. Are they really all needed? It was felt realistically that there were only a few that were used/referenced regularly. Documents are very large, technical and not very accessible because they are prohibitively expensive. Also they go out of date relatively quickly and therefore people have to purchase a new version which again is expensive. It was felt there should be more justification when a new standard is updated.

With technology today, should BS not look to improve accessibility? Could they not look to publish in real time so the latest version is always online, then redrafting updates would

not be such a costly and time consuming business? Other bodies in the US are moving that way.

Could BS set up alerts like government does to flag when changes have been made and what the changes are so people can track more easily. People felt that if British Standards Institute didn't modernise, then there was a risk that industry may start to move away and develop their own standards collectively that were more accessible. Ultimately it was felt that standards are only good if everyone uses them and therefore being more accessible would help with this greatly

NBF requested that MS shares NBF members thoughts. MS agreed to do this and feed back to NBF.

ACTION: MS to feedback NBF thoughts

MS full presentation and list of current standards being worked on is available here:

Presentation: {phocadownload view=file|id=643|target=s}

List of Standards: {phocadownload view=file|id=644|target=s}

8) Update from Industry Groups

AGS

Vivien Dent (VD) provided the update on behalf of AGS. She confirmed that the AGS is currently working on updating several documents including:

- Asbestos Guidance
- Loss Prevention Guidance
- AGS Guidelines to Good Practice in Geo-environmental Ground Investigation – taking into consideration the recent court judgment about trial pitting being considered working at height
- Guidance on the description of Made Ground

VD explained that AGS are continuing to work closely with British Drilling Association. She also confirmed that the e-newsletter to their members has been well received and their next conference "Ground Risk Seminar for Geoenvironmental and Geotechnical practitioners" will be held on 12th September in London.

SiLC

Paul Burden (PB) provided a SiLC update. He confirmed that they have recently launched the SiLC affiliate scheme which is aimed at the younger professionals. They are working with the professional institutions that make up SiLC to provide advisors. The scheme will assist/encourage younger professionals to become chartered and then show the route to becoming a SiLC/SQP. PB confirmed that SiLC has also reinvigorated their marketing subgroup, who are now coming up with new ideas and will be prioritizing these including how to promote the NQMS.

SiLC is running two introduction days in London and Manchester before the summer break which is really positive as Manchester is already sold out. SiLC also responded to the NPPF consultation.

NHBC

Lisa Hathway (LH) gave a short update on behalf of NHBC. She confirmed that the CEO has now been in post for 12 months and much has changed through the organisation.

The number of new claims has been generally reducing since the end of 2012, as the number of homes in the later years of cover reduced. NHBC are expecting the underlying trend of low claims volumes to continue through 2018.

NHBC Initiatives

NHBC has been running their Pride in the Job 2018 awards and they announced 451 Quality Award winning site managers in this years' Pride in the Job competition.

In addition NHBC has been running their Health and Safety awards 2018, and on 6th July celebrated the winners .

SoBRA

Alex Lee (AL) provided an update on behalf of SoBRA. He confirmed that SoBRA is pressing ahead with applying for their charitable status. They have also changed their accreditation procedure and will announce two windows per year fixing the dates. They have had some additional administration burden with their first appeal process in relation to a failed accreditation and due to GDPR compliance. AL confirmed that at each accreditation sitting a few fail each time.

The Vapour Intrusion sub group is up and running and aiming to produce concise guidance via a series of briefing notes. The Asbestos sub group's progress is being inhibited due to lack of forthcoming data sets so they are going to be pushing to try and collect more data so they can move forward with their work plan.

SoBRA had an extremely successful Summer Workshop on June 18th on Controlled Waters with over 130 people attending. The only restriction on numbers was due to venue size. The feedback from the event was extremely positive. The early careers workshop in partnership with GeolSoc and RemSoc on 19th June 2018 was also well attended. It was felt that attendees could benefit from short succinct papers eg top tips, so SoBRA are going to endeavour to produce some, such as Top Tips in Gas Risk Assessment etc.

SoBRA has recently published the Landfill Gas guidance from the 2016 conference. They intend to have a stand at Contam Expo (12th – 13th September 2018) and are supporting the Remediate Conference in Belfast (19th -20th September 2018). They are also currently planning their Christmas conference with the Royal Society of Chemistry on 5th December.

AL confirmed that representatives of SoBRA are sitting on BSI Soil Quality Working Group, NQMS Steering Group and Land Forum.

Finally, AL confirmed that SoBRA are now looking to the longer term future. With the success of SoBRA and its deliverables, they have or are delivering on the easier aspects of risk assessment but now need to look to the future. What now needs to be worked on and delivered? The harder aspects may require additional research, but how does this get funded. SoBRA are now looking at options.

EPUK

David Rudland (DR) introduced himself as the chairman EP UK Land Quality Policy Committee that comprises representatives from local authorities, universities and private consultants. DR confirmed that EPUK commented on the recently issued revised NPPF, supporting brownfield first and participate on the BSI committees.

DR confirmed that on 11th November 2018 they will be hosting their annual conference in Birmingham titled "Celebrating 120 years of Environmental Protection: facing Today's Challenges and Securing a Healthy Future Environment" which will have sessions on land, air and noise. Further details are available here:

<http://www.environmental-protection.org.uk/events/epuk-events/>

On the 10th September they will be celebrating EPUKs 120th year anniversary at the Guild Hall with a reception.

GEOL SOC

Paul Nathanail confirmed that the Geological Society contaminated land special interest group recently supported the early careers event on 19th June. In addition, the Geological

Society is hosting a land contamination conference on 26th July in Manchester. PN asked NH to circulate details to NBF members.

ACTION: NH to circulate conference details to NBF members

RICS

Fiona Mannix (FM) introduced herself and explained that she works directly for RICS and is responsible for the production of RICS standards and guidance. FM explained that RICS has been working on guidance on Natural Capital and the role of surveyors. In addition they have produced a Natural Capital Planning Tool. Further details are available:

RICS most recent publication on Natural Capital:

<http://www.rics.org/uk/knowledge/research/insights/value-of-natural-capital-the-need-for-chartered-surveyors/>

Natural Capital Planning Tool:

<http://www.rics.org/uk/knowledge/research/research-reports/natural-capital-tool-planning-/>

Placemaking and Value:

<https://www.rics.org/uk/knowledge/professional-guidance/information-papers/placemaking-and-value-1st-edition/>

FM also announced that RICS has recently issued for consultation guidance on Environmental Risks and Global Real Estate. FM welcomed feedback from members of NBF on this new guidance but when reviewing to remember it is aimed at the surveyor who may not have detailed environmental expertise including the valuer. This guidance replaces their contaminated land guidance.

The consultation on Environmental Risks and Global Real Estate is available here:

<https://consultations.rics.org/consult.ti/environmentalrisks/consultationHome>

FM felt that the NBF members would also be interested in the Land Journal that they publish, there is cross over with many general subjects that are discussed by NBF members and shows the breadth of RICS "Land" Sector. Their most recent Land Journal is freely available to download.

<http://www.rics.org/uk/news/journals/land-journal/land-journal-julyaugust-2018/>

EIC

Jane Thrasher (JT) provided an update on behalf of EIC. She confirmed that EIC's contaminated land working group met recently, where they had a presentation from Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE). There was a lot of synergy between CPRE's campaign to develop previously developed land first and EIC's campaign on Brownfield First. JT explained that the contaminated land subgroup is calling for the need to properly assess brownfield land and explain why better funding routes are needed to develop this land as apposed to greenfield. JT explained that EIC are also looking to hold meetings for their members around the country and will be starting in Scotland in the Autumn.

Home Builders Federation (HBF)

Peter Witherington sent an update on behalf of HBF. He confirmed they responded to the NPPF consultation and that they have their annual technical conference 12th September where Lucy Thomas has been invited to present on NQMS & reuse of soil. In addition, HBF has set up a contaminated land and tall buildings sub group in addition to existing sub-groups such as the one on waste. Minutes of the sub-groups can be found on the HBF

website. The contaminated land group is looking to make key guidance easier to locate and considering options in this regard.

SAGTA

Frank Evans (FE) provided an update on behalf of SAGTA on their current activities. FE explained about the Collaborative Workshop - Guiding Principles for Land Contamination: Lessons and Approaches for a Second Generation and Beyond. This workshop was in collaboration with Environment Agency. It was well received with good attendance from across industry.

There was a series of presentations and discussion on what was actually needed going forward, remembering the original Guiding Principles didn't not cover planning and were only focussed on EA roles and responsibilities.

In conclusion, there was definitely a good level of support to work collaboratively, but it was also acknowledged that whatever needs to be developed is likely to be in kind support as there was no significant funding available. What needs to be developed needs to be easy to update and keep live. Therefore it was felt that perhaps an interactive road/mind map building on work produced internally by National Grid and linking to CL:AIRE's Water & Land Library for actual references could be the easiest win. Each industry group then takes ownership to keep their section updated with relevant guidance. Further clarification of how this could work is still to be developed.

FE was asked whether SAGTA will make the presentations available. FE will enquire.

ACTION: FE to make enquiries when/if the presentations would be available.

SAGTA's collaborative industry project to develop C4SLs is progressing well with batch one substance proformas TCE, PCE, Vinyl Chloride and Naphthalene have all been reviewed by Public Health England (PHE). Batch 2 substance proformas for cis 1,2 DCE, trans 1,2 DCE, 1,2- DCA and 1,1,1 Trichloroethane have been prepared and are being reviewed by the T1 toxicologists prior to submission to PHE. Batch 3 substances has started with the review of references to start to populate the proforma. It is hoped the first two draft reports for Vinyl Chloride and TCE will be with them for review and a steering group meeting set in September.

Currently the team has lost one T2 member from the project but fortunately others have been willing to step in and take their workload.

SAGTA would like to acknowledge the huge effort that the team is making in progressing this progress, much in people's own time.

CL:AIRE

NH provided an update on behalf of CL:AIRE. She confirmed the following activities CL:AIRE was undertaking.

Definition of Waste Code of Practice (DoW CoP)

Version 3 Draft remains with the EA & NRW legal teams. CL:AIRE still does not have a time frame for publication. CL:AIRE is currently looking at raising standards of existing Qualified Persons including the introduction of disciplinary procedures. NH confirmed that the disciplinary procedures have now had to be used twice. We will look to summarise the general findings from the disciplinaries to help others not make the same mistakes. NH has requested that all queries/questions relating to the DOWCoP should be raised through the CL:AIRE Help Desk so we can capture the information and improve the FAQ section on the website.

CL:AIRE is developing good practice examples of documents such as verification plans to try and raise standards of quality of submissions so would welcome examples from NBF members to use with sensitive information removed.

ACTION: ALL NBF members to make enquiries for report examples.

Statistics Guidance

Guidance on Comparing Soil Contamination Data with a Critical Concentration is moving forward. A further draft document was circulated. It was hoped that this version was near completion but steering group members are still in disagreement with some sections.

Asbestos in Soil

CL:AIRE continues to work on the code of practice elements not covered by other guidance such as waste and transport. The Asbestos Awareness for soil as an elearning module is proving popular along with the Non Licensed Work Training for Land Professionals and CAR-SOIL training. CAR-SOIL awareness is continuing to grow with downloads >18,000 times.

Asbestos in soil research report is with Defra ready for publication.

SuRF-UK

SuRF-UK steering group is now moving forward working on a number of peer reviewed publications and industry journals to raise the awareness of SuRF-UK products. It has now started on the development of an animation.

International SuRFs

CL:AIRE continues to support SuRF international where three times a year the different foras have a teleconference to share activities. SuRF Brazil is supporting the next SustRem 2018 conference.

C4SL

CL:AIRE is project managing the C4SL project on behalf of SAGTA. See SAGTA report for details.

Bulletins

CL:AIRE continues to publish bulletins, the latest was in March 2018 where the SEREBAR project was revisited. A number of bulletins are scheduled to be published in the Autumn.

Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Pollution Advisory Group (YALPAG)

Julia Reynolds (JR) provided an update on behalf of YALPAG. She confirmed that they are feeding into a questionnaire to get feedback from local authorities on the NQMS declarations. In addition, YALPAG are receiving training on ground gas following their recent publication.

YALPAG members are represented on BSI Consultation Group, NQMS Steering Group, Land Forum and C4SL Steering Group.

Staffordshire Contaminated Land Working Gp

Hallan Sandbrooke (HS) confirmed that at present the Staffordshire Contaminated Land Working Group did not have any specific updates to share with the NBF.

Lancashire Contaminated Land Officer Group (CLOG)

Mark Edwards (ME) was unable to attend and no report was provided.

Welsh Contaminated Land Working Group (WCLWG)

Rachel Davies (RD) joined by phone, she is the new Chair of WCLWG for 2018. She confirmed that the local authorities continue to work on their sites that received funding from Welsh government.

- 9) **National Quality Mark Scheme for Management of Land Contamination (NQMS)**

Seamus Lefroy-Brooks (SLB) provided an update on the NQMS. He confirmed that over 90 SQPs are now on the register and > 40 declarations have been purchased. SLB confirmed that the EA are seeking feedback from their staff on the declarations that they may have seen. The NQMS steering group has been working on the development of a feedback template that will be made available/circulated to local authorities through the CL:AIRE website, asking for details on the declarations that they may have seen. The steering group continues to raise awareness of the scheme through presentations at events and publication in industry journals. CL:AIRE regularly asks SQPs for feedback on the scheme and whether they have received feedback from regulators. There is still limited feedback but there is definitely some more positive feedback starting to be received.

10) Natural Capital/Land Stewardship Working Group

Unfortunately, Paul Sheehan (PS) was unable to attend the NBF so no update was available.

11) AOB

PN raised concerns that with BREXIT Defra is missing an opportunity to market UK expertise in land contamination management. The UK are world leaders in this area but they do not appear to be showcasing it as they feel other departments should lead on this, however this is not occurring. It is disappointing that Defra does not seem to want to attend international events such as the meeting of International Committee on Contaminated Land (ICCL) where regulators across the world gather every two years, which would allow the UK to showcase and share its expertise. They disappointingly do not seem to be even attending Common Forum meetings (European forum for contaminated land regulators). Other countries such as the Dutch and Belgian's are actively marketing their expertise across the globe in countries such as China, Brazil and India.

PN shared that he has been commissioned by CIEH to update their Professional Practice guide on bioavailability.

There was no further business.

12) Date and location of next meeting

NH confirmed the next meeting will be held on 20th November 2018 at National Grid's office, The Strand, Central London.