

# National Brownfield Forum

Meeting Notes

4<sup>th</sup> July 2019, 11.00am – 4.00pm

Location: WSP House, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1AF



## FINAL

### Present:

Lucy Thomas	Chair
Nicola Harries ( <i>Secretariat</i> )	CL:AIRE
Paul Nathanail	Geological Society & Deputy Chair
Angela Haslam	Environment Agency (EA)
Ben Million & Malaika Babar	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG)
Richard Puttock	Environmental Industries Commission (EIC)
Frank Evans	Soil and Groundwater Technology Association (SAGTA)
Robin Lancefield	Environmental Protection UK
Seamus Lefroy Brooks	Chair of NQMS Steering Group
Richard Boyle	Homes England
Lisa Hathway	National House Building Council (NHBC)
Alex Lee	Society of Brownfield Risk Assessment (SoBRA)
Rob Ivens	Mole Valley Council
Paul Sheehan	Chair of Land Stewardship/Natural Capital Working Group (morning only)

### By telephone:

Matthew Llewellyn & Trystan James	Natural Resources Wales
Stella Keenan	Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Pollution Advisory Group (YALPAG)

### Corresponding Members:

Fiona Mannix	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) (corresponding)
Julia Thrift	Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA)
Philip Ridley	Planning Officers Society
Euan Hall	Land Trust

### Apologies:

Vivien Dent	Association of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Specialists (AGS)
Mark Edwards	Lancaster City Council
Caroline Thornton	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
Emma Tattersdill	UK Environmental Law Association (UKELA)
Paul Burden	Specialist in Land Condition (SiLC)
David Middleton	DEFRA Soils Team
Andrew Williams	Welsh Government
Hallan Sambrooke	Newcastle under Lyme Council, Staffordshire Contaminated Land Working Group
Rachael Davies	Flintshire Council & Welsh Contaminated Land Working Group

Theresa Kearney

Department of Agriculture, Environment and  
Rural Affairs and the Northern Ireland  
Environment Agency (NIEA)  
Wiltshire Council  
Home Builders Federation (HBF)

Steve Manning  
Peter Witherington

## Agenda

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Introductions of represented organisations
3. Review of previous minutes & actions
4. Update from Government Departments and Environment Agencies
5. Standards Update
6. Brief Roundtable Update from Industry Groups
7. Sub Groups Update
8. Land Development Guidance Road Map
9. Feedback on where we want to focus our efforts going forwards
10. AOB
11. 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 of 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. Defra Update (July 2018 meeting)  
David Middleton (DM) to enquire with BEIS about their definition of contaminated land.  
**ACTION: DM to follow up with BEIS and report back to NBF.**
  - b. EA Update (July 2018 meeting)  
Angela Haslam (AH) to discuss with Defra about funding for Part 2A work and whether funding for projects may become easier following BREXIT as state aid rules would no longer apply.  
**ACTION: AH to follow up with Defra**
  - c. EPUK (March 2019 meeting)  
**ACTION: DR to feedback NBF's suggestion about creating the developing on former petrol station sites guidance in a format that could be replicated for other land uses.**

#### 4) Update from Government Departments and Environment Agencies

##### Welsh Government (WG)

Andrew Williams was unable to attend the NBF but provided an update on behalf of Welsh Government. He confirmed that the remediation of several residential properties on Anglesey is now complete. WG funded the Part 2A investigation during 2017/18, and following a request for financial support from the Council (and in the absence of a dedicated fund the following financial year) Welsh Ministers approved an ex gratia payment of around 60% towards remediation costs.

He confirmed that there are no current plans to develop a fund to support Part 2a work in Wales, and we aren't working on any projects that are advanced enough to share with the forum at the current time.

##### Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Matthew Llewellyn (ML) and Trystan James (TJ) provided the update on behalf of NRW.

ML confirmed that the restructuring within NRW is now complete with many people have moved roles. A number of BREXIT posts have also been formed. NRW are also currently working through the Land Contamination Risk Management (LCRM) web pages to provide comment back to the EA.

NRW have recently announced that they are starting to charge for pre-application advice after 2 hours rather than the previous 15 hours. In addition, NRW have been dealing with two significant pollution incidents at fuel storage depots.

TJ confirmed that NRW are working collaboratively with British Geological Survey regarding a remote sensing research project to gather information on contaminated sites. Currently they are concentrating on metal mines.

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

Theresa Kearney was unable to attend in person and unfortunately did not send a report.

##### Scottish Government (SG) & Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

Caroline Thornton (CT) was unable to attend in person and unfortunately did not send a report.

##### Defra Soil and Contaminated Land Team

David Middleton (DM) was unable to attend in person but offered to have a teleconference with NH and LT.

**ACTION: NH to arrange a teleconference with DM.**

##### Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

Ben Million (BM) provided an update on behalf of MHCLG. He confirmed that unfortunately due to BREXIT and ministerial changes there has been very little progress in relation to the Planning Practice Guidance for Land Affected by Contamination. This is still awaiting ministerial sign off. He confirmed that the draft version references the National Quality Mark Scheme for Land Contamination (NQMS). It is hoped that the draft version will be signed off in the Autumn.

BM was asked whether a small group of National Brownfield Forum (NBF) members could be able to review the draft before publication to assist MHCLG, in case there were any errors which could be flagged prior to publication? BM confirmed that government doesn't

consult on guidance. NBF members acknowledged that, but were offering to provide a review in a short time frame from experts who work in the land contamination field. BM agreed to discuss with his managers but also confirmed that guidance can be changed relatively quickly if errors were found.

**ACTION: BM to discuss with his managers about releasing a draft version of guidance for NBF members review.**

**POST MEETING NOTE:**

MHCLG published a number of their updated Planning Practice Guidance on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 including the “Land Affected by Contamination” which now references the NQMS.

Environment Agency (EA)

Angela Haslam (AH) from Environment Agency (EA) attended and provided an update of their activities. She confirmed that they have launched the “Land Contamination Risk Management (LCRM)” web pages that are to replace CLR11 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/land-contamination-how-to-manage-the-risks>. She confirmed that so far most feedback has been positive. But she would encourage everyone in the land contamination community to review the pages and identify if anything is missing. The EA are looking for feedback for a six month period, after which CLR11 will be officially withdrawn. The copy on CL:AIRE’s WALL will also be marked as withdrawn but will remain on the WALL for information and for historical accuracy.

AH confirmed that she has communicated with SEPA, EA NI and NRW who are all reviewing and feeding back. It will be up to the devolved administrations if they signpost to the web pages.

AH was asked why there seemed such an emphasis on the remediation stage, and under emphasis on characterization/site investigation phase which is not compatible with NPPF? It was felt that the UK typically carries out more site characterization and risk assessment rather than remediation. AH didn’t think that this was intentional and encouraged NBF members to feed this back.

AH confirmed that the EA has included reference to the NQMS in the LCRM guidance in the reporting requirements section and members that companies are now instructed to use a competent person such as NQMS SQP. It was acknowledged that the messaging was now a lot stronger.

**ACTION: All NBF members to ask their organisations to review the new LCRM web pages and provide feedback if things are missing.**

AH also confirmed that they are now looking to publish guidance on land contamination remediation – environmental permitting requirements on GOV.UK. This is to make things clearer when people need permits for various remediation techniques and what they have to do to comply. This will not be consulted on as information hasn’t changed, it is just to make things clearer and accessible.

AH confirmed that the EA has recently carried out a drone survey of an old acid tar lagoon. This was extremely successful and helped visual the extent of the problem whilst protecting workers.

Homes England (HE)

Richard Boyle provided an update on behalf of Homes England.

The latest annual housing statistics (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/housing-statistics>) published in June, show a significant increase in the number of affordable homes built in England and the highest levels of starts for nine years. Between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019, programmes managed by Homes England started building 45,692 new homes on site and completed a total of 40,289 homes. These are the highest levels of completions for four years.

Three of Homes England's deals were shortlisted at the Property Week RESI Awards for Deal of the Year – the £75 million Home Building Fund Loan to St Modwen, the £78 million Home Building Fund loan to fund 1,500 new homes at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and the acquisition of Burgess Hill, West Sussex. The winner was Burgess Hill, which is Homes England's biggest ever land investment which will enable the delivery of 3,500 homes across the 494 acre Northern Arc site in Burgess Hill. We brokered deals with 11 separate landowners to secure the site and contracted within 4 months.

Homes England also won 'Deal of the Year' award at the Midlands Insider Residential Property Awards for the 2022 Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village in Perry Barr. The award was won jointly with Savills, Birmingham City Council, Birmingham City University and the Education Funding Agency. The major regeneration of the former Birmingham City University campus will include the creation of high density residential development housing for up to 6,500 athletes and officials during the multi-sport festival. It will also feature a running track and green spaces just a short distance from Alexander Stadium where the track and field events will take place. Once the Commonwealth Games is finished, the site will be converted into a mixed-use scheme with approximately 1,400 new homes, including social, affordable, private rental and private sale. The future development will also feature a care village for over 55s and a community centre.

In May, Homes England announced a £30 million deal to help bring Sekisui House (Japan's biggest housebuilder) into the UK housing market, bringing with them their skills in modular, sustainable and fast-paced construction. The deal creates a partnership between Sekisui House, and Urban Splash, a UK-based Small to Medium Enterprise (SME). The partnership has been made possible by investment from the Home Building Fund (HBF), which is administered by Homes England and will provide equity and debt funding to help get the partnership off the ground. As well as being an innovator in modern methods of construction (MMC), Sekisui House also has sustainability as a core corporate target and is now the global leader in the construction of net-zero-energy homes, with more than 35,000 of them built since 2013.

NBF members discussed about the longevity/lifespan of MMC buildings and whether NHBC warranties would be available? What happens to the house when it comes to the end of its life, what parts are recyclable, have studies been undertaken with regards to waste versus circular economy? RB stated that MMC not only has a build rate much faster than traditional methods of construction, but it has consistent levels of quality as many elements, or even the entirety, of the house is pre-fabricated offsite under controlled factory conditions.

Homes England has acquired 250 acres of the 605 acre site, known as Fairham, and will support all aspects of the delivery to accelerate the creation of a high quality and diverse community. The deal sees Homes England working with other land owners CWC and local authority Rushcliffe Borough Council, to deliver 3,000 homes and 100,000 square metres of employment space – equivalent to more than a dozen football pitches – over the next ten years. The site has a gross development value of £825 million.

In May, the British Business Bank's ENABLE Build programme began accepting applications from lenders. The programme, which was included in Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond MP's Autumn Budget 2018, will make available up to £1bn of guarantees to support lending to smaller housebuilders, via specialist and high street banks. Provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

(MHCLG), ENABLE Build is a new variant of the Bank's existing ENABLE Guarantee programme. This backing for ENABLE Build will allow the Bank to expand further its support to banks targeting the housebuilding sector. It follows three previous British Business Bank transactions that guarantee portfolios of lending to smaller housebuilders to promote further growth in the UK's housing stock. British Business Bank will deliver the new programme alongside Homes England.

The first Housing Delivery Fund deals to accelerate delivery of new homes were announced last week at the CIH Conference last week. The Housing Delivery Fund by Homes England and Barclays have agreed funding worth more than £150 million to accelerate delivery of 660 new homes in Wimbledon and Southampton.

#### 5) Standards Update

Mike Smith sent an update of current standards that are being updated or have recently been published which Nicola Harries shared with NBF members. She summarised his report.

A more detailed summary is available here:

<https://www.claire.co.uk/land-forum-2019?download=699:nbf-standards-july-2019>

There was discussion about whether RemSoc was aware of the AFNOR led project "Selection of Remedial and Protective Measures". NH confirmed that she believed they were but would reconfirm.

**ACTION: NH to confirm that RemSoc were aware of AFNOR led project.**

Paul Nathanail (PN) confirmed that he and Paul Bardos have been contacted about being involved in the project in relation to sustainability.

Members of NBF still have concerns about the number of standards that are being produced and whether they were all needed. Members felt that it was very hard to keep a breast of them.

PN confirmed that he was planning on delivering a webinar highlighting the most relevant standards that affect the land contamination community. He has been liaising with Jessie Matthew of BSI.

#### 6) Update from Industry Groups

##### **AGS**

Vivien Dent provided an update on behalf of AGS.

A number of safety guidance documents are currently under final review and will be published during 2019. These include guidance on working on rail infrastructure and H&S risk assessment for ground investigation.

The AGS Guide to asbestos is still under review and is likely to be split into 3 smaller documents.

A reminder that the AGS has a Legal Helpline and Chemical Safety Helpline. There have been no calls to these helplines since the last meeting.

The CLWG will be looking at the EA's 'Land Contamination Risk management' - new EA web pages at their next meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> July at Geotechnica.

It was noted in the CLWG meeting that the United Kingdom Accreditation Service is proposing to establish a project to develop accreditation for ISO 17020:2012 for the surveying of contaminated land for the presence of asbestos and are inviting expressions of interest from organisations that wish to seek accreditation for this project. The deadline for expressing interest is the 5<sup>th</sup> July.

Seminars:

AGS Commercial risks & how to manage them – Wednesday 3rd July 2019  
AGS Safety Conference – Thursday 21st November 2019

### **NHBC**

Lisa Hathway provided an update on behalf of NHBC.

- NHBC's Chief Operating Officer – Neil Jefferson, will be leaving NHBC at the beginning of 2020 to take up a new position as MD of the Home Builders Federation (HBF).
- NHBC Ground Gas Guidance is currently under review and NHBC hope to have an update towards the end of this year/early 2020. A definitive date and details of updates will be confirmed in due course.

### **YALPAG**

Stella Keenan (Leeds City Council) provided an update on behalf of YALPAG. She confirmed:

- Land Technical Group meet twice a year. There are also 3 sub regional groups.
  - Training and awareness raising events are continuing to be organised currently focussing on controlled waters
  - Benchmarking across YALPAG LAs continues
  - YALPAG publications on planning, verification of gas protection and clean cover guidance, with 45, 35 and 35 LAs signed up respectively, continue to be updated regularly

For the Clean Cover Guidance, Paul Nathanail (PN) asked if YALPAG would amend the signpost of Environment Engineer and use the language used in the NPPF of a suitably qualified and competent person. Stella Keenan (SK) agreed to forward PN's comment. She confirmed the guidance is reviewed every three years and is due a review in late 2020.

**ACTION: SK to forward PN's query.**

### **EPUK**

Robin Lancefield – Land Quality Committee provided an update on behalf of EPUK.

The Land Quality Committee last met in March 2019, but since, on-line discussions have continued.

Work has continued on the proposed guide for petrol forecourts, but as this is volunteer led it is of course reliant on "spare time" inputs. A partial draft has been circulated with some assignation of tasks.

EPUK has responded to Government setting out 12 asks for the Government's proposed Environment Bill. Much of this concerns immediate issues for air quality but also supports

the formation of a robust overseeing environmental body with effective independent powers.

EPUK's Christopher Fry was invited to speak to the Staffordshire Contaminated Land Working Group which met on the 12th June in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

The EPUK 2019 Annual Conference will be held on Wednesday 13 November, University of Birmingham, entitled "*Delivering a better environment for the UK? – challenges for a new and effective environmental framework*".

## **UKELA**

Emma Tattersdill sent an update on behalf of UKELA. She confirmed:

### **Brexit Activities**

Despite the uncertainty as to when Brexit may occur, UKELA's Brexit-related work has continued through the work of the Brexit Task Force and UKELA's specialist working parties.

Since providing detailed submissions to the government's Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs Committee /Environmental Audit Committee joint committee inquiry at the beginning of the year the following work has been carried out:

- Regular attendance at government stakeholder meetings by Brexit Task Force members, with particular focus on the work in England (e.g. how to develop the proposed Office for Environmental Protection).
- Conference on 2 May 2019 at Edinburgh University focusing on the Scottish government consultation relating to environmental principles and governance (EPG).
- Submission of detailed responses to the Scottish government's EPG consultation by the Scottish working party on 11 May 2019.
- Roundtable meeting in Cardiff co-ordinated by the Wales working party on 14 May 2019 in order to inform and develop responses to the Welsh government consultation on EPG.
- Finalising responses to the Welsh government's consultation by the Wales working party.

The work of the Brexit Task Force and the working parties will continue over the summer and is likely to intensify once again when a date for Brexit is finalised.

### **Conference**

UKELA's annual conference took place 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Further details will be provided at the next meeting.

### **Consultations**

UKELA land contamination working party is in the process of collating its members' feedback, to be provided to the EA, on the recent update to CLR11. Once finalised and submitted, a copy will be available via UKELA's website.

### **Future events**

Members of the Forum may be interested in a seminar to be held by the East regional group in Cambridge on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2109. It is a contaminated land update, hosted with barristers from 39 Essex Street.



The event will provide:

- A general overview of the topic and key recent developments, for example case law on the relationship between remediation requirements and insolvency law developments under Part IIA, and other relevant statutory regimes.
- The vital relationship between planning law and contaminated land – the use of conditions and section 106 obligations to secure remediation, and how contamination is treated as part of the local plan process and under the EIA regime, and the use of brownfield registers.
- The underlying common law – recent cases on Japanese knotweed, and the potential liability of developers, consultants and landlords.

The event is open to members and non-members. It is free to attend but places should be booked via the UKELA website.

### **CL:AIRE**

Nicola Harries provided an update on behalf of CL:AIRE.

#### **Events & training**

- CL:AIRE's 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary event is scheduled 14<sup>th</sup> November at 1 great George Street, London. Registration is open and early bird rate closes 14<sup>th</sup> July 2019. Two parallel sessions: One focusing on technology and innovation in SI & remediation, the other on sustainable soil reuse and the DoWCoP.
- Continuing with training – classroom & elearning in wide variety of subjects – verification of gas protection systems training, CAR-SOIL, Non Licensed Work Training for Land Professionals and Groundworkers, Asbestos Awareness, DoWCoP.

#### **Projects & Initiatives**

##### **DoWCoP**

CL:AIRE has a new employee to principally carry out auditing and the wider development of the DoWCoP.

Reported to industry on the key findings of the recent audit of projects. This is helping us to develop further strategies to support the DoWCoP.

QP Assessment needed to be undertaken to stay on the register up until 30<sup>th</sup> June. A number of people have not complied so will automatically not be shown on the current register.

##### **NQMS**

CL:AIRE continuing to administer the NQMS, further update provided by Seamus Lefroy Brookes – Steering group chair.

##### **SURF-UK & SuRF-International**

SuRF-UK recently launched an animation explaining what sustainable remediation is and it has been extremely well received. It now has subtitles translated into 15 different languages.

SuRF-UK are also currently updating the indicator set in annex A to the framework document following a public consultation. It is aiming to publish in the Autumn 2019.

##### **UPDATING GUIDANCE ON COMPARING SOIL CONTAMINATION DATA WITH A CRITICAL CONCENTRATION**

The final draft of the guidance has stalled as the chair of the working group has been unable to move the work forward due to other work commitments. Nicola Harries is regularly chasing.

## **VERIFICATION OF GAS PROTECTION PROPOSED ACCREDITATION SCHEME**

The outline explanatory document of a proposed verification scheme was prepared and has been shared as part of a public consultation. A series of questions about the scheme, and whether people supported or didn't support were asked. CL:AIRE is currently reviewing the full set of responses and will be discussing things further with the working group.

## **CATEGORY 4 SCREENING LEVELS**

This project is moving forward well, all five batches are now being worked on and are in different stages of review and completion. Two reports have been completed and sent to steering group for sign off.

## **MNA Guidance**

CL:AIRE is working with the EA at updating their MNA guidance. This project has just started. It is expecting to update and not be a wholesale rewrite as much is still fit for purpose.

## **Publications**

A Technical Bulletin on Natural Source Zone Depletion (NSZD) was published in early June and has proved to be extremely popular.

14 INSPIRATION Project bulletins are currently being reviewed by the TRG. The EU-funded INSPIRATION training network on the theme of sustainable agriculture was launched in 2016 and ends in early 2020 ([www.inspirationitn.eu](http://www.inspirationitn.eu)).

TRG are also reviewing and feeding back on a number of other bulletins.

## **SiLC**

Paul Nathanail provided an update on behalf of SiLC. He confirmed:

SiLC's affiliate scheme for aspiring SiLCs was the subject of a webinar in June where Roger Clarke presented how the scheme works and how it dovetails with the process of becoming chartered.

SiLC's annual forum, held in March, was another successful event. A wide range of topics, representing SiLCs overarching role in professional matters, were discussed:

- Part 2A – Where are we and where are we going?
- Definition of Waste Code of Practice: 10 Year Review;
- Emerging Challenges with New and Old Contaminants;
- What We Still Don't Know About Asbestos;
- Excavation Soils, Re-use and Recovery, New Tax Implications;
- Challenges of Growing A Smaller Company

Registrations of SiLCs continue to grow, and more SiLCs are becoming NQMS SQPs – 99 at the last count. SiLC has also put in place a governance model to ensure sustainability in the running of SiLC.

Further details about the SiLC Register are at <https://www.silc.org.uk/>.

## **EIC**

Richard Puttock provided a verbal update on behalf of EIC.

## **GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Paul Nathanail provided an update on behalf of the Geological Society. He confirmed that the Geological Society's full range of activities and groups, including how to become a Chartered Geologist or Chartered Scientist, is available from <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk>

The Geological Society recognises that geoscientists are at the forefront of efforts to develop the conceptual site models that robust and defensible contaminated land risk assessments depend on, and makes the Geological Society the natural home for those specialising in this sector.

The Society has a number of specialist groups relevant to the Forum and also has a regional group structure with a health programme of conferences and field trips. The Contaminated Land Group has co hosted two conferences recently: *Hydrogeology of Superficial Deposits* and *The Engineering Geology of Contaminated Land*. Thematic issues based on both events are being considered for the *Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology*.

The Group is running a field workshop on 21 September at the Fakenham Gas Museum to mark the Society's year of Carbon – details will be published on the Group's JISCMail forum (<https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=CONTAMINATED-LAND-STRATEGIES>). The event will explore the characteristics of gas works at a superbly preserved example, the history of gas works and their redevelopment, modern methods of chemical analysis of gasworks contaminants and a recent high profile case study of a former gas works. Fakenham gas museum is unique in being a preserved gas works where all the features of manufacturing gas from coal are preserved.

The Group's next conference is being held in Birmingham on 6 November and the theme is "NAPL in the UK CONTEXT, does it matter?" (<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/CLG-NAPL>) Guidance for geoscientists wishing to become Chartered are available from <https://tinyurl.com/y3ach8cr>

Further details about the Contaminated Land Group are at: <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/contamland>

### **SoBRA**

Alex Lee provided an update of activities on behalf of SoBRA. He confirmed:

### **NAPL Working Group**

This group is now established with agreed Head of Terms. A number of deliverables have been agreed and assigned. The first product is to be an effective solubility calculator with guidance by the time of the Geology Society October Conference

### **Vapour Working Group**

Soils vapour testing paper is pending with imminent delivery. CSM vapour paper is currently in draft.

### **Acute GACs Report**

This report presents a methodology for derivation of AGAC that risk assessors may choose to use to help in the assessment of acute health risks from short-term exposure to contaminants in soil. In the UK, the assessment of risks to humans from land contamination has traditionally tended to focus on chronic exposure scenarios. However, focusing on chronic exposure may not always be protective of potential acute exposure scenarios, especially in non-residential settings, and/or if statistical methods are used to interpret site soil data. The report was developed to address the absence of such guidance in order to support risk assessment practitioners and promote awareness within the contaminated land sector.

### **Fine Tuning DQRAs for the Water Environment**

This report presents the outcomes of the 2018 summer workshop. It covers the common pitfalls in delivery of cw-DQRAs, when to use biodegradation in cw-DQRA, when to use the API calculator and key issues associated with uncertainty and sensitivity analysis.

### **Technical Panel**

The technical panel are currently reviewing the draft of the very recently released BS 10176 Taking soil samples for the determination of VOCs – specification.

### **Early Careers Risk Assessment workshop**

The workshop was hosted jointly with RemSoc aimed at early career professionals looking to develop their understanding of brownfield risk assessment. It included presentations on human health risk assessment, controlled waters, ground gas and vapour intrusion. Potential further top tips document for early careers discussed.

### **Accreditation**

Second window soon to be advertised.

### **Home Builders Federation (HBF)**

Kieran Walker now runs the technical groups at HBF. A meeting was held on 17/05/19 of the land contamination sub-group. The key points were:

1. The land contamination subgroup has collated a list of the key documents in regards to land contamination for reference by their members. This would in the future link to the Land Development Guidance Road Map, see below under SAGTA.
2. The HBF is keen to increase competency of workforce both by promoting NQMS and also including competency measures for other skills including gas verification.
3. The HBF is keen to promote the use of new technologies where it adds value such as UAVs for surveying.

### **SAGTA**

Frank Evans provided an update on behalf of SAGTA on their current activities. He confirmed:

### **C4SL project**

The C4SL project Steering Group are in the process of reviewing the proposed latest versions of C4SL draft reports for C4SLs for Trichloroethene (TCE) and Vinyl Chloride. The project continues with the efforts and goodwill by all parties.

### **Land Development Guidance Road Map**

SAGTA interest remains strong in how this may be moved on following the initial EA/SAGTA workshop on the Guiding Principles and further consideration of a possible way forward via the NBF. In SAGTA's view this is considered even more relevant in light of new [.GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) guidance on how land contamination matters should be managed.

### **Forward Planning**

SAGTA has been undertaking initial thinking on potential for a workshop with Environment Agency on Advanced Regulator Engagement: Drawing on Lessons from Experience.

2020 will mark SAGTA's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its formation as an association

### **CIRIA**

PN flagged that CIRIA will soon be launching Non Licensed Work training as an elearning module. In addition, they are setting up a contaminated land climate change working group.

## 7) **Working Group Update**

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

Seamus Lefroy-Brooks (SLB) provided an update on the NQMS. He confirmed that 101 SQPs are currently on the register and 74 declarations have now been purchased. SLB

confirmed that the EA are seeking feedback from their staff on the declarations that they may have seen. EA confirmed that the update web pages on land contamination will prominently link to the NQMS. SLB confirmed that the next phase is continued promotion of the scheme to other stakeholders. SLB and NH prepared a simple promotional leaflet with key positive messages that has been shared widely.

He confirmed that there are 3 large consultancies leading in the number of declarations, which are AECOM, RSK and ATKINS.

The NQMS steering group are now aware of a number of local authorities that have started to signpost to the scheme as a way of demonstrating competency in land contamination and another local authority have encouraged the use of an SQP to help expediate the review process. This is seen as extremely positive. The steering group are keen to encourage more local authorities. CL:AIRE is looking at producing a map of different local authorities that are signposting to the scheme to hopefully encourage others.

PN confirmed that he was acting as an SQP for MHCLG as an independent peer reviewing consultant of all land contamination related reports for Grenfell. It is therefore interesting that the NQMS scheme is being used in different functions.

There was then discussion how to improve local authority engagement with the scheme. It was acknowledged that YALPAG has a lot of influence and SK was asked if they would signpost to the scheme in their planning guidance as it is now used by 45 local authorities. SK is discussing with YALPAG but she confirmed that their members have only received one report with a declaration. It was acknowledged that this may improve if YALPAG referenced the scheme.

SK confirmed that YALPAG are keen to promote the raising of standards.

Frank Evans (FE) confirmed that SAGTA are supportive of the scheme but their members are still not seeing the obvious benefits that they were hoping for ie expediency of planning conditions being discharged.

It was acknowledged that developers do not want to pay more, but if they say tangible benefits then they would be more receptive. There continues to be the need for education and promotion. It was acknowledged that once MHCLG reference the NQMS, this would certainly help.

#### Land Stewardship/natural Capital

Paul Sheehan (PS) provided an update on the work of Land Stewardship. He confirmed that Defra have not yet published any further information following the workshop that he attended in January 2019. He feels it is very important that the NBF offer their expertise that they have gained from working in land contamination and how the development of the SQP for competence came about as they are proposing a very similar model. PS feels that there is transferable knowledge so Defra could learn a lot from NBF. PS will follow up with Defra.

**ACTION: PS will follow up with Defra and offer assistance from the NBF.**

PS confirmed that NICOLE is also working on an addendum to their Land Stewardship booklet and he is part of the working group.

#### 8) Land Development Guidance Road Map

Lucy Thomas talked through the Waste Pilot that she and NH had prepared. It was acknowledged that people did not feel anything key was missing but did it really need to be in such detail? It is still not clear the purpose of the road map and the full extent of the audience. Perhaps it is looking at too much detail and just headline key references linked.

If people need to know more then go to WALL. Still a lot of uncertainty of how could the project be funded. It was acknowledged it would need a lot of inkind support from industry groups.

It was felt that perhaps a different approach should be taken to understand the extent of the mapping exercise, so only high level references made which are the "Go To" documents.

NH agreed to initially list all the different areas of the mind map then people could start to populate to just the key references.

PN identified that there are free mapping web tools that could be used. He agreed to look at these and share some information.

**ACTION: NH to list the key areas that need covering by the road map.**

**ACTION: PN to share mock ups using mapping web tools.**

9) Where do we want to focus our efforts going forward and why?

LT thanked people for sharing their thoughts on the next areas the NBF should focus on. She felt that there was not a consensus and many members hadn't sent their thoughts through. LT asked those that hadn't fed through to do by next meeting. She will then collate a list and look at prioritisation of activities.

**ACTION: ALL to send their thoughts on what should the NBF focus on next**

It was acknowledged that it should not be underestimated the value of getting everyone together and sharing what the different groups are working on. The continued engagement with the government departments and regulators across all the devolved administrations was also extremely valuable. This is the only forum with such a wide spectrum of members.

People felt that the NBF may be able to assist post BREXIT and be a sounding board for government.

Could the NBF assist with the new environmental overseeing body that was referenced in the Environment Bill to form an oversight body, independent of government?

10) AOB

PN informed the NBF that the next International Committee on Contaminated Land (ICCL) is being held in Peru in October 2019. He feels it is important that the UK is represented and hopes Defra will be attending. PN asked NH to flag to Defra when she meets.

11) Date and location of next meeting

NH confirmed the next meeting will be held in 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at NHBC's office, London.