

National Brownfield Forum

Meeting Notes

23rd March 2021, 11.00am – 1.30pm Teleconference



FINAL

Present:

Paul Nathanail (<i>Chair</i>)	GHD
Nicola Harries (<i>Secretariat</i>)	CL:AIRE
Harriet Cooper & Rachel Boulderstone	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
Anisha Patel	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG)
Matthew Llewellyn & Trystan James	Natural Resources Wales
Angela Haslam	Environment Agency (EA)
Andrew Williams & Joanne Smith	Welsh Government (WG)
Simon Cole	Society of Brownfield Risk Assessment (SoBRA)
Ian Evans	Specialist in Land Condition (SiLC)
Seamus Lefroy Brooks	Chair of NQMS Steering Group
John Cleland	Geological Society
Tim Elliott	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
David Rudland	Environmental Protection UK
Stella Keenan	Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Pollution Advisory Group (YALPAG)
Sally Shaw	National Contaminated Land Officers Group
Jane Thrasher	Environmental Industries Commission (EIC)
Vivien Dent	Association of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Specialists (AGS)
Frank Evans	Soil and Groundwater Technology Association (SAGTA)
Lucy Thomas	Home Builders Federation (HBF)
Joanne Kwan	CIRIA
Emma Tattersdill	UK Environmental Law Association (UKELA)
Lisa Hathway	National House Building Council (NHBC)
Max Tolley	Royal Town Planning Institute

Apologies:

Brian McVeigh	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)
Steve Edgar	The Society of Remediation Practitioners (REMSOC)
Caroline Thornton	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
Richard Boyle	Homes England
Rachael Davies	Flintshire Council & Welsh Contaminated Land Working Group
Hallan Sambrook	Staffordshire Contaminated Land Officer Group
Darren Beriro	British Geological Survey
Eddie Tuttle & David Philp	Chartered Institute of Building
Julia Thrift	Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA)
Philip Ridley	Planning Officers Society
Euan Hall	Land Trust

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. Sub Group – National Quality Mark Scheme Update
7. Roundtable Update from Industry Groups
8. AOB
9. Date and location of next meeting

Meeting Notes

1) Welcome & Apologies

Paul Nathanail (PN) welcomed everyone and apologies were given. Due to COVID-19 the meeting will remain virtual.

2) Introductions of represented organisations

Introductions were performed.

3) Review of Previous Minutes & Outstanding Actions

Outstanding actions were addressed within the meeting.

4) Update from Government Departments and Environment Agencies

Environment Agency (EA)

Angela Haslam (AH) provided an update on behalf of EA. She confirmed that the EA is planning an update for Land Contamination Risk Management guidance (LCRM) and CL:AIRE will be publicising it through their ealert and other various social media routes.

She confirmed that LCRM will be signposting to by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and will provide a link to it on their main [land contamination](#) page. LCRM will also be updated to reflect this. In addition, Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) are also in the process of adopting LCRM. They are currently updating their 'Practice guide - redeveloping land affected by contamination.' The EA will update LCRM to reflect this when NIEA are ready.

AH confirmed that the EA and NRW are working on some joint guidance which covers the Environmental Permitting Regulations aspects of land contamination. This will include information on some of the most common types of remediation techniques. When this is published (expected Summer 2021) it will tie in with and link to the [remediation option applicability matrix](#).

The EA is continuing the ongoing PFAS work and are currently finishing phase 2 which will be reporting at the end of March/beginning April 2021. From this work, the EA will then be reviewing what are the priorities to take forward.

DEFRA

Rachel Boulderstone (RB) from the soils team introduced herself and gave an update of activities on behalf of Defra. RB confirmed that they are working on soil health and how best to measure and monitor it to establish a robust data baseline in order to set future targets under the Environment Bill. RB confirmed that she would provide an update when available.

RB also confirmed that they are considering a potential review of Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance and would like to better understand how well this is working, what areas aren't clear. NBF members are encouraged to provide feedback.

ACTION: ALL to provide feedback on Part2A statutory guidance and provide feedback to Nicola Harries by 14th May 2021, who will then collate responses and forward to Defra.

PN suggested to RB that the contaminated land work carried out as a result of Grenfell could be useful to review for areas where the Part 2A statutory guidance could be refined.

RB also confirmed that Defra is considering to carry out a review of the Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction sites. Again, NBF members were encouraged to provide feedback.

ACTION: ALL to provide feedback on Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction sites and provide feedback to Nicola Harries by 14th May 2021, who will then collate responses and forward to Defra.

MHCLG

Anisha Patel (AP) introduced herself as the new point of contact within MHCLG as brownfields is within her portfolio of responsibilities. AP explained that she was very new in post and looks forward to working more closely with the National Brownfield Forum.

Welsh Government – Planning and Environment

Joanne Smith provided an update on behalf of Welsh Government. She confirmed the following:

Publication of Planning Policy Wales (edition 11):

A fully revised version of PPW was published in 2018. An updated version was published on 24 February 2021. There are no specific changes to land contamination or previously development land elements of the policy. However, she felt that the NBF members should note that the updated document contains some policy changes, most notably:

- On the use of compulsory purchase powers to unlock the development potential of sites
- On removal of the 5 year land supply and making it clear that the housing trajectory in adopted plans is the basis for monitoring delivery of housing and in relation to the provision of affordable housing led sites and the meeting of WG development quality standard.

Other changes are largely administrative/factual, including the transfer of some elements of policy relating to renewable energy and transport to Future Wales.

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/planning-policy-wales-edition-11_0.pdf

Publication of Future Wales - The National Plan 2040:

Planning Act (Wales) 2015 required the preparation of a National Development Framework for Wales. Future Wales is this plan and was published on 24 February 2021. It has development plan status and is the highest tier development plan in Wales. It sits alongside PPW and addresses some of its key policy issues in a spatially distinctive way. It's main themes focus on issues such as placemaking, decarbonisation, climate resilience, prosperity and equality and it contains national policies, which essentially drive an urban focused growth strategy, and regional policies which will be required to be taken forward through Strategic Development Plans (SDPs). The preparation of SDPs will be driven through the establishment of Corporate Joint Committees enabled by the Local Government Elections (Wales) Act (LGEB) 2021 which introduces a new governance mechanism for delivering services across Wales on a regional basis. Local Development Plans will continue to address other relevant issues outlined in PPW.

<https://gov.wales/future-wales-national-plan-2040>

Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Matthew Llewellyn (ML) and Trystan James (TJ) provided an update on behalf of Natural Resources Wales (NRW). TJ confirmed the following:

- The upcoming International Mine Water Conference that is to be held in July 2021 in Newport will be virtual. It will then held in New Zealand in 2022 and back in Wales 2023. The call for papers is available here:

<https://www.imwa.info/imwaconferencesandcongresses/imwa-symposia/308-imwa-2021-announcement.html>

ML confirmed that:

- NRW has now taken LCRM through the series of internal approval boards so that it can be formally adopted by NRW. MW confirmed that there are a few caveats where NRW doesn't endorse LCRM that are EA specific aspects. However, the vast majority of technical aspects have been adopted in full. See: [land contamination](#)
- Remediation position statements (RPS) replacement (regulatory controls for land contamination remediation): NRW has been working with the EA and collaborating on the work they are doing revising RPSs. The main aim which NRW is confident that they can achieve is to keep that common approach to how NRW regulate and permit soil and groundwater remediation across England and Wales.
- NRW is still involved with the European funded IMPEL project.
- [Welsh Land Contamination Working Group](#) has been running a series of virtual training events this Spring on LCRM and a separate training event on the statistics guidance.

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

Brian McVeigh (BMc) was unable to attend the meeting but provided an update on behalf of NIEA and DAERA. He confirmed that he is moving roles shortly and his replacement will soon be in post. BMC confirmed the following:

- DAERA staff are still reviewing the next steps regarding the potential implementation of Part iii of the Waste and Contaminated Land Order (Northern Ireland) 1997 following the recent publication of the risk assessment report;
- Planning consultations figures received by NIEA relating to land contamination remain steady even following the second lockdown restrictions;
- DAERA is currently reviewing the Developers Guide for Land Affected by Contamination and aim to have an updated web based version rather than PDF version issued in the coming weeks.
- NIEA continue to undertake the digital transformation of application services for waste and water authorisations i.e. replacing the old paper based methods. Some services are already now live (waste exemptions, waste carriers, discharge consents) and some others are in progress.

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

Unfortunately Caroline Thornton (CT) was unable to provide an update on behalf of SEPA and SG.

Homes England (HE)

Unfortunately Richard Boyle (RB) was unable to provide an update on behalf of Homes England.

5) Update from Industry Groups

CL:AIRE

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

Elearning

The Introduction to Soil and Groundwater Risk Assessment (S & GRA), Sustainable Remediation Appraisal (SRA) and Introduction to Site Investigation (SI) eLearning courses are all currently being reviewed and updated to take into consideration LCRM. They will be published on the CL:AIRE website over the next couple of months.

Post Meeting:

Introduction to Soil and Groundwater Risk Assessment has now been published and is available here.

<https://www.claire.co.uk/commerce/elearning/risk-assessment/31737-soil-and-groundwater-risk-assessment>

Trainer led Training

DoWCOP training continues virtually.

Virtual training on statistics for land contamination practitioners based on the new guidance has recently been launched.

Gas Protection Verification Accreditation Scheme (GPVS)

The scheme had its official launch in early January 2021 when CL:AIRE hosted a free webinar that over 150 people attended. Currently there are 8 approved Specialists in Gas Protection Verification (SGPV) and 3 approved Technicians in Gas Protection Verification (TGPV). There are an additional 4 further applications in various stages of processing. Currently the scheme is being profiled at a number of events.

National Quality Mark Scheme (NQMS)

There are now 120 Suitably Qualified Persons (SQPs) currently showing on the NQMS register (5 unpaid and 5 retired) and 153 declarations been purchased. There has been a noticeable increase in use of the scheme over the last quarter.

SiLC (awarding body of SQPs) and CL:AIRE (administrator) are currently working together on developing an audit plan.

Sustainable Remediation

The SuRF-UK steering group has recently been working on updating the Sustainable Management Practices document and Excel spreadsheet to bring it up to date with the latest Environment Agency land contamination risk management guidance. The document is in its final stages of preparation and is hoped to be published late Spring following CL:AIRE's Technology and Research Group (TRG) review.

In addition, a Tier 1 qualitative assessment tool has been updated by AECOM in light of SuRF-UKs 2020 publications - Supplementary reports SR1 and SR2. This will be available at the end of March 2021.

Post Meeting

The Tier 1 qualitative assessment tool has now been published and is available to download here: https://www.claire.co.uk/component/phocadownload/category/16-surf-uk-bulletins?download=405:surf-uk-tier-1-sustainability-assessment_feb21_final

SuRF International will be supporting the different chapters that will be hosting SustRem 2021 in South Africa, SustRem 2022 in USA and SustRem 2023 in Australia/New Zealand. Call for abstracts for SustRem 2021 is now open: <https://nicola-org.com/sustrem2021/>

Category 4 Screening Level Project

Three C4SL reports have been finalised and CL:AIRE is preparing them for publication (tetrachloroethene, trichloroethene, vinyl chloride).

Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA) Guidance

CL:AIRE is continuing to work with a small group of industry experts to update the MNA industry guidance document and republish. The latest draft has now been amended by the industry experts and CL:AIRE is currently working on it to prepare it for the TRG to review.

Good Practice for Risk Assessment for Coal Mine Gas Emissions

This document has now been amended by the authors following a public consultation. This will shortly be sent to the TRG for review and then publication.

DoWCoP

There has been further delay with the new version of the DoWCoP. We are still waiting for the Environment Agency to complete their review. After this, the reviewed document will then be sent to the TRG.

Research Projects

Reconstructed Soils from Waste

CL:AIRE is a partner in a new Interreg-funded project to pilot the use of reconstructed soils from waste materials. It is a two-year project, led by University of Plymouth and involving UK and French organisations.

EiCLaR Research Project

Enhanced In Situ Bioremediation for Contaminated Land Remediation (EiCLaR) started in January and is a four-year project funded by the EC. EiCLaR aims to develop scientific and technical innovations for in situ bioremediation technologies for a range of contaminants. The project is led by University of Lyon and CL:AIRE will undertake the knowledge transfer and dissemination activities.

SoBRA

Simon Cole provided an update on behalf of SoBRA.

Conferences:

December 2020 conference was held on Wednesday 2nd December. Held virtually it attracted a record number of attendees and two great talks from Nigel Marriott on the new CL:AIRE statistical guidance and Martin Rose on the latest opinion from EFSA on PFAS. Polls taken during the event overwhelmingly voted for the creation of three new sub-groups on early careers, CSM & sampling for subsequent statistical assessment, and climate change impacts for controlled waters risk assessment. There was also overwhelming support for a new funding mechanism in the form of a research grant to support research projects. This will supplement existing funding opportunities for bursaries and scholarships.

The summer workshop for 2021 is currently being planned and will take place in June. It will be on-line using the same platform used for the December conference. We are hoping that the Winter conference in December will be in person. The topic for the summer workshop remains the same as the cancelled 2020 workshop and will feature the same speakers who will be talking on various issues on emerging contaminants and the challenges that such contaminants pose.

Sub-Groups:

Active sub-groups are:

NAPL

Asbestos

Vapour Intrusion

Ground Gases

New sub-groups in the process of being formed (volunteers and leaders have been identified):

Early careers

CSM & sampling

Climate change

The asbestos sub-group has issued two further discussion papers that are available on the SoBRA website. These are an update to the 2017 paper on "*Guidelines for Airborne Concentrations of Asbestos Fibres in Ambient Air: Implications for Quantitative Risk Assessment*", and "*Variability in UK Laboratory Methods for the Identification and Quantification of Asbestos in Soil*".

The standards and technical panel group has been closed due to lack of membership engagement.

Accreditation Scheme:

The first accreditation window opened and closed in January and applicant evaluation is in progress.

Chair:

At the December conference Hannah White handed over the role of chairperson to Simon Cole. Hannah retains a position on the Executive Committee as “Outgoing chair” for this year.

NHBC

Lisa Hathway provided an update on behalf of NHBC.

- NHBC has seen a 23% decline in annual registration of new homes, due to the Covid-19 pandemic; however, we are continuing to support our policyholders and customers.
- NHBC's annual Building for Tomorrow events takes online place between 23-25 March.
- NHBC continues to develop our Technical Risk Management (TRM) strategy, working with registered house builders and developers, to progressively evolve our collective focus from quality control to quality assurance; this forms part of our drive to prevent construction defects. As a part of TRM, we have been developing and piloting a number of stages and the first stage is a new app: Technology Assisted Inspection (TAI), which enables site managers to upload photos for online inspection or reinspection.
- Our commitment to apprenticeships continues with the ‘Construction Site Supervisor’ apprenticeship. The ‘Bricklaying’ apprenticeship will be coming this year. NHBC has welcomed over 5,000 candidates through its NVQ training programme, in the 20-years since they were first introduced.
- At the start of the year, the NHBC Foundation published ‘Modern Methods of Construction: Building on Experience (NF88), which looks through the history of non-traditional housing.

EPUK

David Rudland provided an update on behalf of EPUK.

- The Land Quality Committee of EPUK met for the first time in 2021 in February. It is planning regional seminars starting with a seminar on soils waste management.
- The Society held its annual general meeting in February, with a presentation by Professor Sir Stephen Holgate, UK Clean Air Champion.
- The EPUK Annual Conference is booked for 18th November at Aston University.
- The Society has updated several of its public facing leaflets, available to download for free on its website

SiLC

Ian Evans provided an update on behalf of SiLC.

- There are 196 SiLCs of whom 125 are also SQP's.
- We have 6 candidates for the 2021A exam round.
- To date there have been 153 NQMS declarations.
- We are seeking a CIEH Director for the SiLC board.
- The Annual SiLC Forum is to take place on 30 March 2021 ([Annual forum | Specialist in Land Condition Register Ltd \(SiLC\)](#)), which is free to Local Authorities and retired SiLC members.
- The importance of NQMS has been recognised at the Brownfield Awards, with Category 1 (Best Project Preparatory Work), stating - Planning and conduct of site investigations including use of the National Quality Mark Scheme, conceptual modelling, or development of use of the (NQMS scheme encouraged where pertinent or applicable) remediation strategy which both demonstrates best practice and provides a sound basis for

remediation, verification and subsequent use or development of a brownfield site. More details at [Brownfield Awards 2021 | Environment Analyst \(environment-analyst.com\)](https://www.environment-analyst.com)

RICS

Tim Elliott provided an update on behalf of RICS.

- RICS has recently held a 2 -day Flood Resilience Conference with speakers from DEFRA, the EA, industry, Insurers and academics. Property flood risk assessment processes, infrastructure and natural flood mitigation management were all covered in this fast moving area of practice which is coming of age with the recent C790 Code of Practice. The development of Property flood risk scoring and flood risk certification are being driven by the FR Round table including property managers and the insurers with support from government.
- The new RICS Asbestos Guidance Note Asbestos – legal requirements and best practice for property professionals and clients has been through its open consultation phase and is being finalized for publication.
- The RICS Waste & Minerals Management Conference will take place on 22nd April virtually with a focus on minerals and waste this year, including the launch of RICS Guidance Note on Waste Leases to improve practice in this area.

UKELA

Emma Tattersdill provided an update on behalf of UKELA.

- UKELA has continued its work responding to consultations on various aspects of environmental law – the most recent being, in December 2020, a response to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee Inquiry into Tree Planting and Woodlands and, in February 2021, a consultation response on the Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill.
- Current consultations to which UKELA will respond include (i) draft revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework and (ii) the government's statement on environmental principles (pursuant to the Environment Act 2020). UKELA also anticipate further involvement in matters related to climate change, in advance of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) to be held in Glasgow in November.
- UKELA's working parties and regional groups have maintained a series of virtual meetings, which have included sessions on elements of the Environment Bill, the Office of Environmental Protection and environmental review.
- On the 18th March 2021, the government published a consultation on reform of judicial review. This follows an Independent Review of Administrative Law, to which UKELA submitted evidence. The Review has made various recommendations for reform and the government has proposed some additional substantive and procedural reforms. The consultation is open until 29th April 2021.
- Finally, bookings are now open for our annual conference, which will take place online from 14th to 18th June 2021. Places are available for members and non-members and can be booked via UKELA's website. The varied programme includes sessions on climate litigation, the role of specialised environmental courts and tribunals, biodiversity and rewilding and governance in the UK post Brexit.

CIRIA

Joanne Kwan provided an update on behalf of CIRIA.

- CIRIA will start a Soil Community of Practice soon and we are looking for people to help us.
- CIRIA's site guide for ground gases will be published in the summer.
- CIRIA Local Authorities Contaminated Land Network will hold a series of members only events this year the first one will be asbestos in soil on 22 April.
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AGS

Vivien Dent provided an update on behalf of AGS.

- The AGS Guide to Asbestos has now been reviewed by the HSE and the reports are close to being finalised;
- AGS document: Standards relating to investigation, assessment, remediation and development of potentially contaminated and contaminated sites has been published;
- A Clients Guide to Geoenvironmental reports is currently in preparation
- UKAS Inspection bodies Surveying Contaminated Land for the Presence of Asbestos – AGS extended the poll. AGS will be writing an open letter confirming that the overwhelming view of AGS members is against the new scheme;
- There has been progress with the Yellow Book update;
- Guidance on Training and Competence has been published;
- Application of PUWER & LOLER to Land Drilling has been published (Available from [AGS – Association of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Specialists – Application of PUWER & LOLER to Land Drilling](#)) ;
- A webinar was held on 26th February on Improving company performance through equality, diversity and Inclusion. 234 delegates attended. The replay is now live and available for free view on the AGS website
- On 27th January and 3rd February the Loss prevention working group held their Webinar: Commercial risks and how to manage them.
- Webinar: Ground Risk: Landslide Risk Reduction 29th April 2021;
- A reminder that the AGS have a helpline.

EIC

Jane Thrasher provided an update on behalf of EIC.

EIC Contaminated Land Working Group had their last quarterly meeting 21st February 2021 and discussed a range of topics including:

EIC Brownfield First Campaign – with the aim of increasing the amount of brownfield development through using the current political context and forthcoming, significant land-related policy development as an opportunity to mount a campaign for ‘brownfield first’ to be embedded across all relevant policies. This includes linking Brownfield First to regeneration, the changing high street post-Covid, building communities and social integration. Planning to target existing policy reforms to raise the profile of brownfield.

DoWCoP – continuing activity to address member concerns, including a sub-group meeting with Karen Andrews of the EA.

Professional Indemnity – work led by EIC’s parent body, ACE; ACE/EIC have recognised that there has been a ‘hardening’ of the PI market with some refused quotes on renewal at a late stage, and some premiums raised by multiples, raising of excesses and requirements related to cladding / tall buildings for example a requirement to list ‘all previous projects that have cladding’ which creates massive work but is not relevant to specific consultants’ work area. ACE/EIC is gathering data, providing advice and support for members, and engaging with the CLC on the subject. ACE / EIC members can access through [Resource Hub \(acenet.co.uk\)](http://Resource Hub (acenet.co.uk)).

Impact of Covid-19 – included discussion of impact on younger members of staff who are working from home, usually in more confined accommodation, and missing out on training and skills learned ‘through osmosis’ in the office environment which is difficult to replicate through online working.

British Geological Survey (BGS)

Darren Beriro provided an update on behalf of BGS.

BGS and the Coal Authority have released an interactive map showing where mines are and the extent by which groundwater temperatures increase with depth. The new mapping tool is freely

available to use by developers, planners and researchers to identify opportunities to investigate the use of mine water as a sustainable heat source. Visit the Coal Authority Interactive Viewer here: <https://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/coalauthority/home.html>. **Impact:** understanding the potential heat available associated with former coal mining areas for reuse in geothermal energy schemes to increase.

BGS is currently conducting research into early-stage brownfield remediation costs. We are talking to remediation contractors about how they price and requesting data for projects completed in the past 5-years. All responses and data will be anonymised with the results published in an open report or paper. Any volunteers including public bodies, land owners and developers who would be willing to contribute to the project would be very welcome. **Impact:** improved understanding and use of early-stage remediation costs.

SAGTA

Frank Evans provided an update on behalf of SAGTA. He confirmed that there has been limited SAGTA activities. Their members continue to support a number of initiatives such as C4SL project and SuRF-UK. SAGTA is currently in the process of restructuring their administrative activities.

Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)

Max Tolley (MT) introduced RTPI to the NBF members. He confirmed that it has a membership of 26,000 across the public and private sectors. He confirmed that RTPI are looking forward to engaging more with the NBF in time.

Geological Society Contaminated Land Group

John Cleland provided an update of activities:

- Application of sustainable development goals. Organised by Amy Juden and Angela Haslam. The webinar went very well and in response the group feel that this sort of webinar would be useful across a wider audience and intend to look at the content and revise materials dependent on the focus of any particular discussion and see an opportunity to use SuRF UK materials and hopefully bring a session(s) together.
- Plastic in the Environment virtually, 15th March 2021.
- Joint conference with Hydro group on sandstones and include talk on groundwater and modelling in fate transport – looking for someone to present on this.
- Early career events
- Joint talk with engineering group moving to 2022,.
- Plastic in the Environment joint with RSC - now May 2021
- Some very useful connections with NCLOG, based on communication from a local authority there may be a thirst for webinar packages to support professional development of CLOs
- The group is endeavouring to improve our support for those seeking chartered membership, particularly in linking mentors with mentees. This also includes a drive to support regulators in Local Authorities in their chartered applications – looking to help them align their work with chartered criteria.
- STEM material – the group is funding a project to develop CLG Contaminated Land educational materials to promote GeoSoc and also promote the contaminated land sector.

YALPAG

Stella Keenan provided an update of activities:

- YALPAG's Land Technical Group meet twice a year with the last meeting on 10 March 2021. There are also 3 sub-regional groups. The following was confirmed:
- YALPAG guidance documents on planning, verification of cover systems and verification of gas protection measures are continuing to be reviewed and updated as and when necessary

- The training sub-group continues to meet and is looking at options around arranging webinar training

Staffordshire Contaminated Land Group

Hallan Sambrooke confirmed that the Staffordshire Contaminated Land Group has updated their Developer's Guide to Land Contamination which will be rolled out as each local authority in the region sees fit.

National Contaminated Land Officers Group (NCLOG)

Sally Shaw provided an update on behalf of NCLOG.

- NCLOG has established its first working group which will be reviewing and developing guidance on cover systems.
- NCLOG is now planning for the AGM and training event which will be held mid May.
- At the last count we now have 99 members, and we are currently studying geographical distribution and establishing contact with both regional contaminated land officers' groups and individual councils in areas not yet reached.
- Heather Foster has stepped back from the Committee and Robert Tyler has joined as Data Protection Coordinator.
- NCLOG has been asked to provide a presentation at the SiLC Annual Forum event on 30th March 2021, the subject will be 'NCLOG introduction and an updated CLO perspective of the NQMS'.

6) Standards

Nicola Harries (NH) shared the update that Mike Smith kindly provided outlining the new standards that are in preparation or out for consultation. Sincere thanks were given to Mike Smith for collating and sharing this information. Full details are provided here:

<https://www.claire.co.uk/component/phocadownload/category/90-2021?download=799:nbf-standards-march-2021>

7) National Quality Mark Scheme for Management of Land Contamination (NQMS) Sub Group

Seamus Lefroy-Brooks (SLB) provided an update on the NQMS. He confirmed that the steering group met on 11th March 2021 where they discussed the increased number of declarations which have significantly increased in the last quarter. It is felt that the increased uptake of the NQMS is due to the higher profile of the scheme particularly on the LCRM website and awareness is growing. The steering group also discussed about improving the awareness of the scheme for the development industry and SLB confirmed that he recently wrote to the Head of Planning of MHCLG (as they are new in post) to ask for assistance with this. SLB also confirmed that SiLC and CL:AIRE are developing an auditing strategy which was discussed at the steering group.

8) AoB

Lisa Hathway confirmed that she is leaving NHBC shortly and therefore this would be her last meeting. She wished the NBF well and said how much she has enjoyed attending. PN thanked her on behalf of the Forum for her contributions over the years and all wished her well for the future.

RemTech

PN wanted to let NBF members know that RemTech Europe will be a hybrid event 20-24 September 2021 and call for abstracts is currently open. http://www.remtechexpo.com/images/2021/REMTECH-EUROPE2021_english_final.pdf

As part of the event on 23-24 September 2021 there is going to be a Sustainathon. A 24 hour global discussion about how different countries are meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

9) Date and location of next meeting

NH confirmed that the next meeting will be 15th July 2021 virtually.