



Meeting Summary – March 2026

The National Quality Mark Scheme for Land Contamination Management (NQMS) steering group met on 12 March 2026 and the main items discussed were as follows:

- Membership
- Marketing of the scheme
- Administration and Suitably Qualified Person (SQP) awarding body update
- Feedback from regulators
- Linkage of NQMS and the Building Safety Act with respect to competency

Membership

The steering group is keen to engage with the planning community and will be working with specific groups that represent this sector to identify a suitable candidate. In addition they are keen to engage with an industry group/trade associations that represents the landowner community and the insurance sector.

Marketing of the scheme

The LINKED IN page is [now live](#) and is gaining members. Members of the National Brownfield Forum have all been written to asking for support with external professional resources to help the marketing of the scheme.

Administration and SQP awarding body update

All Suitably Qualified and experienced people (SQP) have been informed of the increase in declaration fee from 1 June 2026. There are currently 148 SQPs on the register. [NQMS SQP Register](#). The National Brownfield Skills Framework (NBSF) is currently being reviewed to ascertain which section may require updating.

Feedback from regulators

The Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales are continuing to actively promote the use of the NQMS. The Environment Agency is currently working on updating guidance and will be looking at opportunities to promote the use of the NQMS as a way of demonstrating competency. Natural Resources Wales are looking at improving the signposting to the NQMS on web pages where applicable.

Linkage of NQMS and the Building Safety Act

The Building Safety Act is an opportunity to promote the NQMS to sectors that may not be as familiar in land contamination activities. The NQMS can add value with regards to the competencies of SQPs and competencies of key activities have already been mapped within the National Brownfield Skills Framework. A summary paper of the importance of the NQMS and how SQPs role links to the Building Safety Act can be [read about here](#).