

Land Forum Meeting

Meeting Notes



24th November 2016, 11.00am – 4.00pm

Location: CIEH, Chadwick Court, 15 Hatfields, London, SE1 8DJ

FINAL

Present:

Seamus Lefroy Brooks (<i>Chair</i>)	Association of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Specialists (AGS)
Nicola Harries (<i>Secretariat</i>)	Contaminated Land: Applications In Real Environments (CL:AIRE)
Lucy Thomas	Society of Brownfield Risk Assessors (SoBRA)
Lisa Hathway	National House Building Council (NHBC)
Richard Boyle	Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)
Andrew Wiseman	UKELA & EP UK
Jane Thrasher	Environmental Industries Commission (EIC)
Trevor Howard	Environment Agency
Mark Edwards	Lancaster City Council
Steve McKenna	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
David Middleton	Defra
Paul Burden	SiLC deputy Chair (observer)
Roger Clark	SiLC

By telephone:

Matthew Llewellyn	Natural Resources Wales
Frank Evans	Soil and Groundwater Technology Association (SAGTA)
Howard Price	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) (part only)
Andrew Williams & Richard Clark	Welsh Government

Apologies:

Paul Sheehan	Chair
Paul Nathanail	Specialist in Land Condition Register (SiLC)
Julia Reynolds	Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Pollution Advisory Council
Steve Manning	Wiltshire Council
Peter Witherington	Home Builders Federation (HBF)
Rob Ivens	Mole Valley Council
Euan Hall	Land Trust (LT)
Theresa Kearney	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)
Rachael Davies	Welsh Contaminated Land Working Group
Julia Thrift	Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA)
Caroline Thornton	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

Anne Wood	Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG)
Nicola Riley	Defra
Peter Johnson	UK Build/UK Strategic Forum for Construction
Nicky Linihan/John Silvester	Planning Officers Society

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. Update from industry Groups
6. Standards update: what's new
7. Nominations of Deputy Chair
8. Discussion Topics
 - National Quality Mark Scheme for management of land contamination – update
 - Technical Guidance Group – update
 - Land Reuse Group
9. AOB
10. Date and location of next meeting

Meeting Notes

- 1) Welcome & Apologies
Seamus Lefroy-Brooks (SLB) welcomed everyone and apologies were given. He thanked Howard Price and CIEH for arranging the meeting room. Housekeeping and a health and safety awareness briefing was provided.
- 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 or are to be discussed as part of the meeting except:

Item 3 - NH confirmed on behalf of Paul Sheehan that he again had contacted and invited the Infrastructure Commission to meet to present at the Land Forum meeting, but unfortunately, they have declined. PS will follow up and hopefully arrange a meeting to explain about the Land Forum.

Item 6c – Definition of Brownfield. Nicola Harries (NH) informed the Land Forum that Paul Nathanail (PN) had originally raised the issue of defining “brownfield” late May/early June – prior to him joining the Land Forum representing SiLC, hence why he raised the issue of defining brownfield at the last Land Forum meeting in July. PN has followed up his letter

in late September but has not had a reply. His letter was originally sent to Mr Etherton at DCLG.

4) Update from Government Departments and Environment Agencies

Welsh Government

Richard Clark (RC) provided an update on the activities of Welsh Government (WG). He confirmed that they are currently consulting on proposals for a national natural resources policy, which include:

- Accelerating green growth by increasing resource efficiency, renewable energy and supporting innovation
- Delivering nature-based solutions to improve resilience and the benefits derived from natural resources
- Improving community and individual well-being by taking a place- and landscape-based approach.

The consultation closes on 13th February 2017. Further information on the consultation can be found:

<https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/natural-resources-policy-development>

Natural Resources Wales

Matthew Llewellyn (ML) provided an update of activities on behalf of Natural Resources Wales (NRW). ML gave a summary on the history of NRW and explained that they are the largest Welsh Government sponsored body - employing 1,900 staff across Wales with a budget of £180 million. They were formed in April 2013, largely taking over the functions of the Countryside Council for Wales, Forestry Commission Wales and the Environment Agency in Wales, as well as Part 2A work in Wales and certain Welsh Government functions.

ML confirmed that they have been working with WG on the consultation document that RC referred to. In addition, their Geoscience team has provided comments back to CL:AIRE on the Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice version 3 and the industry led TPH risk assessment document prior to publication.

Regarding the National Quality Mark Scheme (NQMS), NRW are discussing the possibility of providing a position statement. They have also discussed with the Welsh contaminated land officers group if a collective position statement could be prepared for all local authorities in Wales. At present there was no clear conclusion on this matter.

NRW has also been working with the Welsh Local Government Association on updating their Developers Guide – Guiding Principles which is due for publication early 2017. A reference to the NRW position statement for the NQMS may be made in this document.

ML confirmed that Part 2A work is still ongoing but there are no formal requests at present.

Scottish Government & Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Caroline Thornton (CT) was unable to attend in person and unfortunately was unable to send a report to be shared with the Land Forum.

Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG)

Representatives from DCLG were unable to attend the meeting but sent a short report to be shared with the Land Forum.

DCLG confirmed that they are developing secondary legislation and guidance on the statutory register of brownfield land suitable for housing and permission in principle. They expect registers to be in place during 2017. The majority of the 70 local authorities funded by DCLG to develop registers on a voluntary basis have now published their registers on their websites.

Following the short report that NH read out, there was extensive discussion about how best to try and get better engagement with DCLG. Land Forum members were concerned that there was little interaction and would prefer a two-way process like other departments and regulators do with the Land Forum. The Land Forum understand that they are very busy producing statutory guidance but members of the Land Forum see their organisations could be a good sounding board due to their wide breadth of membership. The Land Forum members really want better engagement.

It was felt it was time to perhaps write to Ministers expressing concern at the lack of engagement from DCLG and the willingness from the Land Forum who are a broad body of industry groups that could be useful to DCLG.

Lisa Hathway explained that NHBC has a good relationship with DCLG, she will find out who they liaise with and provide the contact.

David Middleton (DM) also offered to try and speak to DCLG contacts to see if he can get better engagement for the Land Forum.

ACTION: LH & DM to liaise with NH.

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

Theresa Kearney (TK) was unable to attend the Land Forum but gave an update on the activities of DAERA and Northern Ireland Environment Agency to be shared.

TK confirmed that in support of the UKTAG Groundwater Hazardous Substances technical report, NIEA will be publishing its interim regulatory position in January with its substantive regulatory position following in Spring 2017

Defra Soil and Contaminated Land Team

David Middleton (DM) confirmed that most of their recent activities has been responding to the Environmental Audit Commissions report on soil health and assisting colleagues with the 25 year Environment Plan.

DM also informed the Land Forum that they are waiting for the result of the Willenhall Part 2A enquiry which has been called in by the Secretary of State, however they do not know when the final result will be made public. DM confirmed that as part of the Brexit review of legislation they have stress tested the Part 2A legislation and this has passed. Being domestic legislation there is only one reference to EU legislation .

Environment Agency (EA)

Trevor Howard (TH) from Environment Agency attended and provided an update of their activities. He confirmed that they are continuing to work on a number of historic Part 2A special sites. There are a few new special site, site investigations currently being undertaken. The small capital grants programme funding has now been allocated.

The EA are currently supporting CL:AIRE on the forthcoming TPH industry guidance which was a former draft EA document but never published. This will be available in the New Year.

In mid January 2017 (13th) the Joint Agencies Groundwater Directive Advisory Group (JAGDAG) will be publishing their “Methodology for the determination of hazardous substances in groundwater for the purposes of the groundwater directive 2006/118/EC” together with an updated list of hazardous substances and the consultation response. The methodology is a UK –wide framework that sets criteria for how to assess whether a substance is a hazardous substance in groundwater. Some substances that are currently hazardous substances will become non-hazardous substances and vice versa. Around the same time UKTAG is publishing its “Technical report on Groundwater Hazardous substances” which defines the standards that could be applied to regulating hazardous substances. Each UK country will develop its own guidance on how to implement it. <https://www.wfduk.org/news-events/hazardous-substances-determinations-and-standards-published>

The smarter guidance initiative is ongoing and the EA are working with Defra’s Smarter Environmental Regulation Review team (SERR). GP3 has been rewritten and the new version should be uploaded to the .gov.uk website in early 2017. General regulatory guidance (for example on the Environment Permitting Regulations) has also been changed and is significantly shorter. TH confirmed that the contaminated land web pages on .gov.uk have now been re-written and are now much more high level and in less detail.

Members of the Land Forum were not aware of the contaminated land pages being updated so wondered how they can be notified when changes are made as they have registered to be notified of changes. TH agreed to find out what level of change triggers an ealert notification.

ACTION: TH to discuss internally about when changes to .gov.uk triggers a notification. Post meeting note – even small changes should prompt an alert but people need to be registered to all relevant pages. Also, if a new page is created someone won't be registered and so no alerts received. The pages that had most recently changed are "Land Contamination: Risk Management" at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/land-contamination-risk-management> and the short series of pages titled "Contaminated Land" at <https://www.gov.uk/contaminated-land>

The EA Position Statement on the use of the National Quality Mark Scheme (NQMS) has now been signed off along with a letter of support from the Environment Agency CEO. These have now been sent to CL:AIRE.

TH confirmed that he has been preparing internal guidance with the imminent announcement of the NQMS being launched.

TH confirmed that there has been some significant contaminated land staff changes in the EA. Matt Whitehead left in September and TH confirmed that he would be moving internally to nuclear decommissioning within the EA so this was his last meeting. The EA are currently advertising for one replacement in contaminated land to replace the two original posts.

Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)

Richard Boyle (RB) provided an update on HCA's activities. He confirmed that the HCA has now revised and amalgamated its various investment funds into one. The £3bn Home Building Fund (<https://www.gov.uk/homebuildingfund>) . It is now open for government supported finance to increase the number of new homes being built in England.

The Surplus Public Sector Land Transfers Programme is continuing at pace with new sites being transferred from other government departments. The programme is being expanded to cover new landowning departments. These are sites that are surplus to operational requirements, have the potential of development and are viable. If they meet these three criteria, land must transfer to the HCA for best disposal.

The Land Development and Disposal Plan is due shortly **(Post Meeting Note: Now published** at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/land-development-and-disposal-plan>)

The HCA is now undergoing fundamental restructuring to maintain the demands of government cut backs. **(Post Meeting Note: The HCA Tailored Review has been published by DCLG and can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tailored-review-of-the-homes-and-communities-agency>.** This was a fundamental review of the HCA and its functions. This report sets out the findings and recommendations of the review and recommends that the Agency continues as a Non Departmental Public Body, with a renewed and revitalised purpose, but the Social Housing Regulator is to become a separate public body (requires secondary legislation first).

The Autumn Statement by The Chancellor, Philip Hammond, has several aspects that may affect and interest the Land Forum, most notably:

- £2.3bn housing infrastructure fund to help provide 100,000 new homes in high-demand areas.
- £1.4bn to deliver 40,000 extra affordable homes.
- £23bn to be spent on innovation and infrastructure over five years, with £7.2 billion to support the construction of new homes.
- £1.8bn from Local Growth Fund to English regions.
- £2 billion of funding to pilot 'accelerated construction' to speed up house building on Surplus Public Sector Land.

5) Update from industry Groups

SiLC

Roger Clark (RC) provided an update on Specialist in Land Condition (SiLC) activities. He confirmed that the online NQMS conversion course for existing SiLCs has been completed and will be made available shortly. **Post Meeting Note: This is now live.**

As a SiLC has already been examined and assessed in respect of knowledge and competence, the purpose of the conversion course is only to test their understanding of the NQMS and the responsibilities of an SQP. SiLC will eventually make the slides as a download on the SiLC website.

All SiLCs who want to convert to SQP status will be required to pass a multiple choice test. Questions will be picked randomly, the pass mark is 12 out of 16. Each applicant will have two chances to pass for their fee of £70 + VAT.

For new applicants who sat 2016b exam, their knowledge on NQMS was tested. Applicants will be informed in January 2017 if they have been successful.

RC also confirmed that Phil Crowcroft intends to step down as chair of the SiLC Professional Technical Panel (PTP). Paul Burden (PB) was successful in the interview and he is now becoming more familiar with the role by shadowing Phil Crowcroft with the intention of taking over in 12 months. If PB doesn't feel ready to take full control Peter Witherington will act as interim chair. Phil Crowcroft will continue as Chair of the SiLC Board.

SiLC are currently developing a disciplinary procedure for the NQMS SQP, similar to that for a SiLC.

SiLC still aims to develop their affiliate scheme once the NQMS has been launched and the accreditation of SQPs has got underway. The idea of the scheme is to assist graduates and those who have already progressed beyond graduation to work towards SiLC registration. It is anticipated the SiLC affiliate scheme will create a potential pipeline of graduates and more experienced individuals working towards full membership and chartered status.

The SiLC annual forum will be held on 27th April 2017 at Burlington House.

RC confirmed that the supporting organisations of SiLC are an indication of the breadth of activity that SiLC cover, although the majority of SiLCs do have expertise in contaminated land. RC confirmed that any individual can meet the SiLC criteria in respect of experience, has the ability to assess information, has competence in giving advice and demonstrates an appropriate level of understanding of other disciplines in the Land Sector, then a SiLC can have expertise other than specifically that relating to contaminated land.

NHBC

Lisa Hathway (LH) confirmed NHBC is the UK's leading independent standard-setting body and provider of warranty and insurance for new homes. Their purpose is to work with the house-building industry to raise the standards of new homes and to provide protection for homebuyers in the form of Buildmark warranty and insurance. They currently insure over 1.6m homes, with a market share of approximately 80%.

To sell homes with NHBC Buildmark cover, their registered builders must comply with the NHBC Standards which set out the technical requirements for design, materials and workmanship in new home construction. NHBC Standards 2017 was recently published and is applicable where foundations start on or after 1st January 2017. These are now freely available online in the Supplementary Resource area of their website together with a raft of other information available to support the house building industry.

<http://www.nhbc.co.uk/Builders/ProductsandServices/TechZone/nhbcstandards/standards2017/>

An example includes the NHBC Risk Guides, which are designed as discussion documents for use on site; they are not intended to be a fully exhaustive checklist.

NHBC provides a range of other services to support the house building industry. NHBC is currently providing representation to the CIRIA task group that is assisting the drafting of a document aimed at providing guidance for SMEs on brownfield sites.

SoBRA

Lucy Thomas provided an update on the activities for SoBRA (Society of Brownfield Risk Assessment). She confirmed SoBRA was established in 2009 to improve technical knowledge in risk-based decision-making related to land contamination applications and enhance the professional status and profile of practitioners so that risk assessment is seen as a comparable discipline to say geotechnical or civil engineering. SoBRA's overall objectives can be summarised as:

- Support technical excellence in risk assessment and associated uncertainty
- Encourage best practice in the practical applications of risk assessment to support decisions
- Facilitate and widen access to the dissemination of knowledge regarding risk assessment
- Work constructively with other relevant organisations

- Assist with future guidance and research that would benefit the assessment of land contamination, and identify funding/funding partnerships to support it.

SoBRA does this through an annual Christmas conference which this year is on 13th December 2016, summer workshop on a hot topic such as asbestos in soil, lead and redevelopment of landfills and the work of our sub-groups. SoBRA also have a newsletter issued twice each year. They rotate the chair annually – Alex Lee is the incoming chair and therefore will be attending the next Land Forum meeting.

In addition, SoBRA have a bursary and scholarship scheme which they feel they could do more research with and this is likely to form a future focus area now the accreditation scheme is up and running. SoBRA have >400 members (70% private (consultants, contractors and industry representatives), 27% local authorities/government and a small proportion of academia).

This year's objectives include:

- Accreditation scheme - To deliver the SoBRA accreditation scheme to support the society's core objective with respect to technical excellence and encouragement of best practice
- Marketing - To promote SoBRA to meet the society's core objective of access to risk assessment knowledge and forming relationships with relevant professional bodies by actively marketing ourselves

SoBRA also have a series of sub-groups often set up on the back of the summer workshops. Currently they have: Ground Water Vapour Modelling, Acute GACs, Standards, Asbestos and Accreditation. SoBRA's accreditation sub-group has recently delivered the accreditation scheme. Their scrutineers have tested the process and the first batch of applicants has applied and their forms have been checked for completeness before the scrutineers are assigned. The first interviews are in February 2017.

There are two levels of accreditation: one to allow people to work towards competency before chartership (RSoBRA) and another after chartership (ASOBRA).

In summary, an RSoBRA is:

- Capable of undertaking and/or reviewing routine (GQRA) risk assessments without supervision
- More complex risk assessment situations are likely to require research and/or guidance from a more senior risk assessor
- Likely to meet the definition of "competent person" under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) in relation to Generic Quantitative Risk Assessment (GQRA)
- Likely to be able to "sign-off" or "approve" GQRAs under the Land Forum's proposed National Land Quality Assurance Scheme

An ASOBRA has:

- Thorough understanding of land contamination risk assessment
- Experience of carrying out and/or reviewing both GQRA and Detailed Quantitative Risk Assessments (DQRA)
- Likely to be senior staff who supervise others and review risk assessment reports
- May contribute to the development of risk assessment best practice

- Senior regulators with in-depth experience of providing detailed technical review of DQRA
- Likely to be able to “sign-off” or “approve” both GQRAs **and** DQRAs under the Land Forum’s NQMS.

EPUK

Andrew Wiseman (AW) provided an overview of EPUK’s work. EPUK is the world’s oldest environmental charity (formally known as National Society for Clear Air). Its areas of focus are land, air and noise but air is still its largest working area and what EPUK is known for. Its membership is primarily from the public sector through local authorities but it does have private sector membership as well. It hosts a very well respected and popular annual conference that covers all three areas of focus.

UKELA

AW provided an overview on UK Environmental Law Association (UKELA). He explained it is a body of people who have an interest in law. Membership is not exclusively from the legal profession but is very private sector orientated. It focuses on all aspects of environmental law, with much focus on due diligence and mergers and acquisitions. It has a contaminated land working party however it is not terribly active at present. UKELA are interested in brownfield registers and how they will work.

AGS

Seamus Lefroy-Brooks (SLB) provided an overview of Association of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Specialists (AGS). He confirmed that AGS has a wide membership from across the geotechnical and geo-environmental spheres to agree and shape best practice. They collaborate to find the consensus on the issues that affect their members and the wider industry. They have a series of different committees, each of which has its own strategy and a group of representatives from their membership. The working groups include:

- Business Practice
- Contaminated Land
- Data Management
- Laboratories
- Loss Prevention
- Safety

Loss Prevention and Safety are the two most active groups and have published a number of key industry publications. AGS host a members’ day once a year where they bring guest speakers to speak on subjects of interest to their members. 2017 date is still to be confirmed. Recently AGS has collaborated with British Drilling Association and created a new taskforce to investigate what the UK Ground Investigation industry thinks of themselves particularly in relation to standards. The initial results of a survey has recently been made public.

EIC

Jane Thrasher (JT) provided an update on behalf of Environmental Industries Commission (EIC). She explained that she was representing the contaminated land working group, however EIC has several different working groups, including:

- Environmental Laboratories
- Air Quality Control
- Water Management
- Resource Efficiency and Waste Management
- Carbon Environmental Management
- Sustainable Buildings and Energy Efficiency

The membership of EIC is mixed and varied from large companies to small SMEs, however they are predominantly from the private sector. EIC were founded in 1995 to represent businesses which provide the technology and services that deliver environmental performance. EIC is a lobbying group but also help to promote the environmental sector in the UK and overseas.

The contaminated land working group, has worked collaboratively on developing Generic Screening Values, ground gas issues, asbestos in soil, priority substances and supported the NQMS. They pride themselves on having a good working relationship with government officials.

RICS

Steve McKenna (SMc) provided an update on behalf of Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). He explained that RICS is a professional body that accredits professionals within land, property and construction sectors worldwide. They accredit over 125,000 qualified and trainee professionals. SMc explained that he belongs to the Land Property and Construction Sector. There are a number of professional groups within RICS as surveying is an extremely diverse profession. Currently there are approximately 6,000 in the Environment and Resources Group. RICS hosts two annual conferences, typically in April and October. They produce guidance of which much is free. They are currently working on a contaminated land guidance.

SAGTA

Frank Evans (FE) provided an update on The Soil and Groundwater Technology Association (SAGTA's) activities. SAGTA is a not-for-profit association of member organisations drawn from UK companies representing many major landholding sectors.

SAGTA seeks to enable the efficient and cost-effective management of contaminated land within a framework of sustainability, through:

- Sharing technical knowledge and experience
- Opportunities to shape the development of best practice risk-based processes and technologies, and in advancing new concepts

- Providing a voice for land holders in the translation of policy into practice
- Understanding the opportunities and risks of the emerging sustainability agenda

Current interests include:-

- In the context of BREXIT, understanding the aspects, benefits and challenges of EU-influenced environmental legislation on industry activities.
- Leading an industry initiative to develop further soils criteria in line with C4SL methodology.
- Supporting the efforts of the JIWG and work on understanding asbestos in soils
- Effective application and updating of the Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice
- Engagement with JAGDAG and other bodies on methodologies for hazardous substances and understanding and explaining impacts on industry
- Watching brief on the NQMS with particular interest in the EA position paper and supporting any improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of the regulatory engagement process for projects.
- SURF-UK
- Supporting CL:AIRE including establishment of WALL (via support of two members).

Lancashire Contaminated Land Officer Group

Mark Edwards (ME) explained that he attends the Cumbria Contaminated Land Officer Group (CLOG) along with the Lancashire CLOG. They recently have discussed the implementation of the NQMS and, with some reservations, welcome this industry initiative. He also confirmed that the Northwest Brownfield Regeneration Forum is being resurrected with the first meeting at Salford University has taken place recently. These meetings normally take place in Manchester or close by, are free to attend and open to anyone with an interest in brownfield matters.

YALPAG

Julia Reynolds (JR) was unable to attend the meeting but sent a short report. In general Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Pollution Advisory Group (YALPAG) is pleased to continue to be part of the work of the Land Forum and welcomes the opportunity it provides to allow contributions from both the public and private sector for the benefit of the industry as a whole.

YALPAG would like to reiterate its offer to review and comment on the initial NQMS reports and the process as a whole.

Going forward, YALPAG are generally interested in the topics that are discussed at the Land Forum with some more relevant than others to the day to day life of CLOs.

The Brownfield Register is particularly of interest and YALPAG would welcome if the Land Forum could look to assess the impact of the register on the sector as a whole. YALPAG would be particularly interested to assess the impact (if any) on local authorities.

It is noted that all the topics appear to be about releasing land for development and creation of funds for remediation to unlock land. Yet there is nothing about Part 2A and how to go forward with that. Local authorities are in an increasingly difficult position when it comes to addressing sites where re-development is unlikely in the foreseeable future. Could the Land Forum look to identify funding streams to allow the remediation of Part 2A determined land where the Class A person is no longer available?

CL:AIRE

NH on behalf of CL:AIRE provided an update of its main key activities. She explained that CL:AIRE is a not for profit organisation that was launched in 1999, established to promote and support the land regeneration sector. Currently, CL:AIRE is working on a number of initiatives. The current key ones are:

- NQMS - CL:AIRE has developed the website for the NQMS process. They have tested the declaration and SQP register process ready for the launch and afterwards will perform the administrator role on behalf of the Land Forum
- SuRF-International - Secretariat for Sustainable Remediation Forum (SuRF) International. This is where the chairs of the different SuRFs across the world have regular teleconferences and share progress/new activities in their countries relating to sustainable remediation.
- NanoRem - CL:AIRE is currently working on developing a series of twelve bulletins relating to the NanoRem project. These will be made available early 2017.
- Asbestos in Soil - CL:AIRE has recently launched a series of training courses relating to asbestos in soil to support the publication of CAR-SOIL.
- Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice (DoWCoP) – continuing to work on and develop the DoW:CoP
- TPH Groundwater risk assessment – CL:AIRE is getting this document ready for publication. CL:AIRE has reached out to most key industry groups to ask if they wish to joint badge.
- WALL – looking for opportunities to increase the library in light of further archiving by the EA and government.
- Publications – CL:AIRE continues to publish bulletins and industry guidance.

CL:AIRE has a membership from across the whole industry, both private and public sector.

CIEH

Howard Price (HP) was only able to attend part of the meeting so was unable to present on behalf of CIEH. Therefore he provided the following update.

1. Contamination remains a big issue for the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) because of the health implications. CIEH recently wrote to Defra Minister Therese Coffey about the government's response to the Environmental Audit Committee's Report on Soil Health. That response repeated the claim that Capital Grants were a mere 'supplement' and that local authorities were able to discharge their duties under Part 2A from

revenue. Already discredited during the EAC's Inquiry that claim is implausible and wrong and, we felt, needed challenging.

CIEH also joined in a letter from all of the Inquiry's witnesses to Mary Creagh, chair of the EAC, ahead of the Westminster Hall debate on 17 November 2016.

2. Like others, CIEH will be looking at proposals coming out of the Autumn Statement about house-building, for references to brownfield redevelopment. Linked again to contamination, we are concerned that remediation standards will be compromised.

3. CIEH has recently joined with others in a paper by SmartGrowthUK on some issues of strategic planning. Going beyond numbers of houses, that raises questions about transport and, in turn, air quality which is high on the environmental health agenda currently.

4. CIEH, of course, are very interested to see how land features in Defra's two 25-year environment plans, due out in draft very soon.

6) Standards

Mike Smith (MS) had sent details about the number of standards that are currently in preparation. These were kindly prepared on a separate sheet that was shared with Land Forum members. A link to these documents can be found here:

<http://www.claire.co.uk/component/phocadownload/category/26-landforum?download=571:land-form-standards-update-nov-2016>

MS confirmed that the BS18400s are nearing completion and will be adopted into British Standards.

7) Nominations for Deputy Chair

NH explained that Euan Hall (EH) no longer wishes to be deputy chair due to work commitments, therefore the Land Forum needs nominations for the post. NH confirmed that Paul Nathanail has registered his interest. SL-B asked all those within the Land Forum to go away and make enquiries within their industry groups to see if anyone is interested. NH confirmed the individual can be a different person from the one that attends the Land Forum meetings. NH then explained that if more than one nomination is received a confidential ballot is held and each Land Forum membership group receives one vote. The chair will have the casting vote if there is a draw.

ACTION: All to provide nominations for position of Deputy Chair by 8th December 2016.

8) Discussion Topic:

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

Nicola Harries (NH) confirmed that the NQMS website is now fully functioning. There are a number of frequently asked questions to assist people to navigate the process.

CL:AIRE has been working with SiLC to understand the SQP conversion course process to ensure the two bodies work together. CL:AIRE has prepared a step by step guide for SQPs once they are awarded SQP status on how to complete and pay for a declaration. These instructions will be emailed to each SQP and are uploaded on the NQMS web pages. Launch date is now confirmed for 9th January 2017 and a press notice will be prepared and circulated widely. **Post Meeting: Press Release has been issued.**

SL-B confirmed as chair of the Professional Standards group that draft terms of reference for the NQMS Steering Panel had now been prepared, along with NQMS Administrator and SQP awarding body roles. He asked if any Land Forum members had issues with the Steering Groups terms of reference. There was discussion relating to whether Defra or DCLG should be on the steering group and it was agreed that this was not necessary. It was agreed that the Steering Group should be small and focused. SL-B confirmed that it was felt that the chair of the NQMS steering group should be voted in. NH will provide the mechanism for voting. It was agreed at the meeting that the draft Terms of Reference be accepted.

ACTION: NH to provide mechanism Land Forum member to vote.

Update on New Working Groups

Working Group: Role of Land Forum in Land Reuse

All members of the Land Forum were asked at the last meeting to consider supporting the paper that Euan Hall had previously tabled. There was general support for a sub-group to be established relating to “Ecosystem Services”, defining “Brownfield” and “Valuing Land in a holistic way”. Only Paul Nathanail responded and indicated an interest.

There was further discussion about getting better involvement with DCLG regarding the brownfield registers and land contamination issues and how this work could feed into the proposed working group. AW explained that DCLG are far ahead with their discussions and it would be hard for the Land Forum to impact this work at such a late stage. David Middleton will make enquiries with DCLG and feed back to the Land Forum.

The Land Forum agreed to ask Paul Nathanail to lead on this initiative and set up a sub - group, however he will need support from other members of the Land Forum.

ACTION: NH to write to Paul Nathanail explaining the Land Forum’s suggestions.

ACION: ALL to talk within their industry groups to gather support for this working group’s activities.

ACTION: DM to discuss with DCLG to see if Land Forum can be of assistance in relation to defining brownfield.

Working Group: Technical Guidance

NH confirmed that she had liaised with Peter Witherington regarding discussing the updating of the “Guidance on Comparing Soil Contamination Data Guidance”. A meeting was set for the 7th December 2016 to discuss what areas needed clarification and

representatives from key industry groups would be attending. Progress will be reported at the next meeting.

8. Any Other Business:

No further business was identified.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in March 2017. It was requested if the meeting could be held in Birmingham. NH will liaise with organisations with a Birmingham office.

ACTION: NH to circulate date of meeting.