



Land Forum Meeting

Meeting Notes

6th July 2017, 11.00am – 4.00pm

Location: Jacobs, New City Court, 20 St Thomas Street, London SE1 9RS

FINAL

Present:

Paul Sheehan	Chair
Lucy Thomas	Deputy Chair & House Builders Federation (HBF) & Society of Brownfield Risk Assessors (SoBRA)
Lisa Hathway	National House Building Council (NHBC)
Jane Thrasher	Environmental Industries Commission (EIC)
Angela Haslam	Environment Agency
Julia Reynolds	Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Pollution Advisory Group (YALPAG)
Doug Laidler	Soil and Groundwater Technology Association (SAGTA)
Nicola Harries (<i>Secretary</i>)	Contaminated Land: Applications In Real Environments (CL:AIRE)

By telephone:

Matthew Llewellyn,	
Trystan James	Natural Resources Wales
Andrew Williams &	
Richard Clark	Welsh Government
Theresa Kearney	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)

Apologies:

Alex Lee	Society of Brownfield Risk Assessors (SoBRA)
Frank Evans	Soil and Groundwater Technology Association (SAGTA)
Mark Edwards	Lancaster City Council
Seamus Lefroy Brooks	Association of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Specialists (AGS)/chair of NQMS Steering Group
David Middleton	Defra
Richard Boyle	Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)
Tony Mulhall	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
Rachael Davies	Welsh Contaminated Land Working Group
Andrew Wiseman	UKELA & EP UK
Tony Lewis	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH)
Steve Manning	Wiltshire Council
Peter Witherington	Home Builders Federation (HBF)
Rob Ivens	Mole Valley Council
Euan Hall	Land Trust (LT)
Julia Thrift	Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA)

Paul Nathanail	Specialist in Land Condition Register (SiLC)
Caroline Thornton	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
Anne Wood & Mide Beaumont	Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG)
Nicola Riley	Defra
Peter Johnson	UK Build/UK Strategic Forum for Construction
John Silvester	Planning Officers Society
Neil Parry	AGS

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 including but not limited to:
6. Standards update: what's new
7. NQMS Steering Group – update
8. Discussion Topics
 - Natural Capital – Draft Position Paper
 - Asbestos in Soils – Brownfield skills competency framework task group
 - EA options paper for the updating of the Guiding Principles document
 - Evolution of Guidance
9. AOB
10. Date and location of next meeting

Meeting Notes

1) Welcome & Apologies

Paul Sheehan (PS) welcomed everyone and apologies were given. He thanked Jane Thrasher 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.

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 have been successful in securing £1M for this financial year, funding for land contamination and Part 2A work. Application deadline is 19th July 2017 with decisions made in August 2017. The majority of applications are Part 2A and will be prioritized however other applications for land contamination projects are also welcome.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Matthew Llewellyn (ML) and Trystan James (TJ) provided an update of activities on behalf of Natural Resources Wales (NRW). ML confirmed that NRW has been supporting WG with the land contamination funding applications, and will be sitting on the assessment panel. He confirmed that NRW will also be a potential applicant with sites that have no formal determination as Part 2A sites. NRW are still working on a position statement for the NQMS, there is no publication date yet. NRW are now starting to charge for planning consultations.

ML confirmed that they are currently reviewing v3 of the Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice. This is currently with their waste and legal teams.

ML also confirmed that NRW have participated in the NQMS Steering Group.

TJ confirmed that NRW are looking to develop a metal mine remediation programme. They are working with WG and academia to develop a proposal to try and secure funding to address metal mine contamination and remediation in Wales.

Scottish Government & Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Caroline Thornton (CT) was unable to attend in person and provided the following update for NH to present.

Scottish Government

IOM Human Health Report: Use of Benchmark Doses in Assessing Risk to Human Health from Contaminated Land

Scottish Government has now received the finalised edited version of the report. The report explores the possibility of developing a set of reference doses intended to be a guide for Scottish local authorities in assessing whether land contamination constitutes a significant possibility of significant harm (SPOSH). There were unfortunately significant delays in getting to this 'final edit' point due to the original author of the report leaving IOM prior to peer review comments and queries being received. Scottish Government is now in discussions with health and economist colleagues to consider next steps. In particular it is working with colleagues to scope out potential work on costs and benefits (in relation to choice of assessment criteria that might constitute SPOSH).

Groundwater Standards Consultation: Anticipated that Scottish Government is likely to be consulting on groundwater standards directions in the Autumn (see SEPA update below).

SEPA

Contaminated Land Work:

SEPA are continuing to work on three special sites in addition to liaising and providing water related advice to local authorities on land contamination going through the planning process.

SEPA are currently very busy and have stretched resources at the moment due to having reduced staff numbers (hopefully temporary).

The local authority regional contaminated land groups are having a national meeting in August and SEPA will be attending this. SEPA have been asked to talk about the issue of waste exemptions. They hope to discuss how SEPA and the local authorities can link up effectively to try and address ongoing abuse of the waste exemptions in relation to soil movement and land contamination.

Scottish Government Groundwater Standards Directions and Consultation: It's anticipated that the consultation will be coming out in the Autumn and that this is likely to include SEPA and SG stance on what constitutes 'impact on status of a groundwater body' (and its future resource). There has been a lot of work carried out within SEPA on this since it has implications for a number of regimes including contaminated land, waste /landfills, PPC, environmental liability and radioactive waste. It's expected that the consultation will also indicate what this may mean for contaminated land in relation to 'significant pollution' and groundwater bodies. SEPA is also currently working on revising its guidance (in particular WAT-PS-10: Assigning Groundwater Assessment Criteria for Pollutant Inputs) in relation to this.

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.

The government announcement in relation to the introduction of the brownfield land register and permission in principle was published on the following webpage on 3rd April 2017: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-unlock-brownfield-land-for-thousands-of-homes>. It includes a link to the government's response to chapters 2 and 3 of the technical consultation on the implementation of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 on permission in principle and brownfield registers. Frequently asked questions on the brownfield land register and permission in principle can be found on the following webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/brownfield-registers-and-permission-in-principle>.

DCLG intend to publish both statutory guidance to explain their policy for brownfield registers in more detail and technical guidance for local authorities by Summer 2017.

PS confirmed that he and NH had recently met Anne Wood and Mide Beaumont following the last Land Forum meeting. They explained that they were responsible for Brownfield Registers and Planning in Principal (PIP) only and other colleagues are responsible for planning policy. We understand that there has been a recent reorganisation at the Director level of DCLG in relation to Housing and Planning.

There is continued frustration from Members of the Land Forum that DCLG are not fully engaging. It was agreed that the Land Forum would write to DCLG at Director level.

Action: PJS to write to DCLG

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

Theresa Kearney (TK) provided an update on behalf of DAERA & Northern Ireland Environment Agency. She confirmed that they too are working like SEPA on a consultation that will be coming out in the Autumn that will present its proposed approach for implementing Groundwater standards to prevent/limit inputs of hazardous substances to groundwater which is relevant to licensed and permitted activities across a number of regulatory regimes.

Consulting on planning applications is continuing to keep Environment Agency staff busy and they are continuing to work on the final draft a project that is looking at the environmental and financial risks of not having a Part 3 in force in Northern Ireland.

Defra Soil and Contaminated Land Team

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

- Minister Coffey remains as junior minister covering contaminated land.
- Michael Gove is the new Secretary of State.
- Government are committed to be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it, and will produce a comprehensive 25 Year Environment Plan that will chart how we will improve our environment as we leave the European Union and take control of our environmental legislation again.
- Willenhall: Defra will shortly be releasing the Inspector's Report on the appeal and on the costs award under an Environmental Information Regulations request.
- Defra is participating in C4SL Steering Group.

Environment Agency (EA)

Angela Haslam (AH) from Environment Agency attended and provided an update of their activities.

What's in Your Backyard (WIMBY)

This website is going to cease on 27th July 2017. AH is aware that there has been some concern that the information on this website will be lost however she confirmed that much of the information is being transferred onto MAGIC Map hosted by Natural England. AH is still investigating where other information is going to reside and will report back at the next meeting.

ACTION: AH to confirm where other WIMBY information resides if not on MAGIC.

Post Meeting Note:

What's in Your Back Yard (WIYBY) - end of service postponed

There has been a Defra ministerial request to delay the decommissioning of WIYBY in response to concerns raised to the loss of the service from a number of user groups. The Environment Agency (EA) and Defra are working together to review how its customers can access data important to land management through a replacement service.

It reports that WIYBY remains on old technology and is still running at risk of an unplanned loss of service with a potential worst case that the service may not be able to be re-established if it fails.

A large number of the datasets can already be accessed from other places including Natural England's MAGIC and data sharing services via [DATA.GOV.UK](#). More and more data is being moved to these locations to provide an alternative should WIYBY fail or be unavailable. Links to these can be found on the WIYBY information pages (<http://apps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/default.aspx>). At this time the EA is not able to confirm a new end date for the service.

Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice (DOW:CoP)

AH confirmed that DoW:CoP v3 is currently being reviewed by their waste and legal team. Jonathan Atkinson is leading this role on behalf of the EA.

National Quality Mark Scheme

AH confirmed that the EA is starting to see the first declarations come in. They will be collating feedback and passing this directly to the NQMS Steering Group. AH is also looking at how they can start to bring the NQMS scheme into their own procurement services.

Updating Guidance

As previously discussed the EA are keen to update guidance with industry's help. The Guiding Principles is one area and will be discussed in the later agenda item.

AH is keen to share other areas of work within the EA such as the groundwater team, and how they are progressing in updating guidance. A good example of this was the Petroleum Hydrocarbon Guidance released earlier in the year led by Kirsten Johnstone. AH will look to provide updates from these teams as well at future Land Forum meetings.

Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)

Richard Boyle (RB) was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting. He said the briefing provided at the previous meeting has not changed. They are now delivering on the previously announced initiatives.

5) Update from Industry Groups

AGS

Unfortunately nobody from AGS was able to attend and provide an update.

SiLC

Unfortunately nobody from SiLC was able to attend and provide an update.

Post Meeting Note:

SiLC applications have risen recently. SiLC have set up the online training for existing SILCs to become SQPs. New SILCs will also be assessed for SQP at the same time and recent applicants have generally been successful in becoming SQP. SiLC held a successful Annual Meeting in April 2017.

NHBC

Lisa Hathway (LH) provided an update on behalf of NHBC.

Corporate issues

Following the departure of Mike Quinton at the end of January 2017, Steve Wood joined NHBC in June 2017 as the new Chief Executive Officer. Steve has over 30 years' experience within the insurance industry. You can find out more about Steve on the NHBC website at <http://www.nhbc.co.uk/media-centre/articles/pressreleases/Steve-Wood-New-NHBC-Chief-Executive/>

Events

NHBC are organising the following events:

NHBC Pride in the Job 2017: Quality Award winners were announced on 16 June 2017
NHBC Health and Safety Awards: Commended winners were announced on 24 May 2017. Further information on both of these awards can be found on our website at <http://www.nhbc.co.uk/AwardsandEvents/Pride-in-the-job/> and <http://www.nhbc.co.uk/hsawards/>

Affordable Housing Event: Jointly hosted by NHBC and The Housing Forum, the event was held on 13 June and focussed on regulatory, technical and market updates by NHBC and on key themes in 'Housing and a New Government' by The Housing Forum.

Research

NHBC Foundation recent publications include:

- The gender and age profile of the house-building sector (NF75 – Feb 2017) and

- Small house builders and developers: current challenges to growth (NF76 – April 2017)

Standards Update

Standards 2017 came into force at the start of the year. The new Chapter 6.11 'Render' is a key element of NHBC's on-going campaign to reduce defects in external walls and is freely available online in Standards Plus format via the web link www.nhbc.co.uk.

Technical Extra

Technical Extra 22 was published April 2017 and includes articles on rendered walls, mechanical ventilation and heat recovery, Building Regulations Part R (electronic communications), service penetrations through external walls, together with guidance and good practice on a variety of topical issues. TE22 is available via www.nhbc.co.uk

Fire safety in apartment buildings

Following the tragedy at Grenfell Tower NHBC has provided information on fire safety in apartment buildings to assist homeowners and builders, on their website at <http://www.nhbc.co.uk/media-centre/articles/news/builders-fire-safety-in-apartment-buildings/> and <http://www.nhbc.co.uk/media-centre/articles/news/homeowners-fire-safety-in-apartment-buildings/> respectively.

SoBRA

Lucy Thomas (LT) provided an update on behalf of SoBRA. She confirmed that they had recently held a successful Summer conference on "Vapour Intrusion to Support Sustainable Risk-Based Decision Making". Following the conference a sub group will be being established, the terms of reference are currently being set.

SoBRA has produced a draft White Paper on asbestos in soil relating to concentration in air. PHE will be commenting on the draft paper hopefully by the end of July 2017. SoBRA recognises that the soil v air void relationship is still to be tackled.

SoBRA is supporting the Geological Society Janet Watson conference with a series of presentations.

EPUK

Andrew Wiseman (AW) tried to join the meeting at the time it was interrupted by a fire drill and as such could not gain entrance. Unfortunately no update was available.

UKELA & Law Society England

Unfortunately no update was available.

CL:AIRE

NH confirmed the following CL:AIRE activities were being undertaken.

Definition of Waste Code of Practice (DoW CoP)

Drafting of Version 3 - Consultation of the proposed changes is now complete. This has been sent to EA & NRW for review by their legal colleagues. CL:AIRE does not have a time frame for publication.

Statistics Guidance

Guidance on Comparing Soil Contamination Data with a Critical Concentration is moving forward with a draft document aiming for the end of October. The Steering Group met on 8th June 2017 where a format for the report was agreed. Case studies amongst the steering group members have been requested to demonstrate how statistics are used in part 2A & planning scenarios to assist the statistician understand the issues that need to be addressed.

Asbestos in Soil

Continuing to work on the code of practice elements not covered by other guidance such as waste and transport. In addition engaging with training providers to standardise syllabi (additional discussion paper).

SuRF-UK

SuRF-UK steering group has reached out to industry groups to ask for their thoughts on Phase 5. Next meeting to discuss next phase is on July 10th.

International SuRFs

The group met at AquaConsol and are looking forward to the publication of ISO.

Contaminated Land Expert Panel

A new case has recently been presented to the panel and feedback has been provided. CL:AIRE is currently writing up a case study.

Training

CL:AIRE is continuing to develop training in line with the suggestions of our training working group.

WALL & Publications

New documents continue to be added to WALL, the most recent is the updated GP3 2017.

EIC

Jane Thrasher (JT) confirmed that Environmental Industries Commission (EIC) recently had a meeting on 14th June 2017, where a mixture of presentations and topic discussions were had.

Presentations

Current Contaminated Land Activities in the Environment Agency

Angela Haslam gave a presentation. The continuing engagement from the EA is appreciated by members.

Challenges to housebuilding on brownfield land for medium sized housebuilders

Rico Wojtulewicz, Policy Adviser at the National Federation of Builders. Barriers identified included site size – many brownfield sites attractive to medium sized builders are too small to be on the local plan, and therefore harder to develop. The need for remediation was not perceived as a major barrier to development, as builders are confident that the industry can find solutions – it is much harder to find deliverable solutions to some other environmental problems. However the number of separate

planning conditions can be an issue, as each planning condition has to be discharged separately (for a fee), which can result in delays and costs. In terms of worker skills, for medium sized builders, the issue is not so much a shortage of skilled workers, but discontinuity and uncertainty in the work flow (due to planning) which makes it harder to keep the workers. Since the meeting EIC and NFB have met to discuss working together on building regulation review in the light of the Grenfell Tower fire.

Japanese Knotweed (JK) - Steve Hodgeson, Chief Executive, Property Care Association, presented on guidance, training and accreditation they offer for Japanese Knotweed management operatives (both domestic and commercial) to address concerns from mortgage lenders about giving loans to sites with JK. EIC will be facilitating a sub-group to look at details further to see if there are any specific actions that need taking forward.

Members updated on their roles on various **steering committees / industry groups**:

- **C4SL2** – There was disappointment at apparent stalemate, however since the meeting the C4SL Steering Group have had a conference call and it appears that the project is moving forward with tier 1 and tier 2 toxicologists. EIC welcomes this project being moved forward.
- **CL:AIRE DoWCoP** – updates on Version 3 and discussion of the HMRC consultation on Landfill Tax; the group remains very interested in the direction the DoWCoP takes and ensuring sight is not lost of the original aims and purpose. EIC responded to the CL:AIRE consultation with a number of points and raised concerns at the short length of consultation time to formally respond.
- **NQMS** – interest in progress and number of declarations being considered. Some concerns that the NQMS will not solve all problems.
- **Land Forum** – members all aware of published minutes and appreciate the EIC involvement.

RICS

Unfortunately, there was nobody available to provide an update.

SAGTA

Doug Laidler (DL) provided an update on behalf of SAGTA on their current activities, this includes:

- **Reactivation of the C4SL Phase 2 project**

Renewed contact with cross-industry representatives to participate in a reformed project Steering Group and development of the supporting provisions to ensure that this project moves forward. Background information is in the process of being uploaded onto the SAGTA website and a link provided to the Land Forum Secretariat.

- **Hosting of Brexit workshop**

Brexit and our Environmental Regimes Going Forward – Industry Perspectives. Coverage was summarised in the March meeting, but due to the interest in the presentations, SAGTA is currently making enquiries with presenters whether their presentations can be more widely disseminated. If permission is received these will be uploaded onto the SAGTA website and a link provided to the Land Forum Secretariat.

- **Steering Groups, initiatives and consultations**

- SAGTA has representation on: Comparing Soil Contamination Data with a Critical Concentration: Participation in Steering Group considering scope of revisions to current guidance
- EA Guiding Principles: Participation in EA's initial initiative to consider feasibility and approach to refreshing its Guiding Principles document. SAGTA is currently looking into the feasibility of a members' cross industry workshop as a contribution. Initial concept is one centred on a forum to pool members' and others' perspectives - both nuclear and non-nuclear - of how best key guidance might be defined going forward.
- NQMS Panel: Ongoing participation
- BSi consultations: SAGTA has contributed to a range of BSi consultations on proposed draft documents, most recently draft BS 15175: Soil and protection of groundwater.

Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Pollution Advisory Group (YALPAG)

Julia Reynolds (JR) provided a short update on YALPAG's activities. She confirmed that at their last meeting held in March 2017 that one NQMS declaration had been submitted in their area. This was of a satisfactory standard.

JR also confirmed that North East, Yorkshire and North West contaminated land forums are planning to get together and have a joint summer workshop.

YALPAG have also been making enquiries with industry to receive controlled waters training as they do not feel that they have adequate experience in this area but are being required to review reports relating the controlled waters that would have previously been reviewed by EA.

Lancashire Contaminated Land Officer Group

Mark Edward was unable to attend but sent a brief report. He confirmed that Seamus Lefroy-Brooks recently presented to Lancashire CLOG on NQMS and there are loose plans for him to present next year to a joint (Cumbria and Lancashire CLOG group).

Mark Edwards, also confirmed that North West Brownfield Forum (NWBRF) has become active again and has an event at Bolton University this month:http://nwbrforum.org/index.php?option=com_jumi&fileid=6&Itemid=5

Welsh Contaminated Land Working Group (WCLWG)

Rachael Davies (RD) was unable to attend and unfortunately was not able to provide an update on the WCLWG.

6) **Standards**

Mike Smith (MS) had sent details about the number of standards that are currently in preparation through British Standard. A summary list of these documents can be found here:

<https://www.claire.co.uk/component/phocadownload/category/26-landforum?download=614:land-forum-standards-update-july-2017>

In addition the paper highlights the need for a new lead standards organisation and Chair for TC190 for middle of 2018. Currently no national standards body has come forward.

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

NH provided an update on the NQMS scheme. She confirmed that the NQMS Steering Group met recently and agreed Terms of Reference for the Steering Group and administrator and a draft version for SiLC. SiLC also tabled a draft version of disciplinary procedures for SQPs for approval at the next meeting. NH confirmed that there are currently 74 SQPs but only 8 declarations submitted so far. The main discussion at the meeting was how to improve the uptake of the scheme. It was felt that SQPs need to assist in marketing the scheme internally within their company's and to their clients. Also additional articles in the wider press need to be prepared to raise the awareness of the scheme. Seamus Lefroy-Brooks will be preparing a marketing strategy ready for the next meeting. It is hoped that a meeting can be held with DCLG to raise its profile further as well.

The steering group is also developing an auditing plan which will be made available on the website once agreed and finalised.

The Land Forum discussed how the NQMS uptake can be improved. It was felt real examples where the NQMS has improved the speed a report has gone through the planning process would be hugely valuable to demonstrate the value to clients. Currently there isn't the evidence to support this and therefore clients are reluctant to pay additional costs for the NQMS declaration process.

8) Discussion Topics

Natural Capital – Draft Position Paper

Following the previous meeting in March 2017, PS produced a draft position paper that he and Lucy Thomas had prepared and which was circulated to Land Forum members for their review. PS explained that the purpose of this paper is to reach out to the wider members of the Land Forum who do not see land contamination issues as their main focus but could see value in engaging in the concept of Natural Capital. Natural Capital is starting to be used in several ways such as showing added value for site owners that have legacy sites, to help de-risk their balance books, a tool to help build the argument of developing on greenfield rather than brownfield and the current government has established a Natural Capital Committee which could be another way that the Land Forum could engage with Defra.

It was agreed that there is great synergies with the purpose of the Land Forum and the concepts of Natural Capital. PS asked for volunteers to participate in a working group to move the initiative forward on behalf of the Land Forum. It was felt that there is merit linking this work with SuRF-UK and its framework. It was suggested that perhaps a workshop could be organised to see how the Land Forum can move the initiative forward in the Autumn.

ACTION: All to review and provide comments on the paper ahead of the next meeting.

ACTION: All to discuss within their industry groups to gauge interest and volunteer involvement in a working group.

ACTION: PS agreed to amend the paper considering comments received and to make contact with Defra Natural Capital Committee.

Asbestos in Soils – Brownfield skills competency framework task group

NH explained since the publication of CAR-SOIL (which has been downloaded >11,000 times) working with asbestos in soil has now become a lot clearer for the brownfield industry and it has become a really important reference document. The setting up of the Joint Industry Working group for asbestos in soil set out to bring the brownfield and asbestos industry closer together helping both industries to understand how their sector works and their standard working practices, to ensure that we harmonise where possible and not create confusion or duplication.

The next stage is to help define the competencies for those working with asbestos in soil and to ensure training across the widest industry is harmonised, so end users understand what type of training is appropriate for them. The chair of the JIWG (Steve Forster (SF) & secretariat (Nicola Harries (NH)) have already had discussion with asbestos training and qualification bodies (UKATA & BOHS) who have both recently or are in the throws of launching syllabi for asbestos in soil. These syllabi are aimed at training providers who already provide asbestos in buildings training, however there is a lack of awareness of the brownfield sector. It has been suggested to these bodies that it is important for them to be aware of working practices in the brownfield sector which are very different to the asbestos industry and therefore NH suggested that the Land Forum sets up a small working group to develop industry agreed competencies for working with asbestos in soil to ensure complete harmonisation across the wider industry. It is important for the brownfield sector to map their competencies required for working with asbestos in soils against the National Brownfield Skills Framework (NBSF) (whether you are a ground investigation contractor, environmental consultant, groundworks contractor or remediation contractor etc) and for the asbestos industry to help educate the brownfield sector with their knowledge of asbestos.

NH confirmed that she has already had interest from EIC, AGS, BDA, SoBRA, UKATA, BOHS to be involved, and will also be asking IATP and ATAC if they would like to be involved.

It was agreed that the Land Forum should move this initiative forward with the setting up of a working group. SAGTA indicated that they would like to be involved and Lucy Thomas agreed to chair the working group on behalf of the Land Forum.

ACTION: NH to liaise with Lucy Thomas to set up a meeting and move the initiative forward.

ACTION: ALL – to contact NH if their industry group is interested in being involved.

EA options paper for the updating of the Guiding Principles document

AH confirmed that SAGTA had approached her to host a workshop in the Autumn to discuss with industry how to update the Guiding Principles and what they should include. This way the project would be industry led and the EA could support. It would also give

the opportunity for wider industry to contribute to ensure that the updated documents reflect the needs of the industry because at present the documents are very focused on Environment Agency requirements.

An update will be provided on progress at the next meeting.

Evolution of Guidance

The Land Forum discussed whether there is concern across the industry that there is reduced guidance produced by regulators and government. As government/regulators are not producing guidance, could there be a risk that new guidance produced by industry is not always of high enough standards and too industry focussed.

It was agreed that guidance produced solely by industry is not the preferred route and typically the land contamination industry has been developing guidance collaboratively between industry and regulators. This is considered the best option and the way that industry can get more guidance if needed. This provides both flexibility and best value.

9. AOB

There were no further discussion points.

10. Date and location of next meeting

NH confirmed the next meeting will be held on 30th November at NHBC London Offices.