

National Brownfield Forum

Meeting Notes

26th November 2019, 11.00am – 2.00pm

Location: Teleconference



FINAL

Present:

Lucy Thomas	Chair
Nicola Harries (<i>Secretariat</i>)	CL:AIRE
Paul Nathanail	Geological Society & Deputy Chair
Jane Thrasher	Environmental Industries Commission (EIC)
Frank Evans	Soil and Groundwater Technology Association (SAGTA)
David Rudland	Environmental Protection UK
Seamus Lefroy Brooks	Chair of NQMS Steering Group
Lisa Hathway	National House Building Council (NHBC)
Hannah White	Society of Brownfield Risk Assessment (SoBRA)
Paul Sheehan	Chair of Land Stewardship/Natural Capital Working Group (morning only)
Vivien Dent	Association of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Specialists (AGS)
Mark Edwards	Lancaster City Council
Emma Tattersdill	UK Environmental Law Association (UKELA)
Paul Burden	Specialist in Land Condition (SiLC)
Hallan Sambrooke	Newcastle under Lyme Council, Staffordshire Contaminated Land Working Group
Tim Elliott	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
Stella Keenan	Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Pollution Advisory Group (YALPAG)

Corresponding Members:

(corresponding)	
Julia Thrift	Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA)
Philip Ridley	Planning Officers Society
Euan Hall	Land Trust

Apologies:

Richard Boyle	Homes England
Matthew Llewhellin & Trystan James	Natural Resources Wales
Angela Haslam	Environment Agency (EA)
Ben Million	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG)
Caroline Thornton	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
Theresa Kearney	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)
Andrew Williams	Welsh Government
Rob Ivens	Mole Valley Council
Rachael Davies	Flintshire Council & Welsh Contaminated Land Working Group
Steve Manning	Wiltshire Council
Peter Witherington	Home Builders Federation (HBF)

Agenda

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Introductions of represented organisations
3. Review of previous minutes & actions
4. Standards Update
5. New Deputy Chair Nominations
6. Brief Roundtable Update from Industry Groups
7. Sub-Group Updates
8. PFAS
9. AOB
10. Date and location of next meeting

Meeting Notes

1) Welcome & Apologies

Lucy Thomas (LT) welcomed everyone and apologies were given. LT explained that the reason the meeting was held by teleconference rather than face to face was due to the upcoming election and no regulators, government departments and non departmental bodies were able to attend. The following apology has been provided:

“Due to Purdah, which is the pre-election period before General Elections (specifically the time between the dissolution of Parliament and the final election result), the activities of public bodies are restricted to prevent anything which could be seen to be advantageous to one party or another during a General Election. As a result, there are no updates available.”

2) Introductions of represented organisations

Introductions were performed.

3) Review of Previous Minutes & Outstanding Actions

All actions were completed except for.

a. Defra Update (July 2018 meeting)

David Middleton (DM) to enquire with BEIS about their definition of contaminated land.

ACTION: DM to follow up with BEIS and report back to NBF.

b. EA Update (July 2018 meeting)

Angela Haslam (AH) to discuss with Defra about funding for Part 2A work and whether funding for projects may become easier following BREXIT as state aid rules would no longer apply.

ACTION: AH to follow up with Defra

c. Information Road Map (July 2019 meeting)

Nicola Harries (NH) to list the key areas that need covering by the road map and Paul Nathanail to share mock ups using mapping web tools.

ACTION: NH & PN

4) Standards

Nicola Harries (NH) shared the update that Mike Smith kindly provided outlining the new standards that are in preparation or out for consultation. Full details are provided here:

<https://www.claire.co.uk/land-forum-2019?download=705:nbf-standards-november-2019>

The paper also highlights the responsibilities of different organisations that are represented on the committees and how it is their responsibility to circulate information and seek feedback.

Paul Nathanail (PN) explained that he is hoping to give a webinar in the New Year on those standards that the land contamination industry need to be aware of. Last year he did this in partnership with British Standards and it was well attended. British Standards provided discounts for any standards bought as a result of the webinar. PN will ask British Standards if this will be the case again.

ACTION: PN to discuss with British Standards about giving discounts for standards.

5) New Deputy Chair Nominations

NH explained the process of nominating for the next deputy of the National Brownfield Forum. She confirmed the post is for two years and the deputy is required to take on the chair role. Nominations were requested to be sent to NH by close of play 13th December 2019. If there is more than one nomination, then a secret ballot will be undertaken. Nominated candidates will need to write a short paragraph why they wish to become the next deputy chair. One vote per represented body.

ACTION: ALL to discuss with their organisations and provide nominations by 13th December 2019.

6) Update from Industry Groups

AGS

Vivien Dent provided an update on behalf of AGS.

- The Procurement of Ground Investigation Steering Group survey is a collaboration between the Association of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Specialists (AGS), British Drilling Association (BDA) and Federation of Piling Specialists (FPS). It builds upon the AGS/BDA 2017 survey 'Spotlight on the industry' which identified that poor procurement of ground investigation was amongst the top three concerns of the responders.

The purpose of the survey is to identify the level of understanding of, and detail the concerns with, the current procurement processes for UK ground investigation services. The responses will be used by Joint Industry Working Groups under the Procurement of Ground Investigation Steering Group to develop new or amend existing procurement guidance.

We welcome responses from across the industry and wider participation from all stakeholders will bring greater insight. Your response will be treated in confidence and the results of the survey will be shared with the geotechnical community.

The survey can be completed here - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/M8ZPD5B> and will take around 5-10 minutes to complete. The survey will close on **Tuesday 31st December 2019.**

- Following on from the success of the first AGS Photography competition last year, the AGS are holding their first official video competition for the geotechnical and geoenvironmental industry. We're on the lookout for your most creative video clips, including labs testing, site operations, work in offices, training and drone footage, as the AGS are looking to create a video which represents the diversity of the geotechnical and geoenvironmental industry. Further information can be provided by the AGS (e-mail ags@ags.org.uk). Deadline is **Monday 3rd February 2020**

- **Safety Working Group:** A number of safety guidance documents are currently being discussed and updated within the group, including guidance on H&S risk assessment for ground investigation, rig checklists/inspections, safe intrusive investigation of contaminated land and guidance on training. The Safety in Mind Conference held in Manchester on Thursday 21st November 2019 was successful
- **Contaminated Land Working Group:** Are currently working on Site Investigation Asbestos Risk Assessment – Part 2 – Protection of personnel working on ground investigations with known asbestos (SIARA Part 2). The group are formulating a response to UKAS regarding the potential development of accreditation for ISO17020:2012 for surveying of contaminated land for the presence of asbestos (thanks to CL:AIRE for highlighting the issue).

ACTION: NH agreed to circulate the slides and notes of UKAS meeting.

The group have started working on a 'Mind Map' contaminated land topics and site investigation. We will be presenting on the second day of the International Geosynthetic society (IGS) Symposium (13th May 2020 in Manchester).

- **Loss prevention working group:** A reminder that the Loss Prevention Working Group offer a legal helpline and a chemical safety helpline – 15 minutes free advice per year per member. A number of articles are currently being prepared including NEC4 and Subrogation rights, duty to warn, scope and objectives and indemnities. The second LPWG ½ day seminar is to be held in Manchester on 22nd January 2020.
- **Geotechnical working Group:** A sub-group are looking at early stage education of geotechnical and geo-environmental specialists regarding expectations of basic training. An introduction note is being drafted with respect to design guidance for working platforms. The group have been reviewing drafts for Eurocodes. The group are looking at alternative testing methods to soakaway tests.

NHBC

Lisa Hathway provided an update on behalf of NHBC.

- Our 2020 Standards are now published and are freely available on our corporate website for all to use, on new builds commencing on or after January 2020. See extract below with the main changes
<http://www.nhbc.co.uk/Builders/ProductsandServices/TechZone/nhbcstandards/>
- Technical Extra No. 25 was published in August 2019, which provides detailed updates to NHBC Standards, Building Regulations compliance and current best practice guidance. Technical issues ranging from Modern Methods of Construction (MMC), to raised external ground levels and building on sites in coastal areas. It can be found at <http://www.nhbc.co.uk/NHBCpublications/LiteratureLibrary/Technical/TechnicalExtra/filedownload,85532,en.pdf>

YALPAG

Stella Keenan provided the update on behalf of YALPAG.

Land Technical Group meet twice a year. There are also 3 sub-regional groups:

- Training and awareness raising events are continuing to be organised.
- The National Contaminated Land Officer Group (NCLOG) is currently in the process of being set up and it is hoped that NCLOG will be officially launched next year.

- YALPAG guidance documents on planning, verification of cover systems and verification of gas protection measures are continuing to be reviewed and updated.
- Consideration is expected to be given to referencing the NQMS scheme within the YALPAG planning guidance when this guidance is next reviewed and updated next year.
- SK emailed PN's suggestion from the National Brownfield Forum meeting on 4 July 2019 to the officer leading on updating the YALPAG verification of cover systems that using the language in the NPPF of a suitably qualified and competent person was more appropriate than signposting to an Environmental Engineer in this YALPAG guidance document. This will be considered
- Some thoughts from YALPAG re what the National Brownfield Forum could move forward on are: training MPs on contaminated land; guidance on SPOSH; bringing back funding/grant system for Part 2A; raising profile of radon risks.

These thoughts were welcome from YALPAG members but PN felt that some elements maybe outside the remit of the National Brownfield Forum.

EPUK

David Rudland provided an update on behalf of EPUK.

EPUK has been monitoring and assessing the developing proposals for the new Environment Bill. EPUK has proposed and submitted to Government its 12 “asks” for the Bill to seek to ensure that environmental protection provisions in the UK will not be weakened. EPUK is keen to see a strong and independent oversight body formed that can hold Government organisations at all levels to account.

EPUK runs training seminars and its next regional seminar will be held at the offices of ALS at Hawarden in January. The annual conference was held this month in Birmingham with speakers on topics of the day in air quality, noise and land quality. Specialist sessions on land quality concentrated on asbestos in soil and use of remote sensing technologies. EPUK's AGM is to be held on 26 February 2020 at the offices of the City of London Council.

EPUK has a small sub-committee drafting a new guide to development at former garage forecourts. This is aimed at non-specialist building contractors and sets out to explain the features and hazards of ex-retail sites where fuels and oils have been stored below ground. It is in response to a number of reported incidents where greater knowledge may have prompted a different approach to the groundworks management including one fatality. The guide is around 80% completed. Once complete a draft version will be shared with National Brownfield Forum members to see if the format lends itself to be duplicated for other land uses and who could deliver them.

UKELA

Emma Tattersdill provided an update on behalf of UKELA.

Brexit activities

UKELA's Brexit-related work has continued through the Brexit Task Force. The task force, whose most recent meeting was on 14th November, continues to monitor legal developments (such as Brexit-related statutory instruments and the draft Environment Bill) and to participate in relevant consultations and stakeholder events.

On 27th November 2019, UKELA is holding a seminar considering the recently published Environment Bill. Chaired by Lord Justice Keith Lindblom (UKELA Patron, Court of Appeal)

with expert speakers Professor Eloise Scotford (UCL) and Stephen Tromans QC (39 Essex Chambers) the seminar will provide an analysis of the new Environment Bill, whether it maintains or improves environmental standards and how well its provisions on environmental principles and governance withstand scrutiny. Specific topics to be covered include post-Brexit Britain's approach to environmental principles, environmental targets, air quality and the role of the Office of Environmental Protection.

Other future events

Members of the Forum may like to share, within their groups, details of Young UKELA which was set up to provide a forum for more junior practitioners (up to about seven years post-qualification) with an interest in environmental law or anyone new to environmental law. Young UKELA provides training and education, a space for debate and opportunities for professional development and networking as well as social events.

It has been running a very popular series of "Basics" seminars, designed to provide an introduction to a various environmental law topics. The next "Basics" seminar is on Thursday 5th December 2019 and will address the regulatory framework for controlling pollution from plastic waste. Further details can be found on UKELA's website.

CL:AIRE

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

Events & training

- CL:AIRE's 20th year anniversary event occurred on 14th November at 1 Great George Street, London with 200 delegates attending was a huge success..
- Continuing with training – classroom & elearning in wide variety of subjects – verification of gas protection systems training, CAR-SOIL, Non Licensed Work Training for Land Professionals and Groundworkers, Asbestos Awareness, DoWCoP.

Projects & Initiatives

DOWCoP

CL:AIRE has a new employee to principally carry out auditing and the wider development of the DoWCoP. We continue to report to industry on the key findings of the recent audit of projects. This is helping us to develop further strategies to support the DoWCoP.

There has been good uptake of QP Assessments with those that have not undertaken removed from the register.

CL:AIRE has recently used both its Qualified Persons and Project Team Disciplinary procedures. This is reported on the CL:AIRE website.

NQMS

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

SURF-UK & SuRF-International

The SuRF-UK animation is continuing to be received well with the sub-titles translated into 16 different languages.

SuRF-UK are also currently updating the indicator set in annex A to the framework document following a public consultation. It is aiming to publish in the New Year, along with a bulletin comparing SuRF-UK and ISO 14001.

CL:AIRE continues to co-ordinate the SuRF International fora.

UPDATING GUIDANCE ON COMPARING SOIL CONTAMINATION DATA WITH A CRITICAL CONCENTRATION

The final draft of the guidance has been circulated to the steering group and comments are due back soon. It is hoped that there will be support to move it forward to publication.

VERIFICATION OF GAS PROTECTION PROPOSED ACCREDITATION SCHEME

The development of the gas accreditation scheme is now moving forward. Currently there is a request for people to act as scrutineers to come forward. CL:AIRE is currently developing the website to support the scheme.

CATEGORY 4 SCREENING LEVELS

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

MNA Guidance

CL:AIRE is working with leading industry professionals and the EA to update the MNA guidance.

Publications

Technical Bulletin 21: Groundwater Spatiotemporal Data Analysis Tool (GWSDAT) – July
Research Bulletin 21: Resource recovery and remediation of alkaline waste (R3AW) – August

14 INSPIRATION bulletins were published in September and November

DoWCoP Bulletin 1: Case study on Thames Tideway Chambers Wharf site – October

SiLC

Paul Burden provided an update on behalf of SiLC.

SiLC are delighted that The Institute of Environmental Science has now joined SiLC as a Member Institution.

- The PTP will be shortly seeking nominations from early career SiLCs to undertake the role as of an early careers representative on the SiLC PTP.
- The PTP is asking all members to promote the use of NQMS.
- The SiLC affiliate scheme is now fully operational and has received a number of applications.
- A promotional leaflet for the SiLC affiliate scheme is now available, please contact Silc@silc.org.uk for a copy.
- All SiLCs are requested to use their logo on reports wherever possible.
- 20 years of SiLC is to be celebrated in the coming months, watch this space!
- The SiLC website now has a new diary feature to enable contaminated land forums to promote their open/closed events, as well as other parties to promote appropriate events. This enables events to be linked straight to your calendars.
- SiLC Introduction Days are to take place on 6 February 2020 (London), 16 December 2020 (Shrewsbury), 20 September 2020 (London) and 30 October 2020 (Scotland). A Midlands event is also being organised and will be announced shortly.
- The SiLC Annual Forum is to take place on Friday 6 March 2020 at the Geological Society, more to follow shortly.

EIC

Jane Thrasher provided an update on behalf of EIC.

EIC Contaminated Land Working Group continues to meet regularly and discuss current issues; we are represented on many committees represented elsewhere in National

Brownfield Forum and therefore much of our activity and discussion relates to these activities.

At the September 2019 working group meeting they discussed:

- **Potential UKAS accreditation for surveying of land for asbestos**

Members were concerned that asbestos survey of soils is an integral part of ground investigation for contaminated land, and that an approach to accredit just one part of the activity would be unhelpful.

- **NQMS updates**

Members were interested in the update from Seamus Lefroy-Brooks, and interested to know more with regard to the distribution of the declarations. An Action was agreed for members to encourage their local authorities to adopt NQMS.

- **Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice (DoWCoP)**

An area of ongoing interest to EIC members and where EIC held a meeting with CL:AIRE on the finer details and points of clarification, these points will be discussed at our next meeting where EIC Members will decide next steps. EIC are asking for review and clarification in specific areas and update of specific FAQs

- **BS10176 (Taking soil samples for determination of volatile organic compounds (VOCs))**

initial review of the proposed BS10176 raises a lot of questions and EIC members do not agree with the proposed approach; it was agreed that an EIC member should fulfil the EH4 committee place

- **CIRIA project on retrofitting gas protection systems**

presentation from Hugh Mallett was well received and members agreed to seek case studies

- **C4SL2 updates**

Members continue to question and challenge the draft reports they have seen, recognising that some contaminants will always be difficult, but challenging the acceptability of the results produced by following the procedure; including for example the practicality of proposed screening criteria relative to normal lab results, and also relative to background; members note that their understanding of the original intention of the C4SL project was to develop practical screening values which were also scientifically robust.

- EIC will also be conducting a strategic review with EIC Members on Contaminated Land Working Group activity for 2020 at our next meeting.

EIC is also active on a wide range of other issues including a Laboratories Working Group, a Smart Cities taskforce see <http://www.sustainablesmartcities.org/>, Waste and Resource Efficiency, Air Quality and Carbon Management & Sustainable Buildings

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

PN provided an update on behalf of the Geological Society. He reminded members that The Geological Society is the professional body for earth scientist. It awards professional qualifications: CGeol and CSci and is also the UK awarding body for European Geologist. The Geological Society is also at the core of the post Chartered qualifications: Register of Ground Engineering Professionals (RoGEP) and the Specialist in Land Condition (SiLC).

The Geol Soc has several special interest groups with relevance to the brownfield sector, notably: Engineering group; hydrogeology group and contaminated land group

The Geol Soc also operates a series of regional groups that have regular meetings, many of which are relevant to the brownfield sector.

Recent activities include:

Workshop at the Fakenham Museum of Gas (England's only preserved gas works) (A Year of Carbon event)
NAPL Conference
Shallow Geophysics conference

Relevant upcoming events include:

Reclaiming the Emerson's Green landfill to enable residential development, Dr Duncan Scott (Vertase) (NO CHARGE)
<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/12-nwrg-landfill-redevelopment>

CLG and CLF NET: Joint workshop - current issues in developing and remediating land affected by contamination and Part 2A, 30 January 2020, Burlington House (FREE WORKSHOP)
<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/01-clg-clf-net-2020>

The Society's most relevant journal is the Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology. Papers from the above and other relevant events, research projects and case studies often feature in the Journal.

The Geol Soc has thematic years. Next year is the Year of Life:

<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/About/Press-Office/Press-Releases/2020-The-Year-of-Life>

PN confirmed that he is currently speaking to the Geological Society regarding the new National Brownfield Forum representative as he will be stepping down to become the chair of the NBF.

SoBRA

Hannah White provided the update on behalf of SoBRA.

December conference

SoBRA celebrated their 10th anniversary with a joint conference with RSC on 4th December at Burlington House. More information is on the SoBRA website.

NAPL Sub Group

This group is moving forwards with agreed deliverables which have been agreed and assigned. The first product (an effective solubility calculator with guidance) outline has been shared at the Geology Society October Conference and more information will be presented at the SoBRA/RSC December conference.

Vapour Intrusion Sub Group

Renewed momentum. Aim/Objectives were to prepare a series of technical guidance summary notes covering: "CSM development for VI linkages", "When soil gas sampling is beneficial", "Data collection options available", "Modelling tools available". Both "When soil gas sampling is beneficial", "Data collection options available" are in late stages of review. Scope may be extended to support the C4SL project outputs.

Standards subgroup – open to all SoBRA members, but members are overwhelmed by the number of consultations and SoBRA struggle to get constructive feedback.

Asbestos Subgroup - is continuing to focus its work on field and laboratory analysis and the reporting and interpretation of that data – recognising that this is a critical step in risk

assessment, and that currently there is a big variation in laboratory methods and data reporting.

Acute GACs Report – presented at Nicole in November. Subgroup closed.

Early Careers Risk Assessment workshop from June. Potential further top tips document for early careers is in development.

Accreditation - There will be two application windows per year – one in January and one in August. Still a reasonable number of applicants in each window for both ASoBRA and RSoBRA. Not everyone is passing on first application. We are looking at ways to make efficiencies.

2020 Conferences - SoBRA is considering two early careers conferences in 2020 with RemSoc; one in the Midlands and another in Scotland (liaising with SCLF). We are also planning a summer conference – topic TBC. SoBRA supported RemSoc's summer conference and the Geological Society with the October 2019 conference.

SAGTA

Frank Evans provided an update on behalf of SAGTA on their current activities. He confirmed that they had had resource issues recently:

C4SL project

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

Land Development Guidance Road Map

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

Forward Planning

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

2020 will mark SAGTA's 25th anniversary of its formation as an association.

NW Local Authority Update

Mark Edward's (ME) provided an update for the NW local authorities.

Greater Manchester Contaminated Land Officer Group (CLOG) is now back running and organising regular meetings, it is also quite active (periodically) on an email Q and A basis.

Lancashire CLOG is moribund; despite people's complaints about lack of priority, funding, training etc the last few events over the last 2 or so years have been attended by very few people.

Cumbria CLOG – smaller group, less brownfield, reasonably active.

NWBRF – a flourish relatively recently but very little in the last year.

Lots of development (residential) in Lancaster, Preston and Blackburn. Manchester City Centre and Salford have lots of high density residential flats (apartments). Liverpool is also

busy – there was a good expo recently Liverpool Regen 2019. Annual event, mainly planning focussed/led but interesting nonetheless.

ME gave a plea for more meetings in the north. Recent events have all been in London, or close by: CL:AIRE 20th London, National Brownfield Forum (cancelled) London, SoBRA Christmas event London, Annual Radon Forum (we have a Rn setting) Oxfordshire etc. It really is both very expensive and time consuming for people in the north, let alone Wales or Scotland, to attend such events.

Staffordshire Local Contaminated Land Authority Group

Hallan Sambrooke provided an update. He confirmed that land contamination officers were declining in number in his region due to local authority resources continuing to be squeezed. The Worcestershire and Shropshire local authorities now have shared services which include environmental health and contaminated land services.

RICS

Tim Elliott (TE) provided an update on behalf of RICS. He confirmed that the land group are working on rewriting the asbestos guidance for soil to bring it up to date with recent published guidance. It is aiming to be practical guide for surveying land practitioners. They are working with HSE on the guidance and it is aiming to be published next year. TE confirmed that it is referencing and linking to CAR-SOIL.

7) Working Group Update

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

Seamus Lefroy-Brooks (SLB) provided an update on the NQMS. He confirmed that 114 SQPs are currently on the register and 87 declarations have now been purchased. SLB confirmed that the EA are seeking feedback from their staff on the declarations that they may have seen. EA confirmed that the update web pages on land contamination will prominently link to the NQMS. SLB confirmed that the next phase is continued promotion of the scheme to other stakeholders.

He confirmed that there are the following consultancies have prepared the most declarations: RSK (19), AECOM (15), Atkins (15), Leap Environmental (6), Advisian (5), Marlow Clark (4) and Wardell Armstrong (4).

CL:AIRE has now produced a map of different local authorities that are signposting to the NQMS scheme to hopefully encourage others.

Land Stewardship/Natural Capital

Paul Sheehan (PS) provided an update on the work of Land Stewardship/Natural Capital. Now the Environment Bill has been published and biodiversity net gain has been embedded in planning, he feels it is a good time to write to Defra offering the NBF expertise that they have gained from working in land contamination and how the development of the SQP for competence came about as they are proposing a very similar model. PS feels that there is transferable knowledge so Defra could learn a lot from NBF. PS will follow up with Defra.

ACTION: PS will write to Defra and offer assistance from the NBF

PS confirmed that NICOLE now finalising their updated Land Stewardship booklet. Once this is published he will circulate the link.

PS also confirmed that he had been invited to present at Environment Analyst event on Land Stewardship. PS shared that there was a very good presentation at CL:AIRE's 20th Anniversary by Tom Butterworth WSP on Biodiversity NetGain and how brownfield sites are being used for offsetting and providing incomes for local authorities. PS tentatively asked Tom Butterworth if he would be willing to present to the NBF which he agreed.

PN and LT agreed with PS that this is an area that the NBF should focus more of their resources on through 2020.

8) PFAS

LT explained that at a recent NICOLE meeting that the Dutch remediation industry had presented that the remediation industry and construction projects had ground to a halt as they were struggling to reuse soil because the PFAS/PFOS screening values were extremely low. NH believes that the Dutch government has reached out to other countries (including the UK) to understand their approaches to these contaminants.

Nobody on the call was aware what the EA stance was on PFAS/PFOA. It was agreed to ask Angela Haslam (AH) to present to the NBF at the next meeting about what the EA is doing with regards to these contaminants and any proposed development of screening values. The UK does not want to follow the same route as the Dutch.

ACTION: NH to invite AH for a presentation on the EA's approach to PFAS/PFOA

PN flagged that a new film is going to be released in January 2020 called "Dark Waters" which describes the true story of a court case between Dupont and a local lawyer who was trying to connect a number of unexplained deaths in a local community. The deaths relate to PFAS waste tipped and getting into local water supplies. PN wondered once this story becomes more mainstream and profiled into media channels it may raise the issue of PFAS more widely in the UK.

9) AOB

PN thanked LT for chairing the National Brownfield Forum over the last two years.

10) Date and location of next meeting

NH confirmed the next meeting will be confirmed shortly.