



## Contaminated Land

### Objective/Scope

To provide general guidance with regard to any existing contaminated land, uncovering potential contamination and pollution

### Guidance

#### Environmental / Business Impacts

- Health & safety impacts on staff & community if unexpected contamination discovered. Health effects on workers and general public if asbestos uncovered unexpectedly.
- Programme alterations if extra work required to ensure safety.
- Ground & surface water pollution through leaching of contaminants due to creation of pathway by piling works.
- Pollution of surrounding land through leaching of contaminants.
- Extra costs through:
  - Unexpected/accidental contamination.
  - Unexpected spreading or worsening of existing contamination.
  - Disposal or remediation of contamination.
- Potential loss of asset value through liability for clean-up costs.

#### Controls and mitigating actions

- Check whether the site has been assessed for any contamination that may be present (consider site and surrounding area's history, processes, layout, geology / hydrogeology)
- Ensure site is checked for signs of asbestos prior to the commencement of work. Check site for signs of discoloured soil, presence of asbestos or oil/chemical containers, underground tanks / drains, odours, etc.
- Ensure all substances stored on site are appropriately covered and / or contained in order to prevent further contamination (no stockpiling contaminated materials on bare ground).
- Provide secondary containment (e.g. bunds, drip trays) and / or spill kits to deal with any leaks or spillage.
- Ensure that if dewatering is taking place, contamination from adjacent sites is not drawn onto your site.
- If unexpected contamination is encountered during the works, stop work, seal off the area & seek further advice before continuing. Use qualified specialists to treat and / or dispose of asbestos.
- SHE003 Asbestos Procedure should be followed if asbestos is unearthed during works.
- Obtain and keep duty of care documentation.

#### Further Information

SHE024 Contaminated Land

HSG66 Protection of workers and the general public during the development of contaminated land

British Standard BS 5930 Code of Practice for Site Investigation

British Standard BS 10175 Investigation of Potentially Contaminated Sites