

# London Borough of Hounslow

## Statutory Contaminated Land Strategy

JUNE 2001

Required under the provisions of the  
Environmental Protection Act 1990 Section 78B

## Preface

New legislation introduced in April 2000 requires all Local Authorities to produce a Contaminated Land Strategy detailing how it will carry out its new Statutory Duties, under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Hounslow has a history of industrial usage including a large number of old landfill sites spread across the Borough. Many of these are in Council ownership and have been the subject of rigorous, long-term investigations and where necessary, the introduction of remediation. Over the last ten years the Council has spent over £1 million on landfill site investigations and remedial works. This has been targeted at the most sensitive end use, such as housing, schools and recreational areas.

Using powers under the Planning Acts, many private and public sector developments have been thoroughly tested and the necessary safety work carried out to the satisfaction of the Council as a Local Planning Authority. These reflect the high standards set out in the Contaminated Land Policies within the Unitary Development Plan. Recent redevelopment of former contaminated sites includes the Bedfont Lakes Country Park, Raleigh Park, Edward Pauling School, Ivybridge School and Estate, Highfields Estate, Cranford Community School, GSK Headquarters, Brentford Gasworks and Corney Reach.

The new Statutory Duties are complex and will undoubtedly call for additional resources. However, they complement the Council's Pledges for Greener, Cleaner Neighbourhoods, Safer Communities, Sustainable Investment for Prosperity Tomorrow and Spending Responsibly.

Underpinning this work is a more sustainable future. Indeed, within the Statutory Guidance it states,

“ Contaminated land is an archetypal example of our failure in the past to move towards sustainable development”.

It goes on to say,

“ The Government's objectives with respect to contaminated land are:

- a) to identify and remove unacceptable risks to human health and the environment
- b) to seek to bring damaged land back into beneficial use; and
- c) to seek to ensure that the cost burdens faced by individuals, companies and society as a whole are proportionate, manageable and economically sustainable.”

The context for the Contaminated Land Strategy is therefore defined and the following document details the approach the Council will take in fulfilling the new Statutory Duties.

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# INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

## i.1 - BACKGROUND TO THE LEGISLATION

Industrial change and demographic shift during the 20th century resulted in the need for large-scale re-organisation of our towns and cities. Industries moved out or disappeared altogether leaving large, 'brownfield' gaps in our urban landscape. At the same time, changes in heating methods, and the advent of the consumer society, has had a significant effect on the type and volume of refuse it has been necessary to landfill. Inevitably, these changes have left behind a legacy of contaminated land, which in some cases may be harmful.

The Government, in its response to the 11th report of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution in 1985, announced that the Department of the Environment was preparing a circular on the planning aspects of contaminated land. The draft of the circular stated that:

*Even before a planning application is made, informal discussions between an applicant and the local planning authority are very helpful. The possibility that the land might be contaminated may thus be brought to the attention of the applicant at this stage, and the implications explained.*

Thus suggesting that it would be advantageous for the planning authorities to have available a list of potentially contaminated sites.

In 1988, the Town & Country Planning (General Development) Order required local planning authorities to consult with waste disposal authorities if development was proposed within 250m of land which had been used to deposit refuse within the last 30 years.

In January 1990, the House of Commons Environment Committee published its first report on contaminated land. This document, for the first time, expressed concern that the Government's suitable for use approach, "... may be underestimating a genuine environmental problem and misdirecting effort and resources". The committee produced 29 recommendations, including the proposals that:

*The Department of the Environment concern itself with all land which has been so contaminated as to be a potential hazard to health or the environment regardless of the use to which it is to be put, and;*

*The Government bring forward legislation to lay on local authorities a duty to seek out and compile registers of contaminated land.*

Immediately following the House of Commons report the Environmental Protection Act 1990 had at section 143, a requirement for local authorities to compile, 'Public registers of land which may be contaminated'. If enacted this would have required local authorities to maintain registers of land, which was, or may have been contaminated, as a result of previous (specified) uses. In March 1992 however, the concern about the blighting effect of such registers resulted in a press release

published by the Secretary of State delaying the introduction of section 143 stating:

*The Government were concerned about suggestions that land values would be unfairly blighted because of the perception of the registers.*

Subsequently in July 1992, draft regulations were released with significantly reduced categories of, contaminative uses, "... to those where there is a very high probability that all land subject to those uses is contaminated unless it has been appropriately treated". It was estimated that land covered by the registers would be only 10 to 15% of the area previously envisaged. This however, still did not satisfy the city, so on the 24th of March 1993 the new Secretary of State (Michael Howard) announced that the proposals for contaminated land registers were to be withdrawn and a belt and braces review of land pollution responsibilities be undertaken.

This resulted in the Department of the Environment consultation paper, *Paying For our Past* (March 1994), which elicited no less than 349 responses. The outcome of this was the policy document, *Framework for Contaminated Land*, published in November 1994. This useful review emphasised a number of key points:

- \* The Government was committed to the, "polluter pays principle", and, "suitable for use approach".
- \* Concern related to past pollution only (there were effective regimes in place to control future sources of land pollution).
- \* Action should only be taken where the contamination posed actual or potential risks to health or the environment and there are affordable ways of doing so.
- \*The long-standing statutory nuisance powers had provided an essentially sound basis for dealing with contaminated land.

It was also made clear that the Government wished to:

- \* Encourage a market in contaminated land;
- \* Encourage its development, and,
- \* That multi functionality was neither sensible nor feasible.

The proposed new legislation was first published in June 1995 in the form of section 57 of the Environment Act which amended the Environmental Protection Act 1990 by introducing a new Part IIA. After lengthy consultation on statutory guidance this came into force in April 2000.

## i.2 – EXPLANATION OF TERMS

The legislation and guidance is very heavily punctuated with many complex and often unusual terms. To assist in the interpretation of these an extensive glossary has been included in DETR Circular 2/2000, *Environmental Protection Act 1990: Part IIA - Contaminated Land*. For convenience this has been reproduced in Appendix 7.

## i.3 - NATIONAL OBJECTIVES OF THE NEW REGIME

The Government believes contaminated land to be "an archetypal example of our

failure in the past to move towards sustainable development”. The first priority has therefore been specified as the prevention of new contamination via the pollution control regimes.

Secondly there are three stated objectives underlying the suitable for use approach as follows:

- a) to identify and remove unacceptable risks to human health and the environment;
- b) to seek to bring damaged land back into beneficial use; and
- c) to seek to ensure that the cost burdens faced by individuals, companies and society as a whole are proportionate, manageable and economically sustainable.

The “suitable for use” approach recognises that risk can only be satisfactorily assessed in the context of a specific use, with the aim of maintaining an acceptable level of risk at minimum cost, thereby, “not disturbing social, economic and environmental priorities”.

The specific stated objectives of the new regime are:

- a) To improve the focus and transparency of the controls, ensuring authorities take a strategic approach to problems of land contamination;*
- b) to enable all problems resulting from contamination to be handled as part of the same process (previously separate regulatory action was needed to protect human health and to protect the water environment);*
- c) to increase the consistency of approach taken by different authorities; and*
- d) to provide a more tailored regulatory mechanism, including liability rules, better able to reflect the complexity and range of circumstances found on individual sites.*

In addition to providing a more secure basis for direct regulatory action, the Government considers that the improved clarity and consistency of the new regime, in comparison with its predecessors, is also likely to encourage voluntary remediation. It is intended that companies responsible for contamination should assess the likely requirements of regulators and plan remediation in advance of regulatory action.

There will also be significant incentive to undertake voluntary remediation in that the right to exemption to pay Landfill Tax will be removed once enforcement action has commenced.

The Government also considers the new regime will assist developers of contaminated land by reducing uncertainties about so called, “residual liabilities”, in particular it should:

*a) reinforce the suitable for use approach, enabling developers to design and implement appropriate and cost-effective remediation schemes as part of their redevelopment projects;*

*b) clarify the circumstances in which future regulatory intervention might be necessary (for example, if the initial remediation scheme proved not to be effective in the long term); and*

*c) set out the framework for statutory liabilities to pay for any further remediation should that be necessary.*

#### i.4 - LOCAL OBJECTIVES

Hounslow Council welcomes the introduction of Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 which compliments the Council's own Corporate aims and objectives.

As part of the first **Best Value Performance Plan**, Hounslow Council agreed seven revised pledges in March 2000. Most of them are particularly relevant to the development of a contaminated land strategy. **The Pledges** are,

1. Our children are our future
2. Greener, cleaner neighbourhoods
3. Safer communities
4. Caring for people in need
5. Sustainable investment for prosperity tomorrow
6. Spending responsibly
7. Responding to you

Hounslow Council has recently published an **Environmental Policy** where it states,

"The Council is fully committed to increasing economic prosperity, ensuring social justice and improving and protecting the environment-with a strong emphasis on reflecting the needs and views of local people"

In terms of the health of the people of Hounslow, a **Borough Health Strategy** has been developed. The Strategy aims to,

1. Assess and understand the health needs and health inequalities across the Borough
2. Establish what is being achieved by LBH and its partners and assess its impact
3. Bring services, departments, organisations, individuals and communities into sustainable links to plan action to
  - define local priorities and respond to national priorities
  - map resources and match to need
  - set targets and milestones and plan action
4. Implement action by building on existing work and a knowledge of what works

Similarly, the **Unitary Development Plan, Revised Deposit (2001)** identifies environmental protection measures and has policies relating to developments on or near contaminated land and sustainable remediation of contaminated and unstable land.

The identification and safe re-use of contaminated land therefore plays a key part in the sustainable development of the area.

#### i.5 - ABOUT THIS STRATEGY

The Act itself states at section 78B (1) that:

Every local authority shall cause its area to be inspected from time to time for the purpose -

(a) of identifying contaminated land; and

(b) of enabling the authority to decide whether any such land is land which is required to be a special site (see appendix 1).

Section 78B (2) states that the authorities must act in accordance with guidance issued by the Secretary of State in this respect. Statutory guidance has now been published within Department of the Environment Transport & Regions Circular 02/2000, dated the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2000. Specific technical guidance on the drafting of Inspection Strategies has also been circulated in draft form for consultation on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April 2000 although no finalised guidance has yet been produced.

The statutory guidance makes clear that in order to carry out this duty Authorities must produce a formal contaminated land strategy document which clearly sets out how land which merits detailed individual inspection will be identified in an ordered, rational and efficient manner, and in what time scale.

The strategy must be completed, formally adopted by the Council, and published, within a period of fifteen months from the publication of the guidance (by July 2001). Copies of the final document must also be forwarded to the Environment Agency. Subsequently the strategy must be kept under periodic review.

In order to satisfy the far reaching objectives of the new regime it will be necessary to investigate land throughout the whole of the borough and collate significant volumes of information. This will ultimately enable the Authority to make the sometimes difficult, and inevitably complex decisions relating to its condition, the risks it presents and who may be liable for it at law. This strategy is the commencement of that process and seeks to express as clearly as possible how each stage will be addressed.

It should be noted that there is no formal mechanism in place for approval of local authority strategies, though the Environment Agency, English Nature, English Heritage, DEFRA, and, any statutory regeneration bodies, should be consulted (see appendix 2 for details of consultees).

## i.6 - ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The primary regulator in respect of these new powers are the **local authorities**. In the case of Hounslow Council the strategy will be under the control of the Unit Manager-Contaminated Land and Waste Management in the Environmental Services Department and the Sustainable Development Committee. It should be noted that this is a complex and demanding enforcement role which will be carried out in accordance with the Council's Enforcement Policy Statement and the Cabinet Office Enforcement Concordat March 1998.

A Corporate Contaminated Land Group has been created to ensure Council owned land is dealt with as rigorously as land in external ownership. The Group comprises officers from the main property owning departments and officers from the Environmental Services Department, the Chief Executive's Strategic Property Team and the Borough Solicitor's Department. These officers have been consulted during the development of this Strategy.

The statutory guidance states: "The local authority has the sole responsibility for determining whether any land appears to be contaminated land."

This is a significant responsibility, which reflects existing local authority duties under the statutory nuisance regime and Town & Country Planning, development control. The role in broad terms includes:

- \* To cause the area to be inspected to identify potentially contaminated sites
- \* To determine whether any particular site is contaminated (by definition)
- \* To determine whether any such land should be designated a 'special site'
- \* To act as enforcing authority for contaminated land not designated as a 'special site'

The **Environment Agency** also has four main roles:

- \* To assist local authorities in identifying contaminated land (particularly where water pollution is involved)
- \* To provide site specific guidance to local authorities on contaminated land where requested
- \* To act as enforcing authority for contaminated land designated a 'special site'
- \* To publish periodic reports on contaminated land

Where the presence of contaminated land has been confirmed the enforcing authority must:

- \* Establish who should bear responsibility for remediation
- \* Decide after consultation what must be done in the form of remediation and ensure it is effectively carried out
- \* Determine liability for the costs of the remedial works
- \* Maintain a public register of regulatory action in relation to contaminated land

## i.7 - OUTLINE OF THE STATUTORY PROCEDURE

Contaminated land is defined as:

Any land which appears to the local authority in whose area it is situated to be in such a condition, by reason of substances in on or under the land, that -

Significant harm is being caused or there is a significant possibility of such harm being caused; or

Significant pollution of controlled waters is being, or is likely to be caused

What may and may not constitute the various categories of harm is described in the statutory guidance. Controlled waters include inland freshwater, groundwater and coastal waters (see appendix 3).

Local authorities must search their area for land, which has both sensitive receptors and sources of potential contamination. Where they have good reason to believe these both exist, they must undertake a formal risk assessment in accordance with established scientific principles in order to establish whether there is the potential for them coming together and causing harm or pollution as described. This is known as a pollutant linkage.

Where they are satisfied that significant harm is occurring, or there is a significant possibility of such harm, or pollution of controlled waters, they must declare that a significant pollutant linkage exists and that the land is therefore contaminated land by definition. In every case where the land does not fall within the category of a special site they must commence regulatory action.

This involves a series of complex procedures, which must include:

- \* A formal written record of the determination
- \* Formal notification of all interested parties
- \* Determination the physical extent of the land
- \* The extent and seriousness of the risks (need for urgent action)
- \* The number and type of pollutant linkages
- \* The effect each significant pollutant may have on controlled waters (if any)
- \* The most appropriate and cost effective remedial scheme for each significant pollutant linkage
- \* Identification of liability groups and, appropriate persons, for each pollutant linkage
- \* Assessment of hardship in the case of each, appropriate person
- \* Effective remediation of the site and recovery of costs where appropriate

A series of consultations must also be carried out at each stage with the ultimate aim of securing voluntary remediation (without the need for enforcement action). Where

the land does fall within the definition of a special site the Environment Agency become the enforcing authority. In these cases, however, the local authority must still make the determination and formally notify the interested parties.

In certain circumstances, the local authority may carry out the remedial works. In general terms it has this power where:

- \* Urgent action is necessary (see part 5 and appendix 5)
- \* There is no appropriate person
- \* The authority is precluded from taking enforcement action (specified reasons)
- \* The authority agrees to carry out the works on behalf of an appropriate person
- \* A remediation notice has not been complied with

In non urgent cases where a remediation notice is necessary and all the required consultations have been completed, the notice must be served on the appropriate person(s) no sooner than three months after the contaminated land has been determined or declared a special site. The notice itself may require further investigation of the site and as a result more pollutant linkages may be identified. Where that is the case the enforcing authority must go through the same processes again to identify appropriate persons and remedial actions.

The enforcing authority must at all times consider the potential for hardship and undertake cost-benefit analysis in respect of all remedial actions. Where remedial actions are undertaken in default of a notice the enforcing authority has the power to recover costs in certain circumstances.

#### i.8 - SITUATIONS WHERE THIS REGIME DOES NOT APPLY

As stated in i.3 above, the primary aim of the Government is to prevent new contamination occurring. There are several situations, therefore, where existing pollution control legislation would apply to control the effects of land contamination:

a) **Integrated Pollution Control** (Environmental Protection Act 1990 Part I / Prescribed Processes and Substances Regulations 1991 Schedule 1 Part A) - There are certain processes prescribed under the above regulations, for a pollution control regime known as, Integrated Pollution Control (IPC). This is enforced by the Environment Agency and includes prevention of pollution to land. Section 27 of the Act gives the Environment Agency power to take action to remedy harm caused by a breach of IPC controls, including land contamination. The same circumstances apply to the new Pollution Prevention & Control regime (EC directive 96/61) which came into force in the UK in August 2000 (Statutory Instrument 2000 No.1973)

b) **Waste Management Licensing** (Environmental Protection Act 1990 Part II) - All waste disposal and processing sites (including scrap yards) should be subject to licensing. Contamination causing harm, or pollution of controlled waters, should be dealt with as a breach of the conditions of the licence. In exceptional circumstances, where the problem arises from an unlicensed activity, it is possible that Part IIA could apply. An example of this would be a leak from an oil tank outside the tipping area.

Where there has been an illegal tipping of controlled waste (fly tipping) this should also be dealt with under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 Part II (section 59).

c) **Pollution of Controlled Waters not arising from land** (Water Resources Act 1991 section 161) - Where a pollution incident has occurred and the pollutant is discharged directly into the body of water, or it has left land and it is entirely in the body of water (i.e. the land is no longer causing pollution), the Water Resources Act 1991 will apply. Also of relevance are the Groundwater Regulations 1998 (Statutory Instrument 2000, No.2746), which concerns pollution of groundwater.

d) **Discharge Consents** (Water Resources Act 1991 Part III) - No remediation notice can require action to be taken which would affect a discharge authorised by consent.

e) **Change of Land Use** - Where land becomes a risk to potential new receptors as a result of a change of use, the Town & Country Planning Development Control regime will continue to apply as before.

f) **Risk of Harm to Employees** - Where there is a risk of harm to persons at work from land contamination, this should be dealt with under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The enforcing authority will be either the Health & Safety Executive or this Council depending on the work activity.

g) **Risk of Harm Following an Incident at a COMAH Site** (Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations 1999) - Where there has been a release, explosion or other major incident, which has caused land contamination, the restoration should be carried out as part of the COMAH on site / off site emergency restoration plan.

**In addition there are several other situations where the relationship with Part IIA needs clarification:**

h) **Contaminated Food** (Food Standards Act 1999) - Part I of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 gave Ministers emergency powers to prevent the growing of food on, *inter alia*, contaminated land. Following the establishment of the Food Standards Agency this power is now vested in the Secretary of State. Where the Council suspects crops may be affected from contaminated land to such an extent they may be unfit to eat, they will consult the Food Standards Agency and Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food to establish whether an emergency order may be necessary. It should be noted, however, that remediation of the site if necessary would be carried out through the new powers in Part IIA.

i) **Radioactivity** - Part IIA does not apply to contamination caused by radioactivity, but the Secretary of State does have the power to make Regulations to that effect. Until such Regulations are created and brought into force, the Council will liaise with the Environment Agency where radioactive contamination is suspected or confirmed.

j) **Organisms** - Part IIA does not apply to contamination caused by organisms such as bacteria, viruses or protozoa, as they do not fall within the definition of substances. This could affect land contaminated with Anthrax spores, E-coli, etc. The Council will liaise with the Environment Agency in relation to MOD land and the

Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food on all other sites. It should be noted that even though contaminated sites used in connection with biological weapons must be designated Special Sites (see appendix 1), this applies only to non biological contamination.

k) **Statutory Nuisance** - (Environmental Protection Act 1990 Part III) - The relationship between Part IIA and statutory nuisance is not straightforward. Suffice to say if land is declared contaminated land by definition, it cannot be considered a statutory nuisance. This is understandable and ensures there is no duplication or confusion between the two regimes. If however the land is investigated and found not to be contaminated land but, "land in a contaminated state" (defined as land where there are substances in, on or under the land which are causing harm, or there is a possibility of harm being caused), it also can not be considered a statutory nuisance for the purposes of Part III of the Act. Precisely in what circumstances might land be declared, "in a contaminated state", remains to be seen. Where land is not *contaminated land* or in a, *contaminated state*, but is causing a nuisance from smell, it could be considered a statutory nuisance as before.

#### i.9 LAND UNDER OWNERSHIP OF AN ENFORCING AUTHORITY

Where land owned by a local authority is found to be contaminated land, unless a special site, there will be no enforcing authority. Local Council's must, however, carry out their duties as though they were the enforcing authority, undertake the same consultations, assessments and seek appropriate remedial works as necessary.

As mentioned earlier in this Strategy, a Corporate Contaminated Land Group has been established to ensure the responsibilities of statutory regulatory authority and responsible landowner are properly addressed. The Group comprises officers from the main landowning departments, The Borough Solicitor's Department, Strategic Property Section of the Chief Executive's Department and the Environmental Services Department as the department responsible for contaminated land issues. All information relating to the identification, assessment and remediation of Council owned land will be fully reported to satisfy the need for transparency. See also i.10 below.

#### i.10 - THE NEED FOR TEAM WORKING

This strategy impacts on potentially all departments of the Council, in particular:

**Planning and Development Control** - the inspection of the borough will identify areas of potentially contaminated land, which may be developed, awaiting development, derelict, protected or green belt. This may result in the need to re-examine past development control files. Policies relating to the redevelopment of contaminated land are already in place in the Unitary Development Plan and are referred to in more detail in i.4 above.

**Building Control** - have the duty to enforce protection measures in new build projects to mitigate the impact of contamination on property. Information they hold will be essential to quantify risks.

**Borough Solicitor** - this is a highly complex piece of legislation, which could have significant implications for the Council, landowners and occupiers. The Solicitor's advice may be required on many aspects including those relating to enforcement, liability, powers of entry, data protection and access to information.

**Engineers and Highways** - land under highways, pavements, verges and common areas may be contaminated and present a risk to potential receptors. Highways Authorities must maintain registers under Part III of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 regarding, amongst other things, streets with, "special engineering difficulties". This includes risks from contamination.

**Information Technology** - significant volumes of data will need to be held both on database and geographical information systems. Support will be required on the use of these systems and data protection.

**Housing** - land in use and controlled by the Housing Department may be identified as being contaminated and require remediation. Whilst extensive contamination testing and remediation has taken place on Council owned housing land in the past, further work may be necessary to reflect modern standards.

**Community Initiatives Partnerships** – covering a wide range of leisure and open space land management duties for the Council, wide-ranging contaminated land testing has been carried out over recent years and remedial works carried out where necessary. A review of this work will be necessary to ensure they reflect modern standards.

**Education** - school land in particular has been inspected in the past, tested and remediated where necessary. As with housing and leisure sites, educational use is highly sensitive and previous work will need to be reviewed to ensure it has been carried out to the required standard.

**Strategic Property Section** – as the team responsible for Council owned land, they will take the lead for the Council on the remediation of any contaminated sites it is found to be responsible for in conjunction with the Corporate Contaminated Land Group.

**Finance** - this legislation can have significant resource implications for the Council, both as an Enforcing Authority and landowner (see also i.11 below).

The need for close corporate team working to ensure the smooth implementation of the strategy cannot therefore be overstressed. The Corporate Contaminated Land Group has been established to carry out this important work.

#### i.11 - FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS

The Explanatory and Financial Memorandum to the Environment Bill stated that the creation of the new contaminated land regime would have neither financial nor manpower implications. In the light of responses received to the draft guidance,

however, the Government acceded that successful operation would necessitate considerable resources.

Accordingly, as part of the Government spending review in July 1998 a sum of £50M was made available to local authorities from 1999-2002 to develop inspection strategies, carry out site investigations and take forward enforcement action. In addition £45M is to be spent on remediation over the same period through the contaminated land Supplementary Credit Approval (SCA) programme.

Funding aspects of the strategy are considered in Part 8.

# THE STRATEGY

## PART 1

### DESCRIPTION OF THE HOUNSLOW AREA AND HOW ITS PARTICULAR CHARACTERISTICS IMPACT ON THE INSPECTION STRATEGY

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Hounslow is home to over 200,000 people living in over 85,000 households. Hounslow's residents live in communities stretching from Bedfont at the fringe of Greater London in the west to Chiswick in the east. The local areas and communities are very different in character and therefore have different needs. The population is multi-racial and multi-cultural and includes one of the largest Asian communities in London.
- 1.2 Hounslow is a mixture of residential, commercial and some industrial development interlaced with several waterways and various areas of open land. The River Thames forms much of the southern boundary, the M4 motorway much of its northern boundary and Heathrow Airport lies just to the northwest of the Borough.
- 1.3 The Borough is a total area of 5658 hectares (21.8sq miles) since the Boundary Commission changes of April 1994. It is situated in the Lower Thames Valley on the north bank of the River Thames. The land is mainly flat and low lying with a highest point 30 metres above sea level and a lowest 5m-the average level of the Thames. The only significant natural slopes within the Borough are in the valley of the River Brent and the bluff which runs between the Great West Road and the London Road in Isleworth and then continues through the north of Brentford and Gunnersbury Park.
- 1.4 Apart from the Thames, the other main rivers in the Borough are the Crane and the Brent, which flow into the Thames at Isleworth and Brentford respectively. The lower part of the River Brent to Hanwell was converted to a canal in 1800.
- 1.5 The geology of the Borough is dominated by extensive spreads of sand and gravel up to 8 metres in thickness, which occur as "terraces" on the valley sides, resting on London Clay, which forms the "bedrock" beneath the Borough. The terraces mark the extent of the Thames in earlier times and the sand and gravel accumulated in that larger Thames Flood Plain after the most recent Ice Age. The River Terrace Gravels (classed as a major aquifer in the majority of the borough area) underlie much of the borough.
- 1.6 Periodic phases of river down cutting led to remnants of the earlier (higher) terraces being left on the hillsides, as lower terraces occupied the newly lowered

river flood plain. The oldest or highest terrace (number 3) extends from 30 metres above sea level down to 15 metres and occupies the greater part of the central and northwest areas of the Borough. The lowest terrace (number 1) or Flood Plain terrace, occupies the low ground at 5 metres above sea level, adjacent to the Thames at Isleworth and Kempton.

- 1.7 A deposit of sandy loam called “brickearth” after its historical use in brick making, often occurs above the gravel. The brickearth may represent the alluvium of former river terraces.
- 1.8 The rivers Crane and Brent have exposed the underlying London Clay as they have cut across the terraces and then covered the clay with their own alluvium. In the past, Hounslow’s sand and gravel has been extensively worked, leaving a legacy of landfill sites spread across the whole Borough.

## STRATEGIC APPROACH TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF CONTAMINATED LAND IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HOUNSLOW

1.9 In developing a strategic approach, it is necessary to consider -

- \* The extent to which any specified receptors are likely to be found in the borough;
- \* The history, scale and nature of industrial or other potentially contaminative uses;

1.10 Land can only be considered contaminated if it impacts in a certain way on specified receptors, these are:

a) Human beings

- b) Eco systems:
- Areas of special scientific interest**  
Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 section 28
  - National / local nature reserves**  
Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 section 35 / National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 section 21
  - Marine nature reserves**  
Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 section 36
  - Areas for the special protection of birds**  
Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 section 3
  - Special areas of conservation & special protection areas**  
Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994 regulation 10
  - Any candidate special areas of conservation or potential special protection areas**
  - Any habitat or site afforded planning policy protection**  
Planning Policy Guidance Note 9 - Nature Conservation, para 13
- c) Property:
- Buildings (including below ground)**
  - Ancient monuments including SAM’s as defined. All crops including timber**
  - Produce grown domestically or on allotments for consumption**

Livestock  
Other owned or domesticated animals  
Wild game subject to shooting or fishing rights

d) Controlled Waters: Territorial seawater (to three miles)  
Coastal waters  
Inland fresh waters (rivers, streams, lakes, including the bottom / bed if dry)  
Groundwater (Major/Minor and Non-aquifers)  
Water Resources Act 1991 s104 (see also appendix 3)

1.11 In undertaking its duties to inspect the Borough under section 78B (1) of the Act, the Council will take into consideration the particular characteristics of the area, including:

Relevant geology, hydrogeology and hydrology

The location of: sensitive water receptors  
sensitive property receptors  
relevant ecological receptors  
all existing human receptors, and;

Potential sources of contamination

1.12 Consideration will also be given to the existence of sites and receptors which if found to be contaminated land would be designated special sites (see appendix 1).

### 1.13 POTENTIAL SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION

- a) **INDUSTRIAL HISTORY** - A comprehensive list of potentially contaminative uses has been appended as Appendix 4. The first step in the process of identifying potentially contaminated sites will be to closely examine historical data in the form of old Ordnance Survey plans and Land Use Surveys from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. These will be obtained from the Council's archives. A lot of past industrial land use will still be within recent memory so local knowledge will be important at this stage.
- b) **CURRENT INDUSTRY** - The present industrial areas of the Borough are potential sources of contamination and these will be inspected in accordance with the statutory guidance to establish whether there is a potential of contamination to exist, and, if there is, whether it is controlled by another agency.
- c) **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1990 Part I** - 'Part B' processes authorised for air pollution control by this Council.  
There are currently 67 processes authorised by the Council under Part I of the Act. These range from filling stations to paint shops. Many of these processes have the potential to pollute the land, but there are no other statutory methods of control.

- d) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1990 Part I - 'Part A' processes authorised for integrated pollution control (IPC) by the Environment Agency.  
There is currently only one process authorised by the Environment Agency under Part I of the Act. The IPC regime should control unauthorised discharges to land but their presence will need to be noted and the potential for long-term pollution assessed, particularly post closure.
- e) HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES - this Council is a Hazardous Substances Authority for the purposes of the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990 and the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 1992. This legislation requires consent to allow the presence on land of hazardous substances above a specified quantity. These regulations were recently amended by the Planning (Control of Major Accident Hazards) Regulations 1999 (SI 981) to take account of the new COMAH Regulations (see f below). There are currently two authorised sites in the Borough. The Planning Officer maintains a register for this purpose.
- f) COMAH sites - The Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 (SI 743) are enforced by the Environment Agency and Health & Safety Executive (joint competent authority) to control both on and off site risks from industries with a high potential for disaster from dangerous substances (flammable, toxic or explosive).
- g) NIHHS sites - It should be noted that all sites notified to the HSE under the Notification of Installations Handling Hazardous Substances Regulations 1982, as well as COMAH sites, will be held on the hazardous substances register, so there should be no need to consult with the HSE on their location.
- h) EXPLOSIVES - are not directly covered by the hazardous substances regulations but are controlled by the Health & Safety Executive under licences issued under the Explosives Act 1875. Any licensed sites will be identified.
- i) CURRENT LANDFILL AND WASTE PROCESSING SITES - are licensed by the Environment Agency under the provisions of Part II of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Details of all these sites have already been provided by the Agency for this purpose.
- j) CLOSED LANDFILL SITES - are a potentially significant source of risk, especially those which operated before the licensing requirements of the Control of Pollution Act 1974. All closed landfills in the borough have been identified and their association with any specified receptors will be considered in detail.
- k) SEWAGE WORKS AND LAND USED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE SLUDGE - land dedicated for the disposal of sewage sludge is

notified to the Environment Agency under the, Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations 1989. This land, together with all operating and redundant sewage works will be identified and assessed.

- l) MINERALS EXTRACTION - the geology of the area has resulted in large areas used for the extraction of minerals, particularly sand, gravels and brickearths. Most of the resulting pits have been filled with waste.
- m) WASTE OR DERELICT LAND – land often owned by the utilities, railways or other major landowners is left seemingly abandoned because it has no particular use or is difficult to access. These areas can accumulate unwanted materials and can be used to dispose of wastes and effluents illegally.
- n) MINISTRY OF DEFENCE LAND - there is a history of Defence related activities in the borough and areas occupied by Defence Agencies. Their potential for contamination could be significant therefore they will be investigated, in association with the Environment Agency as required, in accordance with the statutory guidance.
- o) PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED CONTAMINATED SITES - the inspection of the Borough will identify many potentially contaminated sites, which have been developed over the years. In some cases the methods and extent of remediation may be unknown, in others it may be known but the remediation suspected of being inadequate.

As mentioned above, a more comprehensive list of previous uses considered potentially contaminative are listed in appendix 4 for information. Any site with the potential to cause pollution will be identified at this preliminary stage.

#### 1.14 POTENTIAL SPECIFIED RECEPTORS

- a) HUMAN - The present population of the Borough is over 200,000 distributed amongst the main population centres of Bedfont, Feltham, Hanworth, Cranford, Heston, Hounslow, Osterley, Isleworth, Brentford and Chiswick. Human receptors may therefore be present to some degree at almost any location within the Borough. The potential for persons either living on or frequenting a potentially contaminated site will be considered in every case, but priority will be given to sites with infants.
- b) PROPERTY. BUILDINGS - All buildings and underground services are potential receptors and will be considered in every case where contamination and buildings exist.
- c) PROPERTY. ANCIENT MONUMENTS - as listed by English Heritage will be specifically identified as part of the strategy and the potential impact of contaminants considered. A full list of scheduled Ancient Monuments is provided in the Unitary Development Plan.
- d) PROPERTY. AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL CROPS –

There is agricultural land in the Borough, which will be identified and taken into consideration as necessary. Where contamination is known or suspected associations with poor yield and crop failure will be investigated.

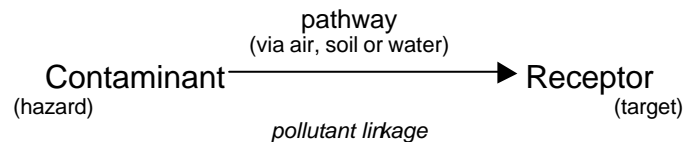
- e) **PROPERTY. HOME GROWN PRODUCE** - There are many allotments within the Borough and these will all be identified and their potential for contamination considered as a result of previous uses or activities. Similarly any domestic gardens likely to be contaminated will be identified and assessed.
- f) **ECOLOGICAL RECEPTORS** - All receptors listed in 1.10 (b) above will be identified as part of the inspection strategy. There are several designated sites of Metropolitan and Borough importance including a SSSI at Syon Park. All areas will be identified, examined and any risks carefully quantified with English Nature and the Environment Agency.
- g) **WATER. AQUIFERS** - All aquifers will be specifically identified with their location, depth and vulnerability according to cover. Potential risks from identified sources of contamination will be considered carefully with the Environment Agency.
- h) **WATER. PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES** - All public water supply abstraction points will be identified with their location, depth, strata / surface water supply they draw from and volume of supply. Potential risks from identified sources of contamination will be considered carefully with the Environment Agency and Thames Water.
- i) **WATER. PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES** - All private water supplies in the Borough will be identified with their location, depth, strata / surface water supply they draw from and volume of supply. Potential risks from identified sources of contamination will be considered carefully with the Environment Agency.
- j) **WATER, OTHER AUTHORISED ABSTRACTION POINTS** - All authorised abstraction points will be identified such as those used for agricultural or recreational use. Potential risks from identified sources of contamination will be considered carefully with the Environment Agency.
- k) **WATER, OTHER SPECIFIED RECEPTORS** - All other water receptors such as rivers, streams, tributaries, reservoirs, lakes etc will be identified as part of the inspection strategy. Potential risks from identified sources of contamination will be considered carefully with the Environment Agency.

Details of statutory and non-statutory consultees and contact points are included in Appendix 2.

## PART 2

### IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIALLY CONTAMINATED SITES AND THEIR PRIORITISATION ACCORDING TO RISK

- 2.1 The identification of contaminated land will be carried out in an ordered, rational and efficient manner based firmly on the principles of risk assessment. Significant and imminent risks to human health will always be given the highest priority.
- 2.2 Before land can be declared contaminated by definition a, significant pollutant linkage must be identified.



- 2.3 Unless all three elements of a pollutant linkage are identified, land cannot be considered contaminated. All search strategies will therefore be prioritised on areas where both contaminants and receptors are known or likely to exist. It is important to fully understand this concept, as it will form the basis of all future site investigation and prioritisation procedures.
- 2.4 If, for example, an area of land is known or strongly suspected to be badly affected with potentially dangerous contaminants, it will not be considered of the highest priority if studies confirm there are no specified receptors within the area of influence. If there are receptors evident, the risk assessment process will seek to determine the likelihood of them coming together at any time. If the chances of this are calculated as, significant, and the consequences would result in, significant harm, or pollution of controlled waters, then a significant pollutant linkage will be said to exist and the land will be declared contaminated land, by definition.
- 2.5 In summary, for contaminated land to exist the following are pre-requisites:
- i) One or more contaminant substances
  - ii) One or more specified receptors
  - iii) At least one plausible pathway between contaminant and receptor  
(Then a pollutant linkage exists)
  - iv) A good chance that the pollutant linkage will result in significant harm to one of the specified receptors, or, pollution of controlled waters.
- 2.6 The strategy for identification will therefore be based on a desk top survey of the Borough to identify areas of land where:

- a) Previous uses indicate contamination may exist
- b) There is no existing pollution control regime in place
- c) There are known receptors within a determined area of influence

Previous uses considered potentially contaminative are listed in appendix 4.

2.7 Potentially contaminated land shall, prior to detailed investigation, be listed and categorised according to a **preliminary assessment** of risk. The method used will be based on that described in DETR Contaminated Land Research Report 6, entitled, 'Prioritisation & Categorisation Procedure for sites which may be Contaminated' (CLR 6). This is to ensure all further investigative work relates directly to seriousness of the potential risk and therefore the most pressing problems are identified and quantified first.

2.8 CLR6 was published in 1995 and the terminology is not ideal for this purpose therefore some of the wording has been slightly changed in the description of the Priority Categories below, new words have been identified by underlining.

2.9 CLR 6 describes four Priority Categories (PCs):

Priority Category 1 - Site likely not to be suitable for present use and environmental setting.  
Contaminants probably or certainly present and very likely to have an unacceptable impact on key targets.  
Urgent assessment action needed in the short term.

Priority Category 2- Site may not be suitable for present use and environmental setting.  
Contaminants probably or certainly present and likely to have an unacceptable impact on key targets.  
Assessment action needed in the medium term.

Priority Category 3 - Site considered suitable for present use and environmental setting.  
Contaminants may be present but unlikely to have an unacceptable impact on key targets.  
Assessment action unlikely to be needed whilst the site remains in present use or otherwise remains undisturbed.

Priority Category 4 - Site considered suitable for present use and environmental setting.  
Contaminants may be present but very unlikely to have an unacceptable impact on key targets.  
No assessment action needed while site remains in present use or undisturbed.

2.10 To assist in the prioritisation procedure a simple scoring system has been devised as follows:

Likelihood of *contaminants* on the site:

1	-	most unlikely
5	-	good chance
10	-	known to be present

Existence of *receptors* within area of influence:

1	-	most unlikely
5	-	good chance
10	-	known to exist

Likelihood of impact of contaminants on receptors (*pathway*):

1	-	most unlikely
5	-	good chance
10	-	certain

2.11 This preliminary process is known as a CRP (contaminant receptor pathway) assessment. Initial trawls may identify sites where either particular contaminants are likely or known to exist, or sensitive receptors are known to exist. No assessment should be undertaken unless both are suspected or confirmed. Where there is doubt the situation will be kept under review.

CRP Score	PC
26-30	1
21-25	2
16-20	3
10-15	4

Relationship of CRP score to Priority Category:

2.12 How this system is used can best be demonstrated by examples and several are shown in appendix 6 using a simple multi-stage assessment form

2.13 As Priority Category 1 sites are likely not to be suitable for their present use, these will be investigated as soon as possible after they are identified.

#### COMPLAINTS FROM THE PUBLIC

2.14 Complaints will continue to be received about fly tipping, accumulations, and the potential for contaminated land. These will be investigated in accordance with existing protocols and enforcement policy to establish whether the complaint is justified. If so, the particular circumstances will be evaluated to establish which enforcement process would be most appropriate. See also i.8 above, where the new contaminated land regime does not apply.

2.15 Complaints may also be received about the fact that a particular site has been identified for further investigation. This could give rise to concern, especially where a potential sale has failed as a direct result of the suggestion that the land may be contaminated. Those so affected may seek an early investigation to clarify their position, thereby seeking to circumvent the prioritisation process. Such requests for priority inspection will, where resources allow, be dealt with as considerately and quickly as possible. This is considered also in Part 6 on data handling and access to information.

## CONCLUDING COMMENTS ON IDENTIFICATION AND PRIORITISATION

2.16 It must be understood that the assessments at this preliminary stage are made on a limited amount of incomplete basic data and information, such as old surveys, maps, geological information etc. As more knowledge of the site is obtained, these assessments will be revised and their Priority Category may change. The assessment of a site as Priority Category 1 does not necessarily infer the existence of a significant risk to one of the specified receptors, but it does identify the need for priority assessment of risk potential.

## PART 3

### OBTAINING FURTHER INFORMATION ON POLLUTANT LINKAGES AND THE RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS

3.1 The Council has the sole responsibility for determining whether any land appears to be contaminated land, it cannot delegate this responsibility. This applies even where the Environment Agency has carried out an investigation on behalf of the Council (see 3.11 below).

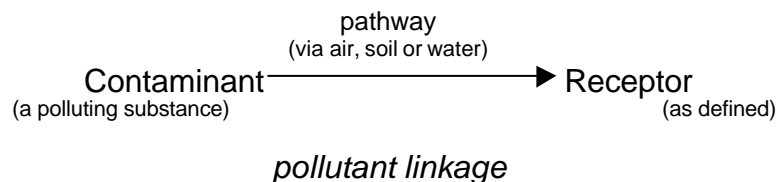
3.2 Once the Council becomes aware of the (possible) existence of a pollutant linkage they must, in accordance with their prioritisation procedure, commence the risk assessment process. The definition of contaminated land (see i.7 above) is based on the principles of risk assessment. For the purposes of the guidance risk is defined as the combination of:

- a) the probability, or frequency, of occurrence of a defined hazard; and
- b) the magnitude of the consequences.

There are two steps in applying the definition of contaminated land:

#### 3.3 STEP 1

The Council must satisfy itself that at least one pollutant linkage exists -



This, for the purposes of this strategy is termed a **stage 1 risk assessment**.

The contaminant(s) must have the potential to have a defined detrimental impact on the receptor(s) and the pathway has to be plausible. It is not necessary for direct observation of the pathway but if a reasonable scientific assessment suggests the two could come together then a pollutant linkage is said to exist and the authority must proceed to step two.

#### 3.4 STEP 2

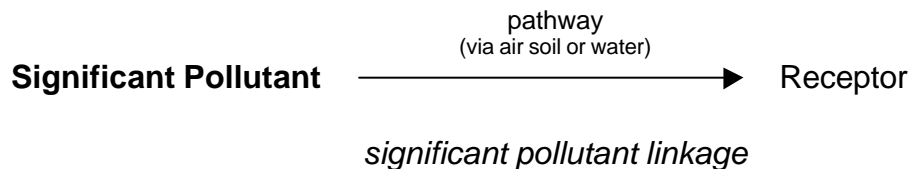
At this stage a more detailed investigation must be undertaken to confirm that the pollutant linkage identified is:

- \* resulting in significant harm (or the significant possibility of such harm) being

caused to the receptor(s), or

\* resulting in (or likely to result in) the pollution of controlled waters

If either of these are confirmed then the land becomes contaminated land by definition and the pollutant linkage becomes, 'significant'.



This, for the purposes of this strategy is termed a **stage 2 risk assessment**.

- 3.5 The detailed investigation of contaminated land is invariably a very time consuming and expensive process, therefore it must be emphasised that all investigations will be carried out on an incremental basis and terminated when it is clear that no significant pollutant linkage exists.
- 3.6 In cases where imminent risk of serious harm or serious pollution of controlled waters has been confirmed, the Council will authorise urgent action in accordance with paragraph 5.13 of this strategy.
- 3.7 **OBTAINING DESK TOP INFORMATION** - As has been explained in the introduction to this strategy, the suggestion that land may be contaminated can have a significant impact on the way others view it, and in particular, its perceived value. The Council will therefore seek to obtain as much information as possible about a suspected site without causing unnecessary alarm. This may involve detailed inspection of historical data in its possession such as Planning and Building Control files. Also the consultation of others who may possess information such as:

The Environment Agency  
Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food  
The Health & Safety Executive  
Developers  
Previous occupiers  
and others

Details of several sources of information are listed in Paragraph 1.8 above.

Once sufficient information has been obtained which confirms a pollutant linkage does not exist, or, if it does, it is not significant, then the investigation will cease and no further action will be taken. It may be, however, that circumstances will be identified whereby a significant pollutant linkage could occur at some time in

the future. Then arrangements will be made to keep the situation under review.

3.8 INSPECTION OF LAND - Where evaluation of all available data suggests a significant pollutant linkage may exist, it may be necessary to visit the site and carry out some form of on site testing, or take away samples for analysis. In every case this will be carried out by a, "suitable person", adequately qualified to undertake the work (see appendix 5). The utmost discretion will be used at all times to minimise the effect on occupiers of the land.

Intrusive investigations will be carried out in accordance with appropriate technical procedures to ensure:

- a) they are effective;
- b) do not cause any unnecessary damage or harm; and
- c) do not cause pollution of controlled waters.

To ensure the most appropriate technical procedures are employed, the Council will have regard to the most up to date guidance available.

3.9 POWERS OF ENTRY - Statutory powers of entry are conferred on the Council to enable it to carry out its functions under Part IIA. These are also considered in appendix 5. There are no circumstances in which the Council will use these powers to obtain information about the condition of land, where:

- \* It can obtain the information from third parties without the need for entering the site; or
- \* A person offers to provide the information within a reasonable and specified time, and does so.

3.10 LAND WHICH MAY BE A SPECIAL SITE (see appendix 1) - Where the Council are aware that land it intends to investigate would, if declared contaminated land, be a special site, it will notify the Environment Agency in writing requesting any information it may have on the land and the likelihood of pollutant linkages. According to the wishes of the Environment Agency, it may be that a joint investigation will be undertaken.

Where the Environment Agency (or their agents) wish to carry out formal investigation on behalf of the Council their officers will need to be appointed as, "suitable persons", in accordance with appendix 5. The Environment Agency do not have the power under Part IIA to investigate land which may be contaminated land without the authorisation of the Council.

3.11 DETERMINING LAND IS CONTAMINATED - There are four possible grounds for determining land contaminated:

- a) Significant harm is being caused
- b) There is a significant possibility of significant harm being caused
- c) Pollution of controlled waters is being caused
- d) Pollution of controlled waters is likely to be caused

In making any determination the Council will take all relevant information into account, carry out appropriate scientific assessments, and act in accordance with the statutory guidance. The determination will identify all three elements of the pollutant linkage and explain their significance.

3.12 In an attempt to ensure the situation can be understood as widely as possible, a simple conceptual model (initially in diagrammatic form) will be produced for all relevant pollutant linkages, and multi-stage assessment forms completed, which clearly demonstrates the decision making process. Examples are produced in appendix 6.

3.13 WHERE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A POLLUTANT LINKAGE CAN NOT BE ADEQUATELY DETERMINED - Situations may arise where, on the information available, it is not possible to determine whether a pollutant linkage is significant in accordance with the statutory guidance. In such case the Council will determine that, on the balance of probabilities, it would seem the land does not fall within the statutory definition of contaminated land, but the situation will be kept under review and reopened at any time new information becomes available.

3.14 Similarly, inspection may identify contamination that would form a significant pollutant linkage should new receptors be introduced. In such circumstances this information will be carefully recorded and the site monitored where the introduction of relevant new receptors seems likely. Should such a site be identified for future development the information obtained during the investigation will be made available to the planning officer and the developer.

## PART 4

### THE WRITTEN RECORD OF DETERMINATION AND FORMAL NOTIFICATION

- 4.1 Once an area of land has been declared contaminated by statutory definition, the Council will prepare a written record to include:
- a) a description of the pollutant linkage(s) confirmed, including simple conceptual model;
  - b) a summary of the evidence, which confirms the existence of the pollutant linkage(s);
  - c) a summary of the risk assessment(s) upon which the pollutant linkage(s) were considered to be significant;
  - d) a summary of the way the requirements of the statutory guidance were satisfied.
- 4.2 The Council will then formally notify in writing all relevant parties that the land has been declared contaminated, these to include:
- a) the owner(s)
  - b) the occupier(s)
  - c) those liable for remediation ('appropriate persons' in the guidance)
  - d) the Environment Agency
- 4.3 At the notification stage it may not be possible to identify all the relevant parties, particularly the appropriate persons. The Council will, however, act on the best information available to it at this time and keep the situation continually under review as more information comes to light.
- 4.4 If the Council are of the opinion that the contaminated land is a special site (see appendix 1) it will inform the Environment Agency of that decision also. The Agency will then consider whether it agrees that the land should form a special site. If it does not agree it will notify the Council and the Secretary of State within 21 days with a comprehensive statement explaining its reasons. The Council will then refer the decision to the Secretary of State.
- 4.5 If the Environment Agency agrees with Council, or it fails to notify the Council it disagrees within 21 days, the land will be designated a special site. The responsibility for securing remediation then passes to the Environment Agency, though the Council must complete the formal notification process.
- 4.6 The legislation and statutory guidance has been designed to try to encourage voluntary remediation (without the need for enforcement action). The formal notification procedure commences the process of consultation on what remediation might be most appropriate. To aid this process the Council will therefore provide as much information to the relevant parties as possible, including where available:

- a) a copy of the written record of determination;
- b) copies of site investigation reports (or details of their availability)
- c) an explanation of why the appropriate persons have been chosen as such
- d) details of all other parties notified

4.7 The appropriate persons will also be provided with written explanations of the test for exclusion and apportionment.

4.8 It may be at this stage that the Council will need further information on the condition of the site to characterise any significant pollutant linkages identified. If that is the case an informal attempt will be made to obtain this information from the appropriate persons already identified.

## PART 5

### LIABILITY & ENFORCEMENT

5.1 Land may be declared contaminated upon the identification of only one significant pollutant linkage. Full liability cannot therefore be determined until all significant pollutant linkages on the site have been identified (see also 3.6 above). When all significant pollutant linkages have been identified the procedure relating to the apportionment of liability must commence. This has five distinct stages as follows:

- i) Identifying potential appropriate persons and liability groups
- ii) Characterising remediation actions
- iii) Attributing responsibility to liability groups
- iv) Excluding members of liability groups
- v) Apportioning liability between members of a liability group

5.2 These procedures are complex and cumbersome. The process commences with the establishment of liability groups. All appropriate persons for any one linkage are a, 'liability group'. These may be class 'A' or class 'B' persons.

APPROPRIATE PERSONS - Class 'A' - These are, generally speaking the polluters, but also included are persons who, "knowingly permit". This includes developers who leave contamination on a site, which subsequently results in the land being declared contaminated.

APPROPRIATE PERSONS - Class 'B' - Where no class 'A' persons can be found liability reverts to the owner or the occupier. These are known as class 'B' persons.

The Council will make all reasonable enquiries to identify class 'A' persons before liability reverts to innocent owner-occupiers.

5.3 The matter of appropriate persons must be considered for each significant pollutant linkage. Therefore where a site has had a series of contaminative uses over the years, each significant pollutant linkage will be identified separately and liability considered for each.

5.4 APPORTIONMENT OF COSTS - Generally speaking the members of a liability group will have the total costs falling on the group as a whole apportioned between them. It may also be necessary to apportion costs between liability groups. There are three basic principles which apply to exclusion and apportionment tests:

- i) The financial circumstances of those concerned have no relevance;
- ii) The Council must consult persons affected to obtain information (on a reasonable basis having regard to the cost). If someone is seeking to establish an exclusion or influence an apportionment to their benefit

then the burden of providing the Council supporting information lies with them.

iii) Where there are agreements between appropriate persons the local authority has to give effect to these agreements.

5.5 LIMITATION ON COSTS TO BE BORN BY APPROPRIATE PERSONS - There are six tests specified to identify Class 'A' groups who should be excluded from liability. These will be applied in sequence and separately for each pollutant linkage. The exclusion of Class 'B' persons is much less complex, the single test merely excludes those who do not have an interest in the capital value of the land. Tenants therefore are excluded.

5.6 When the Council has apportioned the costs of each remediation action and before serving remediation notices, it will consider whether any of those liable may not be able to afford it. If, after taking into consideration the statutory guidance it decides that one or more of the parties could not, it will not serve a remediation notice on any of the parties. The Council will instead, consider carrying out the work itself and produce and publish a remediation statement

#### THE ENFORCEMENT PROCESS

5.7 Before remediation notices are served the extensive consultation process will be completed and ample encouragement given to arrive at an informal solution. The Council will do all in its power to consult the appropriate person(s), owners, occupiers etc about their views on the state of the land. This could be a difficult and most protracted process and cause delays. Where a housing estate is affected for example, it would be reasonable to expect house owners, land owners, developers, lenders, insurers, surveyors, geotechnical engineers, residents groups, etc all to have differing views according to their position.

5.8 Remediation notices are served only as a last resort (not withstanding urgent cases), and then only after this lengthy consultation process has been exhausted. Notices will be authorised after two tests are satisfied:

- \* That the remediation actions will not be carried out otherwise.
- \* That the Council has no power to carry out the work itself.

5.9 If these are met the Council will serve a remediation notice on each appropriate person. It cannot be served less than three months after formal notification that the land is contaminated unless the urgent action is deemed necessary (where there is imminent risk of serious harm).

5.10 SPECIFYING REMEDIATION - The Unit Manager-Contaminated Land and Waste Management will specify what remediation measures are to be carried out in the remediation notice. These will be both appropriate and cost effective employing what the statutory guidance terms, 'best practicable techniques'. The aim of the remediation will be to ensure that the land is no longer contaminated, taking the shortest and lowest cost route. This means in most cases attention will be focussed on the pathway, rather than the contaminant or receptor.

5.11 The “reasonableness” of the requirements are, however, paramount, a concept which is considered at some length in the guidance. It is determined in relation to the cost of carrying out the remediation against the cost of failing to (i.e. the costs, or potential costs, resulting from the continuing pollution).

## REMEDICATION BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

5.12 Before the Council can serve a remediation notice it will first determine whether it has the power to carry out any of the remediation actions itself. There are five specified circumstances where this may be the case:

- \* Where urgent action is required (see 5.13 below)
- \* Where no appropriate person can be found
- \* Where one or more appropriate persons are excluded (on grounds of hardship)
- \* Where the local authority has made an agreement with the appropriate person(s) that it should carry out the remediation
- \* In default of a remediation notice

## ORPHAN SITES

5.13 Orphan sites are those where it is not possible after, ‘reasonable’, enquiries to find anyone responsible for them (class A or B persons), or, where persons can be found but they are exempted from liability for specified reasons. These are described in the statutory guidance as, ‘**orphan linkages**’. In such cases the enforcing authority should bear the cost of the remediation in accordance with the Secretary of State’s guidance. The Council will look to Supplementary Credit Approval to fund these costs in the first instance.

## URGENT ACTION

5.14 Urgent action must be authorised where the Council is satisfied that there is imminent danger of serious harm or serious pollution of controlled waters being caused as a result of contaminated land. In such circumstances the procedures identified in the statutory guidance will be followed which may involve the forced entry into the premises (see also appendix 5).

5.15 The terms “imminent” and “serious” are unfortunately not defined; local authorities are advised to use the normal meaning of the words. There is, however, guidance on what may constitute “seriousness” when assessing the reasonableness of remediation.

5.16 The Council will undertake the remediation in urgent cases where it is the enforcing authority if it is of the opinion that the risk would not be mitigated by enforcement action. In the case of a special site the Council will declare the land contaminated land in accordance with the statutory procedure, and then notify the Environment Agency who will then be responsible for the remediation.

5.17 In appropriate cases the Council will seek to recover costs of remediation works it has completed.

## PART 6

### DATA HANDLING AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

6.1 The Council is required by Statute to produce this contaminated land strategy and formally publish it by the end of June 2001. Subsequently it must maintain a register of regulatory action taken under Part IIA, which must be made available for public inspection at all reasonable times (see 6.13 below).

#### THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS 1992

6.2 Implementation of the strategy will, however, also result in significant volumes of data, which will be held on computer databases and geographical information systems, as well as in paper form. There is no statutory obligation to disclose this information therefore the Council must comply with the requirements of the Environmental Information Regulations when dealing with requests for disclosure.

6.3 These Regulations require local authorities to make any environmental information they hold available upon request, subject to certain exemptions. These are complex but it would be likely that the Council will have to respond to requests for information on land it has identified as part of, for example, the inspection of the Borough, as outlined in Part 2 of this strategy. See also 2.15 above on complaints about information held.

6.4 Below are broadly the exemptions to the right of environmental information. In all circumstances where there is doubt, the Council's Borough Solicitor will be consulted.

Where held for judicial purposes.

Where disclosure would affect legal proceedings.

Where disclosure would affect international relations, national defence or public security.

Where disclosure would affect the confidentiality of deliberations by a relevant person, or the confidentiality of commercially sensitive matters.

Where it would involve the supply of a document or record which is still in the course of completion.

Where the information is not accessible.

6.5 "Information", for the purposes of the Regulations includes records, registers, reports, returns, and information on computers.

6.6 It has been suggested that information held as a result of the Council's initial inspection of the Borough and subsequent prioritisation for further investigation, could be classified as, 'a record which is in the course of completion', for the purposes of the Regulations, and therefore not be disclosed. Whilst this interpretation is appealing, it should be understood that sites should not be so identified unless there are sound reasons, based on scientific judgement, that a pollutant linkage may exist. Also once the preliminary inspection of the Borough

has commenced, each assessment about each and every site could constitute a, 'record', in itself.

6.7 More significantly, however, should a third party purchase land following a refusal on the part of this Authority to supply information requested on its condition, and the Authority had identified it at that stage as potentially contaminated land, that party may wish to seek a remedy against the Council should the site be subsequently declared contaminated land and lose value as a result.

6.8 Requests for information will therefore be dealt with promptly and no later than 21 days after they are made. A charge may be made for the supply of information in accordance with the Regulations. Where the Council must refuse a request for any of the reasons stated in the Regulations it will provide details of the reasons in writing at no cost to the applicant.

#### THE DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998

6.9 The Data Protection Act applies to all personal data that is processed automatically; it does not apply to data processed manually. The Act seeks to give some protection to persons (known as data subjects) in respect of three potential dangers:

- The use of personal information that is inaccurate, incomplete or irrelevant
- The possibility of access to personal information by unauthorised persons
- The use of personal information in a context or for a purpose other than that for which the information was collected

6.10 Personal data is defined as data consisting of information which relates to a data subject who can be identified from the information, or from that and other information in the possession of the data user (the Council). Every individual member of the public can be considered a data subject, there is no age limit.

6.11 It should be noted that just about all information held on computers is considered as being, 'processed automatically', for the purposes of the Act. Therefore should the Council be unsure as to the legality of maintaining data on a computer it will keep a paper record only.

6.12 The implications of holding information relating to the condition of potentially polluted property, and the persons associated with that property and pollution, could be significant. The matter will therefore be considered in detail with the Council's Borough Solicitor and Data Protection Administrator before records begin to be compiled.

#### CONTENTS OF FORMAL CONTAMINATED LAND REGISTERS

6.13 The only information required to be stored on a formal register is that relating to regulatory action and remediation. The contents are specified at length in schedule 3 of the Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2000. This formal contaminated land register will be maintained at the Civic Centre. Members of

the public will be able to view the register free of charge during normal office hours. Copies of documents may the subject of a charge.

## PART 7

### QUALITY CONTROL, PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR REVIEW

7.1 The Government have stated -

“The DETR will be developing performance indicators to assess overall progress in the task of identifying and remediating our inherited legacy of contaminated land”.

7.2 No such performance indicators have been developed to date, but it is suggested they will include:

- a) Measures of the scale of regulatory activities; and
- b) Indicators of the overall progress in the task of identifying and remediating contaminated land.

7.3 It is the Government’s intention in due course to establish targets for overall progress.

7.4 COMPLAINTS AND INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - This is also considered in 2.14 and 2.15 above. Procedures are in place to:

- Record that information or a complaint has been received;
- Demonstrate an appropriate officer has been designated to deal with the request;
- Record the request and response; and
- Ensure appropriate records are maintained.

#### REVIEW

7.5 Whilst the Council has a duty to inspect the Borough, ‘from time to time’, to identify contaminated land, the frequency of inspection is not prescribed. In practice inspection may be a continuum, balancing a systematic approach with the availability of resources. The Council has a duty to review its inspection strategy on a regular basis and to meet its statutory responsibilities two main aspects of review need to be built into this strategy:

- Triggers for reviewing inspection decisions, and
- Review of the inspection strategy

The Environment Agency will be formally consulted on any reviews of the Contaminated Land Strategy.

7.6 In addition to the routine review of inspection findings (see 2.11, 2.16, 3.8, 3.14, 3.15, 4.3 above) there will be situations that will trigger re-assessment including:

- Change of use of surrounding land (introduction of new receptors)

- The potential for pollutant linkages to become significant or urgent as a result of unplanned events (e.g. flooding, subsidence, spillages etc), or a change in circumstances
- Identification of a localised effect which could be associated with the land
- Responding to new information

7.7 The strategy as a whole will be reviewed by the Environmental Services Department at least biannually and any proposed changes will be reported to the Sustainable Development Committee and incorporated as necessary. Particular matters that will be kept under review include:

- The content of the strategy generally
- Priorities for further investigation of potentially contaminated sites
- The potential for the introduction of new receptors
- The potential for new contamination
- Progress on voluntary remediation
- The enforcement process generally and the identification of appropriate persons particularly
- Identification of special sites
- Progress with the implementation

## PART 8

### PROJECTED COSTS AND TIMETABLE

- 8.1 As outlined in i.10 above, the Government has identified that to implement this highly complex and demanding piece of legislation will involve local authorities in considerable expenditure. As a result some £95M has been made available over three years as part of the standard spending assessment (£12M each year), with the rest available through the contaminated land supplementary credit approval (SCA) programme.
- 8.2 No additional staff have been employed at this Council to implement the requirements of Part IIA. This strategy has been produced in-house by the Unit Manager-Contaminated Land and Waste Management, following extensive consultation within and outside the Council.
- 8.3 The next stage is the inspection of the Borough, identification of potentially contaminated sites, and their prioritisation for further more detailed inspection. In addition to staff costs, this has been estimated to be £20,000 and will be carried out by officers in the Environmental Services Department reporting to the Unit Manager-Contaminated Land and Waste Management, in the financial years 2001/02 and 2002/03.
- 8.4 Subsequently, potentially significant sums may be required to make more detailed investigation of sites and, possibly take enforcement action and carry out remediation action. It is very difficult at this stage to estimate what the full inspection of the Borough will reveal, and how much further work it will necessitate. Should a significant investigation and / or remediation be identified, it is anticipated that an application for Supplementary Credit Approval (SCA) would be made specifically relating to that site.
- 8.5 It should be noted that these arrangements relate specifically to the Council's enforcement role and not that as landowner. Should land in possession of the Council be identified as contaminated land then funding of remediation will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In the event of significant costs being involved it is likely that an application will also be made via the contaminated land SCA scheme by the Unit Manager-Contaminated Land and Waste Management.

## PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PART IIA

Duty	Year
Production and publication of statutory contaminated land strategy	By July 2001
Inspection of the Borough, identification of potentially contaminated sites and prioritisation for further investigation	2001 – 2003
Detailed inspection and assessment of priority category 1 sites	As soon as possible after they become known to the Council
Detailed inspection and assessment of remaining potentially contaminated sites	2003 – 2006

# APPENDICES

# APPENDIX 1

## SPECIAL SITES

1. Once a local authority has identified land as contaminated land by definition, it must also consider whether it falls into the category of a special site. Special sites are sites where, more often than not, the Environment Agency have had, or still have, an enforcement role.

2. What exactly constitutes a special site is specified in the Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2000. For a legal definition the Regulations must always be consulted. In simple terms, however, they include land:-

- Polluting controlled waters (in certain circumstances - see appendix 3);
- On sites subject to Integrated Pollution Control (see Environmental Protection Act 1990 Part I - Prescribed Processes and Substances Regulations 1991 schedule 1 part A);
- With waste sulphuric acid tar lagoons (on sites used for refining benzole, used lubricants or petroleum);
- Used as an oil refinery;
- Used to manufacture or process explosives;
- Used to manufacture or dispose of atomic, chemical or biological weapons\*
- Used for other nuclear purposes\*;
- Owned or occupied by a defence organisation for naval, military or air force purposes\* (not off base housing / NAFFI);
- Held for the benefit of Greenwich Hospital\*.

3. Contaminated land beyond the boundary of these premises (but contaminated by them) also forms part of the special site.

4. Procedure in relation to the investigation and declaration of special sites is covered in 3.11, 4.4, 4.5 and 5.15 above.

5. It should be noted that a new Memorandum of Understanding was agreed between the Environment Agency and the Local Government Association in June 2001 relating to special site designation. This will be followed where practicable.

\*non-biological and non-radioactive contamination only (see Paragraph i8 above)

## APPENDIX 2

### CONSULTATION AND CONTACT POINTS

1. An important aspect in developing this strategy was consultation within the Council and to external organisations. In May 2001, the following external organisations were consulted with the draft document;

The Environment Agency  
English Nature  
English Heritage  
Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food  
Health and Safety Executive  
Railtrack Property  
Heathrow Airport Ltd  
Taywood Homes Ltd  
Thames Water  
Rutland Group

Copies of the Draft Strategy were held at all the Council's libraries and residents were asked to respond to the Unit Manager-Contaminated Land and Waste Management should they have any comments. Within the Council, all landowning departments, the Borough Solicitor, the Borough Treasurer and the Head of Strategy and Information in the Environmental Services Department were consulted. Copies of the Draft Strategy were held in the Members Library and Members of the Sustainable Development Committee were invited to ask questions to the Unit Manager-Contaminated Land and Waste Management.

Responses were received from the Environment Agency, English Heritage, MAFF and Thames Water. The draft document was well received with a few clarifications to the text and modifications to contact names being requested. Changes have been made where necessary and practicable.

The Strategy was approved by the Sustainable Development Committee on behalf of the Council on 17 May 2001. The Committee recommended that progress on the implementation of the Strategy should be reported to future meetings and agreed that the Draft need only go back to a future Committee if significant changes were necessary following consultation.

2. Useful contacts relating to contaminated land include the following;

HOUNSLOW COUNCIL

**Main contact:**

Richard Wood  
Unit Manager-Contaminated Land and Waste Management  
Environmental Services Department  
The Civic Centre  
Lampton Road  
Hounslow  
TW3 4DN

Tel: 020 8583 5065  
Fax: 020 8583 5134

ENGLISH HERITAGE

Details of all Ancient Monuments are listed in the UDP

**Main contact:**

Alan Byrne/Regional Planner  
Mike Corfield /Chief Scientist  
23 Saville Row  
London  
W1X 1AB

Tel: 0207 973 3321  
Enquiries: 0207 973 3000  
Fax: 0207 973 3001

ENGLISH NATURE

**Local contact:**

Mr N Radford  
Essex, Hertfordshire and London Team  
Ormond House  
26-27 Boswell Street  
London  
WC1N 3JZ

**Special advisory teams:**

Environmental Impacts Team (Taunton)  
English Nature  
Roughmoor  
Bishop's Hull  
Taunton  
Somerset  
TA1 5AA

Tel: 01823 283211  
Fax: 01823 272978

Environmental Impacts & Marine Team (Peterborough)  
English Nature  
Northminster House  
Peterborough  
Cambridgeshire  
PE1 1UA

Tel: 01733 455000  
Fax: 01733 568834

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

The Council will consult and liaise with the Environment Agency on matters relevant to the Agency's various functions. It will also seek site-specific advice where necessary in accordance with the Environment Agency's formal role and when designating special sites.

This process will, as far as is reasonably practicable (taking into consideration the limitations on both parties), be carried out in accordance with the joint Memorandum of Understanding between the Environment Agency and the Local Government Association (June 2001).

**Area Contaminated Land Officers:**

Alistair Norton/Dawn Halliday  
Environment Agency  
Apollo Court  
2 Bishops Square Business Park  
St Albans Road West  
Hatfield  
Herts  
AL10 9EX

Tel: 01707 632300  
Fax: 01707 632533

**National Part IIA process manager:**

Mike Hargett  
Environment Agency South West  
Manley House  
Kestrel Way  
Exeter  
EX2 7LQ

Tel: 01392 444 000

Fax: 01392 444 238

**National Head Quarters**

Land Quality  
Rio House Waterside Drive  
Aztec West  
Bristol  
BS32 4UD

Tel: 01454 624 400

Fax: 01454 624 032

**National Centre for Groundwater and Contaminated Land**

Olton Court  
10 Warwick Road  
Solihull  
B92 7HX

Tel: 0121 711 2324

Fax: 0121 711 5925

**National Centre for Eco-toxicology and Hazardous Substances**

Dr Danielle Ashton  
Evenload House  
Howberry Park  
Wallingford  
OX10 8BD

Tel: 01491 828 544

Fax: 01491 828 427

## **National Centre for Risk Analysis and Options Appraisal**

Dr Raquel Duarte-Davies  
Steel House  
11 Tothill Street  
London  
SW1H 9NF

Help desk: 0207 664 6897  
Fax: 0207 664 6911

### **HEALTH & SAFETY EXECUTIVE**

HSE-Chemical and Hazardous Installations  
39 Baddow Road  
Chelmsford  
Essex  
CM2 0HL

HSE-London South Area  
1 Long Lane  
London  
SE1 4PG

### **HER MAJESTY'S CUSTOMS AND EXCISE OFFICE**

Landfill tax helpline number is 0845 912 8484

### **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FISHERIES AND FOOD**

#### **Local contact:**

Mr Andrew Adams  
Land Management Team Manager  
MAFF  
Southgate Street  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
IP33 2BD

**Main contact:**

Ms F Reynolds  
Sustainable Agriculture Branch  
RMED  
MAFF  
16 Palace Street  
London  
SW1EE 5FF

**STATUTORY REGENERATION BODIES****English Partnerships Head Quarters**

Mr Emyr Poole  
National Environmental Policy Co-ordinator  
16-18 Old Queen Street  
London  
SW1H 9HP

Tel: 0207 976 7070  
Fax: 0207 976 7740

## APPENDIX 3

### POLLUTION OF CONTROLLED WATERS

1. Controlled waters are defined for the purposes of Part IIA as:

- \* Coastal waters including docks
  - \* Relevant territorial waters (usually to three miles)
  - \* Inland fresh waters (relevant rivers, watercourses, lakes, ponds, reservoirs - including bottom / channel / bed, even if dry)
  - \* Groundwater
- (Section 104 of the Water Resources Act 1991)

2. The pollution of controlled waters is simply defined as:

*The entry into controlled waters of any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter or any solid waste matter*

3. There is no power in the Act to enable the Secretary of State to issue guidance on what degree of pollution may constitute pollution of controlled waters. This has been accepted as a potential area of conflict. When, however, considering cases where it is thought very small quantities of a contaminant are causing pollution, enforcing authorities must consider what remediation it may be reasonable to require. This should act as a limiting factor thereby ensuring unrealistic demands are not made in relation to cases of very minor pollution.

4. Pollution of controlled waters will rarely be dealt with by the local authorities. Below is a summary of the issues relating to controlled waters.

5. Where pollution of groundwater has occurred and the source can not be identified, or the polluting substances are contained entirely within the body of water (and not in or on the land), then Part IIA does not apply and the matter would be dealt with by the Environment Agency under section Part III of the Water Resources Act 1991 (see also paragraph i.8 (c) above).

6. Where pollution has occurred from land which subsequently affects the wholesomeness of drinking water within the meaning of section 67 of the Water Industry Act 1991 (Water Supply [Water Quality] Regulations 1989 / Private Water Supplies Regulations 1991), then the land becomes a **special site**.

7. Where pollution has occurred from land which results in surface water failing to meet the criteria in Regulations<sup>#</sup> made under section 82 of the Water Resources Act 1991, then the land becomes a **special site**:

- The Surface Water (Dangerous Substances) (Classification) Regulations 1989
- The Bathing Waters (Classification) Regulations 1991
- The Surface Water (Dangerous Substances) (Classification) Regulations 1992
- The Surface Water (River Eco System) (Classification) Regulations 1994

The Surface Water (Abstraction for Drinking Water) (Classification) Regulations 1996  
The Surface Water (Fish life) (Classification) Regulations 1997  
The Surface Water (Shellfish) (Classification) Regulations 1997  
The Surface Water (Dangerous Substances) (Classification) Regulations 1997  
The Surface Water (Dangerous Substances) (Classification) Regulations 1998

8. Where the pollution of a specified aquifer\* is caused by any of the following contaminants the land becomes a **special site**:

Organohalogen compounds and substances which may form such compounds in the aquatic environment;  
Organophosphorus compounds;  
Organotin compounds;  
Substances which possess carcinogenic, mutagenic or teratogenic properties in or via the aquatic environment;  
Mercury and its compounds;  
Cadmium and its compounds;  
Mineral oil and other hydrocarbons;  
Cyanides.

\*Specified aquifers are those contained in the following rocks:

Pleistocene Norwich Crag;  
Upper Cretaceous Chalk;  
Lower Cretaceous Sandstones;  
Upper Jurassic Corallian;  
Middle Jurassic Limestones;  
Lower Jurassic Cotteswold Sands;  
Permo-Triassic Sherwood Sandstone Group;  
Upper Permian Magnesian Limestone;  
Lower Permian Penrith Sandstone;  
Lower Permian Collyhurst Sandstone;  
Lower Permian Basal Breccias, Conglomerates and Sandstones;  
Lower Carboniferous Limestones.

9. This, in effect, leaves local authorities with the potential responsibility for the pollution of controlled waters where:

a) Surface or coastal waters are affected but not breaching the Regulations in paragraph 7 above.

b) Groundwater (other than a principal aquifer specified as in 8 above) is contaminated and the water is not used for drinking.

10. The Environment Agency have commented that in order to designate a site as a special site, the pollution of controlled waters from a source within/on/under the land must be confirmed as continuing to pollute (or have the potential to pollute) the controlled waters. Where there is no clear evidence that there is a continuing source of historical contamination within the land (even though contamination maybe/is present within groundwaters/surface waters) then the site will not be considered a special site and may not even fall in to the Part IIA definition of 'Contaminated Land'.

## APPENDIX 4

### LIST OF POTENTIALLY CONTAMINATIVE LAND USES

This list has been drawn up to provide a broad indication of the type of sites that are known to use, or to have used in the past, materials that could pollute the soil. It must be understood that the list is not exhaustive, also that inclusion on this list does not necessarily infer the existence of a pollutant linkage.

Abattoirs	Electro platers
Adhesives manufacture	Engineering works
Agriculture	Explosives manufacture (including fireworks)
Aircraft manufacture	Farms
Airports	Fertiliser manufacture
Animal burial	Fellmongers
Animal by-product processing	Fibre glass works
Anodisers	Food processing
Anti-corrosion treatment	Foundries
Asbestos products	Fuel manufacture
Asphalt works	Fuel storage
Automotive engineering	Garages and depots
Battery manufacture	Gas mantle manufacture
Bearings manufacture	Gas works
Blacksmiths	Glass works
Boiler makers	Glue manufacture
Bookbinding	Gum and resin manufacture
Brass and copper tube manufacture	Hatters
Brass foundries	Hide and skin processors
Brewing	Ink manufacture
Car manufacture	Iron founder
Carbon products manufacture	Iron works
Cement works	Knackers yards
Chemical manufacture and storage	Lacquer manufacture
Chrome plating	Laundries
Ceramics manufacture	Leather manufacture
Coal carbonisation	Metal coating
Coal merchant	Metal manufacture
Concrete batching	Metal sprayers and finishers
Coppersmiths	Mining
Descaling contractors (chemical)	Mirror manufacture
Detergent manufacture	Motor vehicle manufacture
Distilleries	Oil fuel distributors and suppliers
Dockyards	Oil merchants
Drum cleaning	Oil refineries
Dry cleaners	Oil storage
Dye works	Paint and varnish manufacture
Dyers and finishers	Paper works
Electricity generation	Pesticides manufacture
Electrical engineers	Petrol stations

Photographic film works  
Photographic processing  
Paper manufacture  
Plastics works  
Plating works  
Power stations  
Print works  
Printed circuit board manufacture  
Radioactive materials processing  
Railway land  
Railway locomotive manufacture  
Refiners of nickel and antimony  
Resin manufacture  
Rubber manufacture  
Scrap metal dealers  
Sealing compound manufacture  
Sewage works  
Sewage sludge disposal areas  
Sheet metal merchants and works  
Ship breakers  
Ship builders  
Shooting grounds  
Skein silk dyers  
Small arms manufacture  
Smokeless fuel manufacture

Soap manufacture  
Solvent manufacture  
Solvent recovery  
Steel manufacture  
Stove enamellers  
Synthetic fibre manufacture  
Tank cleaning  
Tanneries  
Tar and pitch distillers  
Textile manufacture  
Thermometer makers  
Timber treatment  
Timber preservatives manufacture  
Tin plate works  
Transport depots  
Tyre manufacture and retreading  
Vehicle manufacture  
Vulcanite manufacture  
Vulcanisers  
Waste disposal  
Waste recycling  
Waste treatment  
Zinc works

## APPENDIX 5

### POWERS OF ENTRY AND THE APPOINTMENT OF “SUITABLE PERSONS”

1. Section 108 of the Environment Act 1995 gives the local authority power to authorise, in writing, “suitable persons”, to investigate potentially contaminated land. These powers are extensive and will be considered in detail with the Council’s Solicitor prior to any resisted entry being attempted. It should be noted that these powers are not available to the Environment Agency. The powers which a person may be authorised to exercise include:
  - To enter at any reasonable time (or in urgent cases, at any time, if need be by force) any premises / land to make such examination and investigations necessary.
  - To take samples, photographs, carry out tests, install monitoring equipment etc.
2. At least seven days notice must be given to residential occupiers and to occupiers of land where heavy plant is to be used. Consent must be obtained to enter from the occupier, or failing that, a warrant obtained under Schedule 18 of the Act.
3. It should be noted that there are no circumstances in which the Council will use these powers to obtain information about the condition of land, where:
  - It can obtain the information from third parties without the need for entering the site; or
  - A person offers to provide the information within a reasonable and specified time, and does so.

### URGENT ACTION

4. Urgent action must be authorised where the Council is satisfied that there is imminent danger of serious harm or serious pollution of controlled waters being caused as a result of contaminated land. In such circumstances the procedures identified in the statutory guidance will be followed which may involve the forced entry into the premises.
5. The terms “imminent” and “serious” are unfortunately not defined; local authorities are advised to use the normal meaning of the words. There is, however, guidance on what may constitute “seriousness” when assessing the reasonableness of remediation.
6. The Council will undertake the remediation in urgent cases where it is the

enforcing authority if it is of the opinion that the risk would not be mitigated by enforcement action. In the case of a special site the Council will declare the land contaminated land in accordance with the statutory procedure, and then notify the Environment Agency who will then be responsible for the remediation.

7. In appropriate cases the Council will seek to recover costs of remediation works it has completed.
8. All intrusive investigations will be carried out in accordance with appropriate technical procedures to ensure:
  - a) They are effective
  - b) They do not cause any unnecessary damage or harm
  - c) They do not cause pollution of controlled waters

#### COMPENSATION

9. Schedule 18 of the Environment Act 1995 makes clear the circumstances when a local authority must pay compensation for loss or damage as a result of the use of these powers. The relevant officer will therefore ensure that only appropriate technical procedures are deployed, the utmost care is taken at all times, and the conditions carefully recorded before, during and after completion of the necessary works.

#### “SUITABLE PERSONS”

10. The science and associated technical procedures relating to the investigation and assessment of contaminated land are extremely complex. Knowledge of several specialised disciplines is required together with an ability to interpret significant volumes of data and make a reasoned judgement, often in difficult circumstances.
11. The consequences of, ‘getting it wrong’, could, in many cases, have a major impact on the Borough and on people’s lives. On the one hand, an entire area could be unnecessarily blighted and homes rendered worthless over night, whilst on the other, a generation of children could be left at risk from an unidentified pathogen.
12. Neither the Act nor the guidance considers what may constitute a, “suitable person”, for the purposes of the investigation and assessment of contaminated land. There is no list of approved consultants or any professional organisation that oversees the training of contaminated land specialists. There is no minimum qualification and no recognised qualification. Consultants come from a range of backgrounds including:

- Environmental health
- Other environmental science disciplines (several)
- Surveyors
- Engineers
- Geologists
- Hydrologists
- Soil scientists
- Chemists, etc

13. Ultimately, the responsibility for determining what land may and may not be declared contaminated, by definition, lies with the local authority. The lead officer for Hounslow Council is the Unit Manager-Contaminated Land and Waste Management and may need to rely on the advice of appointed, "suitable persons". Under these circumstances criteria have been developed to assist in their selection.

#### PROCEDURE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF "SUITABLE PERSONS" FOR THE PURPOSES OF PART IIA

14. There are two prerequisites to commencing the process of appointing suitable external consultant / contractors, firstly:
  - Adequate funding to support the process; and secondly
  - A well qualified person, 'in house', to act in the Client role
15. Such a person, as well as having sufficient knowledge and experience to specify the contract, must have sufficient time to monitor it also. The Unit Manager-Contaminated Land and Waste Management of the Environmental Services Department have been identified for this purpose. The current post-holder is suitably qualified, holding degrees in Chemistry and Pollution Sciences and over 15 years experience in contaminated land work.
16. Ongoing additional training will be carried out to provide an adequate foundation of knowledge upon which to carry out the role.
17. The Client officer will produce a comprehensive, unambiguous but succinct draft specification for each contract which clearly identifies the work to be carried out, its purpose, timetable and Client / Contractor responsibilities. They will produce a list of appropriate companies, taking care to seek out those most prominent and successful in the field, rather than only those who promote themselves to the Council. Each of these will then be contacted in turn for an informal discussion as to their capability, expertise and experience. Prior to commencing this process the Client officer will produce a selection of questions relevant to the contract to ask each company. This should then hopefully result in a short list of six companies who will be asked to quote / tender for the work based on a final specification.
18. A checklist of information requirements is included at the end of this section.
19. Once appointed the Client officer will be responsible for monitoring the contract to ensure:
  - The contractors are kept fully aware of their responsibilities at all times
  - Quality control requirements are met
  - Amendments are quickly agreed and documented
  - The timetable is strictly adhered to
  - The aim of the contract is achieved

## CHECKLIST OF INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

CLIENT'S INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS	REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONSULTANT
<b>1. GENERAL</b>	
1.1 Background on company capability	How long has company been operating? What kind of work were they originally set up to do - is this an add on? Who traditionally are their clients?
1.2 Numbers and qualifications of staff  1.3 CV and availability of key staff	If a large company, what are the interests / sympathies of those in control. Do they consider local authorities as a serious market? How many staff are available for this type of work, will they need to subcontract? Who will actually be doing the job, what are their qualifications and experience? Practical experience is KEY. Do they really understand Part IIA? Knowledge of environmental law & local government systems an important requirement.
1.4 Details of QA systems including: Allocation of responsibilities Project Management Technical Procedures Technical review Training Assessment of external suppliers	Where appropriate, need details of quality management systems indicating whether accredited by a third party. What technical procedures to be used. Which staff responsible, which will undertake technical review. How will quality of subcontractors be ensured.
1.5 Management of Health & Safety	Identify H&S management procedures where appropriate. Do they understand the fundamental requirements of H&S legislation?
1.6 Track record on similar projects	Ever done similar work or is this a new departure?
1.7 Client references	Need several telephone numbers to enable rapid verification of statements made at interview.
1.8 Financial status	May not always be necessary but on large contracts where considerable financial outlay required need to demonstrate solvency. Bond may be required on large remediation contracts.
1.9 Details of insurance cover	Need to demonstrate insurance available 3 <sup>rd</sup> party liability and professional indemnity. Identify limitations / exclusions
1.10 Membership of professional and trade associations	May be necessary to make checks, Corporate membership of professional organisations, meeting CPD requirements?
1.11 Compliance with codes of practice	Can they demonstrate knowledge of the appropriate guidance, codes of practice etc relevant to the job?

CLIENT'S INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS	REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONSULTANT
<b>2. PROJECT SPECIFIC</b>	
2.1 Technical proposal	The proposal must make it absolutely clear that work will be carried out to comply with the requirements of the specification, what the results will be, and when they will be achieved.
2.2 Project management plan / working plan	A clear timetable must be available which states what stage will be reached by when and who will be responsible to deliver.
2.3 Details of sub contractors	Subcontractors will be necessary on large technical projects. Must state who they are, contact points and lines of responsibility.
2.4 Details of technical procedures	Again, the working plan must clarify all procedures and lines of responsibility.
2.5 Reporting	Reporting procedures must be made absolutely clear. It is essential not to have masses of reports landing on the desk of the client officer which puts the responsibility back on him / her. The responsibility for doing what has been agreed to the agreed standard must lie with the contractor.
2.6 Programme & 2.7 Financial proposal	It may be that the Contractor will want to provide a guide price or include large contingency sums. The programme of work and the quotation must not be ambiguous. A lot depends on the quality of the original specification. Stage payments and timetables must be firm and with perhaps penalty clauses if fail to deliver on time.
2.8 Conditions of engagement	Contracts h5 need not be long and wordy, should define responsibilities of both parties, liabilities etc succinctly.

## APPENDIX 6

### EXAMPLES OF PRELIMINARY, AND STAGE 1 & 2 RISK ASSESSMENTS

**Preliminary assessments** are those carried out at the time of the inspection of the Borough and are designed only to assess priorities for further investigation. See Part 2 above.

**Stage 1 risk assessments** are those which seek to confirm (or otherwise) that a suspected pollutant linkage actually does exist. See 3.3 above.

**Stage 2 risk assessments** are those which seek to confirm (or otherwise) that a confirmed pollutant linkage is significant. See 3.4 above.

**EXAMPLE 1** - Closed landfill with houses built on the site with no recognised capping

<i>Contaminant score</i>	-	10	(As a landfill site, contaminants are known to be present)
<i>Receptor score</i>	-	10	(As persons are living on the site, receptors are known to exist)
<i>Pathway score</i>	-	10	(As persons are living on the site, they are potentially able to access the contamination - a pathway exists)
TOTAL	-	<u>30</u>	<u>PC1</u>

This is a very simple example but it indicates why houses on a landfill site with minimal protection will always be PC1, as a *pollutant linkage* always exists.

**EXAMPLE 2** - Closed landfill site with houses built on the perimeter

<i>Contaminant score</i>	-	10	(As a landfill site contaminants are known to be present)
<i>Receptor score</i>	-	10	(As persons are living very close by receptors are known to exist within an area of influence of the site)
<i>Pathway score</i>	-	6	(As persons are living so close there may be a presumption that there is a significant possibility that the contamination could impact on the receptors, e.g. landfill gas)
TOTAL	-	<u>26</u>	<u>PC1</u>

In this case, if there was data to show that the pathway between the contaminant of concern (say landfill gas) and the receptors had been effectively broken, then the pathway score may be significantly reduced or even become zero.

**EXAMPLE 3** - Closed land-raise in the country, no houses or property receptors nearby but watercourses identified on both sides of the site with leachate staining

<i>Contaminant score</i>	-	10	(As a landfill site contaminants are known to be present)
<i>Receptor score</i>	-	10	(The water courses are controlled waters and therefore specified receptors within an area of influence of the site)
<i>Pathway score</i>	-	8	(It is very likely - possibly certain, that the contamination on this site will access the water courses)
TOTAL	-	<u>28</u>	<u>PC1</u>

**EXAMPLE 4** - Old derelict gas works site, no structures, no access to the public, clay geology, no significant deep aquifer, but Public Water Supply (PWS) nearby. Recent sample results are satisfactory.

<i>Contaminant score</i>	-	10	(As a gas works site contaminants are known to be present)
<i>Receptor score</i>	-	5	(Initial investigations seem to suggest the existence of sensitive receptors unlikely except the PWS)
<i>Pathway score</i>	-	3	(Adverse impact on receptor unlikely but could not be ruled out in the long term – seems satisfactory at the moment from recent sample results)
TOTAL	-	<u>18</u>	<u>PC3</u>

**EXAMPLE 5** - Old power station site, now derelict, no structures, children play on the site, motorcyclists use it for scrambling. River adjacent and part of site a flood plain.

<i>Contaminant score</i>	-	8	(As a power station site contaminants are very likely, including asbestos)
<i>Receptor score</i>	-	10	(Person frequenting the site are receptors with direct access to any surface contamination. The river is controlled water and could be picking up contaminants from the site during periods of flood and heavy rain)
<i>Pathway score</i>	-	5	(Chronic adverse impact on receptors possible)
TOTAL	-	<u>23 - PC2</u>	

## APPENDIX 7

As reproduced from DETR Circular 02/2000, ANNEX 6

### GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The statutory guidance (and other parts of this Circular) uses a number of terms which are defined in Part IIA of the 1990 Act, other Acts or in the guidance itself. The meanings of the most important of these terms are set out below, along with a reference to the section in the Act or the paragraph in which the relevant term is defined.

Terms which are defined in statutes (mostly in section 78A of the 1990 Act) are shown with underlining.

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**Animal or crop effect:** significant harm of a type listed in box 3 of Table A of Chapter A.

**Apportionment:** any determination by the enforcing authority under section 78F(7) (that is, a division of the costs of carrying out any remediation action between two or more appropriate persons). *Paragraph D.5(e)*

**Appropriate person:** defined in section 78A(9) as:

"any person who is an appropriate person, determined in accordance with section 78F..., to bear responsibility for any thing which is to be done by way of remediation in any particular case."

**Assessment action:** a remediation action falling within the definition of remediation in section 78A(7)(a), that is the doing of anything for the purpose of assessing the condition of the contaminated land in question, or any controlled waters affected by that land or any land adjoining or adjacent to that land. *Paragraph C.8(e)*

**Attribution:** the process of apportionment between liability groups. *Paragraph D.5(e)*

**Building:** any structure or erection, and any part of a building including any part below ground, but not including plant or machinery comprised in a building. *Table A*

**Building effect:** significant harm of a type listed in box 4 of Table A of Chapter A.

**Caused or knowingly permitted:** test for establishing responsibility for remediation, under section 78F(2); see paragraphs 9.8 to 9.14 of Annex 2 for a discussion of the interpretation of this term.

**Changes to Substances:** an exclusion test for Class A persons set out in Part 5 of Chapter D. *Paragraphs D.62 to D.64*

**Charging notice:** a notice placing a legal charge on land served under section 78P(3)(b) by an enforcing authority to enable the authority to recover from the appropriate person any reasonable cost incurred by the authority in carrying out remediation.

**Class A liability group:** a liability group consisting of one or more Class A persons.  
*Paragraph D.5(c)*

**Class A person:** a person who is an appropriate person by virtue of section 78F(2) (that is, because he has caused or knowingly permitted a pollutant to be in, on or under the land).  
*Paragraph D.5(a)*

**Class B liability group:** a liability group consisting of one or more Class B persons.  
*Paragraph D.5(c)*

**Class B person:** a person who is an appropriate person by virtue of section 78F(4) or (5) (that is, because he is the owner or occupier of the land in circumstances where no Class A person can be found with respect to a particular remediation action). *Paragraph D.5(b)*

**Collective action:** a remediation action which addresses together all of the significant pollution linkages to which it is referable, but which would not have been part of the remediation package for every one of those linkages if each of them had been addressed separately. *Paragraph D.22(b)*

**Common action:** a remediation action which addresses together all of the significant pollution linkages to which it is referable, and which would have been part of the remediation package for each of those linkages if each of them had been addressed separately.  
*Paragraph D.22(a)*

**Contaminant:** a substance which is in, on or under the land and which has the potential to cause harm or to cause pollution of controlled waters. *Paragraph A12*

**Contaminated land:** defined in Section 78(A) as

"any land which appears to the local authority in whose area it is situated to be in such a condition, by reason of substances in, on or under the land, that –

"(a) significant harm is being caused or there is a significant possibility of such harm being caused, or:

"(b) pollution of controlled waters is being, or is likely to be, caused."

**Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2000:** regulations (S.1.2000/227) made under Part IIA – described in Annex 4.

**Controlled waters:** defined in section 78A(9) by reference to Part III (section 104) of the Water Resources Act 1991; this embraces territorial and coastal waters, inland fresh waters, and ground waters.

**Cost recovery decision:** any decision by the enforcing authority whether:

(a) to recover from the appropriate person all the reasonable costs incurred by the authority in carrying out remediation, or

- (b) not to recover those costs or to recover only part of those costs. *Paragraph E.8*

**Current use:** any use which is currently being made, or is likely to be made, of the land a which is consistent with any existing planning permission (or is otherwise lawful under town and country planning legislation). This definition is subject to the following qualifications:

- (a) the current use should be taken to include any temporary use, permitted under town and country planning legislation, to which the land is, or is likely to be, put from time to time;
- (b) the current use includes future uses or developments which do not require a new, or amended, grant of planning permission;
- (c) the current use should, nevertheless, be taken to include any likely informal recreational use of the land, whether authorised by the owners or occupiers or not, (for example, children playing on the land); however, in assessing the likelihood of any such informal use, the local authority should give due attention to measures taken to prevent or restrict access to the land; and
- (d) in the case of agricultural land, however, the current agricultural use should not be taken to extend beyond the growing or rearing of the crops or animals which are habitually grown or reared on the land. *Paragraph A.26*

**Ecological system effect:** significant harm of a type listed in box 2 of Table A of Chapter A.

**Enforcing authority:** defined in section 78A(9) as:

- (a) in relation to a special site, the Environment Agency;
- (b) in relation to contaminated land other than a special site, the local authority in whose area the land is situated.

**Escaped Substances:** an exclusion test for Class A persons set out in Part 5 of Chapter D. *Paragraphs D.65 to D.67*

**Excluded Activities:** an exclusion test for Class A persons set out in Part 5 of Chapter D. *Paragraphs D.47 to D.50*

**Exclusion:** any determination by the enforcing authority under section 78F(6) (that is, that a person is to be treated as not being an appropriate person). *Paragraph D.5(d)*

**Favourable conservation status:** defined in Article 1 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

**Hardship:** a factor underlying any cost recovery decision made by an enforcing authority under section 78P(2). See paragraphs 10.8 to 10.10 of Annex 2 for a discussion of the interpretation of this term.

**Harm:** defined in section 78A(4) as:

"harm to the health of living organisms or other interference with the ecological systems of which they form part and, in the case of man, includes harm to his property."

**Human health effect:** significant harm of a type listed in box 1 of Table A of Chapter A.

**Industrial, trade or business premises:** defined in section 78M(6), for the purpose of determining the penalty for failure to comply with a remediation notice, as:

"premises used for any industrial, trade or business purposes or premises not so used on which matter is burnt in connection with any industrial, trade or business process, and premises are used for industrial purposes where they are used for the purposes of any treatment or process as well as where they are used for the purpose of manufacturing."

**Inspection using statutory powers of entry:** any detailed inspection of land carried out through use of powers of entry given to an enforcing authority by section 108 of the Environment Act 1995. *Paragraph B.21*

**Introduction of Pathways or Receptors:** an exclusion test for Class A persons set out in Part 5 of Chapter D. *Paragraphs D.68 to D.72*

**Intrusive investigation:** an investigation of land (for example by exploratory excavations) which involves actions going beyond simple visual inspection of the land, limited sampling or assessment of documentary information. *Paragraph B.20(c)*

**Liability group:** the persons who are appropriate persons with respect to a particular significant pollutant linkage. *Paragraph D.5(c)*

**Local authority:** defined in section 78A(9) as meaning any unitary authority, district council, the Common Council of the City of London, the Sub-Treasurer of the Inner Temple and the Under-Treasurer of the Middle Temple.

**Monitoring action:** a remediation action falling within the definition in section 78A(7)(c), that is "making of subsequent inspections from time to time for the purpose of keeping under review the condition of the land or waters." *Paragraph C.8(g)*

**Orphan linkage:** a significant pollutant linkage for which no appropriate person can be found, or where those who would otherwise be liable are exempted by one of the relevant statutory provisions. *Paragraphs D.12, D.14 and D.17*

**Owner:** defined in section 78A(9) as:

"a person (other than a mortgagee not in possession) who, whether in his own right or a trustee for any other, is entitled to receive the rack rent of the land, or where the land is not let at a rack rent, would be so entitled of if it were so let."

**Part IIA:** Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

**Pathway:** one or more routes or means by, or through, which a receptor:

(a) is being exposed to, or affected by, a contaminant, or

(b) could be so exposed or affected. *Paragraph A.14*

**Payments Made for Remediation:** an exclusion test for Class A persons set out in Part 5 of Chapter D. *Paragraphs D.51 to D.56*

**Persons acting in a relevant capacity:** defined in section 78X(4), for the purposes of limiting personal liability, as any of the following:

- "(a) a person acting as an insolvency practitioner, within the meaning of section 388 of the Insolvency Act 1986 (including that section as it applies in relation to an insolvent partnership by virtue of any order made under section 421 of that Act;
- "(b) the official receiver acting in a capacity in which he would be regarded as acting as an insolvency practitioner within the meaning of section 388 of the Insolvency Act 1986 if subsection (5) of that section were disregarded.
- "(c) the official receiver acting as a receiver or manager;
- "(d) a person acting as a special manager under section 177 or 370 of the Insolvency Act 1986;...
- "(f) a person acting as a receiver or receiver or manager under or by virtue of any enactment, or by virtue of his appointment as such by an order of a court or by any other instrument."

**Pollutant:** a contaminant which forms part of a pollutant linkage. *Paragraph A.17*

**Pollutant linkage:** the relationship between a contaminant, a pathway and a receptor. *Paragraph A.17*

**Pollution of controlled waters:** defined in section 78A(9) as:

"the entry into controlled waters of any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter or any solid waste matter."

**Possibility of significant harm:** a measure of the probability, or frequency, of the occurrence of circumstances which would lead to significant harm being caused. *Paragraph A.27*

**Receptor:** either:

- (a) a living organism, a group of living organisms, an ecological system or a piece of property which:
  - (i) is in a category listed in Table A in Chapter A as a type of receptor, and
  - (ii) is being, or could be, harmed, by a contaminant; or
- (b) controlled waters which are being, or could be, polluted by a contaminant. *Paragraph A.13*

**Register:** the public register maintained by the enforcing authority under section 78R of particulars relating to contaminated land.

**Related companies:** are those which are, or were at the "relevant date", members of a group of companies consisting of a "holding company" and its "subsidiaries". The "relevant date" is that on which the enforcing authority first served on anyone a notice under section 78B(3) identifying the land as contaminated land, and the terms "holding company" and "subsidiaries" have the same meaning as in section 736 of the Companies Act 1985.

*Paragraph D.46*

**Relevant information:** information relating to the assessment of whether there is a significant possibility of significant harm being caused, which is:

- (a) scientifically-based;
- (b) authoritative;
- (c) relevant to the assessment of risks arising from the presence of contaminants in soil; and
- (d) appropriate to the determination of whether any land is contaminated land for the purposes of Part IIA, in that the use of the information is consistent with providing a level of protection of risk in line with the qualitative criteria set out in Tables A and B of Chapter A. *Paragraph A.31*

**Relevant land or waters:** the contaminated land in question, any controlled waters affected by that land and any land adjoining or adjacent to the contaminated land on which remediation might be required as a consequence of the contaminated land being such land.

*Paragraph C.8(d)*

**Remedial treatment action:** a remediation action falling within the definition in section 78A(7)(b), that is the doing of any works, the carrying out of any operations or the taking of any steps in relation to any such land or waters for the purpose:

- (a) of preventing or minimising, or remedying or mitigating the effects of any significant harm, or any pollution of controlled waters, by reason of which the contaminated land is such land, or
- (b) of restoring the land or waters to their former state. *Paragraph C.8(f)*

**Remediation:** defined in section 78A(7) as

- "(a) the doing of anything for the purpose of assessing the condition of -
  - "(i) the contaminated land in question;
  - "(ii) any controlled waters affected by that land; or
  - "(iii) any land adjoining or adjacent to that land;

- "(b) the doing of any works, the carrying out of any operations or the taking of any steps in relation to any such land or waters for the purpose –
  - "(i) of preventing or minimising, or remedying or mitigating the effects of any significant harm, or any pollution of controlled waters, by reason of which the contaminated land is such land; or
  - "(ii) of restoring the land or waters to their former state; or
- "(c) the making of subsequent inspections from time to time for the purpose of keeping under review the condition of the land or waters."

**Remediation action:** any individual thing which is being, or is to be, done by way of remediation. *Paragraph C.8(a)*

**Remediation declaration:** defined in section 78H(6). It is a document prepared and published by the enforcing authority recording remediation actions which it would have specified in a remediation notice, but which it is precluded from specifying by virtue of sections 78E(4) or (5), the reasons why it would have specified those actions and the grounds on which it is satisfied that it is precluded from specifying them in a notice.

**Remediation notice:** defined in section 78E(1) as a notice specifying what an appropriate is to do by way of remediation and the periods within which he is required to do each of the things so specified.

**Remediation package:** the full set or sequence of remediation actions, within a remediation scheme, which are referable to a particular significant pollutant linkage. *Paragraph C.8(b)*

**Remediation scheme:** the complete set or sequence of remediation actions (referable to one or more significant pollutant linkages) to be carried out with respect to the relevant land or waters. *Paragraph C.8(c)*

**Remediation statement:** defined in section 78H(7). It is a statement prepared and published by the responsible person detailing the remediation actions which are being, have been, or are expected to be, done as well as the periods within which these things are being done.

**Risk:** the combination of:

- (a) the probability, or frequency, of occurrence of a defined hazard (for example, exposure to a property of a substance with the potential to cause harm); and
- (b) the magnitude (including the seriousness) of the consequences. *Paragraph A.9*

**Shared action:** a remediation action which is referable to the significant pollutant in more than one significant pollutant linkage. *Paragraph D.21(b)*

**Single-linkage action:** a remediation action which is referable solely to the significant pollutant in a single significant pollutant linkage. *Paragraph D.21(a)*

**Significant harm:** defined in section 78A(5). It means any harm which is determined to be significant in accordance with the statutory guidance in Chapter A (that is, it meets one of the descriptions of types of harm in the second column of Table A of that Chapter).

**Significant pollutant:** a pollutant which forms part of a significant pollutant linkage.  
*Paragraph A.20*

**Significant pollutant linkage:** a pollutant linkage which forms the basis for a determination that a piece of land is contaminated land. *Paragraph A.20*

**Significant possibility of significant harm:** a possibility of significant harm being caused which, by virtue of section 78A(5), is determined to be significant in accordance with the statutory guidance in Chapter A.

**Sold with Information:** an exclusion test for Class A persons set out in Part 5 of Chapter D.  
*Paragraph D.57 to D.61*

**Special site:** defined by section 78A(3) as:

"any contaminated land –

"(a) which has been designated as such a site by virtue of section 78C(7) or 78D(6)...; and

"(b) whose designation as such has not been terminated by the appropriate Agency under section 78Q(4)..."

The effect of the designation of any contaminated land as a special site is that the Environment Agency, rather than the local authority, becomes the enforcing authority for the land.

**Substance:** defined in section 78A(9) as:

"any natural or artificial substance, whether in solid or liquid form or in the form of a gas or vapour."