

CONTAMINATED SOILS & HAZARDOUS WASTE

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(EIC)

Features of contaminated soils

- Highly varied mixture of different contaminants at widely varying concentrations
- Heavy metals, organic & inorganic substances
- Soil matrix varies - natural and manmade
- Often unpredictable contaminants and concentrations

Achieving Waste Reduction

- Classification
- Treatment options
- Counter escalation in cost of contaminated land redevelopment

How to Classify Contaminated Soils?

- Haz waste or non-haz waste?
 - 17 05 03* or 17 05 04
 - “Dangerous substances”
 - Relevant concentrations?
 - Criteria?
- Need rapid, straightforward, economical method
- EA / EIC liaison

Classifying Contaminated Soils

- Avoid incorrect classification as haz waste
- Minimise volume on site as haz waste
- Assess options of dealing with haz waste
- Type and extent of treatment
 - to downgrade to non-haz waste for disposal
 - to retain treated soil “suitable for use”
- Estimate costs for remediation

Disposal / Treatment Options

- Landfill -reduce volume or toxicity of waste
 - very few sites, escalating costs, long haul
 - Waste Acceptance Criteria
- Re-deposition of ex-situ treated waste
 - still a waste unless “fully recovered”
 - still needs waste management licence although “suitable for use”
 - redeveloped site is blighted by landfill licence

Outcome:

- Waste stays waste for longer - until undergone complete recovery operation/put to final use
- Doesn't cease to be waste just because
 - someone intends to use it
 - it has an economic value
 - it's been processed ready for recycling
 - it isn't polluting



Treatment Methods

- Onsite remediation needs support
 - Simplification of classification and licensing
 - Clear criteria for “fully recovered”
 - Remove treated waste from waste regulation
 - “Can do” regulation
 - Financial support for investment in onsite treatment
- Single Remediation Permit in place of MPL

Implications

- Failure to realise achievable haz waste volume reductions
- Sharply increased cost in contaminated land redevelopment
- Failure to meet Government brownfield land development target