

**Looking for expert
advice on land
condition?**



Who can you rely on?



Annual Forum April 2012



SiLC, past present future

Peter Witherington



SPECIALIST IN LAND CONDITION



To start at the very beginning!

1989 – Sir Hugh Rossi

DoE Marsham St contaminated land and liabilities division

Judith Denner

1990 EPA

Section 143 Registers

Neil Jackson

The radical approach – evaluate risk not contamination

1995 Environment Act – section 57



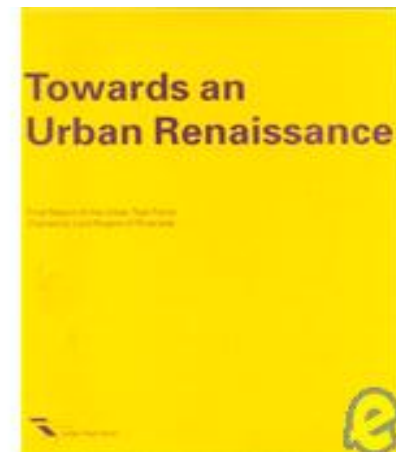
SPECIALIST IN LAND CONDITION

Lord Rodgers of Riverside

Identified benefits in greater consistency in handling information on contaminated land

recommended the introduction of standardised documentation describing the condition of the land, with the purpose:

"to ensure that during the sale, purchase and development of land, all parties had access to the same data sets and could therefore develop some general agreement between them on the levels of risk associated with that particular site or that particular use".





The LCR

Funded by DEFRA, EA and Industry

Working Group finalised the standard "Land Condition Record" (LCR) which:

- ✓ is to consist of factual information relevant to land contamination and the state of the land
- ✓ should not include assessments of the implications of the information
- ✓ must be completed within a quality assurance system, **including the use of accredited specialists** in contaminated land when these become available
- ✓ should not be an onerous requirement for owners or others to complete or maintain.



SiLC Sponsoring Organisations



Established:

- Technical Panel
- Accreditation scheme

IEMA provided secretariat



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SiLC Strategy June 2007

Abolish SiLC?

- No excellence driver
- No other qualification specific to CL
- Shortage of adequately experienced and skilled individuals (industry and regulators)
- Lack of confidence in delivery – land reuse / components / regulatory

Retain SiLC?

- SiLC is not all the answer but can be part (a big part)
- Can provide a benchmark for the sector
 - Competence
 - Confidence
 - Communication
 - Inclusiveness (LA/EA)
- Abolition would send out a very negative message



What has been done?

LCR simplified

SiLC criteria modified to reduce focus on LCR

Improved support for applicants - 'Introduction Days'

CLG funding led to

- The skills development framework
- Appointment of a champion

REHIS joined sponsoring organisations



Achievements to date

150 SiLCs on register

SiLC a requirement of a number of public and private sector clients

Sponsoring Institutions agreed to establish a company limited by guarantee

Sponsorship from National Grid

Consulted by government on revision to Statutory Guidance and NPPF

Chair of Land Forum

At the beginning of the debate on better regulation



And the future?

- Recognised quality benchmark (not just a 'club')
- Recognised career path
- Requirement of major stakeholders
- Integrated into streamlining the regulatory process
- Recognition across Europe?

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