

National Quality Mark Scheme for Land Contamination Management (NQMS) One Year On

Nicola Harries
Project Director CL:AIRE



CL:AIRE
LEADING SUSTAINABLE LAND REUSE

Objective of the National Quality Mark Scheme

To ensure that the standard of land contamination management work meets the requisite legislative requirements for compliance:

Town & Country Planning Regime	Pollution incidents
Part2A Contaminated Land Regime	Enforcement Activities
Environmental Permitting Regime	Voluntary Remediation Schemes

Concept



The scheme involves the presentation of environmental information to the regulator in the form of reports bearing a “quality mark” declaration. This mark indicates that both factual and interpretative data have been gathered and presented in line with appropriate standards.



Benefits

Projects where the land contamination work is done

“right first time” then:

- Clients/Developers will incur less costs
- Planning applications will be subject to less delay
- Less Regulators time – efforts focussed on high risk and poor quality submissions.



SQP Role

Ensure:

- Competence of all team members
- Appropriate and up to date guidance followed
- Regulatory Compliance
- Recommendations are appropriate
- Knowledge gaps and their implications identified



Current Progress

- Short briefing document available to help explain the purpose of NQMS
www.claire.co.uk/nqms
- EA updated their position statement in GP3 in November 2017 referencing their support for the NQMS <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/groundwater-protection-position-statements>
- Land Forum has written to MHCLG explaining the NQMS and asking for their support
- Land Forum written to Local Authority Planners
- Presentations and articles written
- NPPF consultation : NQMS helps to define competent person

Current Progress

- Following launch in January 2017
- As of end March 2018:
 - 89 SQPs
 - 37 declarations submitted
 - 15 SQPs submitted declarations only 17%
 - Why not 100% submitted?

