

SILC REGISTER LTD

PRESS RELEASE

### **NEW CHAIR OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPOINTED**

The Directors of SiLC Register Ltd have unanimously voted Roger Clark as Chair of the Board of Directors to succeed retiring chair Phil Crowcroft.

Phil has served as Chair of the Board since the formation of SiLC Register Ltd and the Board and SiLC's Professional and Technical Panel expressed their deep gratitude for his unstinting and generous service.

Roger is a Chartered Engineer and European Engineer as well as a SiLC and a Suitably Qualified Person (SQP) under the National Quality Mark Scheme (NQMS). He has been a geotechnical engineer over a career spanning 50 years and a contaminated land specialist for the last 30 years.

At the same time, the Board voted to appoint Dr Paul Nathanail as Deputy Chair of the board with the intention that Paul will succeed Roger as chair in two years' time. Paul is a Chartered Geologist and European Geologist and is also a SiLC and a SQP.

Both Roger and Paul have and will continue to be key drivers to the continued success, growth and high level of technical standard assigned to SiLC within the industry.

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### **BACKGROUND**

The Specialist in Land Condition (SiLC) Register recognises the skills of those working in the broader land condition sector. It provides a recognition of competence in the land condition field; competence being a requirement of both the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) with respect to preparation of adequate site investigation information when making planning decisions and the Government's Guidance on Land Contamination: Risk management with respect to use of a suitably qualified competent professional in undertaking land contamination risk assessments .

A registered SiLC is a senior practitioner who has a broad awareness, knowledge and understanding of land condition issues and provides impartial and professional advice in their field of expertise. Entry onto the SiLC Register is gained through examination and interview to establish whether a person has gained the required professional and technical standard. The SiLC Register brings together chartered professionals from a broad range of backgrounds who advise on land condition matters. With the NPPF seeking to encourage effective land use, including 'as much use as possible of previously-developed or brownfield land', being able to readily recognise competence in the field of land condition advice through the SiLC Register has considerable societal value.

The SiLC Register is run and administered by a Professional and Technical Panel (PTP) which comprises representatives from the supporting professional bodies. The PTP develops and implements the registration process and is the ruling committee for individual registrations. The secretariat for SiLC is Forum Court Associates.

SiLC also awards the SQP designation under the NQMS which is a system designed by the National Brownfield Forum, formerly known as Land Forum, (made up of representatives from Government, Regulators and Industry in England, Wales and Scotland) to ensure land contamination risk management work meets the necessary technical and regulatory standards. It applies to the presentation of environmental information provided to the regulators (Environment Agency, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Natural Resources Wales and Local Authorities) in the form of both factual and interpretative reports. The scheme has been endorsed by the Environment Agency and many Local Authorities.

The NQMS provides for a declaration of the adequacy of reports in line with good practice to be made by a SQP who ensures that:

- The work has been planned by, undertaken and drafted by competent people who have relevant experience and qualifications in their respective disciplines.
- The data has been collected in line with established good practice procedures and collected subject to controls established by quality management systems.
- The data has been processed, analysed and interpreted in line with established good practice and any specific advice provided by the regulators.
- The reports provide recommendations or conclusions that are substantiated by the underlying data and are based on reasonable interpretations.
- Any limitations in the data or uncertainties in the analysis are clearly identified along with the possible consequences of such limitations.

All reports subject to a SQP declaration can be audited by the NQMS steering group.



In providing a 'Quality Mark' to reports setting out land contamination management work the aim is to provide assurances to all engaged in the process of evaluating land, including land owners, purchasers, funders, lawyers, insurers and regulators, that the report has been adequately managed by competent practitioners and all legislative requirements for dealing with contamination have been met.

For further information please visit [www.silc.org.uk](http://www.silc.org.uk) or email [silc@silc.org.uk](mailto:silc@silc.org.uk)