



# **SiLC Affiliate Scheme Application Guide**

**Version 2, January 2020**

[www.silc.org.uk](http://www.silc.org.uk)

## Contents

|     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| 1.0 | Introduction .....                                  | 3 |
| 2.0 | SiLC Criteria .....                                 | 3 |
| 3.0 | SiLC Affiliate Scheme.....                          | 4 |
| 3.1 | Criteria for Joining the SiLC Affiliate Scheme..... | 4 |
| 3.2 | Development Programme.....                          | 4 |
| 3.3 | Role of an Adviser and a Mentor .....               | 5 |
| 4.0 | Brownfield Skills Development Framework.....        | 6 |
| 5.0 | Membership Costs .....                              | 7 |

## Appendix A Qualifying Professional Bodies

| <b>Version</b> | <b>Date</b>  | <b>Reason for Issue</b>            |
|----------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Version 1      | January 2019 | New Document                       |
| Version 2      | January 2020 | Addition of IES plus minor changes |

## 1.0 Introduction

The SiLC Register was launched by the Urban Task Force in 1999 to recognise the skills of those working in the land condition sector.

A registered SiLC is a senior practitioner/professional who has a broad awareness, knowledge and understanding of land condition issues and can give impartial and professional advice in their field of expertise. To become a SiLC it is necessary to pass an open book exam and an interview to demonstrate that a candidate meets the SiLC Criteria outlined in Section 2.0 below.

SiLC are also the accreditation body in respect of Suitably Qualified Persons (SQPs) under the National Quality Mark Scheme (NQMS) promoted by the Brownfield Forum (previously Land Forum), see CL:AIRE website. Passing of the SiLC exam (which includes passing an on-line multiple-choice test in respect of the NQMS and SQP) and the SiLC interview, enables a candidate to also become an SQP. Chartership is a prerequisite to becoming a SiLC/SQP.

The SiLC Professional and Technical Panel (PTP)<sup>1</sup> administers the SiLC Register and comprises representatives from 8 professional bodies / associations. The PTP develops and implements the registration process and is the ruling committee for individual registrations.

The SiLC Board<sup>1</sup> has overall responsibility for the SiLC Register. There are currently 196 SiLCs and 115 SQPs.

Forum Court Associates are the SiLC Secretariat.

## 2.0 SiLC Criteria

A SiLC will have an awareness of the roles of individuals working in land condition across the range of professional bodies that make up the PTP and other related professions (eg legal professions). A SiLC should:

1. be able to demonstrate a thorough knowledge of their particular area of expertise;
2. be able to demonstrate awareness and some understanding of other relevant fields and professions required in land management;
3. be able to demonstrate objective judgement in information and data management;
4. be able to communicate well and manage effective interaction between interested parties;
5. have familiarity, understanding and the ability to assess and summarise complex data;
6. be able to demonstrate thorough understanding of the requirements of the NQMS and the responsibilities of the SQP; and
7. know and demonstrate a willingness to comply with all sections of the Code of Practice.

---

<sup>1</sup> SiLC Board and PTP members:

Association of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Specialists, Chartered Institution of Environmental Health, Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management, Geological Society, Institution of Civil Engineers, Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, The Institution of Environmental Sciences, Royal Society of Chemistry.

### 3.0 SiLC Affiliate Scheme

This is a scheme to assist graduates, as well as more experienced individuals, to work towards full membership of a professional body and chartered status, and then progress towards SiLC/SQP registration. The scheme can be entered at any level.

The aim is to provide an integrated process for those on the scheme through chartership and SiLC registration with clear objectives and an early understanding of the purpose and benefits.

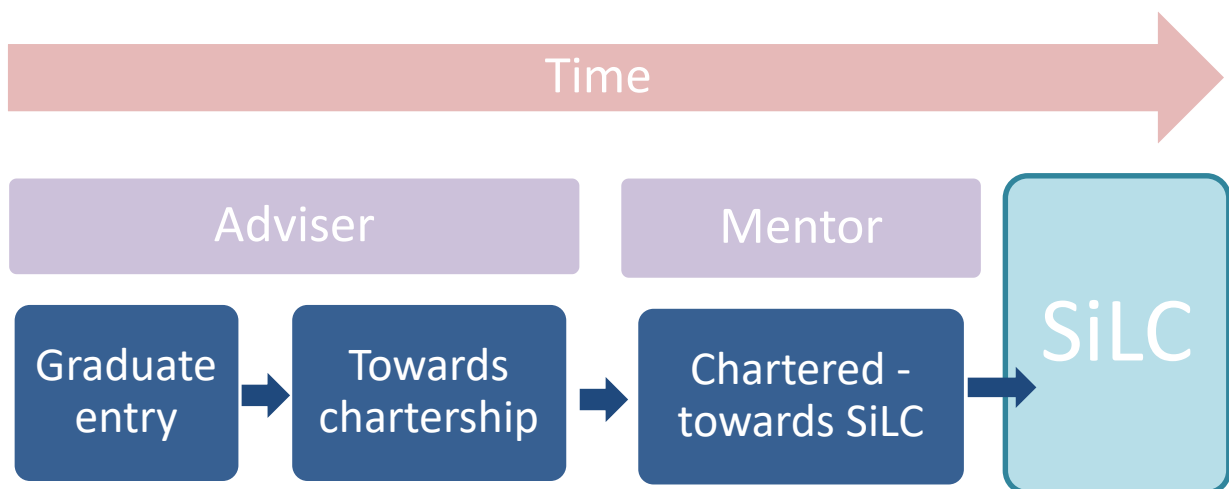
### 3.1 Criteria for Joining the SiLC Affiliate Scheme

Applicants would be expected to demonstrate the following:

- The applicant must be a graduate member (or the equivalent) of one of the qualifying professional bodies – see Appendix A for the list;
- Have a genuine interest in the brownfield land sector;
- Be aiming to become a full member of a qualifying professional body and to join the SiLC Register;
- Maintain their commitment to the Code of Conduct of their host professional body and that of SiLC; and
- Pay of an annual fee.

An application form for applicants to the SiLC Affiliate Scheme is available as a download from the SiLC website ([www.silc.org.uk](http://www.silc.org.uk)). The designation will be SiLC Affiliate and each affiliate will have a SiLC Affiliate number, thereby demonstrating an individuals desire/commitment to becoming chartered and then in due course to apply for admission to the SiLC Register.

### 3.2 Development Programme



| Level                            | Support / Achievement   | Comment  |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Graduate entry                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the profession through liaison with adviser from professional body and with SiLC.</li> <li>• Introduction to the benefits of SiLC registration.</li> <li>• Understanding of the values and benefits of a professional qualification in respect of career progression.</li> <li>• Understanding of the NQMS and the role of an SQP.</li> <li>• 20% discount on the fee for attendance at the Annual Forum.</li> <li>• Webinars</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entry to the scheme can be at any stage following graduation, including once chartered</li> <li>• A Welcome Pack will be provided by the SiLC Secretariat to include:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SiLC aims and objectives.</li> <li>- Skills Development Framework.</li> <li>- Who to contact in chosen Institution.</li> <li>- Who to contact in SiLC.</li> <li>- SiLC NQMS slides.</li> <li>- NQMS documents (CL:AIRE website).</li> <li>- Details of the next Annual Forum.</li> <li>- Introduction Letter from PTP Chair.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| Towards Chartership              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance provided by adviser from professional body.</li> <li>• Professional body CPD that will support subsequent application.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to be working at master's level</li> <li>• Time to chartership varies by professional body</li> <li>• Also guidance from SiLC mentor</li> </ul>  |
| Chartered – Working towards SiLC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with mentor.</li> <li>• SiLC CPD that will support subsequent application.</li> <li>• Support to gain competence through to sitting the SiLC exam.</li> <li>• Introduction days.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PTP has a list of SiLCs who are willing to act as mentors</li> </ul>  |
| SiLC                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admission to the SiLC Register.</li> <li>• Recognition as a specialist in respect of career progression.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential to become a SiLC Assessor and/or Mentor</li> </ul>  |

### 3.3 Role of an Adviser and a Mentor

The SiLC Affiliate Scheme will provide those on the scheme with an adviser as you work towards your initial chartership with the relevant professional body. Once chartered, you will gain a mentor as you work towards SiLC registration.

The roles of the adviser and mentor are distinct and undertaken by different people.

Each professional body has their own advisers and the SiLC PTP has a list of approved mentors. Please get in contact with the SiLC Secretariat in order to identify your relevant adviser/mentor.

| Role    | Qualification   | Support offered   |
|---------|---|---|
| Adviser | A member of staff of the chosen professional body or a SiLC representing the professional body. | To provide guidance to the candidate on the requirements of professional qualification with their professional body. The adviser will be familiar with the requirements of the professional body and how this fits into the SiLC programme, but will not necessarily be a SiLC. |

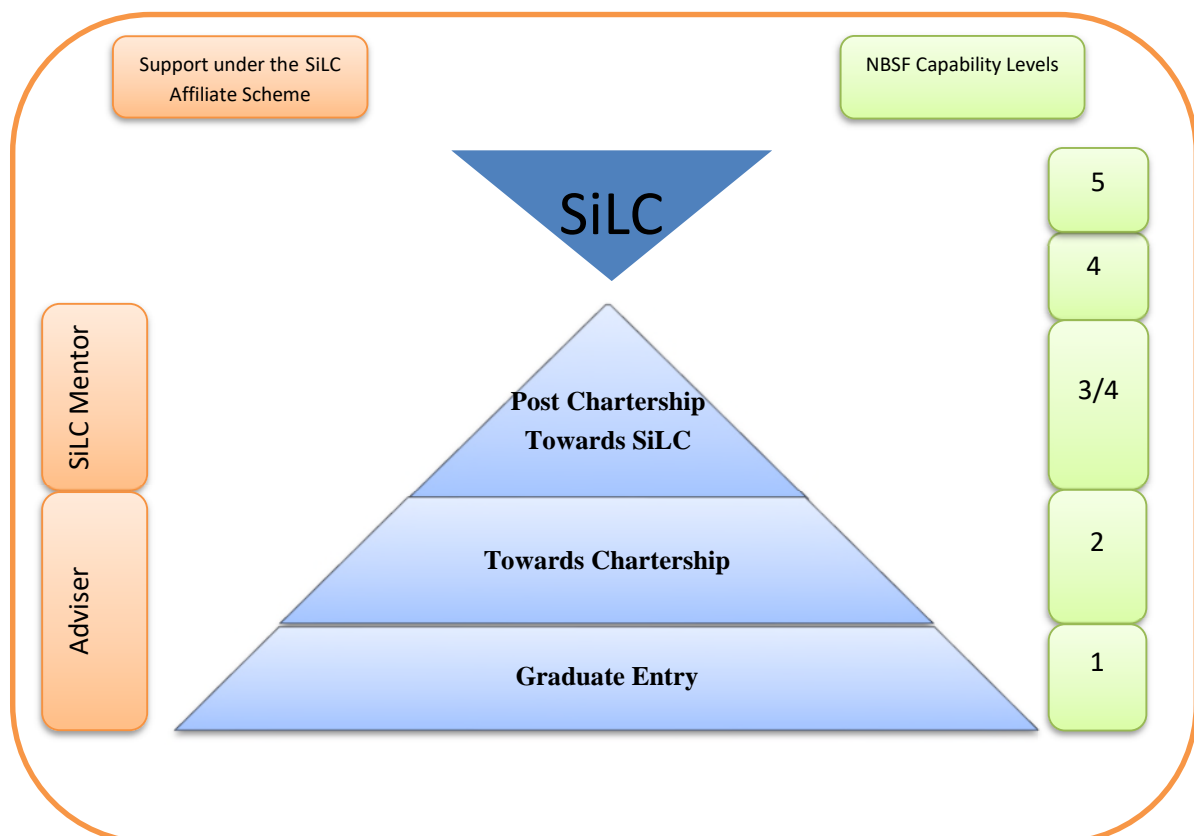
|        |  |  |
|--------|--|--|
| Mentor | A current SiLC on the SiLC list of approved mentors. | To offer specific guidance on the requirements of becoming a SiLC beyond chartership. The mentor need not be from the same professional body as the applicant but will be professionally qualified with one of the professional bodies by virtue of being a registered SiLC. |
|--------|--|--|

#### 4.0 National Brownfield Skills Framework (NBSF)

A copy of the NBSF can be found on the SiLC website. It defines the capabilities pertinent to those operating within the brownfield, reclamation and regeneration industry and promotes development of capability by engaging individuals and organisations in proactive and progressive skills development. These capabilities are pertinent to all those working in the industry, encompassing private and public sector.

The NBSF was originally commissioned by SiLC in order to implement Recommendation 1.2.1 of the Brownfield Skills Strategy which was published in 2008 under funding provided by English Partnerships (now part of the Homes and Communities Agency). At that time it was known as the Land Condition Skills Development Framework. It has since been adopted by the National Brownfield Forum (previously the Land Forum) and is referred to in the NQMS page of the CL:AIRE website. It is therefore appropriate for it to be referenced here as it presents the various stages of career development for those in the brownfield, reclamation and regeneration industry.

The figure below shows the relationship between the tiers leading to chartership and then to SiLC registration under the SiLC Affiliate Scheme and the capability levels of the SDF. The support under the SiLC Affiliate Scheme indicated in Section 3.2 above is also shown.



## **5.0 Membership Costs**

The annual membership cost of the SiLC Affiliate Scheme is £50 plus VAT. This fee includes 20% discount on the attendance fee for the SiLC Annual Forum.

## **Appendix A**

### **List of qualifying professional bodies**

- CIEH - Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
- CIWEM - Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management
- GS - Geological Society
- ICE - Institution of Civil Engineers
- IEMA - Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment
- IES - The Institution of Environmental Sciences
- RSC - Royal Society of Chemistry

### **Scheme also supported by**

- AGS - Association of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Specialists