

Contamination Discovery Strategy: Procedure

1 General

- 1.1 With the development of any site, there is a residual risk of contamination being found that is unexpected or has not previously been identified.
- 1.2 As a precaution, the Principal Contractor should adopt this Discovery Strategy for dealing with unexpected contamination or encountering underground storage tanks.
- 1.3 The Principal Contractor should also ensure it is distributed and communicated appropriately to all relevant ground workers.

2 Step 1: Halting Works

- 2.1 Should any previously unidentified contamination be encountered, works should be made safe then temporarily halted in the affected area and Soiltechnics (The Consultant) informed within 24hrs.
- 2.2 If, due to site constraints, the contaminated materials need to be excavated prior to being assessed, the Contactor should segregate the material as best as is reasonably practicable, based upon visual and olfactory observations. The contaminated materials should then be stockpiled on an impermeable surface and covered with impermeable sheeting.

3 Step 2: Initial Assessment

- 3.1 The Consultant must liaise with the contractor and undertake an initial assessment within 48 hours of notification to determine if the event represents "*potentially significant unexpected contamination*".
- 3.2 If contamination is deemed to extend beyond the depth or lateral extents of the basement dig, the regulator must be notified once the initial assessment has been completed.
- 3.3 Where the initial assessment does not consider the contamination to be potentially significant and unexpected, works can recommence.

4 Step 3: Contamination Assessment and Remedial Strategy

- 4.1 Where *potentially significant unexpected contamination* is confirmed, the Consultant must produce a standalone report which includes a description and risk assessment of the contamination.
- 4.2 The report may provide a scope for further investigative works to refine the risk assessment before a remedial strategy, if required, can be determined.
- 4.3 Where remediation is required, the report must include a remedial and verification strategy. The report must also make it clear whether remediation, and the subsequent submission and approval of an event-specific Verification Report to the Local Authority is required prior to recommencement.
- 4.4 Within 24 hours of completion, the report must be provided to the Local Authority for their approval, and a copy held for appending to the project Verification Report.

5 Step 4: Recommencement and Implementation

- 5.1 All remedial works must be implemented and verified in full. The event-specific Verification Report (if required) must be submitted to the Local Authority for approval.
- 5.2 Works can only recommence once all relevant reports have been approved, in writing, by the Local Authority.

Contamination Discovery Strategy: Contractor Site Guide

