

Contaminated Land Investigation and Remediation - St Austell, Cornwall

A phased investigation was carried out on a former garage site in St Austell for redevelopment to affordable housing. Following an initial investigation which indicated contamination David Roche GeoConsulting was commissioned to join the project team to provide advice on contamination assessment and remediation.



Investigation

Ground investigation was carried out on a staged basis to minimise costs but maximise gain of information. The investigation utilised borehole standpipes for soil gas monitoring and groundwater sampling. Trial pits allowed targeted excavation in potentially contaminated areas. Soil samples were collected and tested to determine the vertical and lateral extent of shallow hydrocarbon contamination. Groundwater analysis was aimed to investigate potential widespread hydrocarbon contamination.



Assessment

A detailed conceptual model of the contamination at the site was developed. Hydrocarbon contamination was limited to the made ground in the upper layer of soil in several local areas, further migration was prevented by the underlying clay soils. A remediation target was agreed with the local council EHO using UK risk assessment methodology to create generic assessment criteria for human health. Consultation with the Environment Agency allowed agreement of remediation targets for environmental issues.

Remediation

A Remediation Statement was presented and approved by the Environment Agency and local council. Remediation included excavation of hydrocarbon affected soils from the area of a former diesel tank and three local 'hot spots'. Validation soil sampling of the resultant soil formation showed that the remediation was successful. A Validation Report was prepared which satisfied the regulatory authorities allowing planning conditions to be discharged.



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