

CONTAMINATION ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

UK Policy

The UK Government's policy in relation to land affected by historic contamination is based on a 'suitable for use' approach. The approach recognises that the risks presented by any given level of contamination will vary greatly according to the use of the land and a wide range of other factors, such as the underlying geology of the site. Contamination risks therefore need to be assessed on a site-by-site basis. The 'suitable for use' approach limits requirements for remediation to the work necessary to prevent unacceptable risks to human health or the environment in relation to either the current use or future use of the land.

The three main drivers for contamination assessment and remediation are:

- *Voluntary action.*
- *Development as part of the planning regime.*
- *Regulatory action to mitigate unacceptable risks e.g. Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.*

Pollutant Linkages

For a contamination risk to exist there must be a 'pollutant linkage' from the contaminant (source) via a pathway (the route from contaminant to receptor) to a receptor (the entity that could be harmed). The absence of a contaminant, pathway or receptor breaks the pollutant linkage and therefore no contamination risk exists.

Contamination is typically present at a site (in the ground and/or in the underlying groundwater) as a result of a historic or current industrial use, usually as a result of leaks, spills or disposal of residues, wastes and excess raw materials from the industrial processes. Contamination may also be present due to:

- *The deliberate application of chemicals e.g. the spraying of herbicide/pesticide.*
- *Migration of pollutants from adjacent land.*
- *Naturally occurring processes e.g. elevated concentrations of particular heavy metals associated with specific geological strata.*

Conceptual Site Model

The conceptual site model can be defined as a textual or graphical representation of the identified pollutant linkages for a given site. The model forms the basis for designing the investigation as the aim will be to target all of the potential pollutant linkages to determine, through the subsequent phases of risk assessment, whether or not they pose an actual risk.

It is important that the conceptual site model is updated with new information as the various investigation, risk assessment and remediation works are completed.

Technical Guidance

The technical and legal framework for contamination assessment is complex. The process adopted through this report for assessing contamination risks is in general accordance with the following guidance, as listed below:

- 'Investigation of Potentially Contaminated Sites - Code of Practice - BS 10175: 2011+A2:2017', BSi, 2017.
- 'Model Procedures for the management of Land Contamination - CLR Document No. 11', Environment Agency, 2004.
- 'Guidance for the safe development of housing on land affected by contamination - R&D66: 2008', NHBC/Environment Agency, 2008.

Risk Assessment Methodology

In line with the technical guidance, the contamination risk assessment follows a series of phased stages for each particular site:

PHASE	DESCRIPTION	RISK ASSESSMENT STAGE
PHASE 1	Generally limited to desk based research and a site walkover survey to develop an initial conceptual site model and identify what risks, if any, are likely to be presented by the site.	Hazard Identification and Assessment A preliminary stage of risk assessment concerned with identifying and characterising the hazards that may be associated with a particular site and identifying potential pollutant linkages.
PHASE 2	This phase is concerned with establishing whether contamination is present, usually through intrusive ground investigation, and then evaluating the degree and magnitude of the associated risks.	Risk Estimation A stage concerned with estimating the likelihood that receptors will suffer adverse effects if they come into contact with, or are otherwise affected by, a hazardous substance or agent under defined conditions. Risk Evaluation A stage of risk assessment concerned with evaluating the acceptability of estimated risks, taking into account the nature and scale of the risk estimates, any uncertainties associated with the assessment and the broad costs and benefits of taking action to mitigate risks.
PHASE 3	The appraisal and selection of remediation techniques, their implementation and verification.	Risk Management The process whereby decisions are made to accept a known or assessed risk and/or the implementation of action to reduce the consequences or probabilities of occurrence.

Risk Classification

The objective of risk assessment is to identify the nature and magnitude of the potential risks and should be based on a consideration of both:

- The likelihood/probability of an event [taking into account both the presence of the hazard and receptor and the integrity of the pathway].
- The severity of the potential consequence [taking into account both the potential severity of the hazard and the sensitivity of the receptor].

There is a need for a logical, transparent and repeatable system in defining the categories of severity of consequence and likelihood as well as for the risk itself and therefore the following risk rating matrix is employed:

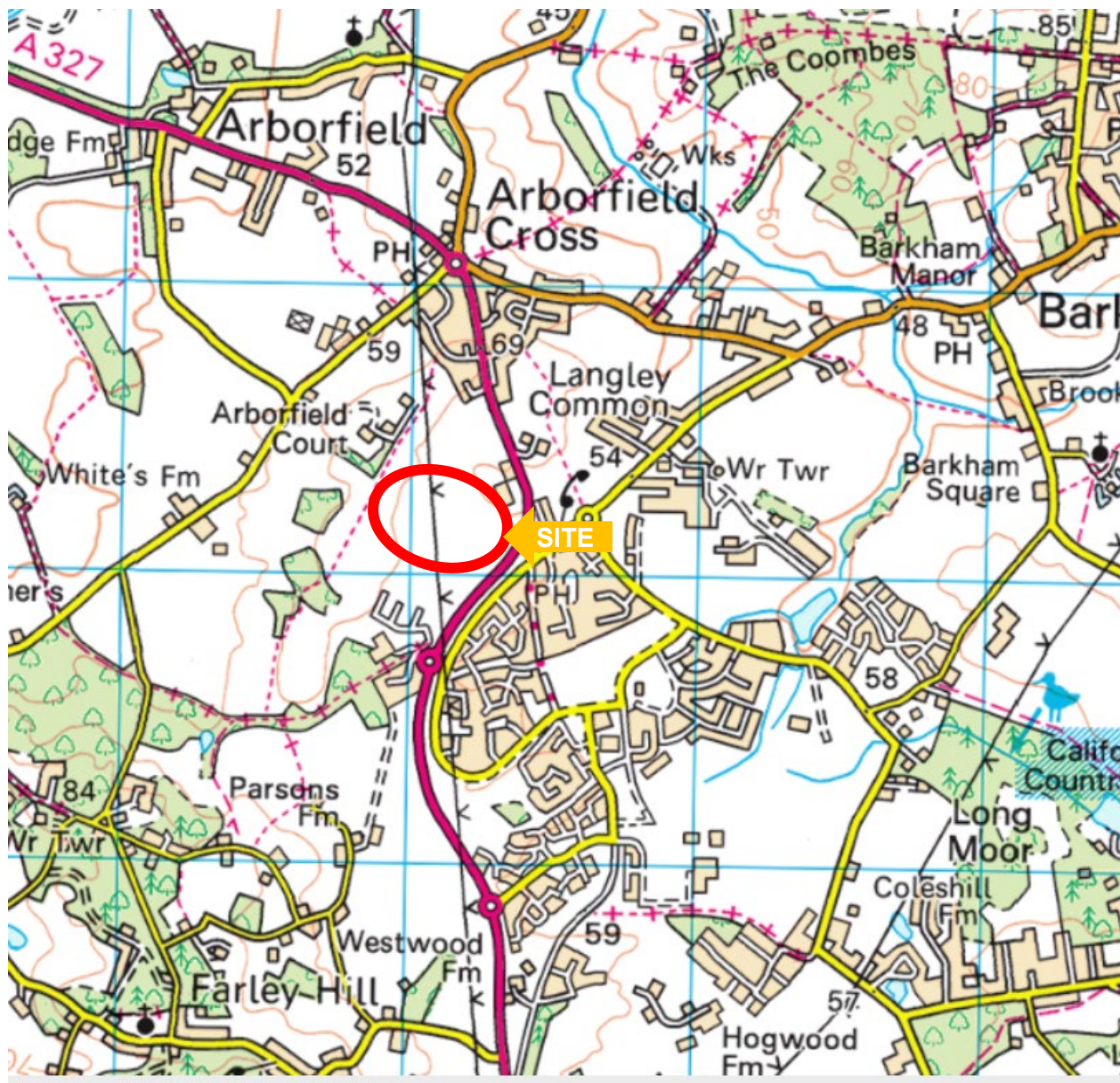
		SEVERITY OF CONSEQUENCE			
		SEVERE	MEDIUM	MILD	MINOR
PROBABILITY	HIGH LIKELIHOOD	Very High Risk	High Risk	Moderate Risk	Moderate/Low Risk
	LIKELY	High Risk	Moderate Risk	Moderate/Low Risk	Low Risk
	LOW LIKELIHOOD	Moderate Risk	Moderate/Low Risk	Low Risk	Very Low Risk
	UNLIKELY	Moderate/Low Risk	Low Risk	Very Low Risk	Very Low Risk

These risk classifications are defined as follows:

- **Very High Risk** - There is a high probability that severe harm could arise to a designated receptor from an identified hazard at the site without appropriate remediation action.
- **High Risk** - Harm is likely to arise to a designated receptor from an identified hazard at the site without appropriate remediation action.
- **Moderate Risk** - It is possible that without appropriate remediation action harm could arise to a designated receptor. It is relatively unlikely that any such harm would be severe, and if any harm were to occur it is more likely that such harm would be relatively mild.
- **Low Risk** - It is possible that harm could arise to a designated receptor from an identified hazard. It is likely that, at worst if any harm was realised any effects would be mild.
- **Negligible Risk** - The presence of an identified hazard does not give rise to the potential to cause harm to a designated receptor.

This preliminary risk assessment matrix and classification system is based on guidance produced by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Environment Agency in connection with contaminated land assessment.

Appendix A – Drawings and Plans



KEY:

Site Location



0 km 1



Approximate Scale:

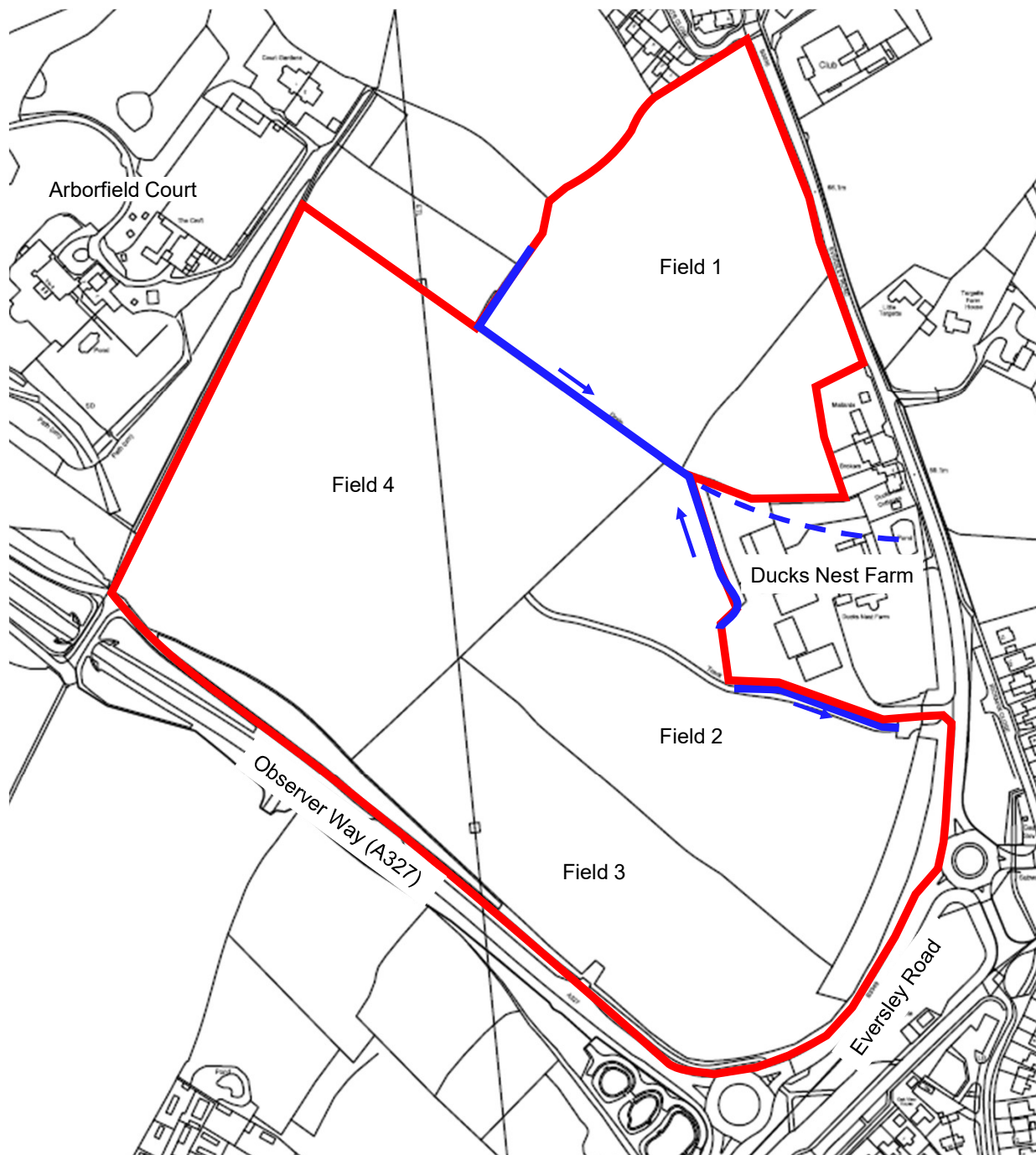
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EMSgeotech

Project Number:	E28112
Site:	Ducks Nest Farm, Arborfield, Berkshire RG2 9PJ.
Drawing Title:	Site Location Plan



Key:

-  Site Boundary.
-  Surface Water Courses.
-  Approximate Culvert
-  Surface Water Flow Direction.

0 200m
Approximate Scale

Extract taken from David Wilson Homes OS Drawing, no date given.



Project Number:	E28112
Site:	Ducks Nest Farm, Arborfield, Berkshire RG2 9PJ.
Drawing Title:	Existing Site Layout Plan



- Key
- Site Boundary
 - 01 Proposed vehicular / pedestrian and cycle access point
 - 02 Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS)
 - 03 Potential Swale
 - 04 Retained and enhanced vegetation
 - 05 Primary access road
 - 06 Proposed SANG car park
 - 07 Proposed enhancement planting
 - 08 Emergency access point
 - 09 Proposed dog pond
 - 10 Proposed wildlife pond

- Existing high voltage powerline including 30m no development zone
- Proposed LAPs
- Proposed NEAP / LEAP & LAP
- Edible landscapes
- Proposed pedestrian crossing points
- Pedestrian/cycle bridge
- Existing Public Rights of Way
- Proposed SANG path
- Informal pedestrian routes
- Informal open space
- Potential development area
- Proposed SANG

CLIENT:
David Wilson Homes

PROJECT:
Land at Ducks Nest, Arborfield

DRAWING:
Illustrative Masterplan

PROJECT NUMBER:
1309

DRAWING NUMBER: 003
CHECKED BY: JB/LA

REVISION: VII
STATUS: Draft

DATE: 26/08/2022
SCALE: 1:5000 @ A3