

Soilfix CPD Session

'Treatment Train' Approaches to remediation of organic pollutants in soils & groundwater

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soilfix
GROUND RISK SOLUTIONS



CPD Outline.....

1. Brief introduction to Soilfix
2. Types of Organic Pollutants & General Approaches
3. Types of Remedial Techniques
4. Typical remediation costs
5. Factors influencing Selection of Remediation Technique(s)
6. Case Study Examples



Who are Soilfix?

- A specialist remediation & enabling contractor established in 2004 - based in Bristol, Essex & North Staffs (plan to expand into NW office)
- Projected 2023 turnover of £16M with 50 staff
- Specialise in 'Design & Build' remediation of soil and groundwater using a wide range of technologies. Also, specialist enabling works (earthworks, development platforms etc.), archaeological / ecological support to projects
- Work for a variety of clients in Development, Industrial & Public Sectors
- Active members of CL:AIRE, RemSoc & contribute to various uidelines and Codes of Practice (e.g CAR-Soil, DoWCoP & CIRIA Guidelines)



Areas of Expertise

Screening / Complex Sorting



Bioremediation



Preparatory Earthworks / Development Platforms

Asbestos in Soils

Stabilisation/Solidification

Further Areas of Expertise

In-situ Stabilisation/Solidification



Surfactant-enhanced Product Recovery



Slurry cutoff-barriers



Injected Reactive Barriers / Treatment Zones

Chemox-Stabilisation/Solification (CSS)

Multi-Disciplined....

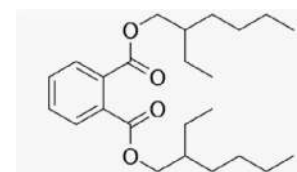
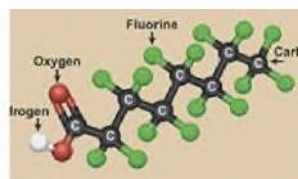
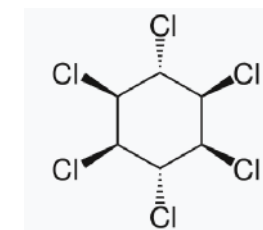
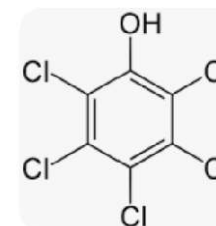
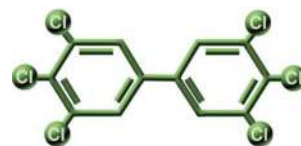
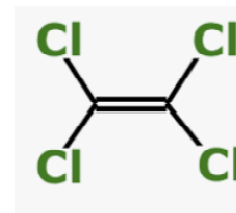
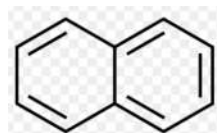
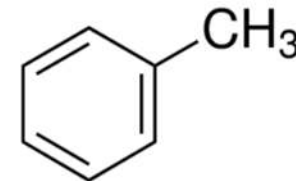


2. Types of Organic Pollutants & Remediation Approaches



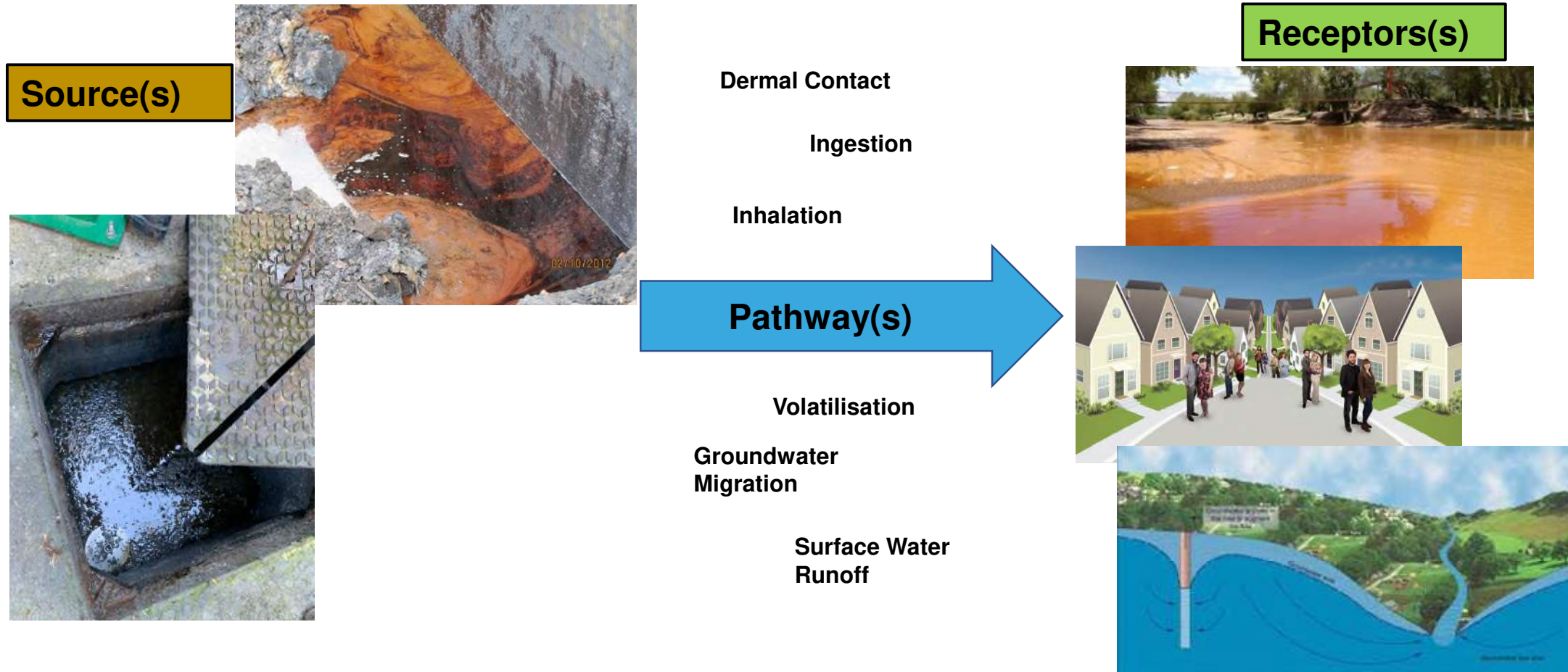
Types of Organic Pollutants.....

- Aliphatic & Aromatic hydrocarbons including BTEX
- Coal Tar Derivatives (PAH's)
- Chlorinated Solvents (Chlorinated Ethenes such as PCE, TCE & Chlorinated Ethanes such as Chloroform / Carbon Tetrachloride)
- Complex Organics (e.g. PCB's / Dioxins / Furans)
- Phenolics incl. cresols & chlorinated phenols such as Pentachlorophenol
- Organochlorine pesticides / herbicides (e.g. dieldrin, gamma-HCH)
- Per-and Polyfluroalkyl substances (PFAS)
- Others..... organo-tin / organo-mercury compounds / isoflurane / carbon disulphide / amines / phthalates
- All highly varied in their chemical composition, volatility, solubility, biodegradability, septicity.....all affect the most appropriate technique(s) for remediation in soil & groundwater



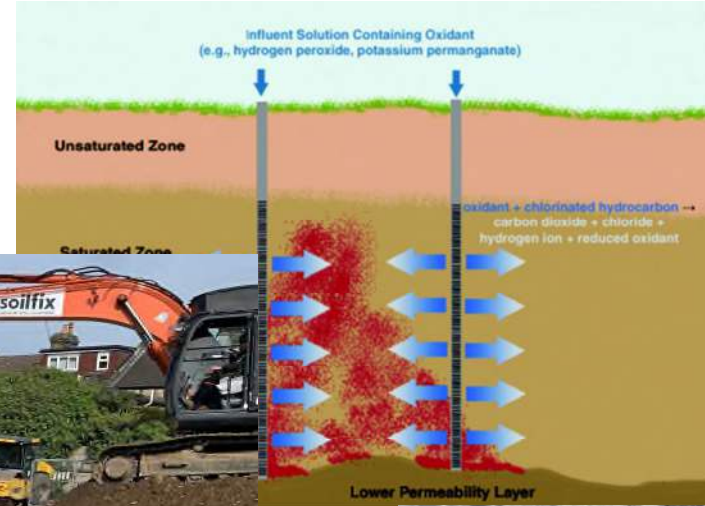
The Site Conceptual Model drives the approach.....

- Remediation is all about the most time / cost effective (and sustainable!) approach to breaking the Pollutant Linkage between **Source** – **Pathway** - **Receptor**

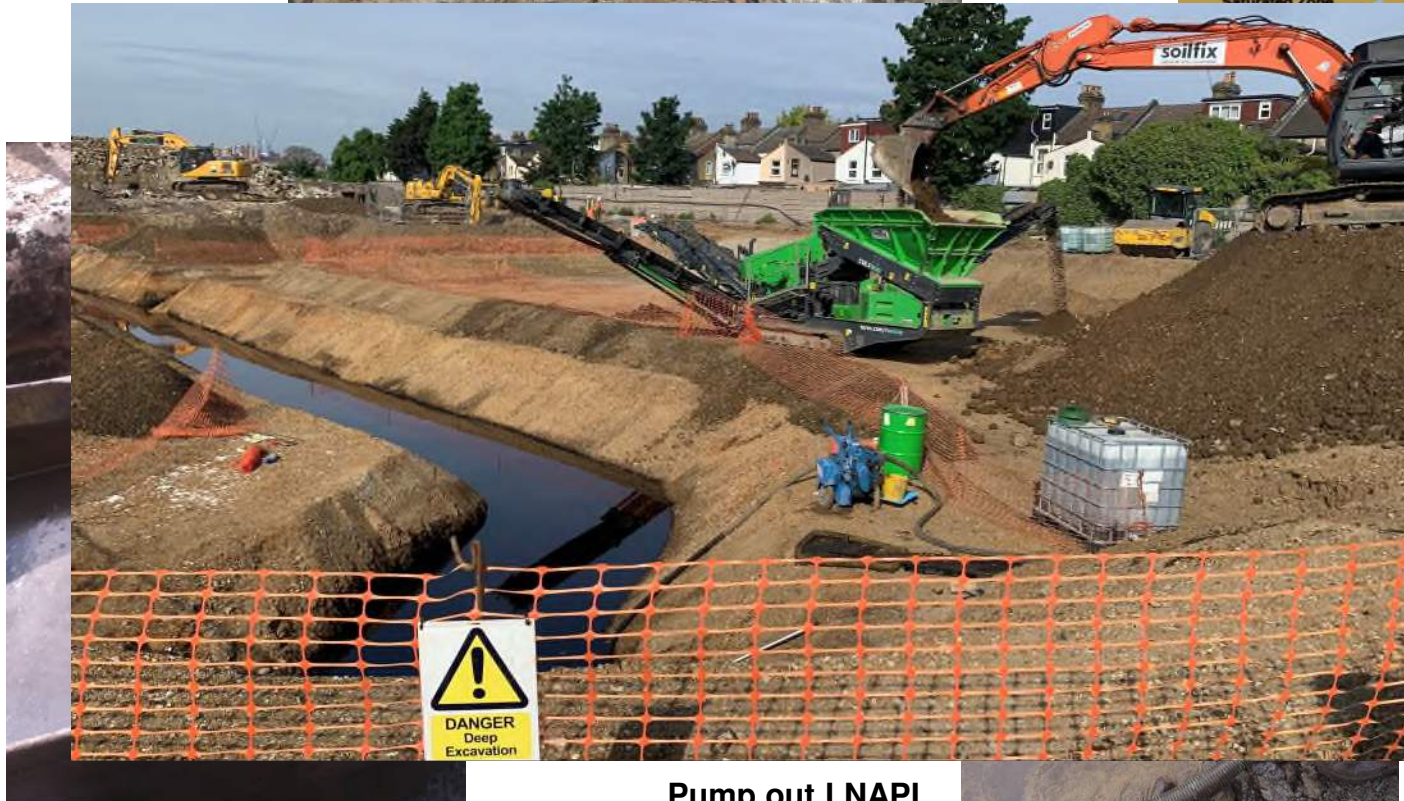


Dealing with the Source(s)

Excavation of Source



Destroy the Contaminants in-situ



Pump out LNAPL



Encapsulate source

Modifying / Altering the Pathway

**Slurry Wall
Cutoff Barrier**



Clean Cover System



**Soil Mixed
Cutoff Barrier**



Permeable Reactive Barrier / Treatment Zone



Gas/Vapour Resistant Membrane

Dealing with the Receptor.....

Change
Development
Layout



Less sensitive
end-use over
most
contaminated
part of site.....

Purchase the Receptor(s)
e.g. an affected property !!



Even a whole
row of houses!!



Clean-up the
receptor....

Standards of Remediation.....

- Your remediation objectives, and the standard of remediation required, is reflected by the time and cost you wish (or need) to invest.....
- Imagine dropping a bucket of sand on a carpet, the sand is your contaminant mass.....
- You can quite quickly and easily get most of the sand off the carpet with a brush & pan – you'll easily get 70% of the sand out in no time



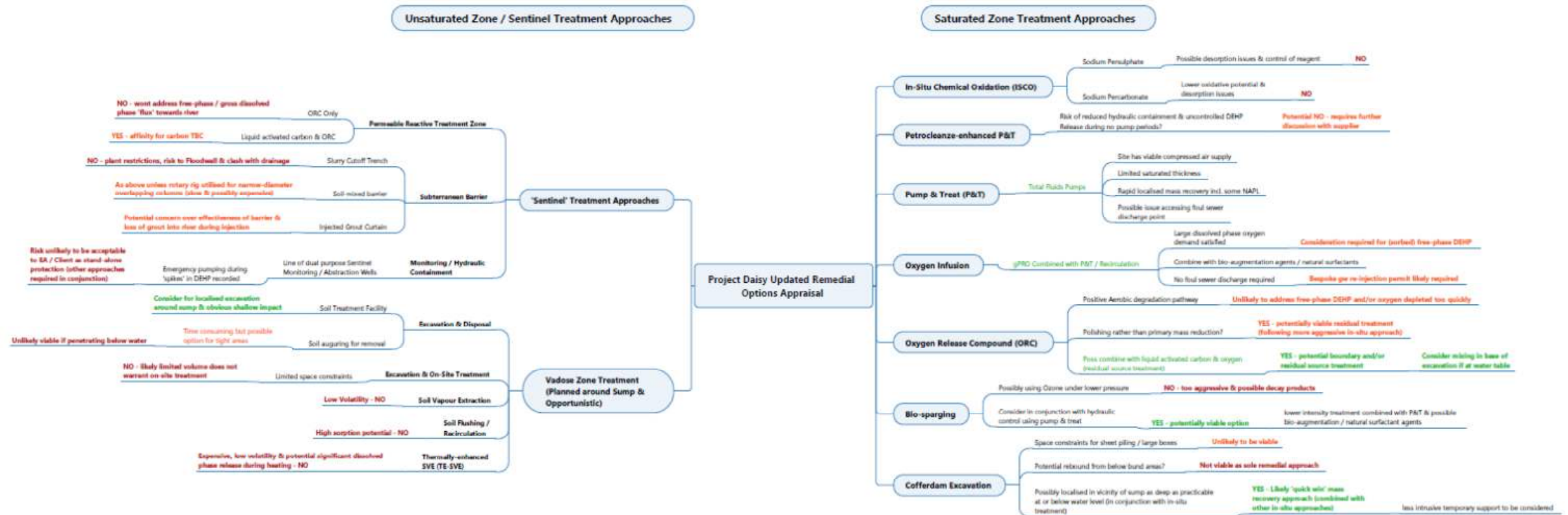
- Get the Hoover on the carpet for 10-15 minutes and you might get around 85-90% of the sand out



- However if you want 98 - 99% of the sand out, you'll need to vacuum for hours (or get yourself an expensive super-vac!)

- In some extreme cases (>99.9% removal) you might have to rip the carpet out and buy a new one!

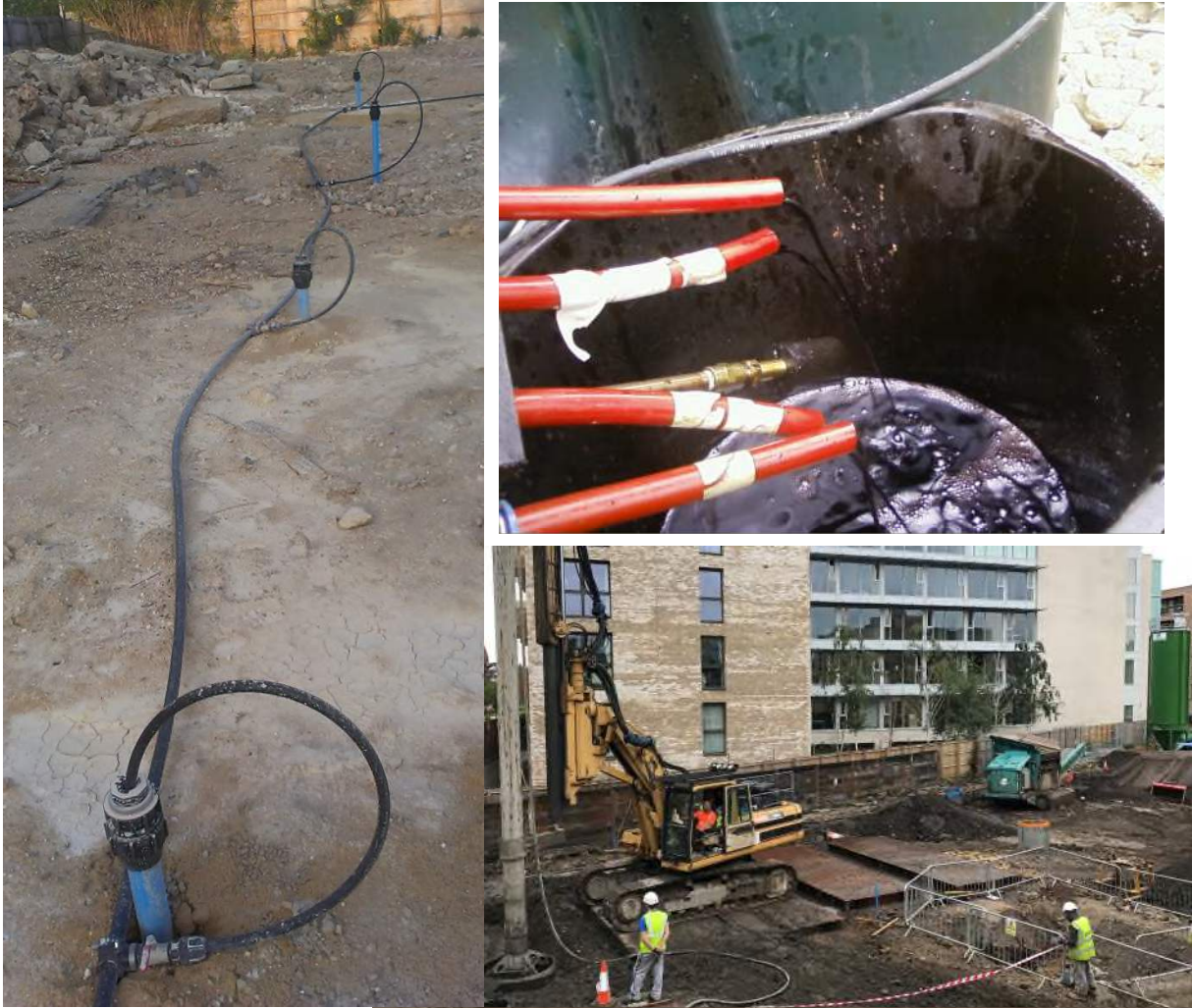
Options Appraisal – Key Stage of Remediation.....



3. Types of Remediation Techniques



Types of In-Situ Remediation - Physical

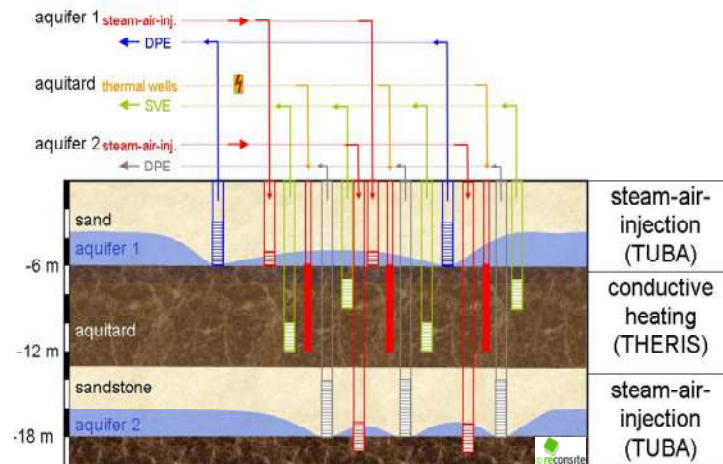


- Air Sparging
- Soil Vapour Extraction (often combined with air sparging)
- LNAPL Skimming (can be vacuum-enhanced)
- Multi-phase (high vacuum) Extraction
- In-situ Soil Mixing (for stabilisation / solidification)
- In-situ Thermal Treatment

Thermally-Enhanced Remediation



105nr remediation wells installed on a footprint of only 500m²

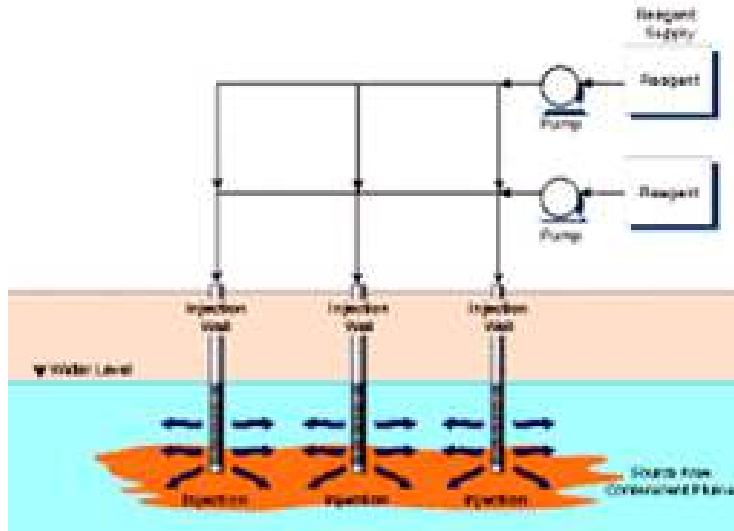


In-line vapour, airflow & temperature monitoring systems



Above-ground Treatment systems incl. steam boiler

Types of In-Situ Remediation - Chemical



- In-Situ Chemical Oxidation (ISCO) e.g. sodium persulphate, percarbonate & permanganate
- In-Situ Chemical Reduction (ISCR) e.g. Zero-Valent Iron
- Surfactant flushing for enhanced Free-phase (NAPL) recovery
- In-situ Geochemical Stabilisation (ISGS)



Ex-situ Soil Treatment – Biological & Chemical



- **Bioremediation:** aerobic or anaerobic degradation of contaminants using micro-organisms
- **Stabilisation/Solidification:** Physically and chemically reduce the mobility and availability of contaminants. Also strengthen soils for working platforms



In-Situ Remediation - Biological



- 'Bio-slurping' using Multi-phase Extraction systems
- Enhanced aerobic biodegradation – injection of oxygen release compounds / oxygen infusion technologies
- Enhanced anaerobic biodegradation e.g. substrate injection for reductive dechlorination of solvents, pesticides etc.
- Bio-augmentation
- Can be carried out with limited disturbance using direct-push injection-based approaches
- Often biodegradation is a beneficial side-effect of physical treatments, in particular thermal where latent heat takes >2yrs to cool
- Or if you have a large excavation, why not mix amendments in-situ to promote biodegradation.....

Why is In-situ Remediation more of a challenge than Ex-situ?



- Dealing with contaminants in the ground you cannot see, feel or smell (most of the time!)
- Often driven by site specific constraints that preclude 'digging a big hole' – constrained site, deeper contamination, challenging geology etc.
- Verification & regulatory sign-off typically a more challenging, prolonged process
- Often have impatient clients demanding certainty / results when you often need to hold your nerve
- All of this creates uncertainty and risk
- However that's what makes in-situ remediation so much more interesting to implement, and rewarding when you get it right.....

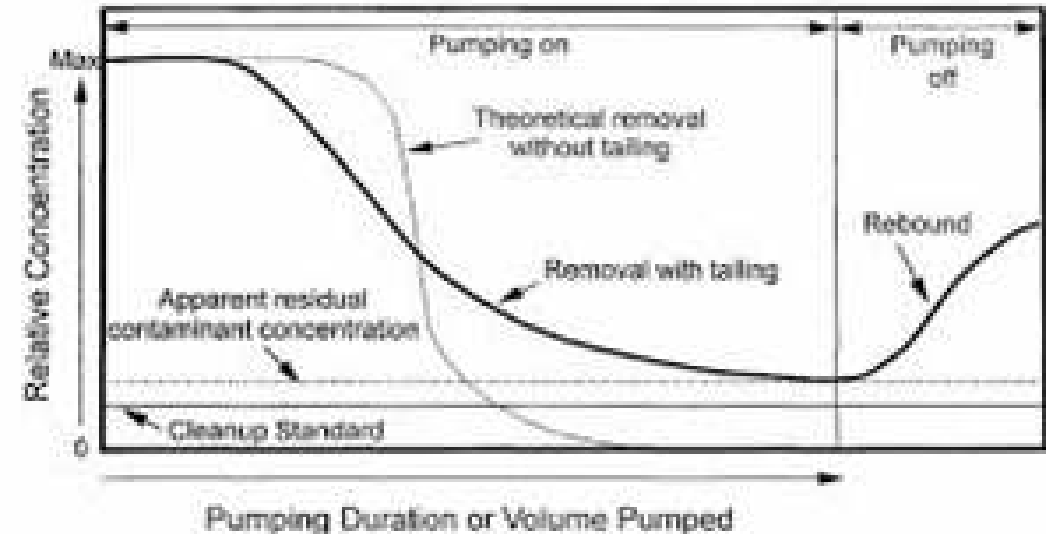
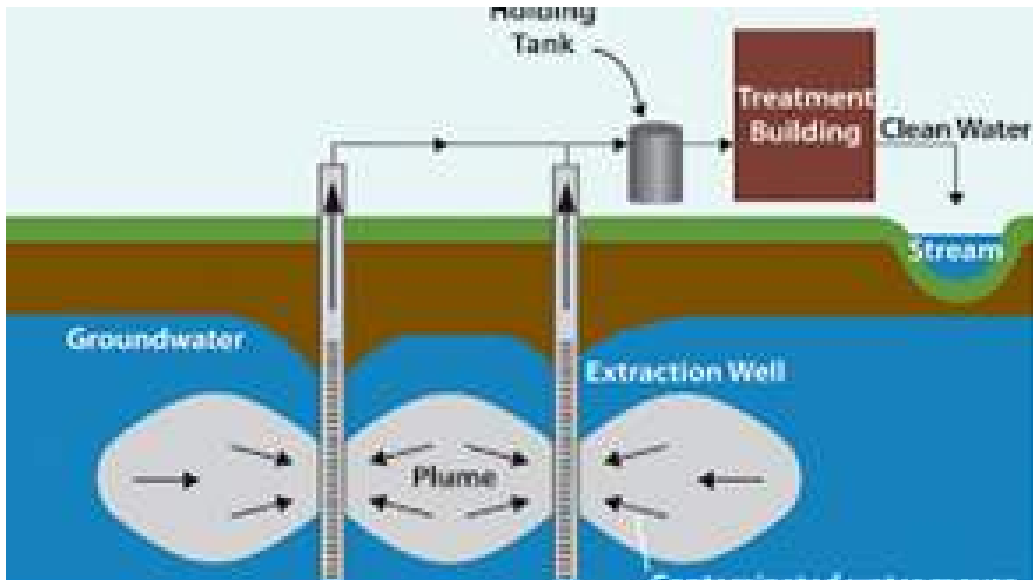
A photograph of a construction site. On the left, a teal excavator with 'SMITHS' written on its arm is partially visible. In the center, a yellow Caterpillar bulldozer is parked on a muddy surface. To the right, a large, dark, treaded wheel of a machine, with 'BROMAX' written on it, is in the foreground. Two workers in high-visibility yellow jackets and green hard hats stand near the bulldozer. In the background, there are several red brick houses with white window frames. A green semi-transparent box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text '4. Costs of Remedial Techniques'.

4. Costs of Remedial Techniques

Typical Costs of Remediation Technologies – Ex-Situ

Technology	Contaminants	Timeframe	Set up (£)	Operation (£/m3)	Potential Disadvantages
Bioremediation	TPH, chlorinated Organics, BTEX	>2 months	1,000s	12.50 – 50	Time, space & post remediation re-use
Stabilisation / Solidification	Organics & Inorganics	100m3 - >1,000m3/day	1,000s	11 -100	Space, re-use
Soil Washing	Wide range, metals, organics	50m3 – 500m3/day	10,000s	20-55	Restricted soil type. Size of plant. Filter cake. Elluate
Thermal	Wide range organics	50-200m3/day	100,000s	60-125	Emissions. Energy. Finished product. Size of plant
Dig & dump /treat	Wide range	50-5000m3/day	1,000s	60 – 650 (Landfill / STF) 1000 – 1500 (incineration)	Increasing cost, environmental impact, backfill

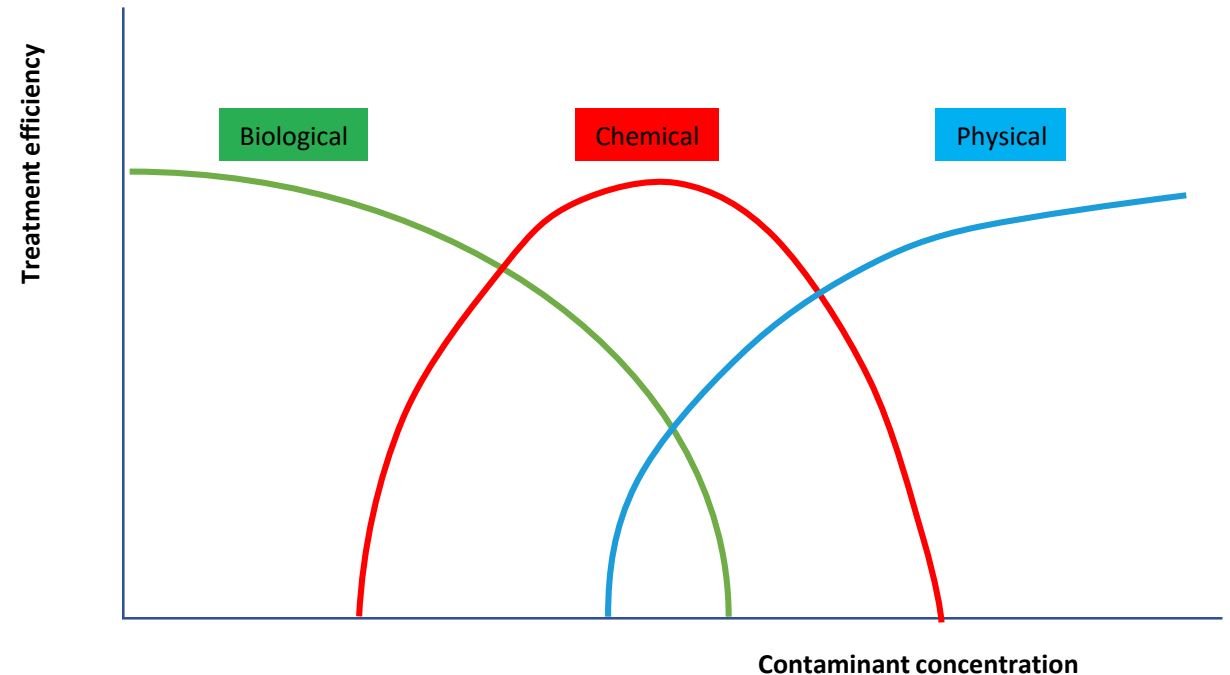
Costs of Remediation Technologies – Ex-Situ Pump & Treat



- Reliance upon one technology can be dangerous e.g. pump & treat remediation can cost £££££ over significant timeframes US project (costing \$22M quoted \$11,000/pound of contaminant mass removed)
- Consider as part of a staged treatment approach – e.g. take advantage of initial rapid contaminant mass recovery

Physical/Chemical/Biological

- Which technology to use when?
- Physical e.g. Chemox Surfactant Flushing: LNAPL likely at $>10,000\text{ug/l}$
- ISCO: low mm's LNAPL to $1,000\text{ug/l}$
- Liquid Activated Carbon: low 00's ug/l to $1,000\text{ug/l}$
- Biological/ORC: $<10,000\text{ug/l}$



Typical Costs of Remediation Technologies – In-Situ

Technology	Contaminants	Timeframe	Set up (£)	Operation (£/m3)	Potential Disadvantages
In-situ Bioremediation	TPH, Chlorinated Organics, Phenols, BTEX etc.	>2 to 18+ months	1,000s	30 – 75	Timescale, efficacy on more complex / persistent organics, off-gases?
Stabilisation / Solidification (Soil Mixing)	Organics & Inorganics	100m3/day	10,000s	75 -125	Obstructions, restrictions on future construction / disturbance, costly, risk-perception?
Surfactant Flushing	TPH, Phenols, BTEX	3-5 months	10,000s	30-60	Risk to watercourses / off-site migration, uncertainties
In-Situ Thermal	Wide range organics	~2 - 4 months per treatment area	100,000s	95 -135	Technically complex, high cost, Geotechnical impacts, contaminant mobilisation, energy input, cost, significant drilling requirements
Soil Vapour Extraction (SVE)	VOC's, light end TPH incl. BTEX Compounds	4 months +	10,000s	50 - 60	Ineffective in saturated zone (requires additional pumping of groundwater), volatile contaminants only, time, uncertainties



5. Factors influencing Selection of Techniques

Factors Influencing Remediation Design / Approach

- Principal contaminants of concern – Extents, other contaminants within source/plume & effects of daughter products.....
- Geology of target strata – Heterogeneity of the ground is an important consideration, cohesive soils often much harder to treat than granular
- In-ground obstructions
- Hydrogeological conditions – often not what you expect !
- Site logistics / constraints (existing & future), also nearby receptors, power / water / gas supply
- Development end-use proposed
- Timescales (client / receptor driven)
- Proven technology – does it actually work?
- **Environmental Permitting requirements !!**
- Potential Greenhouse Gas Emissions (CO₂e) – will become an increasing factor in selection of remediation technique(s)



soilt
environmental



- Calculation based on actual requirements for labour, transport, materials, waste removal etc.
 - Included portion of surplus clay capping material not required in Phase 1 construction (plus 50% being processed/stabilised for re-use)
 - Modular processing & stabilisation of site-won fines, segregated wastes removed for Energy Recovery
 - Works programme of 22 weeks
- Total **837 tCO₂e** emission calculated for Option 2
- Largest proportion (59%) now usage of Quicklime / OPC to stabilise processed landfill material
- **NETT** Carbon Reduction of **754 tCO₂e** for 'Optioneering' the project (a 47% reduction in GHG emissions) – emissions per £100K of revenue is greater than Option 1 however
 - Using **Green Fuel** Supply saves a further **238 tCO₂e** Carbon Reduction of **754 tCO₂e** for 'Optioneering' the project (a further 16% reduction in GHG emissions)



6. Case Studies



Case Study 1 – Former Tar Works & Ship Breakers Yard, Tipner, Portsmouth

The Problem:



- 8.0Ha derelict site on Tipner Lakes, Portsmouth Harbour, mostly on geotechnically poor reclaimed marshland – former chemical (tar) works, fuels depot, ship breakers yard & Greyhound Track
- Sensitive controlled waters & residents – Tipner Lakes RAMSAR SSSI, primary school & residents sensitive to odours from previous remediation works
- Extensive gross NAPL (mainly tar) contamination associated with former chemical (tar) works & residues, portion subjected to remediation in 2012
- All areas with significant in-ground obstructions & localised areas of exposed chalk aquifer underlying made ground
- Site Preparation & Remediation Strategy agreed with EA & Portsmouth Council
 - Slab/sub-structure breakout & removal / processing;
 - Slurry wall cut-off barrier around 325m of foreshore to 7.0mbgl & permeable reactive sections (granular activated carbon);
 - Excavation & treatment of Made Ground from Tar / NAPL impacted areas across from ~40% of site;
 - NAPL impacted water pumping & treatment;
 - Screening / sorting of fill materials incl. hand-picking of ACM fragments / deleterious materials;
 - Ex-situ bioremediation of gross HC contaminated soils to asymptote & stabilisation/solidification to further reduce leachability; and,
 - Placement of crushed capping layer over hi-vis marker layer.

Case Study 1 – Tipner Regeneration, Portsmouth



Phased Contract over 70 weeks, comprising:

- 55,000m³ excavation & processing Made Ground
- 20,000m³ Bioremediation
- 43,000m³ S/S Treatment
- 7,500m³ ACM in soils
- 2,500m³ JK impacted soils (hand-picked & encapsulated)
- 100 tonnes segregated tar/silts to be recovered
- 25,000m³ groundwater treated / discharged to date

Case Study 1 – Tipner Regeneration, Portsmouth



Slurry Cutoff Barrier Installation



Groundwater Treatment System



Deep excavation of Made Ground



**Bioremediation
of Hydrocarbon
Contaminated
Soils**



Case Study 1 – Tipner Regeneration, Portsmouth



Cement stabilisation of site-won fill



Placement of orange marker geotextile



Placement/compaction of S/S Materials



Completed Development Platform



Case Study 2: Former Bryant & May Match Works, Barking Wharf

The Problem:

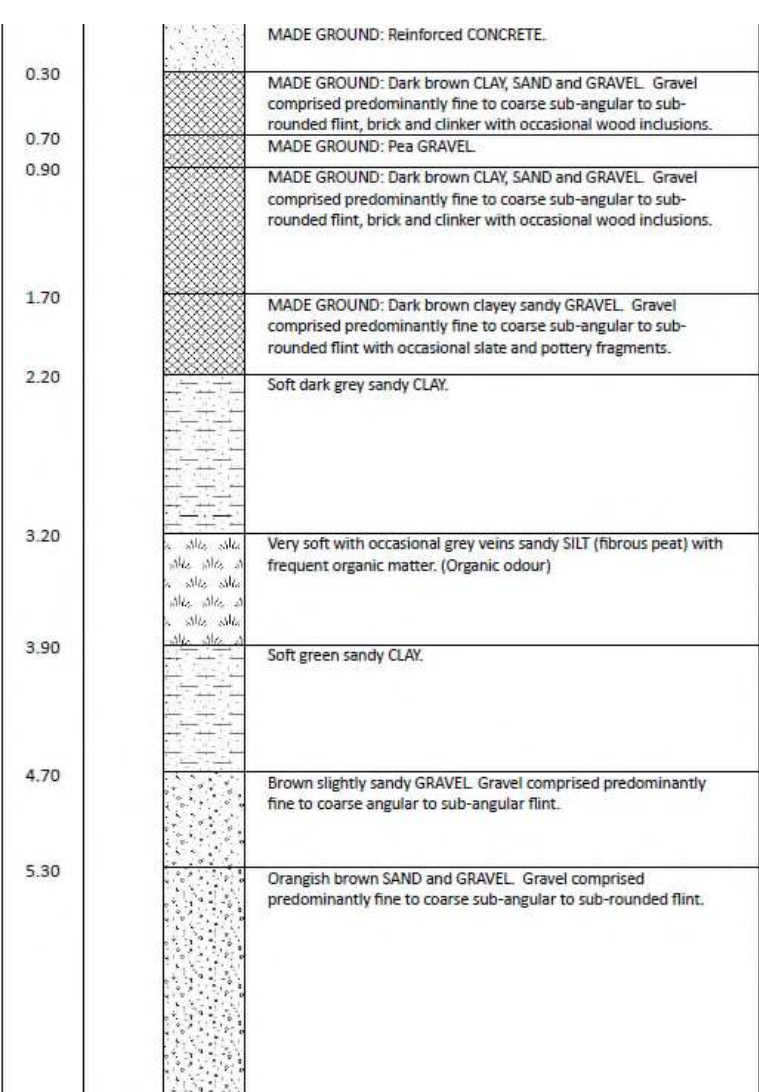


- 1.3Ha site, former works had with bulk fuel storage within basement & solvent usage, large area of LNAPL & dissolved TPH plume (~0.4mLNAPL)
- 2nr large TCE source areas within River Terrace Gravels & large dissolved phase plume. TCE impacting off-site to north & potential risk to wider gw body
- Site directly adjacent to River Roding (fortunately no hydraulic continuity)

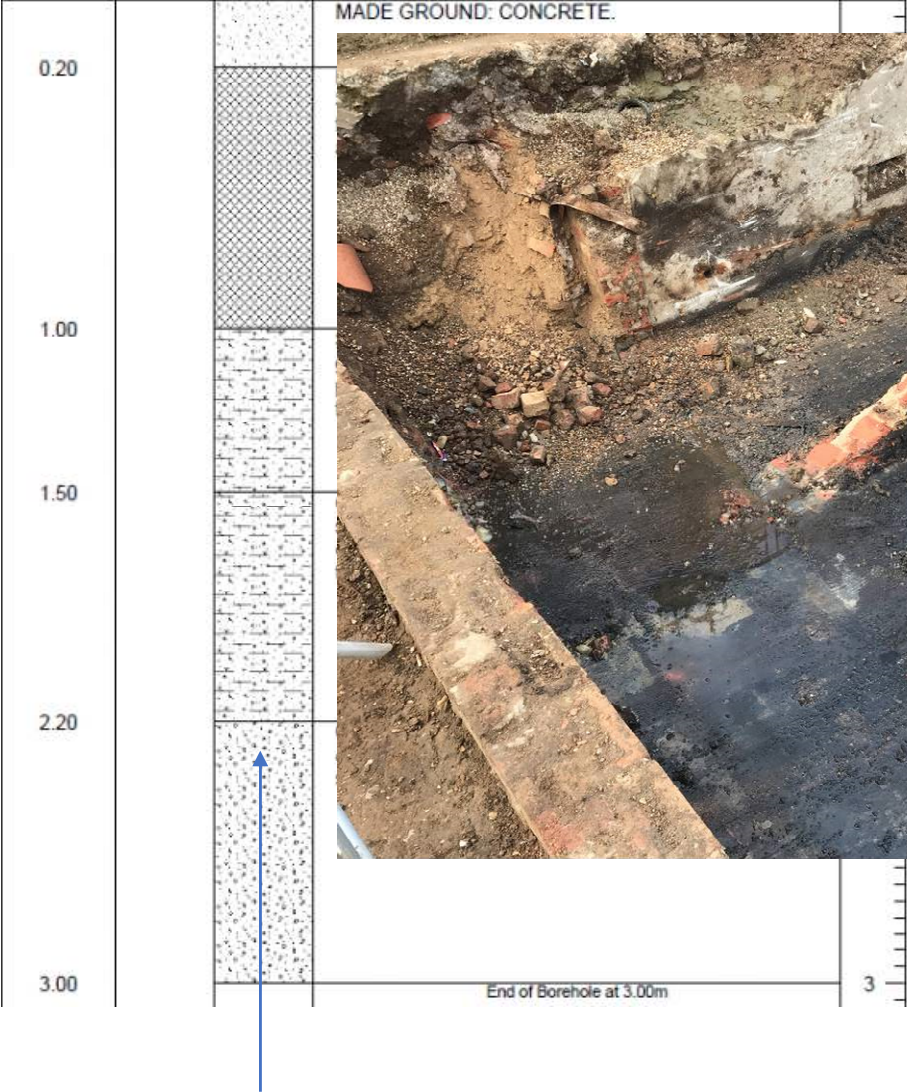
- High archaeological interest – one of only 3nr large Saxon Abbey's in UK
- Remediation required to facilitate redevelopment to 4nr multi-storey apartment blocks



Case Study 2: Former Bryant & May Match Works, Barking Wharf



Typically sands & gravels at depth protected by alluvial clays & peats

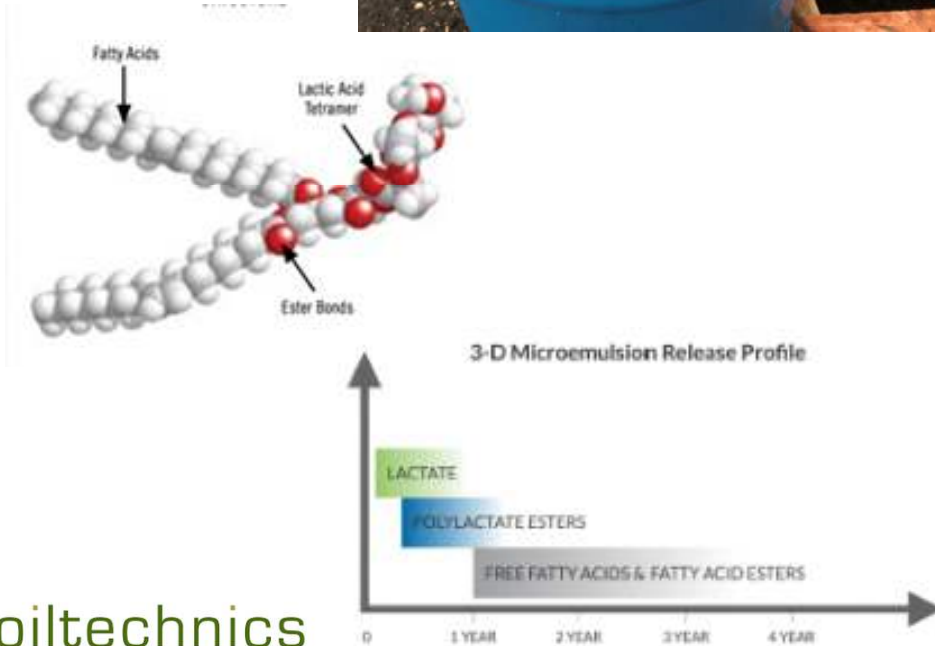


S&G deposits shallower below LNAPL source area with less protection

Found an infilled basement structure that likely housed former gas-oil tanks / generator

Case Study 2: Former Bryant & May Match Works, Barking Wharf

The Solution: Combined In-Situ / Ex-Situ Remediation & Enabling Works



- Betterment-based approach to solvents (>70%) / & no measurable free-phase (LNAPL)
- Primary injection of controlled release organic substrate (3D-Microemulsion – 3DMe) into source areas, using direct push injection
- Extend archaeology excavation to expose natural deposits in LNAPL source zone
- Installation of large LNAPL recovery sumps, with injection wells around perimeter of excavation
- ISCO-enhanced NAPL recovery from RTG formation using RegenOx Petrocleanze™, ongoing recovery of gross NAPL impacted waters
- Construction of 150m length Permeable Reactive Barrier (reactive treatment zone) around 2nr boundaries through 3DMe injection to protect off-site receptors & mitigate potential 'rebound' from residual off-site plume
- Future substrate 'top-up' system along boundary to increase longevity of barrier >5yrs
- No measurable LNAPL after 10 weeks injection & pumping & >70% betterment of TCE within 9 months of injection, >95% reduction of TCE & Daughter products within 18 month timeframe

Case Study 2: Former Bryant & May Match Works, Barking Wharf



Petrocleanze
Injection into
LNAPL Source
Zone (3-4mbgl)



Direct-push injection of 3DMe Substrate into aquifer (4-7mbgl)



Groundwater Treatment
Plant



Desorbed
NAPL in
groundwater

Case Study 2: Former Match Works, Barking



Drilling 30nr Injection Wells Along Boundary



Injection Well
Manifolded to
HDPE lines



Injection
Lines
grouped in
Chamber for
future access



Case Study 3 - Former Timber Treatment Yard, East Anglia



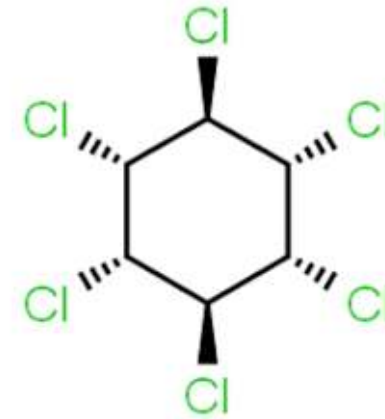
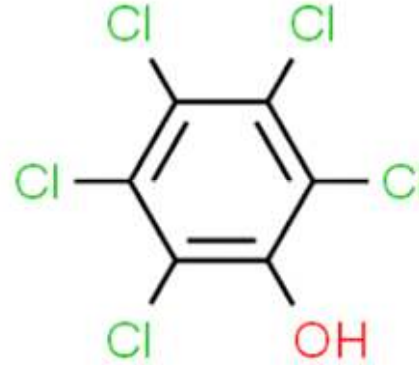
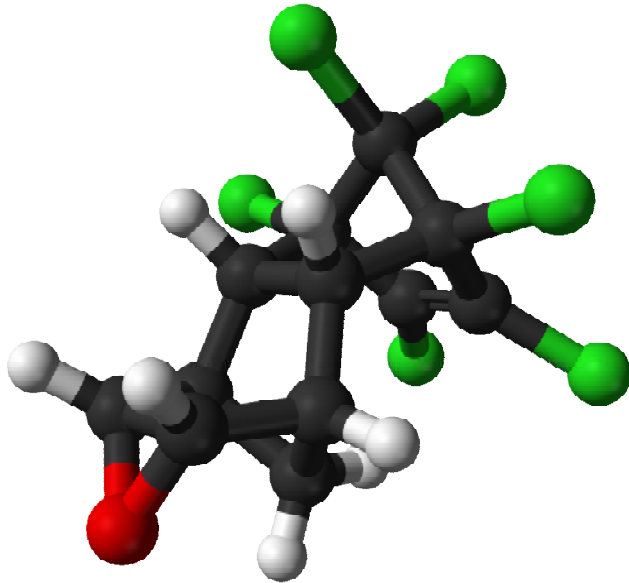
The Problem:

- FTSE-100 Client has long-term lease of site for operation of a data centre, onerous surrender clause related to clean-up of contamination
- No differentiation between historical contamination caused by previous land-uses and lease activities!
- Due diligence identified former timber treatment area on/off-site - some remediation previously carried out for residential development)
- Soils & groundwater below car park contained significantly elevated contamination by petroleum hydrocarbons, VOCs (incl. Benzene) & List 1 organo-chlorine pesticides (PCP, Dieldrin & Lindane)
- Geology comprised superficial deposits of silty sand & gravels underlain by low K head deposits & Newhaven Chalk
- Shallow Secondary 'A' aquifer in continuity with River 80m from site – risk based targets derived by DQRA very low for persistent organics
- Chalk aquifer unit Principal Aquifer (Zone SPZ) – Pentachlorophenol & trace Lindane concs detected within chalk groundwater
- Client requires quick solution to surrender lease but not keen on ex-situ remediation of soils & groundwater

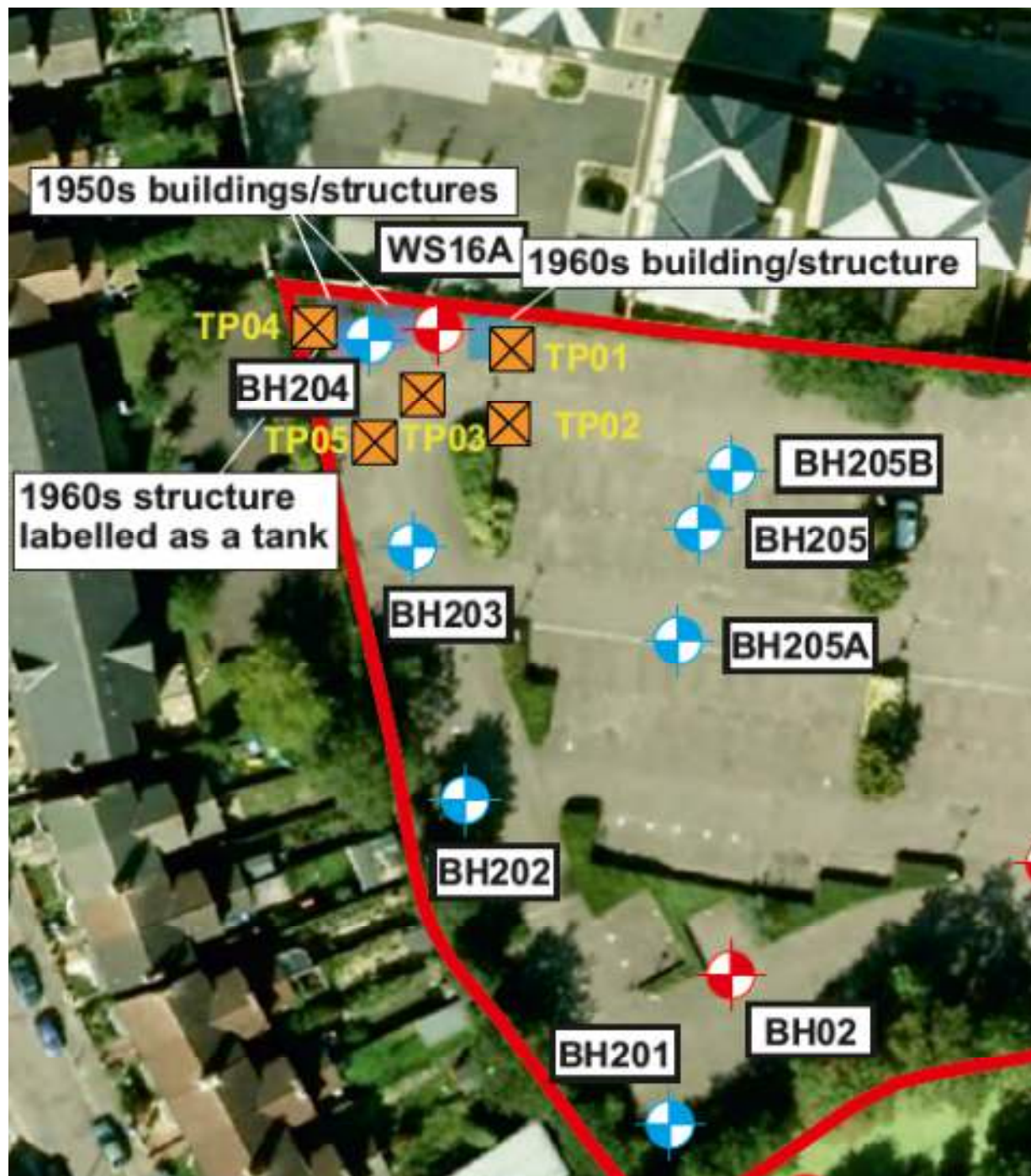


Contaminants of Concern

- Petroleum hydrocarbons (1,000 – 6,500ug/l)
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) incl. Benzene & Trimethyl benzenes (up to 1,135ug/l)
- More complex persistent, List 1 Organo-chlorine pesticides / insecticides – Pentachlorophenol (up to 6,800ug/l), Dieldrin (~18 - 30ug/l), gamma-hexachlorocyclohexane (Lindane) – (~35 - 75ug/l)
- DQRA modelling suggests remedial target concentrations at almost the laboratory limit of detection (<0.1ug/l).....

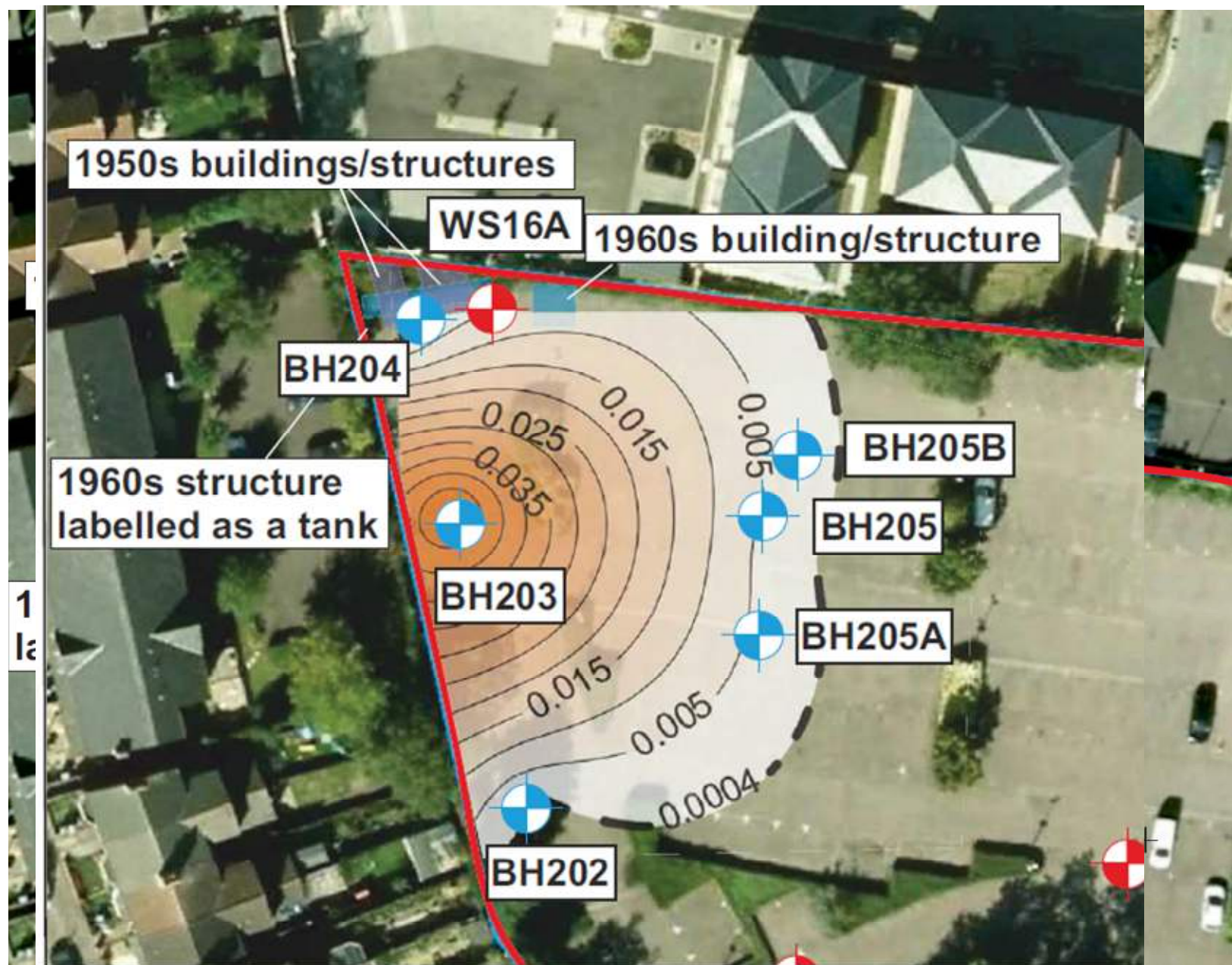


Conceptual Site Model



Inferred TPH
Concs in
Groundwater

Inferred
Pentachlorophenol
(PCP) Concs in
Groundwater

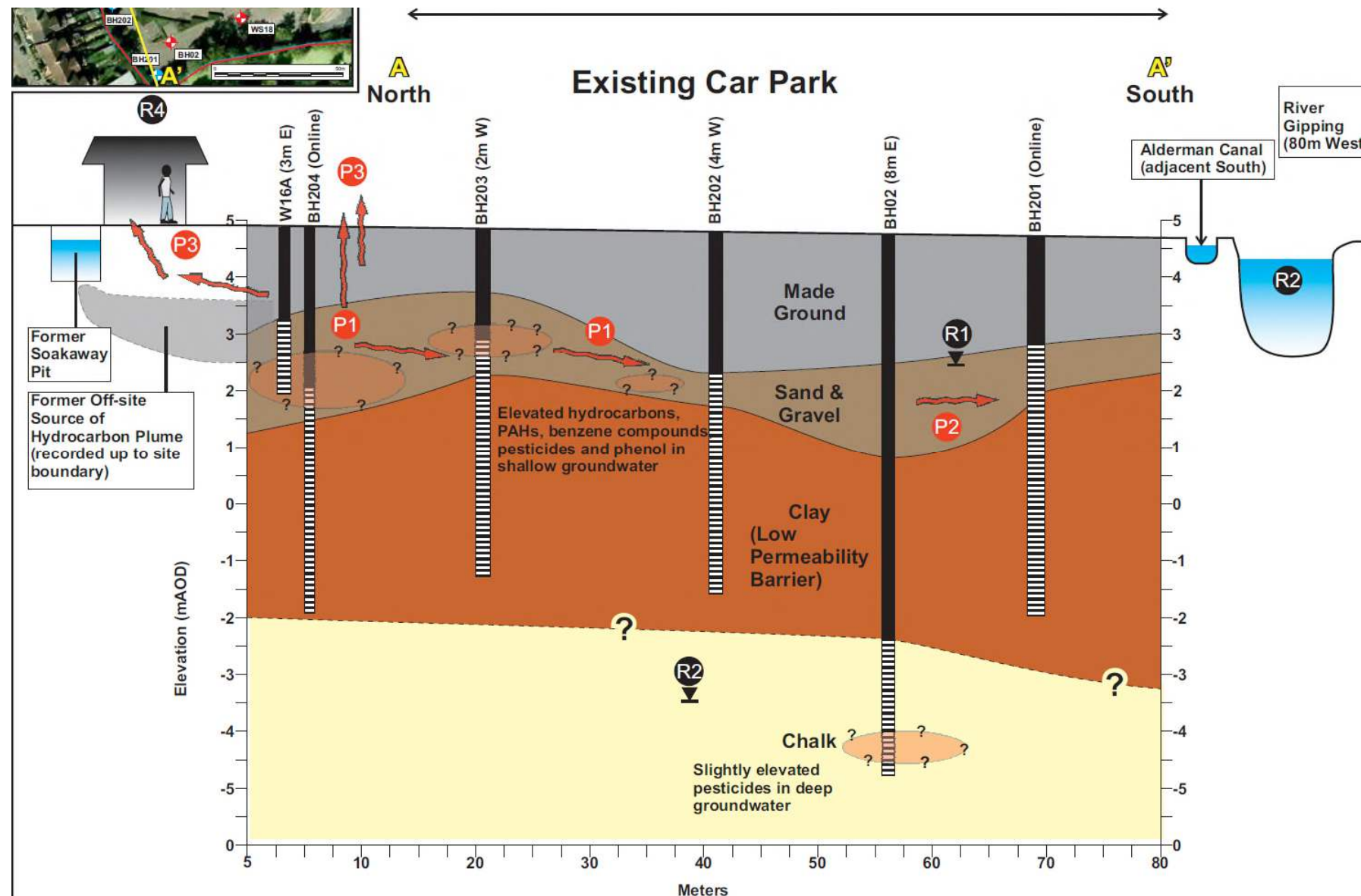


Conceptual Site Model

Potential Pathways

- P1** Lateral Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Impacting Shallow Groundwater
- P2** Lateral Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Impacting Surface Water Receptors
- P3** Hazardous Vapours Impacting Adjacent Residents and Future Site-Users

* The risks to deep groundwater have not been assessed in the DQRA



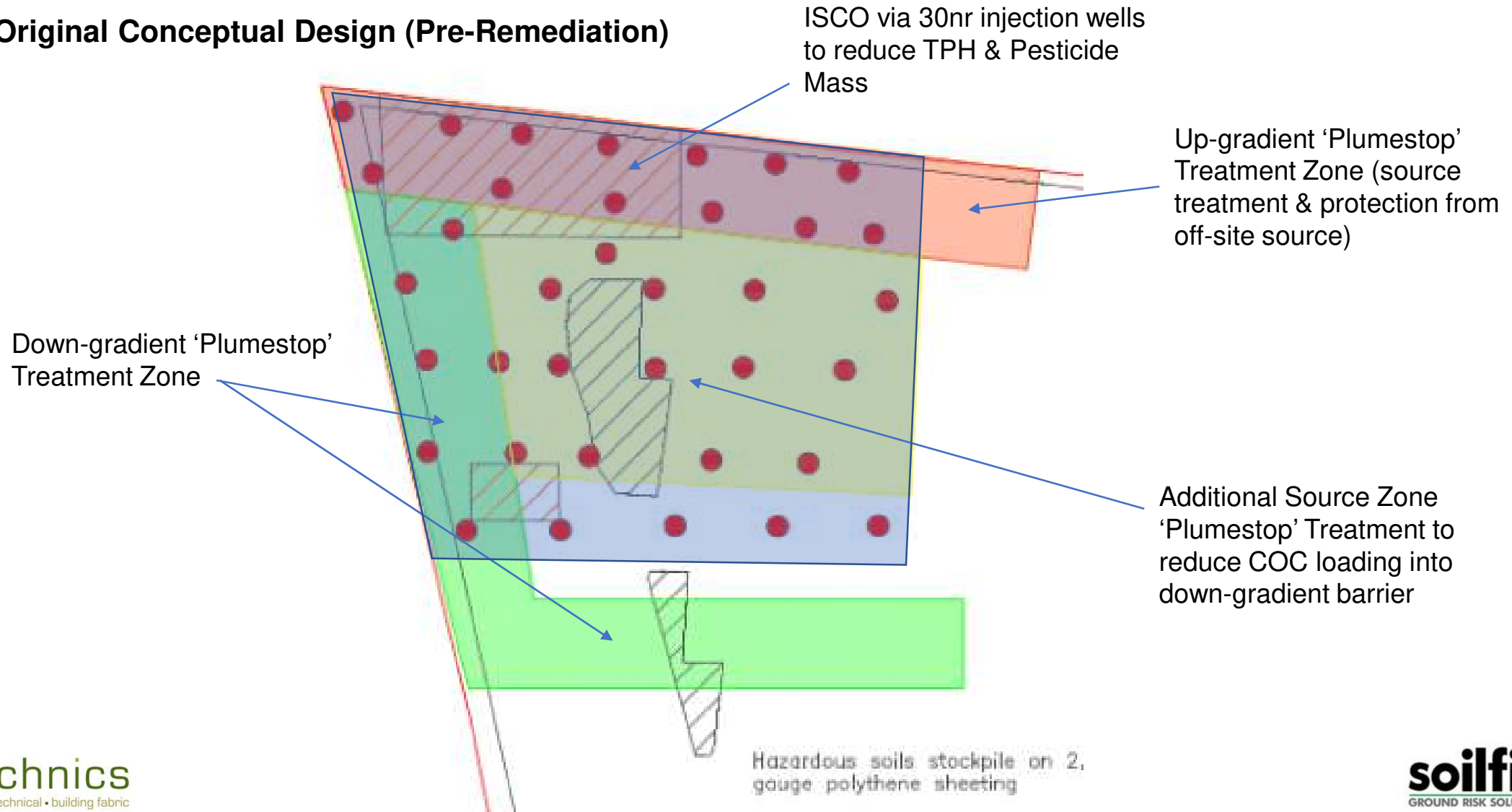
Former Timber Yard, East Anglia

The Solution: Combined In-Situ / Ex-Situ Remediation & Enabling Works

- Betterment-based approach agreed with EA >75% average reduction of CoC's pre-remediation.....
- **Primary Remediation** - Excavation & disposal of 2nr source areas to meet human health criteria in vadose zone & achieve soil/water/NAPL mass removal from main on-site groundwater source
- **Secondary Treatment** - In-situ Chemical Oxidation (ISCO) treatment of groundwater source zone using activated Sodium Persulphate & Sodium Percarbonate below on-site services
- Objective of ISCO to reduce TPH / VOC loading & organochlorine pesticides within shallow RTD aquifer before Tertiary Treatment
- Remediation wellfield utilised for more detailed characterisation of groundwater flow direction & plume extent for targeted treatment
- **Tertiary Treatment** – Direct-push injection of liquid activated carbon (Plumestop™) & nutrients within RTD with targeted injection of Oxygen Release Compound in areas of residual TPH / PCP mass
- Plumestop forms an in-situ activated carbon vessel within the RTD aquifer for enhanced residual treatment through sorption & biodegradation processes (a colloidal biomatrix)

Case Study 4 – Former Timber Yard, East Anglia

Original Conceptual Design (Pre-Remediation)



Case Study – Former Timber Yard, East Anglia



Targeted excavation of shallow hotspots and pumping of localised LNAPL from groundwater



Rotary Drilling of 30nr Remediation Wells



Multi-phase ISCO injection down wells

Former Timber Yard, East Anglia



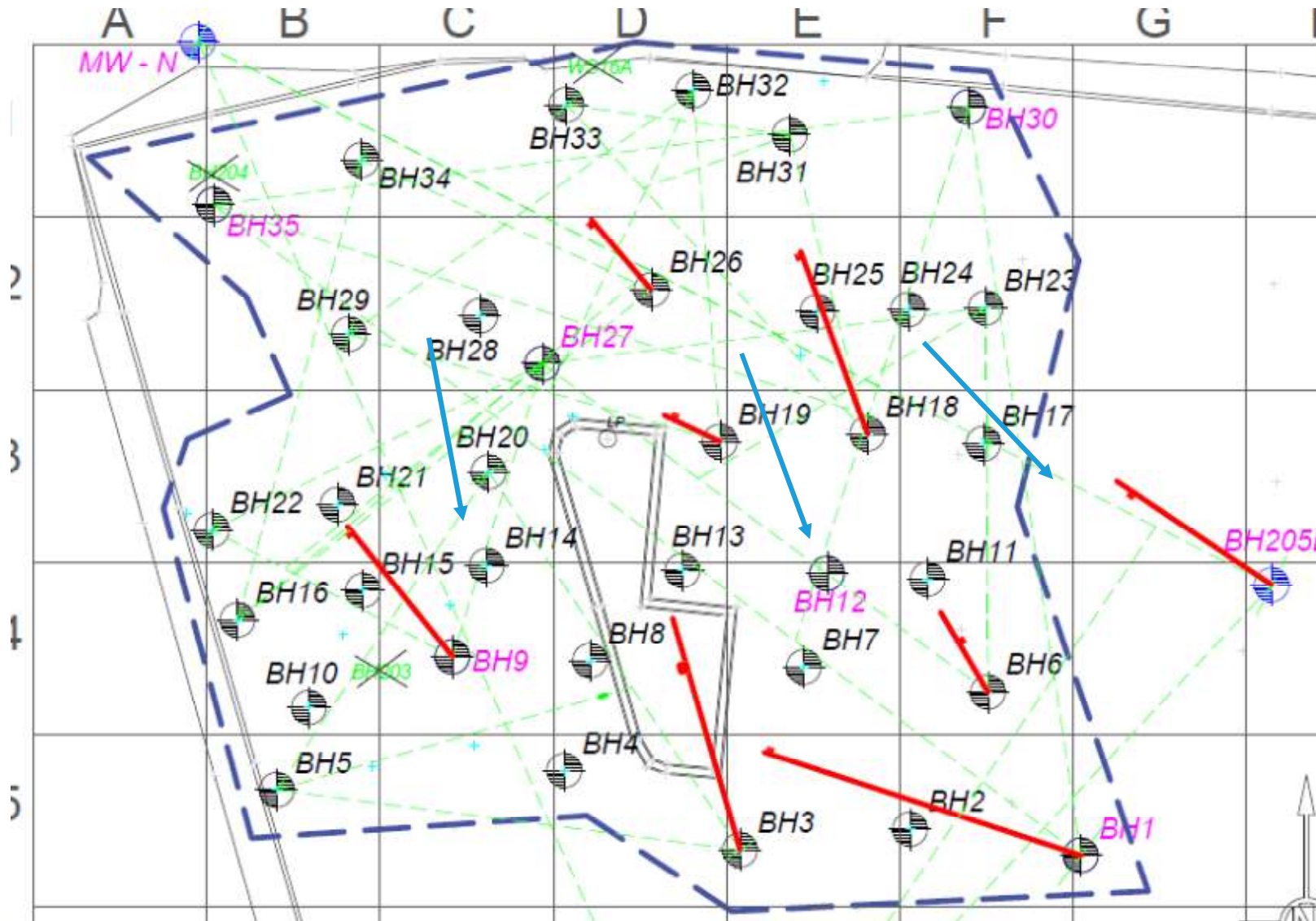
HCP profiling helped target
Plumestop injection in
areas of uncertainty



Plumestop batching &
injection using direct push
points



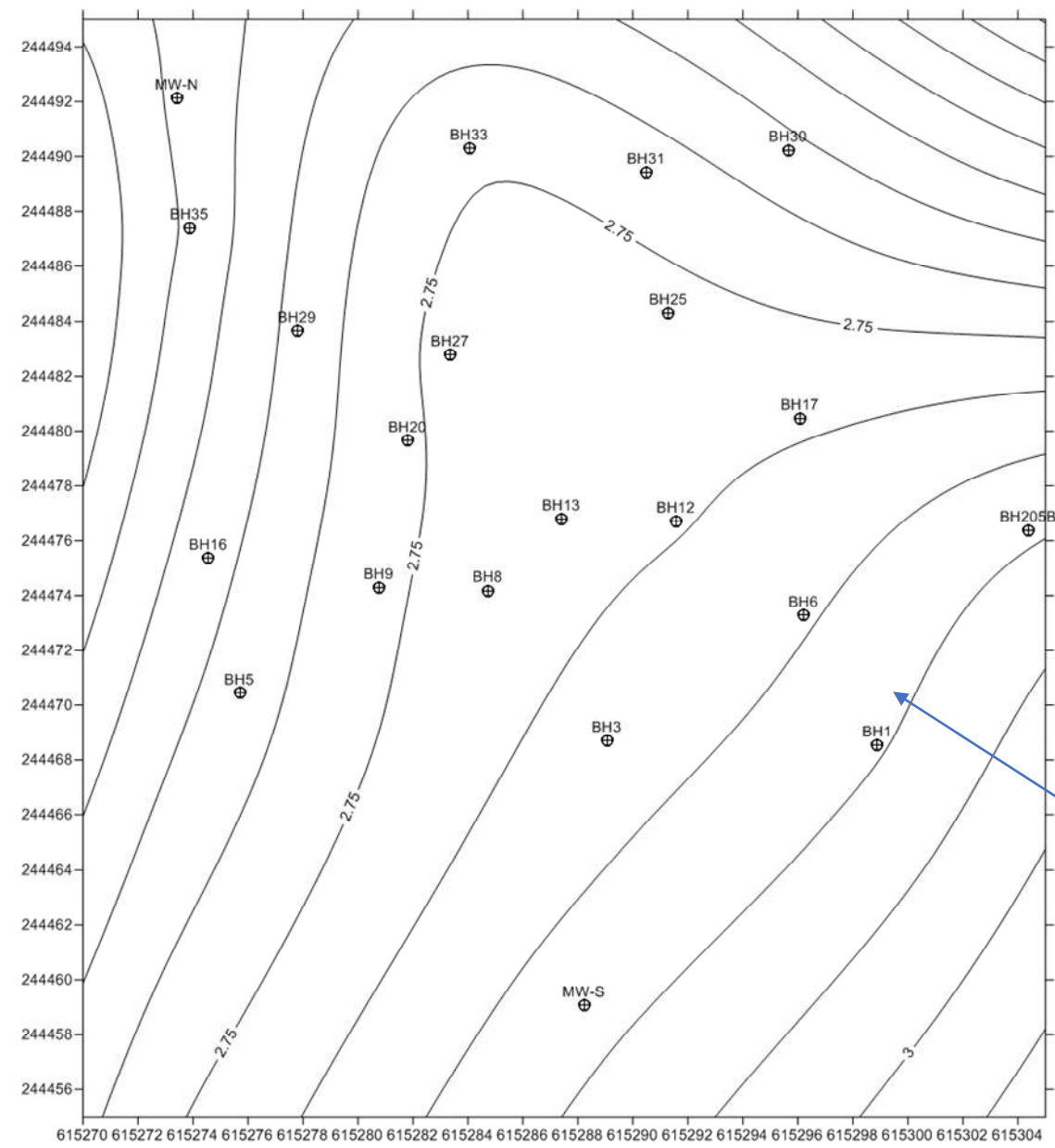
Former Timber Yard, East Anglia



Groundwater Flow direction complicated & variable due to heterogeneity of RTD

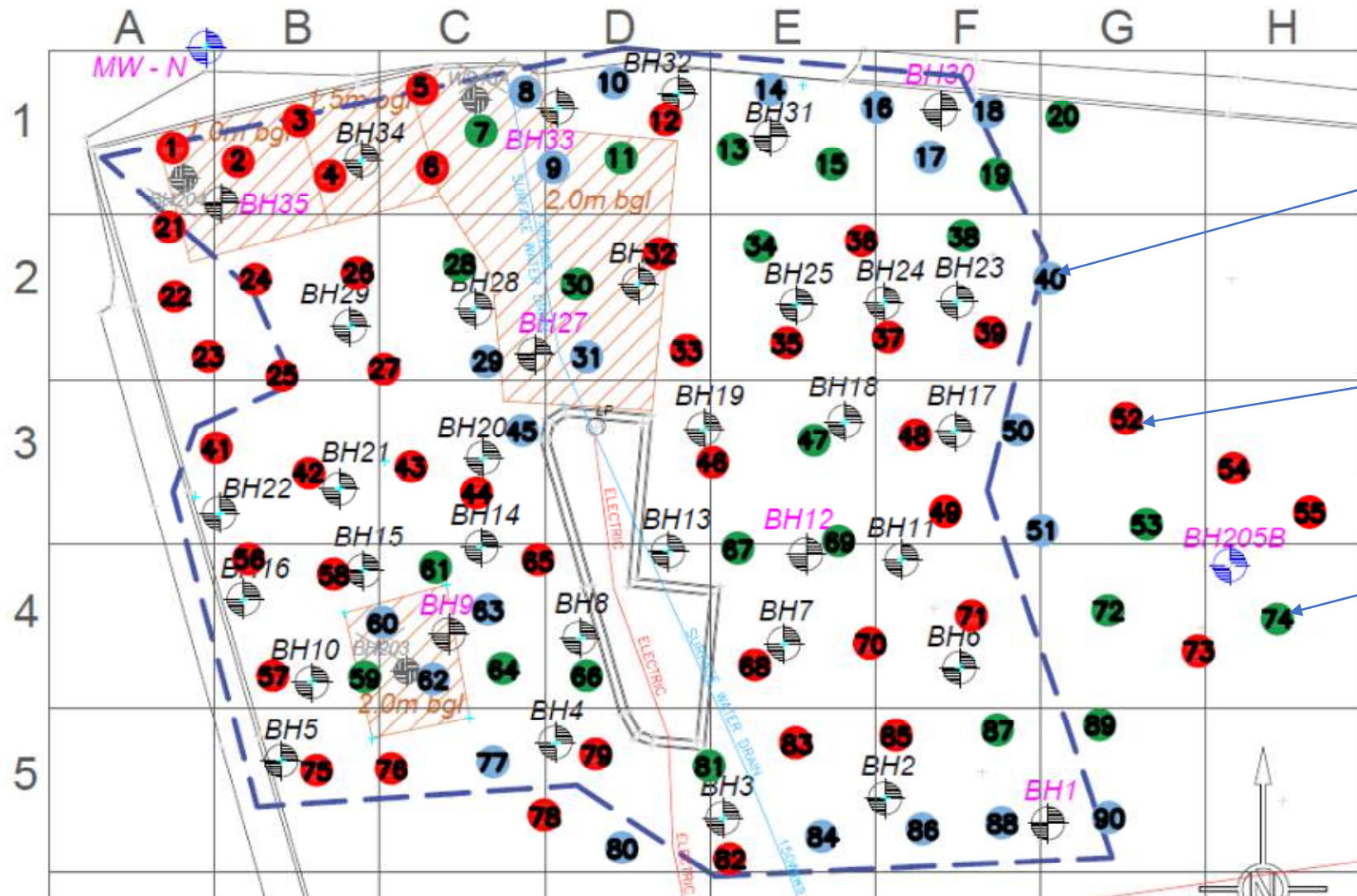
Flow direction & COC concentrations contradict each other!

Former Timber Yard, East Anglia



Used Surfer Contour
Plots to further assess
GW flow direction

Former Timber Yard, East Anglia



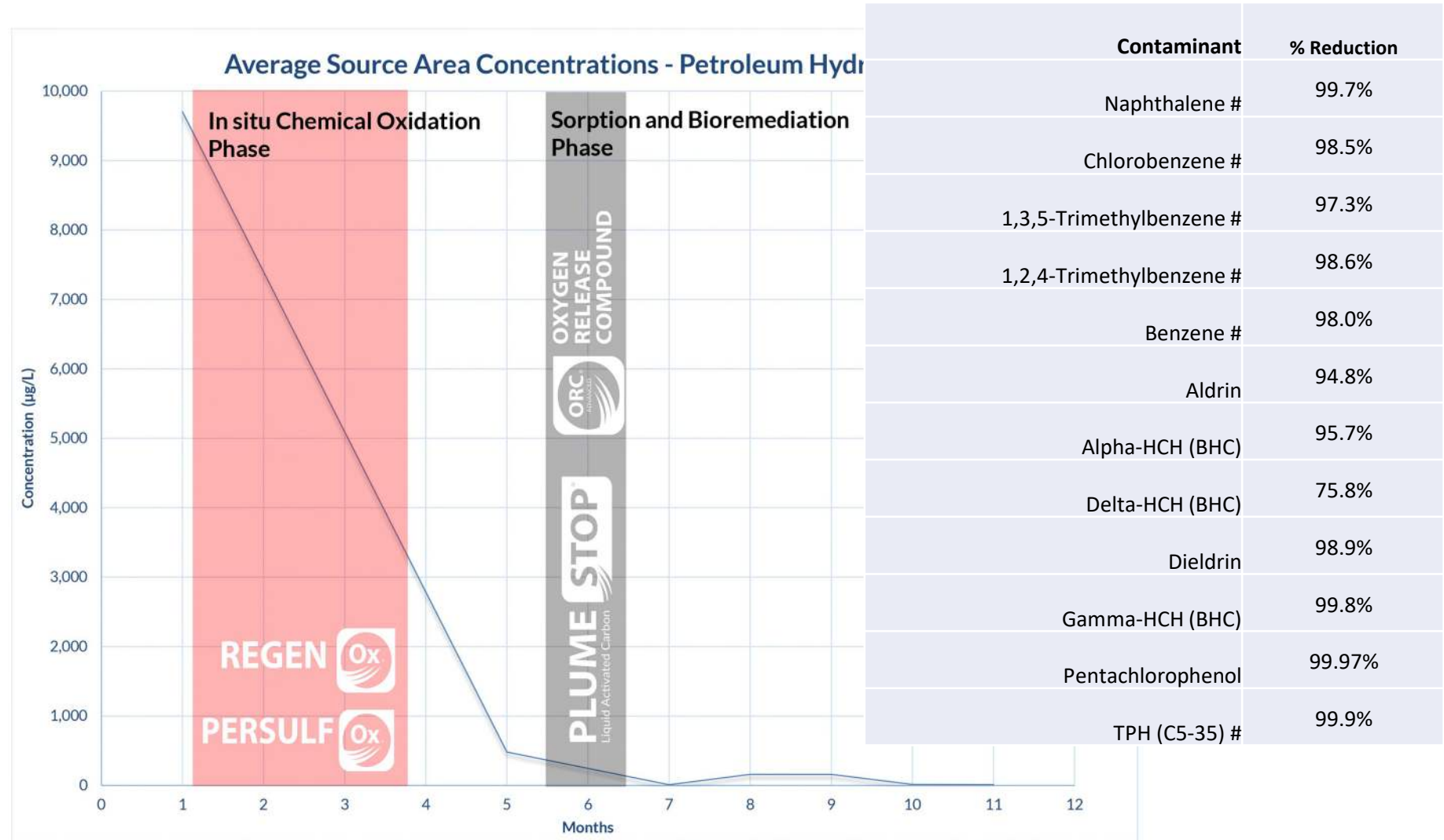
Plumestop,
Plumestop "S" &
ORC Advanced via
direct push points

Plumestop
only

Plumestop &
ORC Advanced

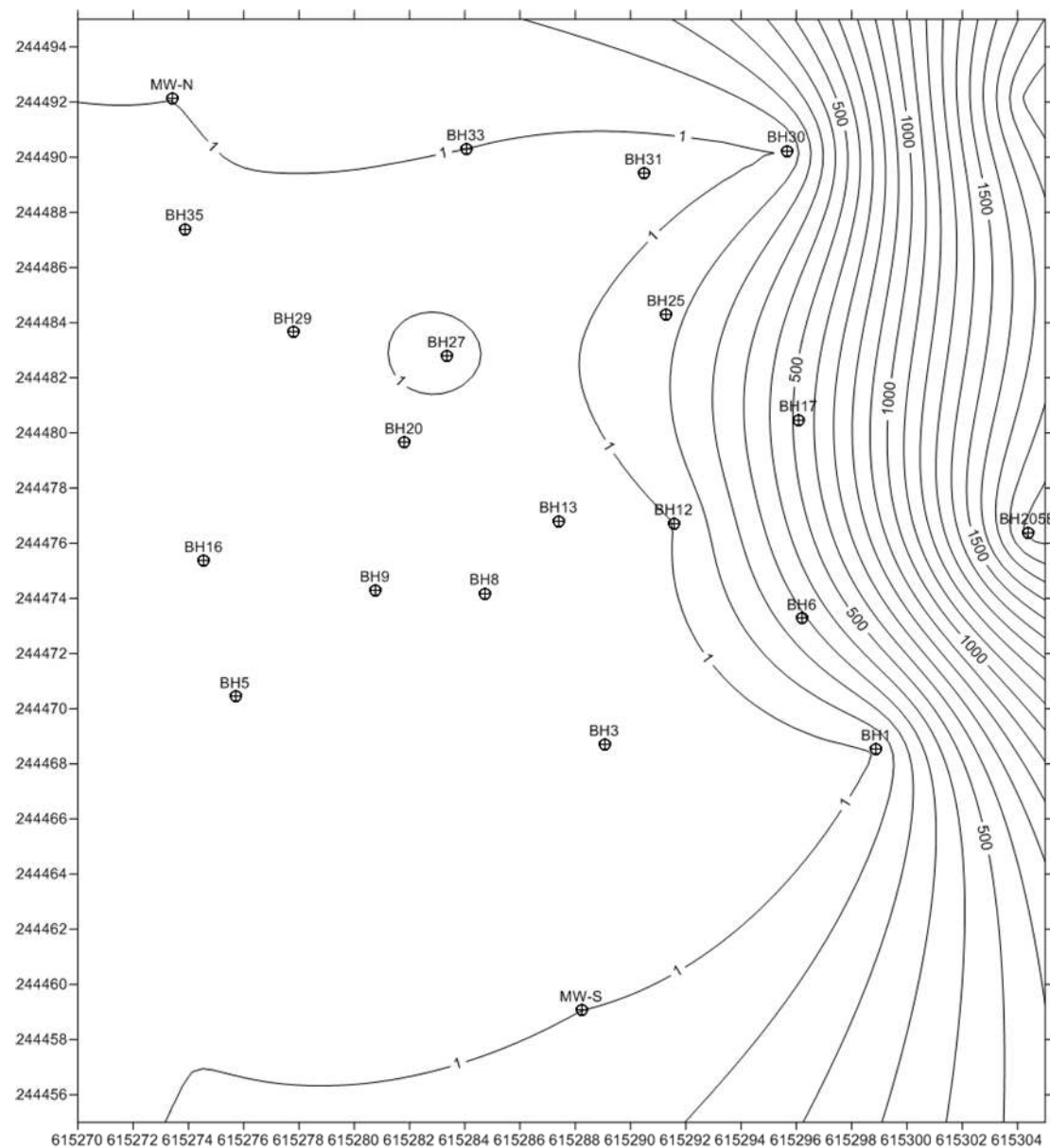
Almost 20 tonnes
Plumestop injected into
RTD formation

Former Timber Yard, East Anglia



Former Timber Yard, East Anglia

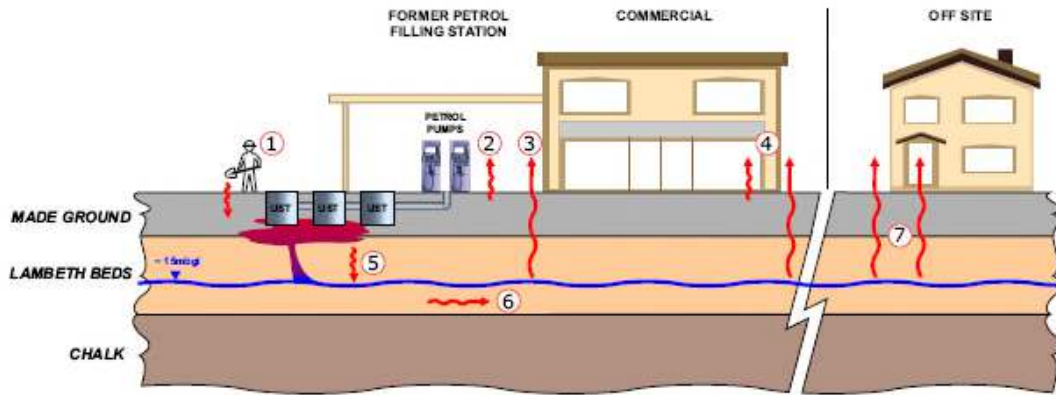
**Surfer Plots for
Pentachlorophenol:**





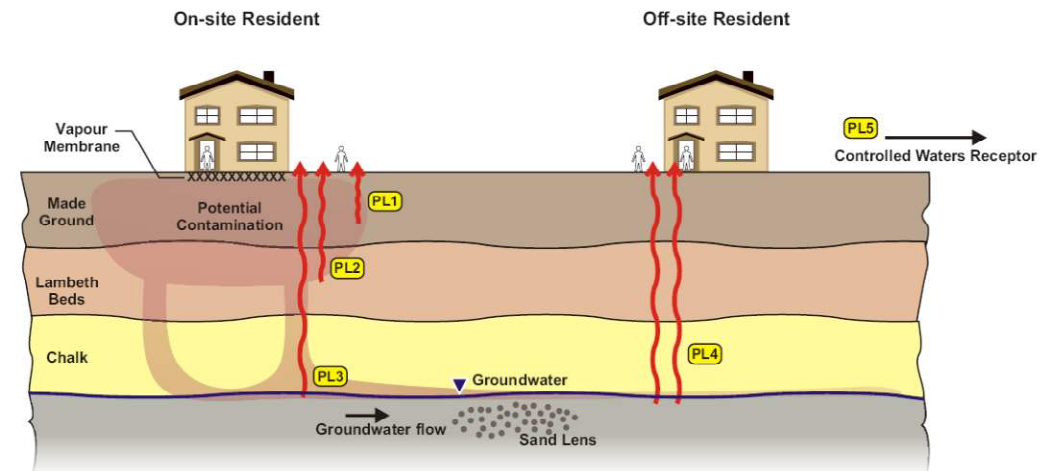
Case Study 5 – Former Petrol Filling Station, Reading

The Problem:



- Depth of contamination beyond practical / cost effective excavation (>10mbgl)
- No viable foul sewer connection serving site – conventional pump & treat impossible
- More pragmatic betterment-based strategy agreed with EA instead of setting potentially unachievable groundwater criteria (no measurable LNAPL & >50% reduction in dissolved TPH concs in groundwater)

- Redundant former garage with fuel storage tanks historically removed proposed for redevelopment
- LNAPL impacted Chalk Aquifer just up-gradient of Groundwater Source Protection Zone
- Historical LNAPL pumping with long term monitoring did not achieve satisfactory risk reduction (continual rebound)
- Significant proportion of contaminant mass residing in smear zone within weathered chalk & secondary porosity



Case Study – Former Petrol Filling Station, Reading

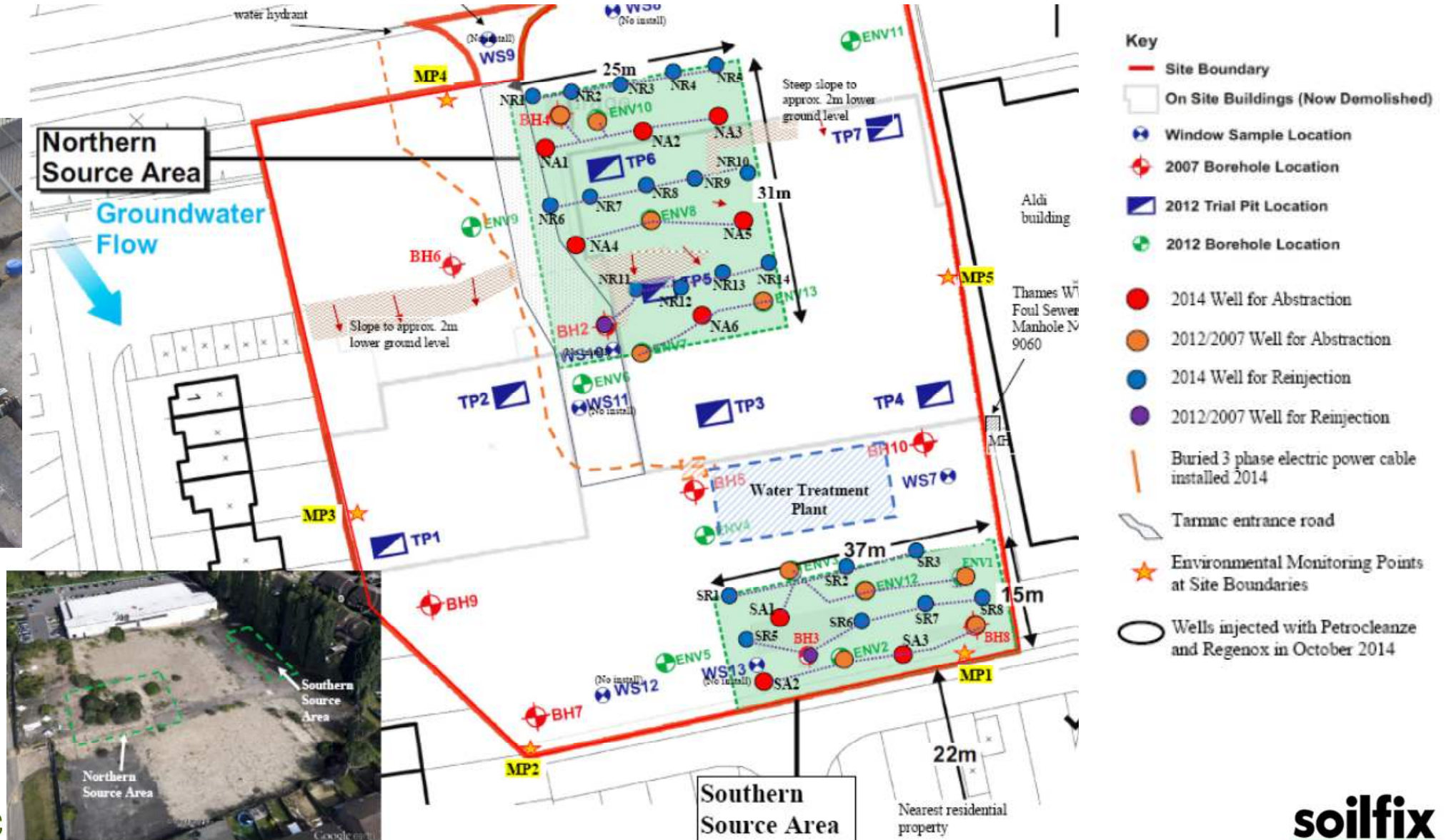
The Solution: Groundwater / LNAPL Pump, Treat & Recirculate with Surfactant Injection, Nutrient Dosing & Oxygen Recirculation



- Further assessment – aquifer testing, pilot trials, optimisation testing (design stage)
- Installation of groundwater injection, abstraction & recirculation wells in two arrays (two plumes areas)
- **Three** permits secured with Environment Agency including abstraction license, waste treatment permit (Soilfix RP3795) and discharge permit (for reinjection of treated water)
- Mobilisation and commissioning of pump, treat and re-injection system
- Three phases of ISCO (RegenOx Petrocleanze™) injection to promote desorption / flushing of TPH mass for enhanced recovery
- Accelerated natural attenuation phase using Oxygen Infusion technology for O₂ supersaturated recirculation water with bio-nutrient amendment with natural surfactant properties

Case Study – Former Petrol Filling Station, Reading

Site Set up:



Case Study – Former Petrol Filling Station, Reading



Primary ISCO Injection



Groundwater Pumping & Recirculation



~**20 million litres** of contaminated groundwater abstracted, treated and re-used under bespoke environmental permits. Over **1,000kgs** of hydrocarbons successfully treated and targets agreed with EA achieved



Oxygen Infusion



Bio-nutrient Amendments

Divestiture of land completed & residential apartments now constructed by Developer



Thank you!

Call: 0117 9820025 | Email: info@soilfix.co.uk | www.soilfix.co.uk

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GROUND RISK SOLUTIONS