Unproductive strata: These are rock layers or superficial deposits with low permeability that have negligible significance for water supply or river base flow.

The EA maps only display the principal and secondary aquifers as coloured areas. All uncoloured areas on the map will be unproductive strata. However, for uncoloured areas on the superficial (drift) designation map it is not possible to distinguish between areas of unproductive strata and areas where no superficial deposits are present; to do this, it is necessary to consult the published geological survey maps.

For the purposes of the EA's Groundwater Protection Policy the following default position applies, unless there is site specific information to the contrary:

- If no superficial (drift) aquifers are shown, the bedrock designation is adopted
- In areas where the bedrock designation shows unproductive strata (the uncoloured areas) the superficial designation is adopted
- In all other areas, the more sensitive of the two designations is used (e.g. If secondary superficial overlies principal bedrock, an overall designation of principal is assumed)

The EA have also designated groundwater Source Protection Zones, which are based on proximity to a groundwater source (springs, wells and abstraction boreholes). The size of a Source Protection Zone is a function of the aquifer, volume of groundwater abstracted and the effective rainfall, and may vary from tens to several thousand hectares.

Hydrology

Reference is made to publicly available Government held digital data via QGIS, and Landmark or Groundsure with respect to:

- Surface water quality
- Recorded pollution incidents
- Licensed abstractions (groundwater & surface waters)
- Licensed discharge consents
- Site susceptibility to flooding

The EA have set **water quality** targets for all rivers. These targets are known as River Quality Objectives (RQOs). The water quality classification scheme used to set RQO planning targets is known as the River Ecosystem scheme. The scheme comprises five classes (RE1 to RE5) which reflect the chemical quality requirements of communities of plants and animals occurring in our rivers.

General Quality Assessment (GQA) grades reflect actual water quality. They are based on the most recent analytical testing undertaken by the EA. There are 6 GQA grades (denoted A to F) defined by the concentrations of biochemical oxygen demand, total ammonia and dissolved oxygen.

The susceptibility of a site to **flooding** is assessed by reference to a Flood Map on the Environment Agency's website. These maps show natural floodplains - areas potentially at risk of flooding if a river rises above its banks, or high tides and stormy seas cause flooding in coastal areas. There are two different kinds of area shown on the Flood Map:

1. Dark blue areas (Flood Zone 3) could be flooded by the sea by a flood that has a 0.5% (1 in 200) or greater chance of happening each year, or by a river by a flood that has a 1% (1 in 100) or greater chance of happening each year
2. Light blue areas (Flood Zone 2) show the additional extent of an extreme flood from rivers or the sea. These outlying areas are likely to be affected by a major flood, with up to a 0.1% (1 in 1000) chance of occurring each year

These two colours show the extent of the natural floodplain if there were no flood defences or certain other manmade structures and channel improvements. Where there is no blue shading (Flood Zone 1), there is less than a 0.1% (1 in 1000) chance of flooding occurring each year.

The maps also show all flood defences built in the last five years to protect against river floods with a 1% (1 in 100) chance of happening each year, or floods from the sea with a 0.5% (1 in 200) chance of happening each year, together with some, but not all, older defences and defences which protect against smaller floods.

The Agency's assessment of the likelihood of flooding from rivers and the sea at any location is based on the presence and effect of all flood defences, predicted flood levels, and ground levels.

It should also be noted that as the floodplain shown is the 1 in 100 year, areas outside this may be flooded by more extreme floods (e.g. the 1 in 1000 year flood). Also, parts of the areas shown at risk of flooding will be flooded by lesser floods (e.g. the 1 in 5 year flood). In some places due to the shape of the river valley, the smaller floods will flood a very similar extent to larger floods but to a lesser depth.

If a site falls within a floodplain, it is recommended that a flood survey be undertaken by a specialist who can advise on appropriate mitigating measures; i.e. raising slab levels, provision of storage etc. In accordance with Chapter 10 of the National Planning Policy Framework, a site-specific flood risk assessment is required for: proposals of 1 hectare or greater in Flood Zone 1, or in an area within Flood Zone 1 which has critical drainage problems (as notified to the local planning authority by the Environment Agency); and any new development in Flood Zones 2 and 3.

COMAH & explosive sites

Lithos obtain information from Landmark or Groundsure with respect to Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) or explosive sites within 1km of the proposed development site. Lithos' report refers to any that are present, and recommends that the Client seeks further advice from the HSE.

Areas around COMAH sites (chemical plants etc) are zoned with respect to the implementation of emergency plans. The HSE are a statutory consultee to the local planning authority for all COMAH sites. The COMAH site may have to revise its emergency action plan if development occurs. This might be quite straightforward or could entail significant expenditure. Consequently, the COMAH site may object to a proposed development (although it is the Local Authority who have final say, and they are likely to place more weight on advice from the HSE).

Preliminary conceptual site model

The site's environmental setting (and proposed end use) is used by Lithos to assess the significance of any contamination encountered during the subsequent ground investigation.

Assessment of contaminated land is based on an evaluation of pollutant linkages (source-pathway-receptor). Contaminants within the near surface strata represent a potential source of pollution. The environment (most notably groundwater), site workers and end users are potential receptors.

Potential pollutant linkages are shown on a preliminary conceptual site model (pCSM). A CSM is essentially a cross-section through a site that reflects both the surface topography and underlying geology, and shows surface features of interest. The most significant sources of contamination are then superimposed onto this cross-section together with potential receptors (human health & controlled waters), and plausible pathways between the two. In addition to environmental issues, the CSM should also highlight geotechnical issues.

A pCSM is prepared after consideration of all available "desk study" data, and before design of the ground investigation. Data reviewed should include historical plans (with superimposition on a current-day plan), previous SI reports, geological maps etc. The pCSM, in conjunction with knowledge of site constraints (buildings, services, slopes etc) is used to design the ground investigation.

The revised CSM takes account of data obtained during the ground investigation, including the distribution of made ground, the nature and distribution of contamination etc.

02 - Ground investigation fieldwork
Generic notes – geoenvironmental investigations

General

Lithos Ground Investigations are undertaken in accordance with current UK guidance including:

- BS5930:2015 "Code of practice for site investigation"
- Eurocode 7: BS EN 1997-1:2004. Geotechnical design - Part 1: General rules
- Eurocode 7: BS EN 1997-2:2007. Geotechnical design - Part 2: Ground investigation and testing
- BS10175:2013 "Code of practice for the identification of potentially contaminated sites"
- "Technical Aspects of Site Investigation" – EA R&D Technical Report P5-065/TR (2000)
- "Development of appropriate soil sampling strategies for land contamination" – EA R&D Technical Report P5-066/TR (2001)
- Contaminated Land Reports 1 to 6, most notably CLR Report No. 4 "Sampling strategies for contaminated land"
- "Guidance on the protection of housing on contaminated land" – NHBC & EA R&D Publication 66 (2000)
- AGS: 1996 "Guide to the selection of Geotechnical Soil Laboratory Testing"

Exploratory hole locations

Exploratory hole locations are selected by Lithos, prior to commencement of fieldwork, to provide a representative view of the strata beneath the site and to target potential contaminant sources identified during the preliminary investigation (desk study). Additional exploratory locations are often determined by the site engineer in light of the ground conditions actually encountered; this enables better delineation of the depth and lateral extent of organic contamination, poor ground, relict structures etc.

Investigation techniques

Ground conditions can be investigated by a number of techniques; the procedures used are in general accordance with BS5930: 2015 and BS1377: 1990. Techniques most commonly used by Lithos include:

- Machine excavated trial pits, usually equipped with a backactor and a 0.6m wide bucket.
- Cable percussive (Shell & Auger) boreholes, typically using 150mm diameter tools and casing.
- Window or windowless sampling boreholes (dynamic sampling). Constraints associated with existing buildings, operations and underground service runs can render some sites partly or wholly inaccessible to a mechanical excavator. In such circumstances, window sampling is often the most appropriate technique. A window sampling drilling rig can be manoeuvred in areas of restricted access and results in minimal disturbance of the ground (a 150mm diameter tarmac/concrete core can be lifted and put to one side). However, it should be noted that window sampling allows only a limited inspection of the ground (especially made ground with a significant proportion of coarse material).
- Rotary percussive open-hole probeholes are typically drilled using a tri-cone rock roller or polycrystalline diamond compact (PDC) bit with air as the flushing medium. Probeholes are generally lined through made ground with temporary steel casing to prevent hole collapse.

Where installed, gas\groundwater monitoring wells typically comprise a lower slotted section, surrounded by a filter pack of 10 mm non-calcareous gravel and an upper plain section surrounded in part by a bentonite seal and in part by gravel or arisings. The top of the plain pipe is cut off below ground level and the monitoring well protected by a square, stopcock type manhole cover set in concrete, or the plain pipe is cut off just above ground level and the well protected by 100mm diameter steel borehole helmet set in concrete. Monitoring well details, including the location of the response zone and bentonite seal are presented on the relevant exploratory hole logs.

In-situ testing

Relative densities of granular materials given on the trial pit logs are based on visual inspection only, they do not relate to any specific bearing capacities.

The relative densities of granular materials encountered in cable percussive boreholes are based on Standard Penetration Test (SPT) results. SPTs are carried out boreholes, in accordance with BS 1377 1990, Part 9 Section 3.3. Where full penetration (600mm) is not possible, N values are calculated by linear extrapolation and are shown on the logs as N* = x. The strength of cohesive deposits is determined using a hand shear vane.

Shear strength test results (hand vane readings) reported on trial pit logs are considered to be more reliable than those reported on window sample logs. Significant sample disturbance occurs during window sampling and consequently shear strength results on disturbed window samples are generally lower than results obtained during trial pitting, in-situ or in large excavated blocks.

Sampling

Typically Lithos collect at least three soil samples from each exploratory hole, although in practice a greater number are often taken. The collection of a sufficient number of samples provides a sound basis upon which to schedule laboratory analysis, ensuring:

- A sufficient number of samples from each (common) site material are tested
- Horizontal and vertical coverage of the site is adequate, thereby providing a robust data set for use in the conceptual ground model
- Any localised, significant, but non-pervasive conditions are considered

Made ground and natural soils encountered in the field during a ground investigation often contain a significant proportion of coarse grained material (e.g. brick etc). Soil samples obtained during most investigations are often only truly representative of the in-situ soil mass where there is an absence of particles coarser than medium gravel; i.e the entire soil mass would pass a 20mm sieve.

Representative bulk samples of the **soil mass** are retrieved from coarse soils for specific geotechnical tests (most notably grading and compaction); this typically requires the collection of at least 10kg of soil, and occasionally >50kg. However, in the context of assessing land contamination, it is generally accepted that samples should be representative of the **soil matrix** of the stratum from which they are taken. Consequently, truly representative samples of coarse soils for subsequent contaminant analysis are not obtained - only the finer fraction is placed in sample containers. Coarse constituents not sampled would typically comprise any 'particles' with an average diameter greater than about 20mm (i.e. coarse gravel, cobble and boulder).

At present, neither ISO/IEC 17025 nor MCERTS specify sample pre-treatment with respect to stone removal. Unsurprisingly therefore UKAS accredited testing laboratories do not adopt the same approach to stones[1] – some crush and test the "as received" soil, whilst others sieve out stones and analyse only the residual soil (the sieve size used varies depending on the laboratory).

[1] *Mark Perrin. Stoned – Sample Preparation for Soils Analysis. Ground Engineering, April 2007.*

In essence, samples taken from coarser soils for contaminant analysis are "screened" by the geoenvironmental engineer in the field, and often sieved again by the laboratory during sample preparation. Geoenvironmental engineers do not typically re-calculate soil mass contaminant concentrations by taking account of the unsampled coarse fraction. Likewise, laboratories that remove stones typically report contaminant concentrations based on the dry weight of soil passing the sieve. In the context of land contamination and human health risk assessment, this is considered reasonable, because it is the soil matrix which is of greatest concern. Stones are unlikely to:

- Provide a significant source for plant uptake (consumption of vegetables)
- Remain on vegetables after washing (consumption of vegetables)
- Be eaten (accidentally by an adult, or deliberately by a child)
- Be whipped-up by the wind for dust generation (inhalation)
- Stick to the skin for any length of time (dermal contact)
- Yield toxic vapour (inhalation)

Consequently, Lithos instruct labs to remove all stones >10mm, and to report the results as dry-weight based on the mass of matrix tested. However, the laboratory are given site-specific instruction where coarse stones are coated in say oil, or impregnated with mobile contaminants such as diesel. Where the stones are predominantly natural, or inert (e.g. brick, concrete etc), removal will clearly result in higher reported concentrations, than if the stones were crushed and added to the matrix.

Where the stones include a significant proportion of contaminant-rich material (e.g. slag, fragments of galvanised metal etc) an argument could be made for crushing and analysing. However, provided the stones are stable (i.e. unlikely to disintegrate or degrade) they should not pose a significant risk to human health for the reasons stated above.

Sometimes it is necessary to obtain samples that are not representative of the wider soil matrix, for example when investigating localised, significant, but non-pervasive conditions. Any such unrepresentative samples are annotated with the suffix '*' (eg 2D*, or 4G*). Lithos' site engineer describes both the unrepresentative sample, and the soil mass from which it was been taken.

Sample Containers (for contaminant analysis). Samples of soil for contaminant testing are placed into appropriate containers (see below). Soil samples for organic analysis are stored in cool boxes, at a temperature of approximately 4°C, until delivery to the selected laboratory.

Anticipated testing	Container(s)
Asbestos identification	500ml plastic tub
pH & metals, and non-volatile organics	500ml glass jar
Speciated TPH	500ml & 50ml glass jars
VOCs (incl. naphthalene and\or GRO)	50ml glass jar

Sample Containers (for geotechnical analysis). The majority of samples are only scheduled for PI and sulphate testing, for which 500g of sample is required (a full 0.5-litre plastic tub). However, bulk bags are taken where scheduling of compaction or grading tests is proposed.

Groundwater

Where encountered during fieldwork, groundwater is recorded on exploratory hole logs. If monitoring wells are installed, groundwater levels are also recorded on one or more occasions after completion of the fieldwork. Long-term monitoring of standpipes or piezometers is always recommended if water levels are likely to have a significant effect on earthworks or foundation design.

It should be borne in mind that the rapid excavation rates used during a ground investigation may not allow the establishment of equilibrium water levels. Water levels are likely to fluctuate with season/rainfall and could be substantially higher at wetter times of the year than those found during this investigation.

Description of strata

Soils encountered during a Lithos investigation are described (logged) in general accordance with BS 5930:2015. The descriptions and depth of strata encountered are presented on the exploratory hole logs and summarised in the Ground Conditions section within the main body of text. The materials encountered in the trial pits are logged, samples taken, and tests performed on the in-situ materials in the excavation faces, to depths of up to 1.2m; below this depth these operations are conducted at the surface on disturbed samples recovered from the excavation.

Key to exploratory hole logs

Keys to logs are presented in the Appendix containing the logs. There are two Keys – Symbols & Legends and Terms & Definitions.

03 – Geotechnical laboratory testing
Generic notes – geoenvironmental investigations

General

Soil samples are delivered to the laboratory for testing along with a schedule of testing drawn up by Lithos. All tests are carried out in accordance with BS 1377:1990. The following laboratory testing is routinely carried out on a selection of samples:

- Atterberg limits & moisture contents
- Soluble sulphate & pH

Where soft, cohesive soils are encountered, one-dimensional consolidation tests are scheduled in order to assess settlement characteristics, and unconsolidated undrained triaxial compression tests to assess shear strength.

The additional tests are typically only scheduled where significant earthworks regrade is anticipated:

- Grading
- Compaction tests
- Particle density

Test results are presented as received in an Appendix to the Geoenvironmental Report.

Atterberg limits & moisture content

The Liquid and Plastic Limits of samples of natural in-situ clay are determined using the cone penetrometer method and the rolling thread test. These tests enable determination of an average Plasticity Index (PI) for each "type" of clay, although judgement is applied where variable results are reported.

PI can be related to shrinkability (low, medium or high) and then to minimum founding depth. Lithos typically only consider a soil to be shrinkable if the proportion finer than 63µm is >35%. PI results are compared against guidance given in the NHBC Standards, Chapter 4.2 (revised April 2003), which advocates the use of modified Plasticity Index (I'p), defined as:

I'p = Ip * (%< 425µm/100)

i.e. if PI is 30%, but the soil contains 80% < 425µm, then: I'p = 30 * 80/100 = 24%.

It should be noted that in accordance with the requirements of BS 1377, the % passing the 425µm sieve is routinely reported by testing labs. Lithos apply engineering judgment where PI results are spread over a range of classifications. Consideration is given to:

- The average values for each particular soil type (ie differentiate between residual soil and alluvium)
- The number of results in each class and
- The actual values

Unless the judgment strongly indicates otherwise, Lithos typically adopts a conservative approach and recommends assumption of the higher classification.

Soluble sulphate and pH

Sulphates in soil and groundwater are the chemical agents most likely to attack sub-surface concrete, resulting in expansion and softening of the concrete to a mush. Another common cause of concrete deterioration is groundwater acidity.

The rate of chemical attack depends on the concentration of aggressive ions and their replenishment at the reaction surface. The rate of replenishment is related to the presence and mobility of groundwater.

Lithos refer to BRE Special Digest 1 (SD1) "Concrete in aggressive ground. Part 1: Assessing the aggressive chemical environment" (2005). SD 1 provides definitions of:

- The nature of the site (greenfield, brownfield or pyritic)
- The groundwater regime (static, mobile or highly mobile)
- The design sulphate class (DS class) and
- The aggressive chemical environment for concrete (ACEC class)

Lithos reports clearly state each of the above for the site being considered.

The concentrations of sulphate in aqueous soil/fill extracts are determined in the laboratory using the gravimetric method. The results are expressed in terms of SO_4 for direct comparison with BS 5328:1997. The pH value of each sample was determined by the electrometric method.

SD1 also discusses determination of "representative" sulphate concentration from a number of tests. Essentially if <10 samples of a given soil-type have been tested, the highest measured sulphate concentration should be taken. If >10 samples have been tested, the mean of the highest 20% of the sulphate test results can be taken. With respect to groundwater, the highest sulphate concentration should always be taken.

With respect to pH (soil & groundwater) the value used is the lowest value if <10 samples have been tested and the mean of the lowest 20% if >10 samples have been tested.

Oedometer (Consolidation) tests

Oedometer tests measure a soil's consolidation properties, and are performed by applying different loads to a soil sample and measuring the deformation response. Typically the sample is subject to 5 incremental pressures (4 loading & 1 unloading), and the convention is for each subsequent pressure to be double the previous pressure. BS1377 suggests the **initial** pressure should be:

a) For stiff soils the effective overburden pressure*
b) For firm soils "somewhat less" than the effective overburden pressure
c) For soft soils "appreciably less" than the effective overburden pressure, usually 25 kPa or less
d) For very soft soils very low, typically 5 kPa or 10 kPa

* Effective **overburden pressure** (kNm^{-2}) = depth (m) x soil bulk unit weight (kNm^{-3})

Results from these tests are used to predict how a soil in the field will deform in response to a change in effective stress.

Triaxial tests

This test measures the mechanical properties of a soil by placing the sample between two parallel platens which apply stress in one (usually vertical) direction, with fluid used to apply a confining pressure in the perpendicular directions. During the test, the surrounding fluid is pressurized, and then stress on the platens is increased until the material in the cylinder fails.

From triaxial test data, it is possible to extract fundamental material parameters, including its angle of shearing resistance, apparent cohesion, and dilatancy angle. These parameters are then used in computer models to predict how the material will behave in a larger-scale engineering application.

Quick (single stage, Unconsolidated, Undrained tests) are most appropriate for foundation design. This is because load is applied relatively quickly, and shear strength of the clay will be lowest initially; after the applied load causes some consolidation of the ground (after drainage results in dissipation of short-term excess pore water pressure), the in-situ clays will become progressively stronger and hence the factor of safety will increase. Confining pressure is specified as equivalent to overburden pressure (kNm^{-2}).

Foundations on granular soils would use effective shear strength parameters (c' and phi') to assess safe bearing capacity, as the soil would fully drain quickly. These effective shear strength parameters could be determined from Consolidated Undrained (or sometimes the more expensive Consolidated Drained) triaxial tests, but often correlations to the SPT are used.

Unconsolidated Undrained triaxial tests are most appropriate for assessment of the stability of fill slopes on clays. Similar to foundations, the application of load gradually increases the strength of the clays and hence the critical case is the short term undrained condition.

Consolidated Undrained (or sometimes **Consolidated Drained**) triaxial tests are most appropriate for assessment of the stability of cut slopes in clays. This is because unloading of the ground leads to short term reduction in pore pressures that approximately balance the unloading, hence the soil strength is largely unchanged. Over time the reduced pore pressures suck water in, which leads in to the progressive increase in pore pressure and loss of strength. The fully drained state is critical, which must be modelled using effective strength parameters and a reasonable estimate of the long term water table conditions.

Slopes formed in granular soils would use effective shear strength parameters (c' and phi') to assess safe bearing capacity, as the soil would fully drain quickly. These effective shear strength parameters could be determined from Consolidated Undrained (or sometimes the more expensive Consolidated Drained) triaxial tests, but often correlations to the SPT are used.

Determination of analytical suite

An assessment of potential contaminants associated with the former usages of the site is undertaken with reference to CLR 8 "Potential contaminants for the assessment of land" and the relevant DETR Industry Profile(s).

Common contaminants

Common **Inorganic** Contaminants include:

- Metals, most notably cadmium, copper, chromium, mercury, lead, nickel, and zinc
- Semi-metals, most notably arsenic, selenium, and (water soluble) boron
- Non-metals, most notably sulphur
- Inorganic anions, most notably cyanides (free & complex), sulphates, sulphides, and nitrates

With respect to the terminology used by most analytical laboratories:

Total cyanide = Free cyanide + Complex cyanide

Total cyanide (CN) is determined by acid extraction; whereas free cyanide is the water soluble fraction. Complex cyanide is "bound" in compounds and is hard to breakdown. Laboratory determination of complex CN involves subjecting the sample to UV digestion for determination of both free and total CN.

Thiocyanate (SCN) is a different species combined with sulphur.

Elemental sulphur (S) and free sulphur are the same. Total sulphur is all forms, including that present in sulphates (SO_4), sulphides etc.

There are 2 forms of chromium (Cr), chromium VI and chromium III. Chromium VI is the more toxic of these. In soils, total chromium is determined by a strong aqua regia acid digestion. Chromium VI is an empirical method based on a water extract test.

Common **Organic** Contaminants include hydrocarbons, phenols, and polychlorinated biphenyls.

Petroleum is a mixture of hydrocarbons produced from the distillation of crude oil, and includes aliphatics (alkanes, alkenes and cycloalkanes), aromatics (benzene and derivatives) and hydrocarbon-like compounds containing minor amounts of oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen. Petroleum hydrocarbons can be grouped based on the carbon number range:

- GRO – Gasoline Range Organics (typically C_6 to C_{10}). Also referred to as PRO – Petroleum Range Organics
- DRO – Diesel Range Organics (typically C_{10} to C_{28})
- LRO - Lubricating Oil Range Organics (typically C_{28} to C_{40})
- MRO – Mineral Oil Range Organics (typically C_{18} to C_{44})

However, it should be borne in mind that the terms "GRO" and "DRO" analysis are purely descriptive terms, the exact definition of which varies. Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) is also a poorly defined term; some testing laboratories regard TPH as hydrocarbons ranging from C_5-C_{40}, whereas others define TPH as C_{10}-C_{30}.

The composition of a TPH plume migrating through the ground can vary significantly; this is primarily dictated by the nature of the source (e.g. petrol, diesel, engine oil etc). Furthermore, different hydrocarbons are affected differently by weathering processes, and this can result in further variation in the chemical composition of the TPH.

Gasoline contains light aliphatic hydrocarbons (especially within the C_4 to C_5 range) that are volatile. The aromatic hydrocarbons in gasoline are primarily benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes, referred to as BTEX. Small amounts of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) such as benzo(a)pyrene may also be present. Diesel and light fuel oils have higher molecular weights than gasoline. Consequently, they are less volatile and less water soluble. About 25 to 35% is composed of aromatic hydrocarbons. BTEX concentrations are generally low.

Heavy Fuel Oils are typically dark in colour and considerably more viscous than water. They contain 15 to 40% aromatic hydrocarbons. Polar nitrogen, sulphur and oxygen-containing compounds (NSO) compounds are also present. Lubricating Oils are relatively viscous and insoluble in groundwater. They may contain 10 to 30% aromatics, including the heavier PAHs. NSO compounds are also common.

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) have more than two fused benzene rings as a structural characteristic. PAH compounds are present in both petrol and diesel, although in significantly lower concentrations than in coal tars. Certain PAH compounds are carcinogenic (benzo(a)pyrene) and\or mobile in the environment (naphthalene).

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are organic chemicals, and most are liquids that readily evaporate on exposure to air. Examples include benzene, toluene, xylene, chloroform etc. Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds (sVOCs) include phenol and benzo(a)pyrene, and have relatively low boiling points. Both groups of chemicals are readily absorbed through skin and some, such as benzene, are believed to be linked to tumour growth.

Phenols are compounds that have a hydroxyl group (-OH) attached to an aromatic ring (ie include a benzene ring and an –OH group). Most are colourless solids. A solution of phenol in water is known as carbolic acid, and is a powerful antiseptic. However, phenol vapour is toxic, and skin contact can result in burns.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) were used in pre-1974 transformers as dielectric fluids. PCB's are of increasing toxicity relative to the degree of chlorination. Acute symptoms of PCB poisoning are irritation of the respiratory tract leading to coughing and shortness of breath. Nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain are caused by ingestion of PCB's.

Dioxins and furans (polychlorinated dibenzodioxins and polychlorinated dibenzofurans) are some of the most toxic chemicals known; in the environment, they tend to bio-accumulate in the food chain. Dioxin is a general term that describes a group of hundreds of chemicals that are highly persistent in the environment. The most toxic compound is 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin or TCDD.

Dioxin is formed by burning chlorine-based chemical compounds with hydrocarbons. The major source of dioxin in the environment comes from waste-burning incinerators and also from backyard burn-barrels. Dioxin pollution is also affiliated with paper mills which use chlorine bleaching in their process and with the production of Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) plastics and with the production of certain chlorinated chemicals (like many pesticides).

Methods of analysis (organic compounds)

TPH by GC-FID is an analytical technique which only detects hydrocarbons (aliphatic and aromatic) in the range C_{10} to C_{40} (volatiles, heavy tars, humic material and sulphur are not detected). The laboratory can provide a broad, 'banded' breakdown of the TPH results into gasoline range organics (GRO), diesel range organics (DRO) and heavier lubricating oil range organics (LRO), or fully speciated results with the reporting of hydrocarbon concentrations in 14 specific carbon bandings based upon behavioural characteristics, e.g. aliphatic C_6 to C_8, aromatic C_{10} to C_{12} etc.

Speciated VOC (by GC-MS) analysis quantifies the concentrations of 30 USA-EPA priority compounds. These include chlorinated alkanes and alkenes (in the molecular weight range chloroethane to tetrachloroethane); trimethylbenzenes; dichlorobenzenes; and the 4 BTEX compounds (benzene, ethyl-benzene, toluene & xylene).

Speciated sVOC by (GC-MS) analysis quantifies the concentrations of a variety of organic compounds, including the 16 USA-EPA priority PAHs, phenols, 7 USA EPA priority PCB congeners, herbicides & pesticides.

Note: PAHs are hydrocarbons and consequently (where present) will be picked-up when scheduling TPH by GC-FID.

Note: Risk assessment models require physiochemical properties (solubilities, toxicities etc) of compounds in order to model their behaviour in the environment. These physiochemical properties cannot be derived from a single "TPH", "GRO" or "DRO" value. However, the carbon banded fractions can be used in risk assessment models.

Current UK guidance

The UK approach to contaminated land is set out in Contaminated Land Report No. 11 (2004) "Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination". The approach is based upon risk assessment, where risk is defined as the combination of the probability of occurrence of a defined hazard and the magnitude of the consequences of the occurrence.

In the context of land contamination, there are three essential elements to any risk: (1) a contaminant source; (2) a receptor (eg controlled water or people); and (3) a pathway linking (1) and (2). Risk can only exist where all three elements combine to create a pollutant linkage. Risk assessment requires the formulation of a conceptual model which supports the identification and assessment of pollutant linkages.

Lithos adopt a tiered approach to risk assessment, consistent with UK guidance and best practice. The initial step of such a risk assessment (or Tier 1) is the comparison of site data with appropriate UK guidance levels, Lithos risk-derived screening values, or remedial targets. It should be noted that exceedance of Tier 1 does not necessarily mean that remedial action will be required.

Soil screening values used by Lithos

In March 2002 DEFRA and the Environment Agency published a series of technical papers (R&D Publications CLR 7, 8, 9 and 10) outlining the UK approach to the assessment of risk to human health from land contamination. In 2008 CLR 7, 9 and 10 and all corresponding SGV and Tox reports were withdrawn and superseded by new guidance including:

- Guidance on Comparing Soil Contamination Data with a Critical Concentration - CL:AIRE and CIEH, May 2008
- Evaluation of models for predicting plant uptake of chemicals from soil - Science Report – SC050021/SR
- Human health toxicological assessment of contaminants in soil - Science Report: SC050021/SR2
- Updated technical background to the CLEA model - Science Report: SC050021/SR3
- CLEA Software Handbook (Version 1.071), Science report: SC050021/SR4
- Compilation of data for priority organic pollutants for derivation of Soil Guideline Values - Science Report: SC050021/SR7

The approach set out in these documents represents current scientific knowledge and thinking; and includes the Contaminated Land Exposure Model (CLEAv1.06). The Environment Agency are in the process of using this updated approach to regenerate a selection of Soil Guideline Values (SGVs).

CLEA SGVs were derived for standard land use scenarios predominantly in the context of Part IIA, using a conceptual site model (CSM) defined in SR3. Lithos have incorporated amendments to the CSM used to derive SGVs, that more accurately reflect redevelopment within the planning regime; consequently, Lithos have not adopted any published SGV as a screening value.

The CLEA conceptual site model assumes a source located in a sandy loam, with 6% soil organic matter (SOM) - equivalent to 3.5% total organic carbon (TOC). However, where the average TOC value for a particular soil type is significantly lower than the 3.5%, evaluation of Lithos Screening Values should be undertaken and a site specific risk assessment will usually be required. Other CLEA default characteristics adopted by Lithos are:

Sandy Loam characteristics (source)	Default values adopted
Total porosity (fraction)	0.53
Water filled porosity (fraction)	0.33
Air filled porosity (fraction)	0.2

Lithos have derived Screening Values for four different CSMs (scenarios); these are:

A - Residential with gardens, but no cover (or only up to 300mm)

B - Residential with gardens and 600mm 'clean' cover

C - Residential apartments with landscaping (i.e. no home grown produce)

D - Commercial/industrial with landscaping

E – Importation of soil cover

The **exposure** pathways considered for each scenario are detailed in the table below.

Scenario	Land use	Pathways	Justification
A	Residential with garden, but no cover (or only up to 300mm)	• Direct ingestion of soil • Dermal contact • Consumption of vegetables & soil attached to vegetables • Inhalation of indoor vapours and dust • Inhalation of outdoor vapours and dust	Minimal cover – insufficient to break any pathways therefore all exposure pathways are relevant.
B	Residential with garden minimum 600mm cover	• Inhalation of indoor vapours • Inhalation of outdoor vapours	The 600mm cover removes the risk from all pathways other than inhalation.
C	Residential apartments with landscaped areas and minimum 300mm cover	• Direct ingestion of soil • Dermal contact • Inhalation of indoor vapours and dust • Inhalation of outdoor vapours and dust	All pathways applicable due to possible exposure from landscaped areas. However consumption of home grown produce not included as unlikely to be grown in landscaped areas. Where vegetables are to be grown site specific QRA may be required.
D	Commercial/ industrial with landscaped areas no cover	• Direct ingestion of soil • Dermal contact • Inhalation of indoor vapours and dust • Inhalation of outdoor vapours and dust	All pathways applicable due to possible exposure from landscaped areas. Assumed the commercial development consists of offices to provide a conservative assessment.
E	Importation of soil for cover in garden and landscaped areas	• Direct ingestion of soil • Dermal contact • Consumption of vegetables & soil attached to vegetables • Inhalation of outdoor vapours and dust	Material used as cover to break existing pathways therefore all direct and indirect pathways relevant; however cover is **not** placed below plots therefore indoor inhalation is not relevant.

Lithos have assumed the source of contamination is directly below the building foundations; i.e. a depth to source of 0.15m as opposed to the CLEA default of 0.65m. This assumption provides for a more conservative approach than the UK default. This adjustment has been included to account for sites where made ground is re-engineered to enable new buildings to be established on raft foundations. In such situations contamination may lie directly beneath the foundation.

The Soil Screening Values referred to in this document are **not** intended to be used when considering potential risks associated with:

- Existing land uses in the context of Part IIA of the Environment Protection Act 1990;
- End uses such as allotments, sports fields, children's playgrounds, care homes, hospitals etc; and
- Controlled waters.

In December 2013 Defra published the results of research project SP1010 – Development of Category 4 Screening Levels (C4SLs) for Assessment of Land Affected by Contamination. The objective of this project was provide technical guidance in support of Defra's revised Statutory Guidance for Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Part 2A). The revised Statutory Guidance, published in April 2012, introduced a new four-category system for classifying land under Part 2A where Category 1 includes land where the level of risk is clearly unacceptable, and Category 4 includes land where the level of risk posed is acceptably low. Project SP1010 aimed to deliver:

- A methodology for deriving C4SLs for four generic land-uses comprising residential, commercial, allotments and public open space; and
- Demonstration of the methodology, via derivation of C4SLs for 6 substances – arsenic, cadmium, chromium IV, lead, benzene & benzo(a)pyrene.

The methodology for deriving both the previous Soil Guideline Values and the new Category 4 Screening Levels is based on the Environment Agency's Contaminated Land Exposure Assessment (CLEA) methodology. Development of C4SLs has been achieved by modifying the toxicological and\or exposure parameters used within CLEA (while maintaining current exposure parameters).

The Part 2A Statutory Guidance was developed on the basis that C4SLs could be used under the planning regime. However, policy responsibility for the National Planning Policy Framework falls to the Department for Communities and Local Government. Defra anticipate that, where they exist, C4SLs will be used as generic screening criteria, and Lithos consider C4SLs to be suitable for use as Tier 1 Screening Values. Lithos have discussed this matter with both NHBC and YALPAG (collection of Yorkshire & Lincolnshire local authorities) and received confirmation that they are satisfied with this approach.

With respect to **inorganic** determinands, Lithos derived Tier 1 values for the five Scenarios A to E are presented below:

Inorganic contaminant	Tier 1 assessment criteria (mg/kg) for Scenarios A to E							Comments/notes
	SGV*	C4SL*	A	B	C	D	E	
As	32	37	37	Use (A) in SI Report for initial "screen". If >5 x A, then consider increase of cover to 1,000mm	40	640	37	C4SL adopted
Cd	10	26	26		149	410	26	C4SL adopted
Cr			3,000		3,000	30,000	3,000	Assumes Cr is CrIII
Pb	450	200	200		310	2,330	200	C4SL adopted
Ni	130		127		127	1,700	127	Assessment of health risk only
Se	350		350		595	13,000	434	
Hg	170		169		238	3,640	199	Assumes in an inorganic compound
B			5		5	5	5	Based on phytotoxic risks as plants are the more sensitive receptor (Cu is pH dependant)
Cu			80-200		80-200	80-200	80-200	
Zn			200		200	200	200	

With respect to **organic** determinands, Lithos derived Tier 1 values for the five Scenarios A to E are presented below:

Organic contaminant (all sourced via CLEA)	Tier 1 assessment criteria (mg/kg) for Scenarios A to E							Comments/notes
	SGV*	C4SL*	A	B	C	D	E	
Benzene	0.33	0.87	0.9	0.9	3.3	98	N/A	C4SL adopted
Toluene	610		600	3,000	2,700	5,000	N/A	Calculated value over 10,000
Ethyl Benzene	350		350	932	843	5,000	N/A	
Xylenes	240		246	327	321	5,000	N/A	
Phenol	420		412	2,400	519	5,000	N/A	
PCBs			2	8	2	38	N/A	Based on toxicity of EC7
Benzo(a)pyrene		5	5	25	5.3	76	5	C4SL adopted. Where source is not a coal tar
Naphthalene			8	9	9	1,000	12	
Gasoline Range Organics			30	34	34	5,000	45	See 3-step assessment of TPH below
Diesel Range Organics			151	156	154	5,000	219	
Lubricating Range Org			1,000	5,000	2,000	5,000	1,000	

* *For a residential end use*

The significance of PAHs can be determined by considering indicator compounds. In most cases benzo(a)pyrene (BaP) is adopted as an indicator due to the amount of toxicological data available and has been used by various authoritative bodies to assess the carcinogenic risk of PAHs in food. A surrogate marker approach can be used to estimate the toxicity of a mixture of PAHs in soil using toxicity data for individual indicator compounds within that mixture. Exposure to the surrogate marker is assumed to represent exposure to all PAHs in that matrix. The surrogate marker approach relies on a number of assumptions:

- Surrogate marker (bap) must be present in all soil samples
- Profile of the different pah relative to bap should be similar in all samples
- PAH profile in the soil samples should be similar to that used in the pivotal toxicity study[1]

[1] SP1010 Appendix E, Provisional C4SIs for benzo(a)pyrene as a surrogate marker for PAHs, CL:AIRE 2013

To assess the PAH profile in a soil sample, the ratio of the seven genotoxic PAHs (benz[a]anthracene, benzo[b]fluoranthene, benzo[k]fluoranthene, benzo[g,h,i]perylene, chrysene, dibenz[a,h]anthracene and indeno[1,2,3-c,d]pyrene), relative to BaP, should be calculated. The ratio relative to BaP should lie within an order of magnitude above and below the mean ratio to BaP.

Naphthalene should also be considered separately against its generic screen. Whilst classed as a PAH, naphthalene is more volatile and mobile in the environment than most other PAHs. As such the significance of naphthalene cannot be considered within the surrogate marker approach.

Similarly, **TPH** cannot be assessed as a single "total" value, and reference has been made to the Environment Agency's document P5-080/TR3, "The UK approach for evaluating human health risks from petroleum hydrocarbons in soils". This document supports the assumptions and recommendations made by the US Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons Criteria Working Group (TPHCWG). The TPHCWG have broken down "TPH" into representative constituent fractions or "EC Bandings". The TPHCWG have derived a series of physiochemical and toxicological parameters for each of the bandings.

The significance of speciated TPH results can be assessed by following the 3 steps outlined in the tables below.

Step	Result	Action
1. Consider indicator compounds: Are BTEX, naphthalene, benzo(a)pyrene above their respective Tier 1 values?	Yes	Remediation or dQRA required
	No	Proceed to Step 2
2. Consider individual TPH fractions: are they above respective screening values?	Yes	Remediation or dQRA required
	No	Proceed to Step 3
3. Assess Cumulative effects: Is the calculated Hazard Index for each source >1	Yes	Remediation or dQRA required
	No	TPH compounds pose no significant risk

Step 1 - Assessing indicator compounds

TPH fraction Indicator compound	End use specific screening value (mg/kg)			
	A: Residential no cover	B: Residential with 600mm cover	C: Residential no gardens	D: Commercial\ industrial
Benzene	0.9	0.9	3.3	98
Toluene	600	3,000	2,700	5,000
Ethyl Benzene	350	932	843	5,000
Xylenes	246	327	321	5,000
Naphthalene	8	9	9	1,000
Benzo(a)pyrene	5	25	5.3	76

Step 2 - Assessing individual TPH fractions

TPH fraction		End use specific screening value (mg/kg)			
		A: Residential no cover	B: Residential with 600mm cover	C: Residential with no gardens	D: Commercial/ industrial
Aliphatic 5-6	GRO	41	41	42	5,000^ per fraction
Aliphatic 6-8	GRO	125	125	125	
Aliphatic 8-10	GRO	31	31	32	
Aliphatic 10-12	DRO	151	156	154	
Aliphatic 12-16	DRO	500^	500^	500^	
Aliphatic 16-21	DRO	1,000^	5,000#	1,000^	
Aliphatic 21-35	LRO	1,000^	5,000#	1,000^	
Aromatic 5-7	GRO	100	123	122	
Aromatic 7-8	GRO	30	34	34	
Aromatic 8-10	GRO	47	50	50	
Aromatic 10-12	DRO	215	287	266	
Aromatic 12-16	DRO	689	1,000*	1,000*	
Aromatic 16-21	DRO	1,000^	5,000#	1,000^	
Aromatic 21-35	LRO	1,000^	5,000#	1,000^	

* Calculated Screening Value exceeded soil saturation limit and could indicate free product, therefore calculated soil saturation limit adopted as a target

^ Calculated Screening Value close to soil saturation limit, screening value selected by Lithos considering visual and olfactory impacts.

Five times the screening value for Scenario A.

Step 3 - Assessing Cumulative Effects

$$HI = \sum_{F_i=1}^{16} HQ\ F_i = \frac{Measured\ concentration\ F_i\ (mg\,kg^{-1})}{SGV\ F_i\ (mg\,kg^{-1})}$$

where HI = Hazard Index
HQ = Hazard Quotient
F_i = Fraction $_i$
SGV = Soil Guideline Value

Other screening values used by Lithos

Tier 1 risk assessment of **hazardous gas** is undertaken through reference to the following documents (and further information is presented in Generic Note No. 5 – Hazardous Gas):

- Approved Document C, Building Regulations 2000
- Boyle & Witherington (2007) – Guidance on evaluation on development proposals on sites where methane and carbon dioxide are present, incorporating "traffic lights". Report Ref. 10627-R01-(02), for NHBC
- CIRIA C665 (2007) – Assessing risks posed by hazardous ground gases to buildings
- BS 8485:2015 – Code of Practice for the characterisation & remediation from ground gas in affected developments

With respect to the assessment of potential **phytotoxic effects** of contaminants, Lithos refer to "The Soil Code" (MAFF, 1998) for copper and zinc. The CLEA SGV is adopted for nickel due to its human health effects.

The potential risk to **building materials** is considered through reference to relevant BRE Digests, with particular emphasis on BRE Special Digest 1, 'Concrete in aggressive ground', 2005.

With respect to the interpretation of the **calorific values**, at present there are no accepted methods to assess whether a sample is combustible and under what circumstances it might smoulder. Some guidance is given in ICRCL Note 61/84 "Notes on the fire hazards of contaminated land" which states that: "*In general … it seems likely that materials whose CV's exceed 10MJ/kg are almost certainly combustible, while those with values below 2MJ/kg are unlikely to burn*".

Tier 1 **groundwater** risk assessments are undertaken by comparing leachate or groundwater concentrations with the appropriate water quality standard. Tier 1 Screening Values have been discussed with the Environment Agency, and typically those in **bold** below are adopted.

Analyte	Source of Tier 1 Screening Value (µg/l)			
	Surface water (Abstraction for drinking) 1996	Water Supply Regulations 2000	Water Framework Directive	EA Advice
Arsenic	50	10	**50**	
Selenium	10	**10**		
Cadmium	5	5	**1.5**	
Chromium	50	50	**32**	
Copper	50	2,000	**28**	
Lead	50	10	**7.2**	
Nickel		20	**20**	
Zinc	3,000		**125**	
Boron		**1,000**		
Mercury	1	1	**0.07**	
Petroleum Hydrocarbons				**10**
1,1,1-Trichloroethane			**100**	
1,1 Dichloroethane				**100**
1,2-Dichloroethane		3	**10**	
1,1-Dichloroethene				**100**
Benzene		1	**10**	
Ethylbenzene				**10**
Tetrachloroethene		10	**10**	
Toluene			**50**	
Trichloroethene		10	**10**	
Vinyl Chloride		**0.5**		
Trichloromethane			**2.5**	
Xylenes			**30**	
Chloroethane				**100**

Waste classification & WAC

In the context of waste soils generated by remediation and\or groundworks activities on brownfield sites, the following definitions (from the Landfill Regulations 2002) apply:

- Inert (e.g. uncontaminated 'natural' soil, bricks, concrete, tiles & ceramics)
- Non-Hazardous (e.g. soil excavated from a contaminated site which contains dangerous substances, but at concentrations below prescribed thresholds)
- Hazardous (e.g. soil excavated from a contaminated site which contains dangerous substances at concentrations above prescribed thresholds)

Dangerous substances include compounds containing a variety of determinants commonly found in contaminated soils on brownfield sites, for example arsenic, lead, chromium, benzene etc.

Landfill operators require Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) laboratory data, if soil waste is classified as **hazardous**, and such waste must have been subjected to pre-treatment. However, subject to WAC testing it may be possible to classify it as stable, non-reactive hazardous waste, which can be placed within a dedicated cell within the non-hazardous landfill.

Lithos typically only include WAC analysis in site investigation proposals and reports, if significant off-site disposal (of soil classified as hazardous waste) is anticipated, for example where redevelopment proposals include basement construction etc. If off-site disposal of soils classified as hazardous waste during redevelopment is anticipated, then WAC analysis should be scheduled at an early stage in the remediation programme. However, organic compounds (BTEX, TPH, PAH etc) are the most common contaminants that result in soils being classed as hazardous, and these contaminants can often be dealt with by alternative technologies (e.g. by bioremediation or stabilisation) and consequently retention on site is often possible.

It should be noted that **non-hazardous** soil waste can go to a non-hazardous landfill facility; no further testing (e.g. WAC) is required.

Possible action in event of Tier 1 exceedance

Should any of the Tier 1 criteria detailed above be exceeded, then three potential courses of action are available. (The first is only applicable in terms of human health, but the second and third could also be applied to groundwater or landfill gas).

1. Undertake further statistical analysis following the approach set out in "*Guidance on Comparing Soil Contamination Data* with *a Critical Concentration - CL:AIRE and CIEH, May 2008*" in order to determine whether contaminant concentrations of inorganic contaminants within soil\fill actually present a risk (only applicable to assessing the risk to human health).
2. Carry out a more detailed quantitative risk assessment in order to determine whether contamination risks actually exist.
3. Based on a qualitative risk assessment, advocate an appropriate level of remediation to "break" the pollutant linkage - for example the removal of the contaminated materials or the provision of a clean cover.

Prior to undertaking any statistical analysis the issue of the **averaging area** requires further consideration. The CL:AIRE\CIEH document still refers to CLR 7, which suggests averaging area should reflect receptor behaviour and therefore might be a single garden, or an open area used by the local community as a play area. This approach to averaging areas is considered applicable within the context of Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990, in terms of an existing residential development.

However, Lithos consider the concept of a single garden as an averaging area to be inappropriate with respect to brownfield redevelopment, which is regulated by the planning regime. In this context, contamination across the entire site needs to be characterised by reference to the Conceptual Site Model. Consequently, Lithos gather and analyse sample results by fill type, and\or by former use in a given sub-area of the site, before undertaking statistical analysis; ie the averaging area is associated with the extent of a particular fill type, or an area affected by spillage\leakage.

In terms of brownfield redevelopment, this is considered a more appropriate methodology which provides a more representative sample population for statistical analysis. As such the entire site is considered in terms of the proposed end use, be this residential with, or without gardens.

Analysis by soil\fill type is appropriate for essentially immobile contaminants associated with a particular fill type, for example arsenic in colliery spoil, metals in ash & clinker, sulphate in plaster-rich demolition rubble etc.

Analysis by former use is appropriate where more mobile contaminants have entered the ground, for example diesel associated with leakage from a former fuel tank, downward migration of leachable metals through granular materials, various soluble contaminants present in a wastewater leaking into the ground via a fractured sewer etc. In these circumstances, it may be appropriate to undertake statistical analysis of sample results from a variety of different soil\fill types. However, consideration would have to be given to factors such as porosity which might influence impregnation of a mobile contaminant into the soil mass, ie contamination would normally be more pervasive and significant in granular soils than cohesive soils

05 – Hazardous gas
Generic notes – geoenvironmental investigations

General

Hazardous gas is considered to be any mixture of potentially explosive, toxic or asphyxiating gases, most notably methane, carbon dioxide and oxygen (deficiency). In addition, radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas is also considered. Further information about radon is included in Notes 01 – Environmental Setting.

Assessment of potential risks associated with hazardous gas are based on a review of data obtained from the Landmark Information Group, the Environment Agency and the Local Authority and the British Geological Survey. Reference is also made to historical OS plans, which are inspected for evidence of backfilled quarries, railway cuttings, colliery spoil tips etc.

Where landfilling has occurred within 250m of the site boundary, the Local Planning Authority may request a landfill gas investigation in accordance with the Town and Country Planning General Development Order, 1988.

Sources

Potential sources of hazardous gas include:

- Landfill sites
- Made ground, especially where significant depths are present
- Shallow mineworkings associated with coal extraction
- Geological strata, including peat, organic silts, coal and limestone (reaction with acidic waters), granite (radon)
- Groundwater can sometimes act as a "carrier" for hazardous gas
- Leakages from pipelines or storage tanks
- Sewers, septic tanks and cess pits

Generation

Wherever biodegradable material is deposited, landfill gas (principally a mixture of methane and carbon dioxide) is likely to be generated by microbial activity. Carbon dioxide is an asphyxiant and toxic; methane is flammable and a mixture containing between 5% and 15% methane by volume in air is explosive. Landfill gas in the ground is unlikely in itself to pose a significant risk, though it may damage vegetation. However, infiltration of landfill gas into confined spaces (e.g. cellars, services, etc) may give rise to considerable risk.

There is no typical figure for the length of time that landfill gas will be evolved, but at many sites significant gas generation continues for at least 15 years after the last deposit of waste.

Migration

Gas migration from a landfill site may occur in several ways. It may migrate through adjacent strata; the distance of migration being dependent on the pressure gradients, volume of gas and permeability of the strata. Where there are faults, cavities and fissures within the strata, gas may move considerable distances. Other migration pathways for gas include man-made features such as mine shafts, roadways and underground services.

Gas migration is influenced by a number of climatic factors, such as atmospheric pressure variations, water table level variations and the influence of a covering of snow or ice over the surface of the site and surrounding area.

Gas monitoring procedure

Lithos adopt a standard gas monitoring procedure, in accordance with CIRIA guidance. This procedure involves the measurement, in the following order of:

- Atmospheric temperature, pressure and ambient oxygen concentration
- Gas emission rate
- Methane, oxygen and carbon dioxide concentrations using an infra-red gas analyser
- Standing water level using a dipmeter.

In addition, ground conditions at each sampling location are recorded together with prevailing weather conditions and any other observations such as any vandalism. Where samples of gas are required for laboratory analysis, Gresham Tubes or multi-layer Tedlar / ALTEF sampling bags are used. Gas concentrations in the well are typically recorded immediately before and after retrieval of a sample.

Current guidance

CIRIA Report 151 (1995)[i] identified that there was inadequate guidance on trigger concentrations for ground gases. CIRIA concluded that the most important aspect of a gas regime below or adjacent to a site was the surface emission rate, i.e. how quickly the gas is coming out of the ground. The lower the surface emission rate the lower the risk. CIRIA Report C665 (2007)[ii] advocates two methodologies for characterising sites:

A – All developments except low rise housing. The advocated methodology is that proposed by Wilson & Card, 1999[iii]

B – Low rise housing. An alternative (traffic light) methodology, derived by Boyle and Witherington, 2006[iv] for NHBC

Both methodologies refer to Gas Screening Values (GSV); previously referred to as limiting borehole gas volume flow.

A – All developments except low rise housing

(Wilson & Card, 1999)[v] revised Table 28 of CIRIA 149[v] in terms of borehole gas volume flow rate (now GSV) in order to achieve a more consistent design of protection measures. This was done to reflect the importance of recognising the gas surface emission rate. Wilson & Card then developed a method for classifying gassing sites (Table 1 below), which took into account the combined gas concentration and GSV.

Characteristic Situation	Gas Screening Value, CH_4 or CO_2 (l/hr)	Additional limiting factors	Typical source of generation
1	<0.07	Methane not to exceed 1% v/v and carbon dioxide not to exceed 5% v/v	Natural soils with low organic content
2	<0.7	Borehole air flow rate not to exceed 70 litre/hr otherwise increase to Characteristic Situation 3	Natural soil, high peat/organic content
3	<3.5		Old landfill, inert waste, mineworkings flooded.
4	<15	Quantitative Risk Assessment required to evaluate scope of protection measures.	Mineworkings – susceptible to flooding, completed landfill, inert waste
5	<70		Mineworkings unflooded, inactive
6	>70		Recent landfill site

Notes: Borehole flow rate = volume of gas (regardless of composition) which is escaping from well (l/hr). Gas Screening Value (litre/hour) = gas concentration (%) / 100 x borehole flow rate (l/hr). To facilitate design implementation, the limiting values for both methane and carbon dioxide are identical.

B – Low rise housing.

NHBC have developed a characterisation system similar to that of Wilson & Card above, but specific to low-rise housing development (Boyle and Witherington) (Table 8.7). This approach compares measured gas emission rates with generic "Traffic Lights". The Traffic Lights include "Typical Maximum Concentrations" for initial screening, and risk-based Gas Screening Values (GSVs) for consideration of situations where the Typical Maximum Concentrations are exceeded. Calculations are carried out for both methane and carbon dioxide and the worst case adopted in order to establish the appropriate protection measures.

Table 8.7 NHBC Traffic light system for 150 mm void

Traffic Light Classification	Methane [1]		Carbon Dioxide [1]	
	Typical Maximum Concentration [5] (%v/v)	Gas Screening Value [2,4,6] (l/hr)	Typical Maximum Concentration [5] (%v/v)	Gas Screening Value [2,3,4,6] (l/hr)
Green	1	0.16	5	0.78
Amber 1	5	0.63	10	1.56
Amber 2	20	1.56	30	3.13
Red				

Notes:

1. The worst gas-regime identified at the site, either methane or carbon dioxide, recorded from monitoring in the worst temporal conditions, will be the decider for which Traffic Light and GSV is allocated.
2. Generic GSVs are based on guidance contained within "The Building Regulations: Approved Document C" (2004) and assume a sub-floor void of 150 mm thickness.
3. A leak of gas from the sub-floor void into a small room (e.g. downstairs toilet with soil pipe potentially passing into sub-floor void) of dimensions 1.50m × 1.50m × 2.50m, with a total room volume of 5.63m^3 has been considered.
4. The GSV, in litres per hour, is as defined in Wilson and Card (1999) as the borehole flow rate multiplied by the concentration in the air stream of the particular gas being considered.
5. The Typical Maximum Concentrations can be exceeded in certain circumstances should the conceptual site model indicate it is safe to do so. This is where professional judgment will be required, based on a thorough understanding of the gas regime identified at the site where monitoring in the worst temporal conditions has occurred.
6. The GSV thresholds should not generally be exceeded without completion of a detailed gas risk assessment taking into account site-specific conditions.

---

i *Harries CR, Witherington PJ and McEntee JM (1995). Interpreting measurements of gas in the ground. CIRIA Report 151*

ii *CIRIA (2007) – Assessing risks posed by hazardous ground gases to buildings.*

iii *Wilson SA and Card GB (February 1999). Reliability and Risk in Gas Protection Design. Ground Engineering.*

iv *Boyle & Witherington (2006) – Guidance on evaluation on development proposals on sites where methane and carbon dioxide are present, incorporating "traffic lights". Report Ref. 10627-R01-(02), for NHBC*

v *Wilson SA and Card GB (February 1999). Reliability and Risk in Gas Protection Design. Ground Engineering.*

Appendix B

Drawings

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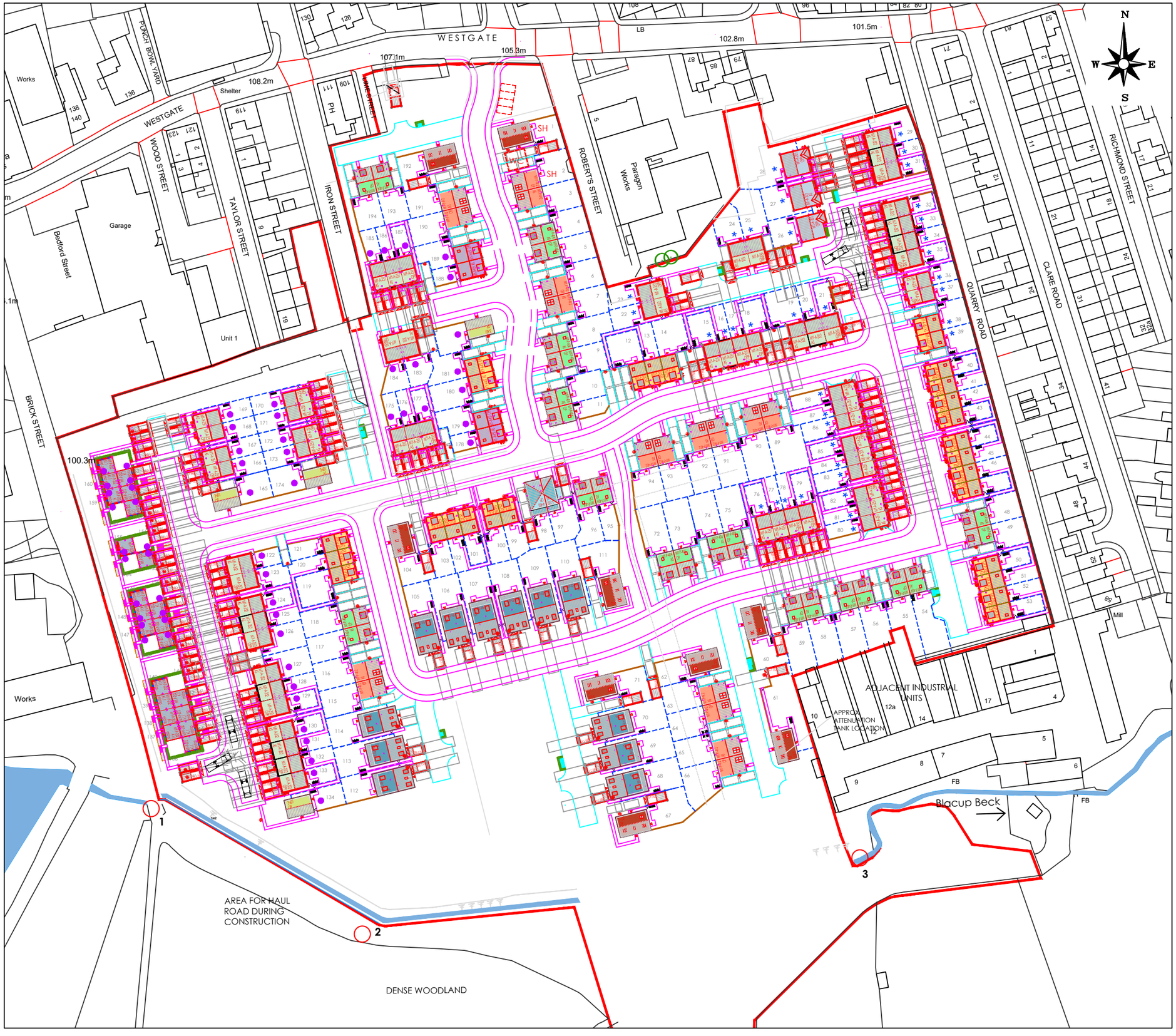
CLIENT	STRATA
JOB TITLE	WESTGATE, CLECKHEATON
DRAWING TITLE	SITE LOCATION PLAN
DRAWN	GLM
DATE	23/11/2020
CHECKED	ASw
DATE	23/11/2020
STATUS	FOR COMMENT ☐ DRAFT ☐ FOR APPROVAL ☐ FINAL ☑
SCALE	1:25,000
SHEET	A4
DRAWING NO.	3043/1
REVISION	



NOTES

APPROXIMATE SITE BOUNDARY

REPRODUCED FROM STRATA HOMES' DRAWING 18-CL2-SEGB-WE-01 REV P, DATED 12 04 2021

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE
B	UPDATED WITH NEW CLIENT LAYOUT	05/05/21
A	UPDATED WITH NEW CLIENT LAYOUT	23/02/21

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CLIENT

STRATA

JOB TITLE

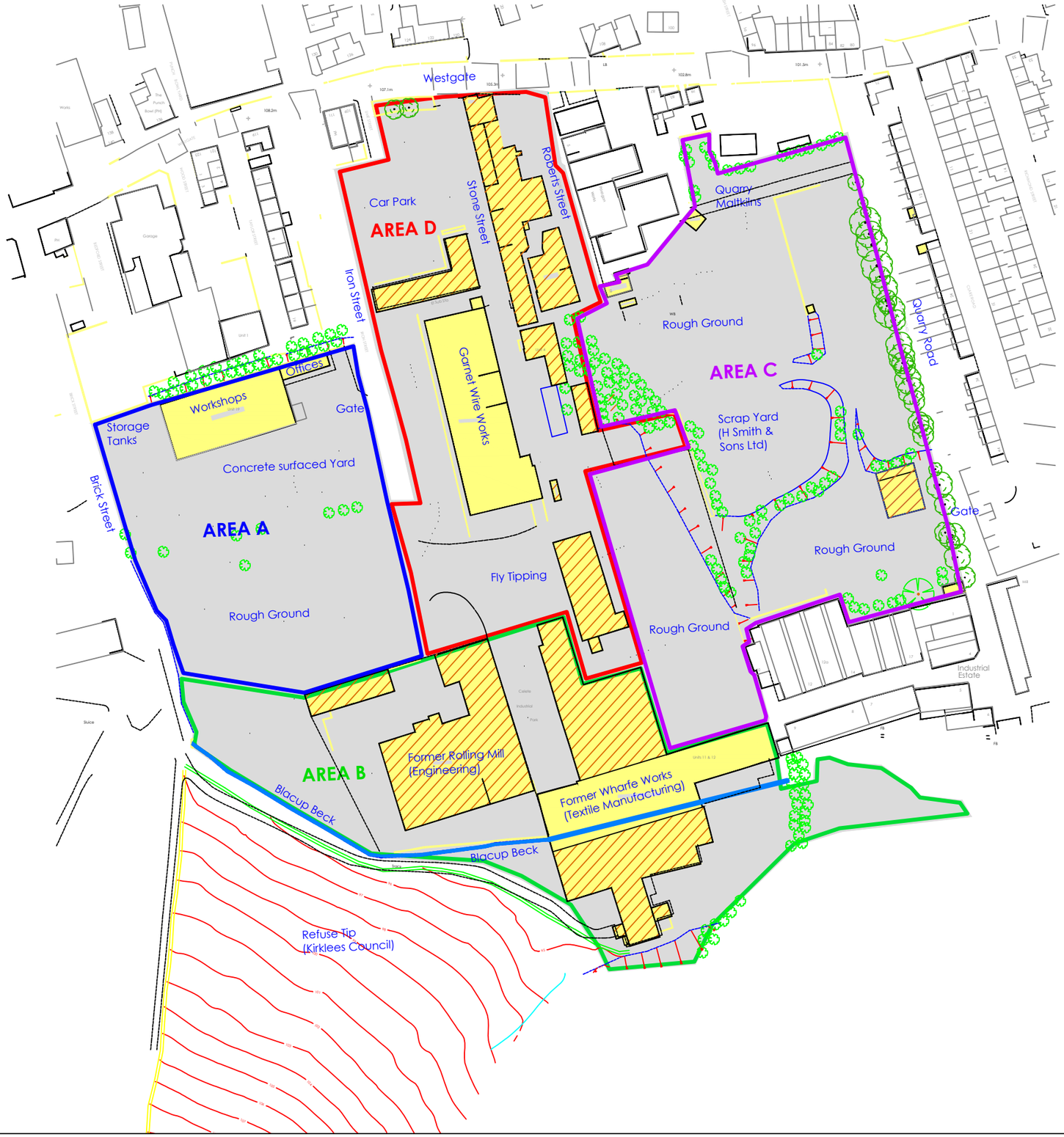
WESTGATE, CLECKHEATON

DRAWING TITLE

PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT

DRAWN	DATE	STATUS
GLM	23/11/2020	FOR COMMENT ☐
CHECKED	DATE	FOR APPROVAL ☐
ASw	23/11/2020	DRAFT ☐
		FINAL ☑

SCALE	SHEET	DRAWING NO.	REVISION
1:1,250	A3	3043/2	



NOTES

- EXISTING BUILDING
- CONCRETE HARDSTAND (FORMER BUILDING FOOTPRINT)
- EXTERNAL SURFACING (CONCRETE HARDSTAND/TARMAC/ ROUGH GROUND)

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE
A	UPDATE OF SITE FEATURES & CONDITION	23/11/2020

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CLIENT

STRATA

JOB TITLE

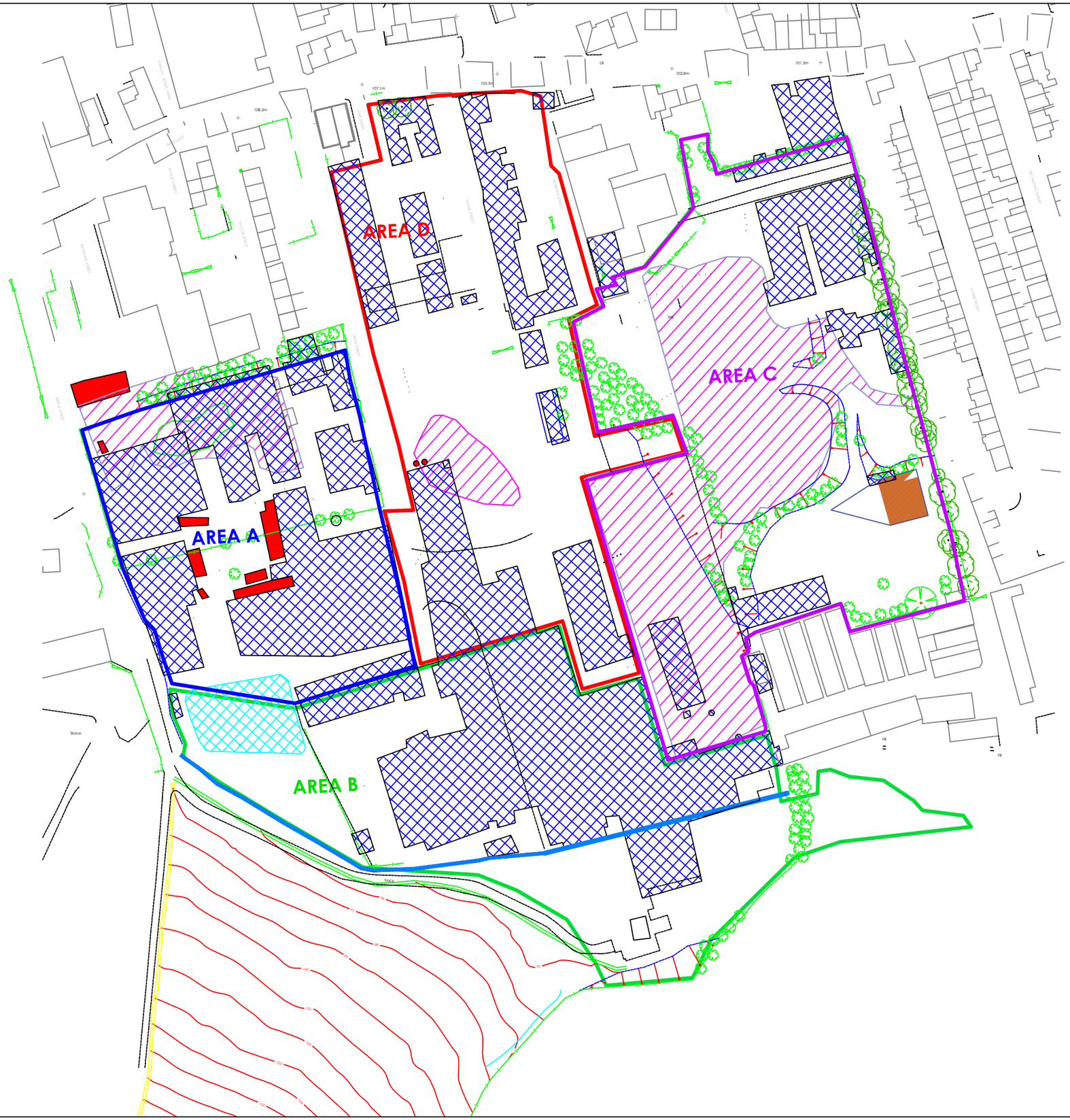
WESTGATE, CLECKHEATON

DRAWING TITLE

SITE FEATURES

DRAWN	DATE	STATUS
GLM	23/11/2020	FOR COMMENT ☐
CHECKED	DATE	FOR APPROVAL ☐
ASw	23/11/2020	DRAFT ☐
		FINAL ☑

SCALE	SHEET	DRAWING NO.	REVISION
1:1500	A3	3043/3	A



NOTES

- FORMER QUARRY FOOTPRINT (1894 - 1938)
- FORMER BUILDING FOOTPRINT (1938)
- FORMER RESERVOIR FOOTPRINT (1938)
- APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF FORMER TANKS (1938)

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE

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JOB TITLE

WESTGATE,
CLECKHEATON

DRAWING TITLE

HISTORICAL SITE FEATURES

DRAWN	DATE	STATUS
GLM	17 12 18	FOR COMMENT ☐
CHECKED	DATE	FOR APPROVAL ☐
ASw	17 12 18	DRAFT ☐
		FINAL ☑

SCALE	SHEET	DRAWING NO.	REVISION
1:1500	A3	3043/3	

NOTES

- EXISTING BUILDING
- CONCRETE HARDSTAND (FORMER BUILDING FOOTPRINT)
- EXTERNAL SURFACING (CONCRETE HARDSTAND/TARMAC/ ROUGH GROUND)
- FUEL STORAGE TANKS
- APPROXIMATE SITE BOUNDARY
- LOCATION & ORIENTATION OF PHOTOGRAPH

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE

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JOB TITLE

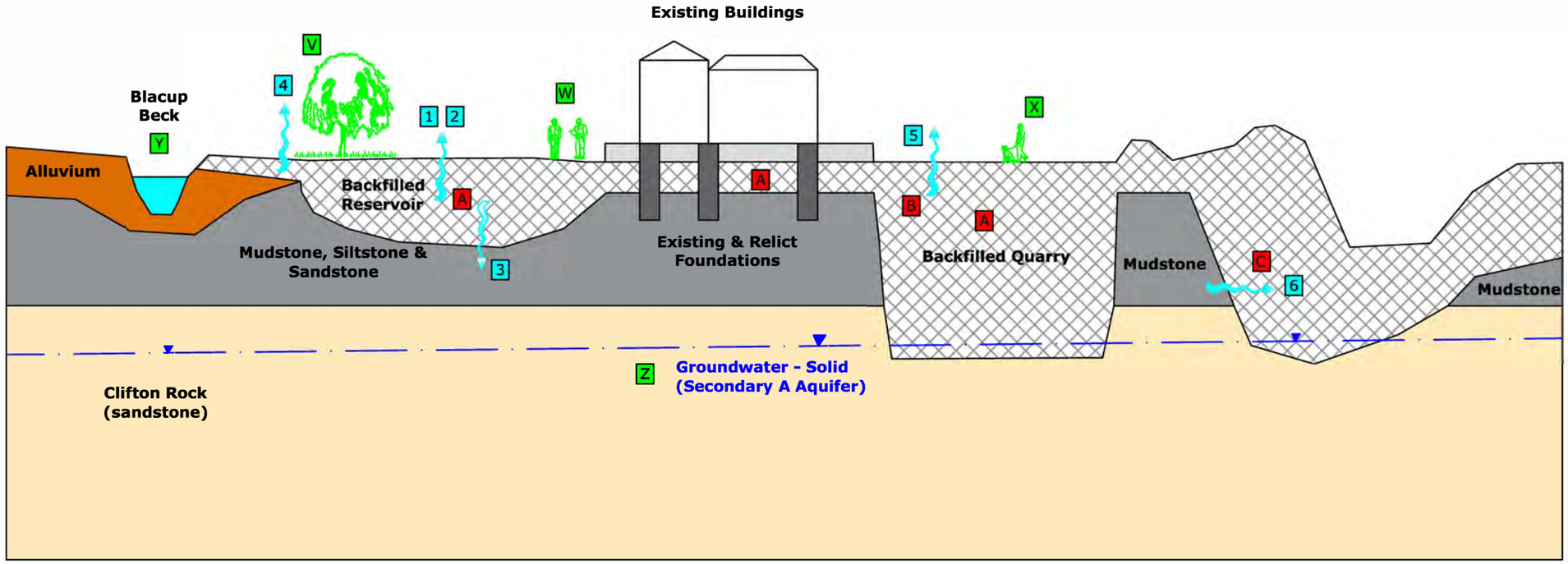
WESTGATE,
CLECKHEATON

DRAWING TITLE

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

DRAWN	DATE	STATUS
ASw	17 12 18	FOR COMMENT ☐
CHECKED	DATE	FOR APPROVAL ☐
REG	17 12 18	DRAFT ☐
		FINAL ☑

SCALE	SHEET	DRAWING NO.	REVISION
NOT TO SCALE	A3	3043/4	



SOURCES
MADE GROUND (ABESTOS & HEAVY METALS)
MADE GROUND (HYDROCARBONS & SOLVENTS)
DEEP MADE GROUND (HAZARDOUS GAS)

PATHWAYS
1 DERMAL CONTACT
2 INGESTION/INHALATION
3 LEACHING OF CONTAMINANTS
4 UPTAKE BY PLANTS
5 VOLATILISATION
6 MIGRATION OF GAS

RECEPTORS
X END USERS (RESIDENTS)
Y SURFACE WATERS
Z GROUNDWATER
W WORKERS
V VEGETATION

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CLIENT: STRATA

JOB TITLE: WESTGATE, CLECKHEATON

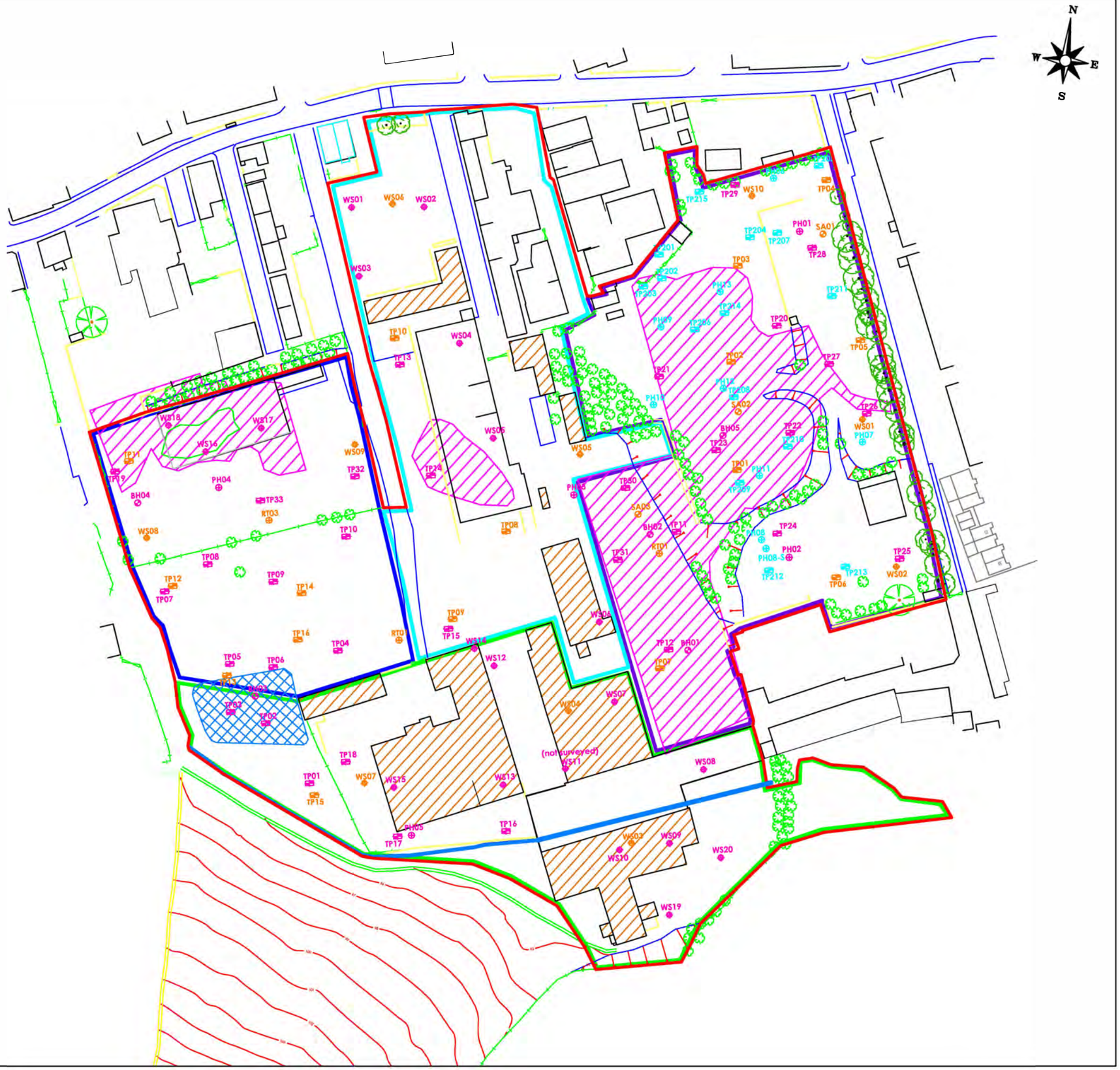
DRAWING TITLE: PRELIMINARY SITE CONCEPTUAL MODEL

NOTES

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE

STATUS: FOR COMMENT ☐ FOR APPROVAL ☐ DRAFT ☐ FINAL ☑

DRAWN	DATE
ASw	18 12 18
APPROVED	DATE
REG	18 12 18
SCALE	SHEET
Not to scale	A3
DRAWING NO.	REVISION
3043/6	



NOTES

AIG INVESTIGATION (APRIL 2001)

- TRIAL PIT LOCATION (TPs 01 TO 33)
- BOREHOLE LOCATION (BHs 01 TO 05)
- PROBEHOLE LOCATION (PHs 01 TO 05)
- WINDOW SAMPLE LOCATION (WSs 01 TO 20)

ROGERS INVESTIGATION (2009)

- TRIAL PIT LOCATION (TPs 01 TO 16)
- BOREHOLE LOCATION (SAs 01 TO 03)
- PROBEHOLE LOCATION (RTs 01 TO 03)
- WINDOW SAMPLE LOCATION (WSs 01 TO 10)

ENCIA INVESTIGATION (2004)

- TRIAL PIT LOCATION (TPs 201 TO 215)
- PROBEHOLE LOCATION (PH 6 TO 13 & 8S)
- APPROXIMATE SITE BOUNDARY

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE

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JOB TITLE

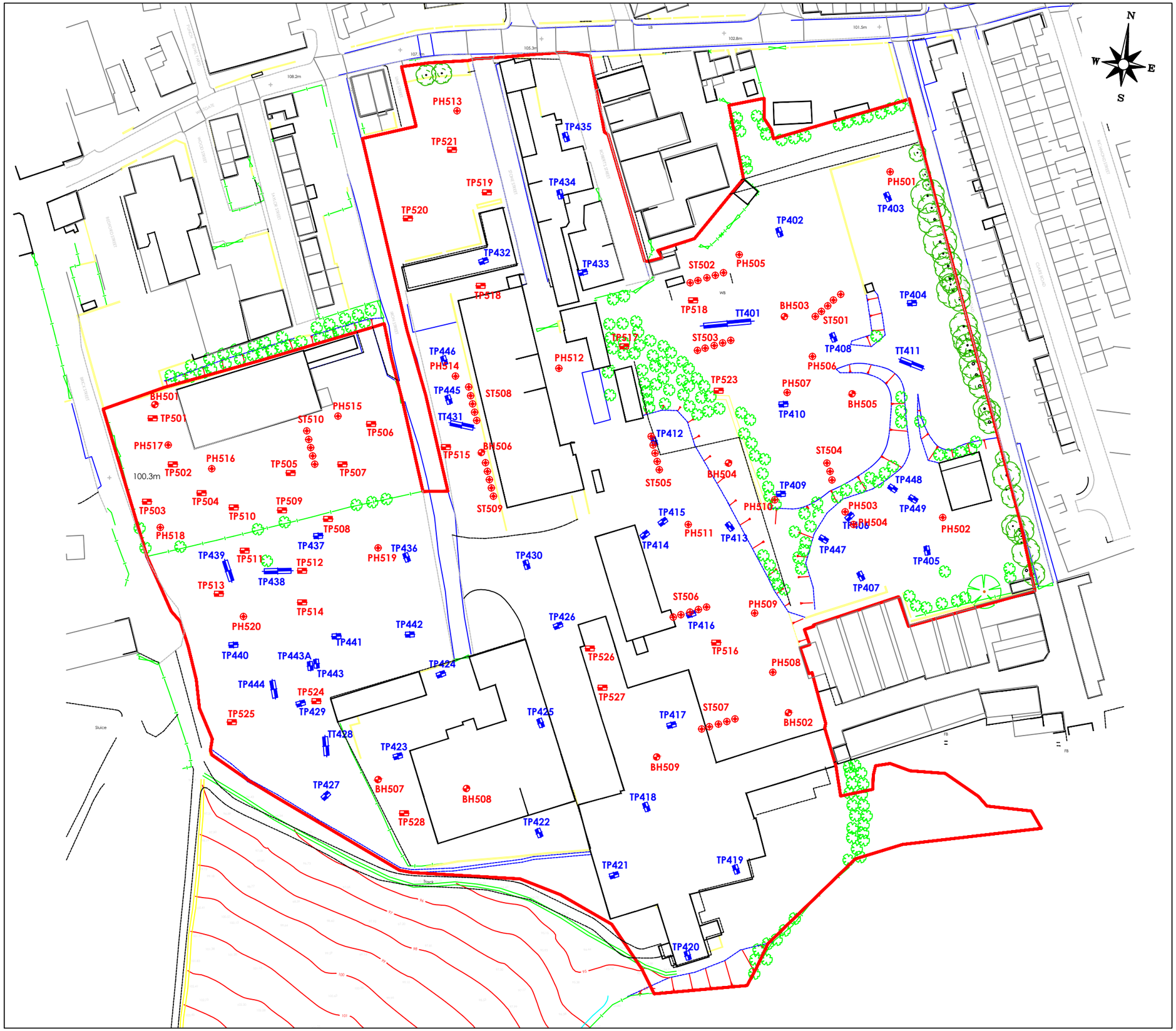
WESTGATE,
CLECKHEATON

DRAWING TITLE

THIRD PARTY EXPLORATORY HOLE LOCATIONS

DRAWN	DATE	STATUS
ASw	17 12 18	FOR COMMENT ☐
CHECKED	DATE	FOR APPROVAL ☐
REG	17 12 18	DRAFT ☐
		FINAL ☑

SCALE	SHEET	DRAWING NO.	REVISION
1:1500	A3	3043/7	



NOTES

- TRIAL PIT LOCATION (LITHOS SEPTEMBER 2019)
- TRIAL PIT LOCATION (LITHOS SEPTEMBER 2020)
- CABLE PERCUSSION / ROTARY CORED BOREHOLE (LITHOS SEPTEMBER 2020)
- PROBEHOLE / STITCH PROBEHOLE LOCATION (LITHOS SEPTEMBER 2020)
- APPROXIMATE SITE BOUNDARY

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE
A	ADDITION OF SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLORATORY HOLES	01/10/2020

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JOB TITLE

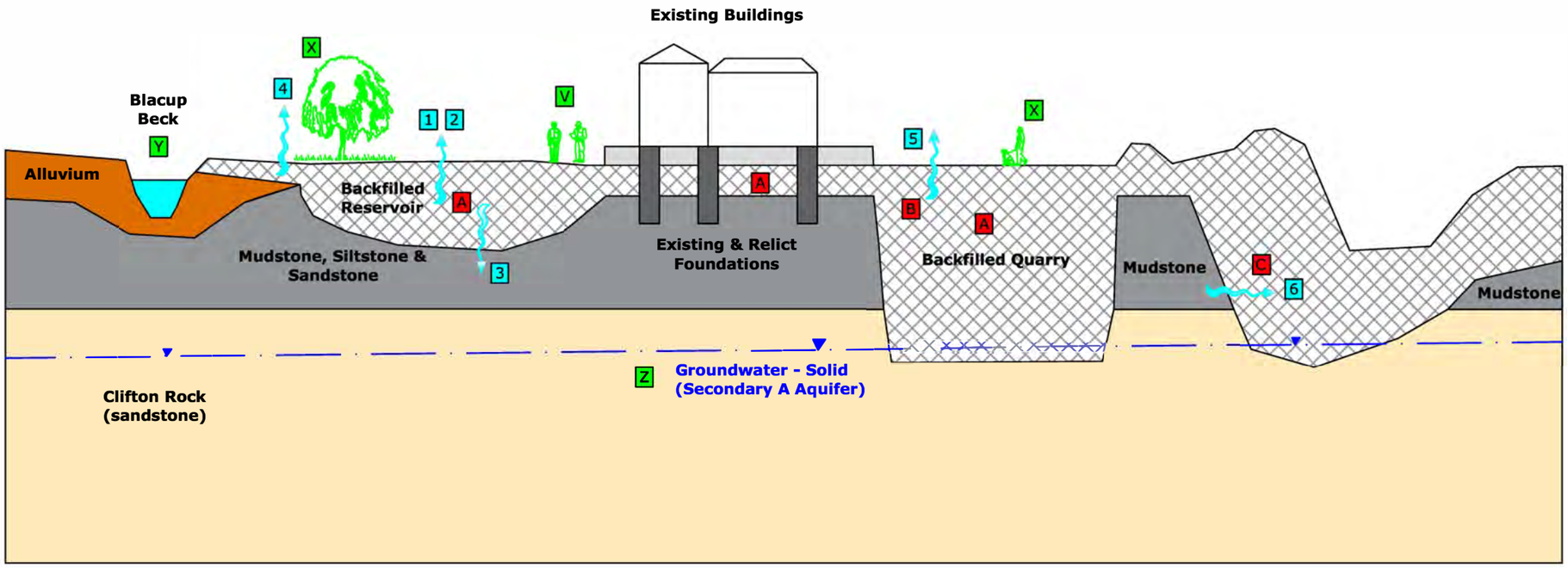
WESTGATE,
CLECKHEATON

DRAWING TITLE

EXPLORATORY HOLE LOCATIONS

DRAWN	DATE	STATUS
GLM	02/10/2020	FOR COMMENT ☐
CHECKED	DATE	FOR APPROVAL ☐
ASw	02/10/2020	DRAFT ☐
		FINAL ☑

SCALE	SHEET	DRAWING NO.	REVISION
1:1250	A3	3043/8	A



SOURCES
MADE GROUND (ABESTOS & HEAVY METALS)
MADE GROUND (HYDROCARBONS)
DEEP MADE GROUND (HAZARDOUS GAS)

PATHWAYS	
1	DERMAL CONTACT
2	INGESTION/INHALATION
3	LEACHING OF CONTAMINANTS
4	UPTAKE BY PLANTS
5	VOLATILISATION
6	MIGRATION OF GAS

RECEPTORS	
X	END USERS (RESIDENTS)
Y	SURFACE WATERS
Z	GROUNDWATER
W	WORKERS
V	VEGETATION

NOTES

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE

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JOB TITLE

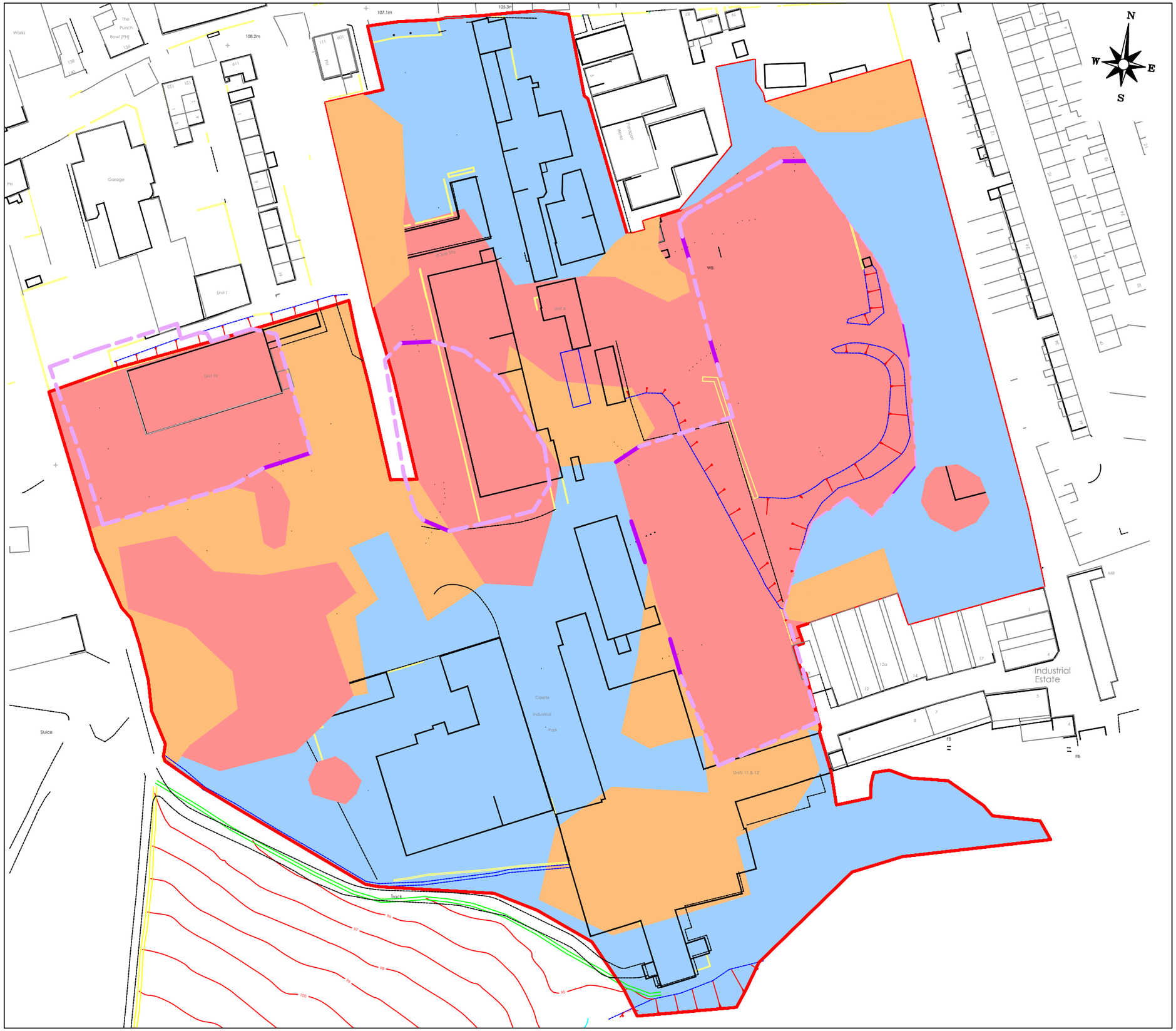
WESTGATE,
CLECKHEATON

DRAWING TITLE

REVISED CONCEPTUAL SITE MODEL

DRAWN	DATE	STATUS
ASw	11 02 19	FOR COMMENT ☐
		FOR APPROVAL ☐
CHECKED	DATE	DRAFT ☐
REG	11 02 19	FINAL ☑

SCALE	SHEET	DRAWING NO.	REVISION
Not to scale	A3	3043/9	



NOTES

- MADE GROUND <1.5m DEPTH
- MADE GROUND >1.5m DEPTH
- MADE GROUND >2.5m DEPTH
- LINE OF HIGHWALLS (KNOWN)
- LINE OF HIGHWALLS (INTERPRETED)
- APPROXIMATE SITE BOUNDARY

Made ground extents drawing is based upon interpolation between exploratory holes only therefore should be treated with caution. Lithos' exploratory holes are surveyed in, it is unknown whether 3rd party ones are.

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE
A	ADDITION OF SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLORATORY HOLES (500 SERIES) & ADDITION OF QUARRY HIGHWALLS	21/10/2020

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JOB TITLE

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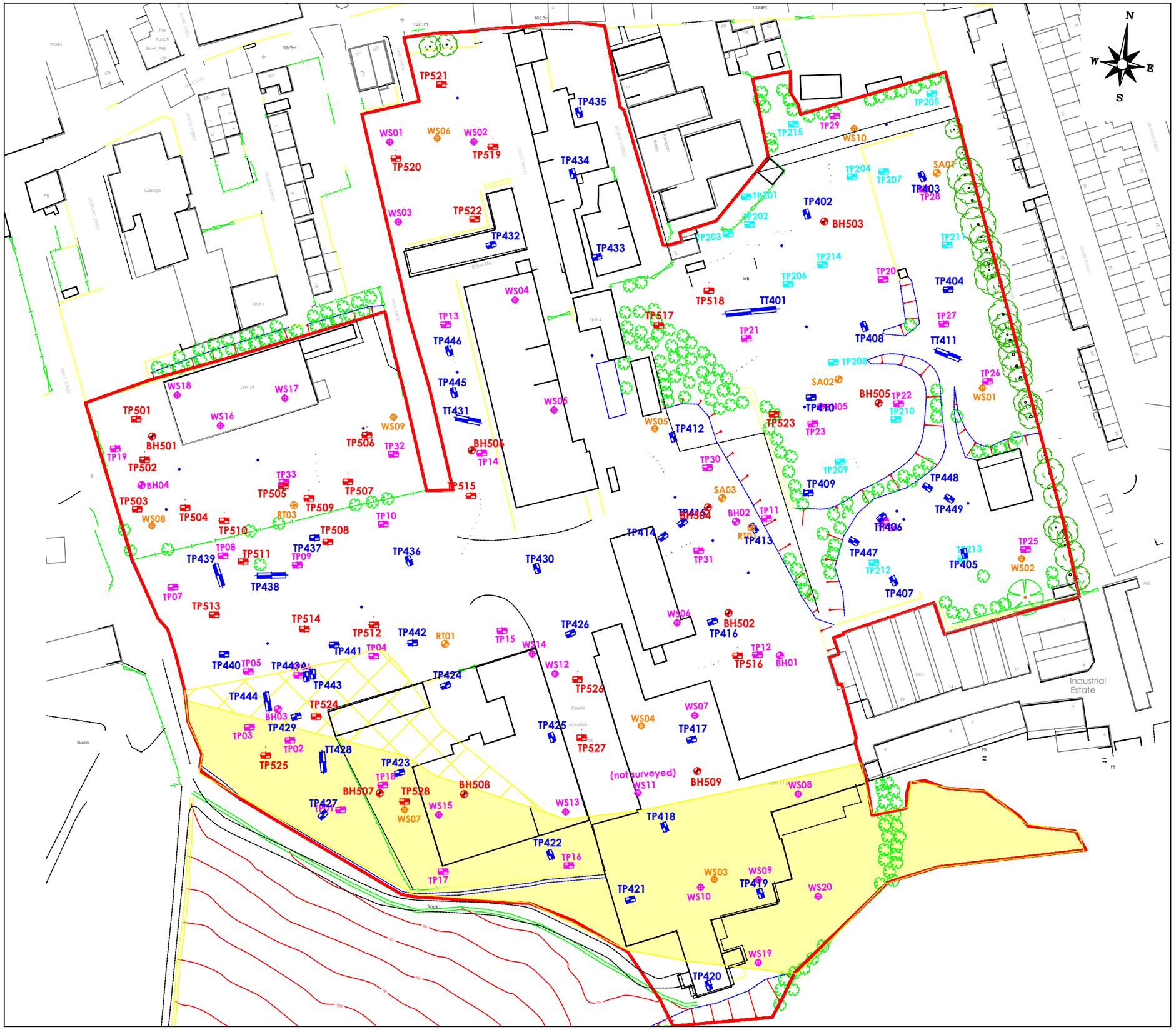
DRAWING TITLE

MADE GROUND & BURIED HIGHWALL EXTENTS

DRAWN	DATE	STATUS
GLM	21/10/2020	FOR COMMENT ☐
CHECKED	DATE	FOR APPROVAL ☐
ASw	21/10/2020	DRAFT ☐
		FINAL ☑

SCALE	SHEET	DRAWING NO.	REVISION
1:1250	A3	3043/10	A



NOTES

EXTENT OF ALLUVIAL SOILS (LITHOS EXPL HOLES ONLY)

EXTENT OF ALLUVIAL SOILS (ALL EXPL HOLES)

APPROXIMATE SITE BOUNDARY

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE

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JOB TITLE

WESTGATE, CLECKHEATON

DRAWING TITLE

EXTENT OF ALLUVIAL SOILS

DRAWN	DATE	STATUS
GLM	08 02 19	FOR COMMENT ☐
CHECKED	DATE	FOR APPROVAL ☐
ASw	08 02 19	DRAFT ☐
		FINAL ☑

SCALE	SHEET	DRAWING NO.	REVISION
1:1250	A3	3043/11	