



# Succeeding in challenging times: an international approach to brownfield projects

CIRIA annual contaminated land conference 14 October 2009, London









## Background

The construction sector in the UK and overseas has been hard hit by the current global economic crisis. However, major land regeneration projects around the world continue to develop. Among many examples, projects associated with the 2012 Games in London and the Commonwealth Games in 2014 in Glasgow are progressing well.

The concern today is securing funds for socially important regeneration projects and being able to plan and deliver these projects effectively. Banks and financial institutions have changed their business risk exposure profiles and are not supporting projects as they have done in the past. Fortunately new funding sources such as those provided by the newly established Homes and Communities Agency on affordable housing, have contributed to making a positive impact on the industry. Opportunities for British contaminated land professionals on overseas land regeneration projects provide continuity for organisations but there remains the need to understand prevailing funding streams.

This conference will highlight the planning and delivery of some of the major land regeneration projects in the US, Europe, the Middle East and Far East. It aims to guide land regeneration professionals worldwide on how to secure funding, and provide them with methods to gain more efficiency and competitiveness in schemes in the UK and overseas.

## **Topics covered**

- funding (including current and new financial opportunities) for brownfield sites
- current and future risk associated with brownfield sites
- how to improve efficiency when dealing with land remediation projects
- how to manage and secure funding for regeneration projects in the UK, US, Europe and the Far East
- how to increase the value of land
- how to make better use of sites that are unoccupied because of the slow down in the property market
- biodiversity and wildlife issues.

# Who should attend?

- consultants
- contractors
- clients and developers
- housebuilders
- local authorities (EHOs, planners, contaminated land and open green space officers)
- regulators
- wildlife specialists
- ecologists
- lenders and financiers
- technology vendors
- academics.

## Programme

- 09.00 Registration, refreshments and exhibition
- 09.45 Chairman's introduction

Claire Dickinson, Regional Director, AECOM

09.55 Managing the overall risk of brownfield sites under the current economic climate – the big picture

> Mark Rolls, Head of Brownfield Strategy, Homes and Communities Agency

This presentation will explore the current and the potential future risks associated with brownfield site redevelopment projects. It will also explain the different funding sources for these schemes.

#### 10.15 Getting finance for your brownfield project – is there still hope? A lenders' view

Alexander Pohl, Senior Development Executive, Environmental Risks HSBC Insurance Brokers Ltd, HSBC

This presentation will highlight the financiers' risk concerns on brownfield projects. It will also explore how lenders and construction professionals could work better with contaminated land and through the economic crisis.

10.35 Discussion session

#### 10.55 Refreshments and exhibition



# 11.25 Successful risk assessment in land regeneration projects worldwide

USA, Rebecca Wallace, Senior Consultant, *Newfields* 

UK, Jan Hellings, ODA London Olympic 2012

Hong Kong, China, David Yeung, Managing Director, *Environ* 

The Middle East, Marcel Steward, Director Environmental Practice, *Market Insurance Brokers Ltd* 

Despite the recent changes in the global economy, major urban regeneration projects are still taking place in Europe, US and Far East, and particularly China. This workshop will examine the major land remediation projects from around the world. It will also explore the different technical and funding approaches available to help construction professionals work and win urban regeneration projects in these countries.

- 12.25 Questions and discussion
- 12.45 Lunch and exhibition
- 13.45 Workshops

#### Workshop A

How to improve efficiency in brownfield remediation projects

Cecilia MacLeod, Technical Director, *Arcadis* Julia Stegemann, Reader in Environmental Engineering, *University College London* This workshop will explore ways that brownfield projects can be delivered more efficiently. It will also examine technical issues including current risk assessment and new remediation approaches.

#### Workshop **B**

# How are local authorities coping with the skills shortage?

David Rudland, Contaminated Land Officer, Swindon Council

Matt Whitehead, SiLC Project Manager, Environment Agency

This workshop will examine how local authorities have survived the last 12 months of the economic downturn and also the emerging skills gap. It will also explore how different local authority, industry and other initiatives can help LAs manage these problems.

#### Printed on paper comprising 75 per cent post-consumer waste and 25 per cent ECF recycled paper using vegetable inks.

#### 14.45 Workshop feedback session

#### 15.00 Refreshments and exhibition

#### 15.30 Open space and brownfield sites

Joanne Kwan, Project Manager, CIRIA Peter Massini, Manager, Future London Programme, Natural England

Gillian Dick, Principal Landscape and Environment Officer, Development & Regeneration Service, *Glasgow City Council* 

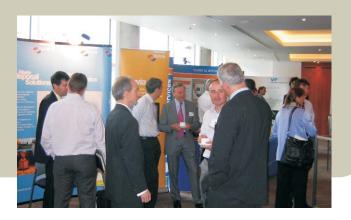
There is growing recognition among community groups, regulators and other organisations that previously developed land has enormous potential for "greening" city environments. This is not only useful to sites that are unused because of the downturn of the property market, but open green space can also add value to urban developments.

This presentation will explain how construction professionals can become more efficient in open green space schemes. It will also include a discussion on how Glasgow's emerging open space policies, strategy and audit will help to reshape the east end of the city, the location for the Commonwealth Games Village and prepare the city for hosting the Games and other major development activities.

- 16.30 Discussion session
- 16.45 Chairman's closing remarks
- 16.55 Close of conference

#### **Evening reception**

- 17.30 Launch of CIRIA's new guidance Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) – A guide for the construction industry (C681) followed by a drinks reception.
- 19.00 Close



#### **CIRIA** annual contaminated land conference

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