

CONTAMINATION REPORT FOR RETENTION OF EXISTING TIMBER RETAINING WALL AT CORNER COTTAGE, LONG SUTTON

We note that planning admin have requested the submission of a contamination report following the submission of an application for the timber retaining wall that was erected at the boundary of the site with the highway. Officers will see that the wall has already been built, therefore the requirement for such a report seems rather pointless. That said, we have reviewed the criteria for such reports as follows:

Overview

Land can be contaminated by things like:

- heavy metals, such as arsenic, cadmium and lead
- oils and tars
- chemical substances and preparations, like solvents
- gases
- asbestos
- radioactive substances

Land is legally defined as 'contaminated land' where substances are causing or could cause:

- significant harm to people, property or protected species
- significant pollution of surface waters (for example lakes and rivers) or groundwater
- harm to people as a result of radioactivity.

Contaminated land may previously have been used as a:

- factory
- mine
- steel mill
- refinery
- landfill

In this case, the retaining wall has been built at the edge of the site boundary at the junction with the highway. A review of local site maps reveals that there is no known contamination from any of the above items in the immediate vicinity of the site. The retaining wall was built in order to protect the adjacent bank from the constant erosion by traffic and water run-off.

As there are no known hazards, and the wall has already been built, we consider that no retrospective action is required at this stage, including any exploratory investigations or further desk top analysis. The risk is considered as low to negligible.

