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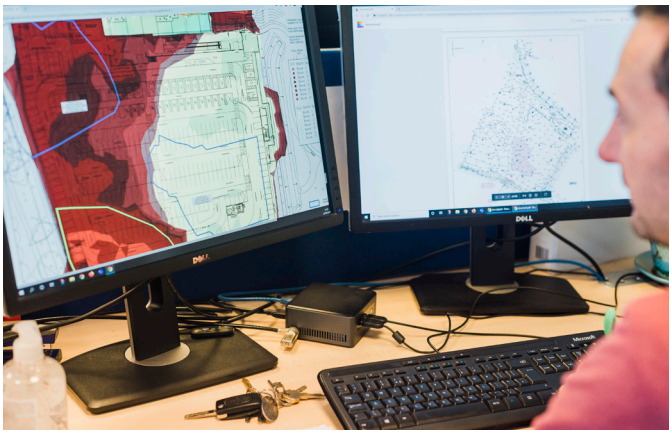
Geoenvironmental Topsoil/Waste Acceptance/Second Opinions

Assessing Reports of Third parties



Ground & Water is often asked to assess geoenvironmental and geotechnical reports supplied to a client by a third party. This can result from where the third party cannot provide a particular service, or the client might question the initial findings due to new on-site evidence coming to light or budgetary concerns over initial recommendations. Whatever the reason, this may lead to the requirement for additional testing and reporting to be undertaken by us. We will require the original service provider to transfer all existing data to our project engineer so they can comprehend the previous works and understand how to progress with potential future report for the site.

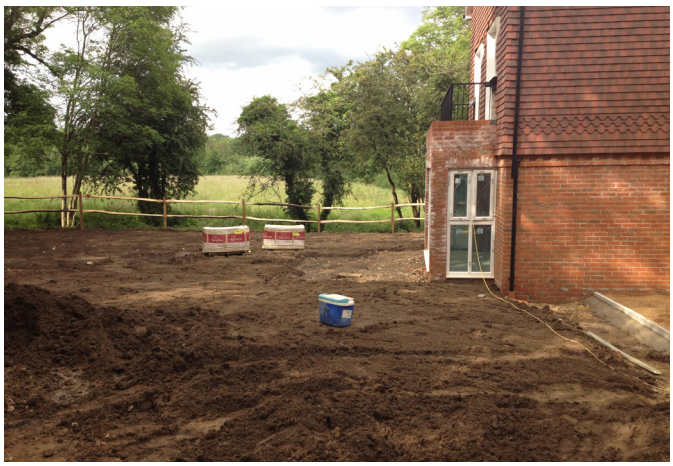
The comprehension of third-party information requires a holistic understanding of the subject and will act as a foundation from which a new report or investigation can be founded, so all is not lost. Once we are satisfied we have reached a full understanding, we will recommend a plan of action for the client to follow. The final report on the site will address all data acquired and how this supports or contradicts initial findings.

As can be seen from some case studies on our website, by providing a second opinion has saved clients time and money and has resulted in planning approvals which were previously in doubt.

Topsoil Testing, Advice and Certification

You have gone through the process of identifying and removing contaminated ground from your site, the last thing you need is for your newly imported material to be sub-standard and jeopardize your efforts of implementing your remediation strategy.

Imported Topsoil and subsoil are popular soil mediums often incorporated into soft landscaping areas of most new residential and commercial developments. Any old ad hoc asbestos containing, Made Ground slurry, simply will not do. Therefore, the composition of any imported material must comply with BS3882:2015 standards and is subject to specialist testing to validate the materials fertility, chemical composition, strength and classification.



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At Ground & Water, we work hard to provide our Topsoil verification service to all of our clients. We help you find a reputable source, provide independent verification and issue appropriate certifications of compliance.

Our engineers will visit your site at a time convenient to you, obtain suitable soil samples in line with the required (50 – 100m^3 for sampling regime depending on source, but 50m^3 is usually required by councils) and submit samples for laboratory analysis. We can test the suitability of your newly imported or stockpiled material before it is placed, saving you the unwelcome cost of having to remove and dispose of any non-compliant material.

You can download a Topsoil Verification Checklist to aid you in decision making from the Ground & Water website.

Waste Acceptance Protocols (Initial Waste Hazard Assessment (WM3) and WAC testing)

Ground & Water offers chemical testing services to classify the category of landfill for any waste soil you may have from foundation excavations, or any other sources of spoil on your developments (including remediation). This can be undertaken as a standard part of a ground investigation, or separate to any other site investigation.

Two types of chemical tests are used for classifying the landfill type. Firstly, samples of the waste soil (which may be stockpiled, or still in-situ) are tested for a suite of contaminants, including asbestos, semi/heavy-metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, total petroleum hydrocarbons and BTEX compounds. The results are then analysed in accordance with the Environment Agency's Hazardous Waste Technical Guidance (WM3) document to determine if the soils are classified as hazardous or non-hazardous.

Following this initial waste hazard assessment, full Waste Assessment Criteria (WAC) Solid Suite Tests with single batch leachates are undertaken to further assess which landfill category the soils conform to.

Should the WM3 assessment show the soils to be non-hazardous, then the WAC test will classify the soils as either 'Inert' or 'Not Inert'. Should the soils be shown to be hazardous then the WAC will classify the soils as either 'Stable Non-reactive Hazardous Waste in Non-Hazardous Landfill' or 'Hazardous Waste'.

Once categorized, we can recommend the correct means of disposal and will provide the necessary certification.

If you require any of the services described above, please email:
enquiries@groundandwater.co.uk
or call us on 0333 600 1221