

12 August 2019
Our ref: 355247/L01(00)

North Lanarkshire Council
Regulatory Service and Waste Solution
Municipal Building
Kildonan Street
Coatbridge
ML5 3LF

For the attention of: Ron Wylie

Dear Ron,

RE: Buchanan and St. Ambrose School – Remedial Measures Verification

Following publication of the Buchanan and St Ambrose High School Campus Independent Review report on 9 August 2019, RSK was requested by North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) to provide independent verification of remedial works planned at the site. This relates to one area of the site where HP50 was situated and RSK's investigation on behalf of the Independent Review had identified PCB concentrations to be present that needed further evaluation and possible remediation.

Background

The Independent Review report recommended 'full and independently verified remediation of area designated HP50, entailing the removal of the contaminants present there or otherwise render the area safe from the risks from those contaminants [PCBs]'.

WSP Ltd. developed a remedial action plan for the area of HP50 on behalf of NLC. This involved the removal of potentially contaminated soil and replacement with clean imported fill isolated on a geotextile layer, separating underlying soils with the imported material, and placement of a hardstanding surface.

Site Works

RSK attended site on 10 August 2019 to view the works being undertaken on behalf of NLC, ensure that they complied with WSP's design and good practice, and to obtain duplicate soil samples for chemical testing.

The remedial works undertaken comprised the following:

- completion of a Health and Safety Plan
- using temporary fencing or other suitable barrier to isolate the area of works from the public in line with standard construction practices
- surface scrape of grass and loose topsoil, in line with the precautionary approach, to prevent any cross contamination, the soils should be stockpiled on a temporary plastic sheeting, hardstanding, or loaded directly onto the lorries.
- soil sampling of excavated and imported soils for verification
- off-site disposal of soil under appropriate duty of care
- flattening and compacting the exposed soils and placement of a permeable geomembrane across the area
- placement of hardstanding surface with gaps between pavers minimised as far as practical
- photography and documentation of works.

The above remedial activities were undertaken by Amey with NLC's Contaminated Land Officer present to collect samples and oversee the works. RSK can confirm that above specified actions were undertaken and were compliant with the WSP design and good industry practice.

In addition, the WSP remediation strategy recommended the following soil sampling for validation:

- 4 No. samples from the excavated soil (representative volumetric coverage)
- 5 No. samples from the exposed underlying soils (surface samples)
- 9 No. samples from the perimeter of excavations (composite from 0.0 – 0.2 m bgl)

RSK can confirm that the samples were collected appropriately for verification purposes. RSK obtained duplicate samples for independent verification using the 'cone and quartering method' to minimise sub-sampling errors.

It is understood by RSK that material is to be retained by Amey until chemical testing results are obtained and the material will be classified in accordance with WM3 and disposed of appropriately. RSK can confirm that a permeable barrier was laid on exposed soils and the area covered with a layer of sand and then completed with paving slabs. A small quantity imported topsoil was obtained and used to fill the edge detailing.

A site diary and photographic record will be produced in due course.

Soil samples are currently undergoing analysis and a full verification report shall be completed upon receipt of the chemical testing certificates. This will support the verification above and inform evaluation of the need for further site assessment and/or remediation in this part of the site.

Conclusion

RSK is satisfied that the works carried out were suitable to remove the localised PCB impacted soils found at HP50 in RSK's investigation and the placement of hardstanding will prevent any exposure to site users from soils beneath this area.

Evaluation of the need for further remedial works, if any, in this area of the site will need to be undertaken once the laboratory chemical results are available for the verification soil samples taken.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the contents of this report, please do not hesitate to contact either of the undersigned.

Yours sincerely

For RSK Environment Ltd.

Signature redacted

Craig Gothard
Consultant Geo-environmental Engineer

Reviewed by

Signature redacted

Dr Tom Henman
Director