

# Cover Systems and their Verification

1st February 2022

# NCLOG Aim and Objectives

- Aim: To enable the CLO voice to be heard nationally at government and industry level
- To be the 'go to' organisation when people want to reach Local Authority CLOs on national contaminated land matters
- To work towards achieving consistency in how CLOs deal with land contamination issues
- To provide peer support to individual CLOs - often the sole individual dealing with land quality in their Council
- To respond to relevant national consultations
- To establish links with government departments & relevant organisations, with a view to co-operating on improving standards and developing best practice.

# Why is guidance needed?

- ▶ Existing guidance - BRE 465
- ▶ - CIRIA SP124
- ▶ Justification for design -600mm
- ▶ Not intended to be prescriptive
- ▶ Cover system design should be site specific

## Is a cover system needed?

- ▶ Has sufficient site investigation and risk assessment been undertaken?
- ▶ Have enough samples been taken from different depths associated with different strata and/ or different types of made ground?
- ▶ Risk assessment - statistical assessment
  - bioaccessibility (BS ISO 17924:2018)

## Site specific considerations

- ▶ Sensitivity of development and areas requiring capping?
- ▶ How will the capping be accommodated?
- ▶ Slopes?
- ▶ Nature of contamination?
- ▶ Retained trees? TPOS/ RPZ's?
- ▶ Elevated groundwater table?
- ▶ Junctures - adjacent ground

# Components of a cover system

- ▶ Surface layer
- ▶ Top Soil
- ▶ Sub Soil
- ▶ Demarcation layer
- ▶ Barrier layer
- ▶ Surface water drainage layer
- ▶ Filter layer
- ▶ Low permeability barrier layer
- ▶ Capillary break layer
- ▶ Chemical barrier
- ▶ Contaminated ground

# Climate change & Sustainability

- ▶ Potential impacts of a cover system
  - soil is a valuable resource
  - significant import/ export vehicle movements
  - landfill capacity
- ▶ Potential impact of climate change
  - Increased heavy rainfall
  - Increased storms/ high winds
  - Prolonged hot and dry periods

# Verification

- ▶ Reiterates advice in the YALPAG guidance
- ▶ Regional differences in approach
- ▶ Sampling rates for imported soils
- ▶ Sets out general approach
- ▶ To be agreed with relevant CLO



# Next Steps

- ▶ Finalise - rewording/ editing
- ▶ Internal consultation amongst memberships
- ▶ External consultation
- ▶ Issue