

Science Project: Indicators for Land Contamination

Summary SC030039/SS

The Environment Agency, Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government have today published a report that proposes the use of four indicators to assist in the management of land contamination in England and Wales. The four indicators are:

- CS1 Extent of Industrial Land Use
- CS2 Identification of Land Contamination
- CS3 Remediation of Land Contamination
- CS4 Newly Created Land Contamination

The project derived estimates for the area and number of sites for these indicators for either chemical and/or radiological contamination.

Two main techniques were employed:

- extrapolation from surveys undertaken in 12 representative local authority area throughout England and Wales;
- examination of national data sources.

The final answers for the indicators are expressed as ranges and are qualified by uncertainties generated by the different techniques used by the project. The mid-point of these ranges are:

CS1	300,000 ha	(325,000 sites)
CS1 (Radiological)	27,000 ha	(53,000 sites)
CS2	67,000 ha	(33,500 sites)
CS3	44,000 ha	(21,000 sites)
CS4	30 ha	(750 sites)

These numbers should be regarded as merely indicative. Particular caution is needed for the number of sites, as long histories of continuous but changing land use patterns defy capture as discrete site entities.

Refinement of the radiological figures to consider potential for significant radioactive contamination from particular activities gave an estimate of between 100 and 1,000 sites (with the best being 250) that may fall within the definition of radioactively contaminated land

under the proposed Radioactively Contaminated Land Regulations.

This report is aimed at officials involved in the redevelopment and management of land contamination, as well as major landowners and non-governmental organisations.

It is hoped that the report will lead to the development of protocols for data collection, storage and sharing between stakeholders with a view to future reporting of the indicators.

This Summary relates to information from Science Project SC030039 reported in detail in the following output:

Science Report SC030039/SR
Indicators for Land Contamination
ISBN Number 184432480X **August 2005**
Product Code SCHO0805BJMD-E-P

Internal Status: Released to Regions
External Status: Released to Public

Project Manager: Bob Barnes, Head Office

Research Collaborators
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Welsh Assembly Government

Research Contractor
WS Atkins Environment
Woodcote Grove, Ashley Road, Epsom
Surrey KT18 5BW
Telephone: +44 (0)1372 726140

This project was funded by the Environment Agency, Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government. The Environment Agency's Science Group provides scientific knowledge, tools and techniques to enable us to protect and manage the environment as effectively as possible.

Further copies of this and the above report(s) are available from our National Publications Catalogue at <http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/epages/eapublications.storefront>

© Environment Agency
Rio House
Waterside Drive
Aztec West
Almondsbury
Bristol
BS32 4UD

Tel: 01454 624400
Fax: 01454 624409

Summary Product Code SCHO0805BJME-E-P