



HM Government

Grenfell environmental checks

Summary of the investigation methodology for potential land contamination around Grenfell Tower: Stage 1

This summary explains how Stage 1 of the environmental checks around Grenfell Tower were carried out (the 'investigation methodology'). This is the first of two stages of checks, which are designed to find out if the fire caused any contamination of land and soil that could lead to a significant risk to people's health. The checks are part of the additional environmental checks announced by the Government in October 2018 and are being carried out by independent, expert environmental consultants.

Stage 1

Stage 1 was an initial investigation of the soil carried out by the environmental services company, AECOM, and it is now complete. Stage 1 checks followed current legislation (known as Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 – 'Part 2A' for short) and were carried out in a way agreed by experts to be the best for this type of environmental check. 'Part 2A' explains how to identify if land is contaminated and if there is a significant risk to people's health and the environment.

The aim of Stage 1 was to identify

- what chemicals we should test for
- typical levels of chemicals in London soil
- typical levels of chemicals in the soil around Grenfell Tower before the fire
- how big an area of soil to test in Stage 2

The first step was to find out more about chemicals which may have been released during the fire. Once this was done, levels of those chemicals in London soil were identified so that the Grenfell samples could be compared with them. A search was also made into past uses of the land around Grenfell Tower, for example to see if there were industrial sites or factories there. This was to find out whether there was likely to have been contamination from before the fire that would need to be taken into account when assessing the results.

Stage 1 also included a site walkover, and some soil samples were taken up to 1km from the Tower from public areas selected with the help of information supplied by members of the community.

The results of Stage 1 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/grenfell-environmental-checks-stage-1-report>) have been assessed and will be used to plan Stage 2.

Next steps

In Stage 2, we will carry out more detailed soil sampling and will then know more about any risks to health or the environment. The results will allow us to decide what action, if any, should be taken.

All the data from both Stage 1 and Stage 2 will be made publicly available, alongside further details about the methodology and results of the checks.