

Good morning and welcome everyone!

In true SoBRA style we've found another stunning location for our summer conference. Its history is nothing to do with redevelopment of landfills. Instead it was built for Charles Pinney, who was mayor of Bristol during riots after the House Of Lords rejected the second Reform Bill in 1831 which aimed to give the faster growing industrial towns better representation at the House of Commons.

Rather than discuss the pros and cons of Brexit we're here to achieve SoBRA's core objectives, specifically to learn from each other and support technical excellence in risk assessment, network and ultimately assist in future guidance and/or research as required following the workshops.

A few safety notices:

No fire alarms due today.

If we do hear the alarm we are to leave via the nearest exit and make our way to #####.

For those of you that haven't yet located the facilities they are #####. We do have a very full programme today so please return promptly from breaks and speakers, be warned, we will keep you to time!

Why have historic landfill redevelopment as our topic?

Landfill redevelopment enables us to capture many of the topics our members have suggested since it covers a wide range of risk assessment disciplines from vapour intrusion and gas to controlled waters risk assessment.

Landfills are often seen as a problem, but these can provide exciting development opportunities. Redevelopment of landfills is not new, it was the topic of an ICRCCL note back in 1990! However, there is now a greater need for development land to balance our growing housing, employment, agricultural and infrastructure needs. This land constraint has been identified by many, including Manchester City Council who considers that suitable land for development is a key constraint in achieving their growth plans. Without sufficient land for housing, the city's economic growth plans cannot be achieved. Whilst I could not find UK figures, across Europe there is an estimated 150,000 hectares landfill, this is a lot of land!

How do historic landfills help ease this constraint both at a local level and further afield?

- The velodrome at the Olympic Park in London and part of the main stadium are located on former landfills
- Shopping centres and cinemas such as Port Solent in Portsmouth and Lakeside just off the M25 are constructed partially on landfills
- Various residential town houses and apartments are also located on and adjacent to landfills
- Manchester owns 37 landfill sites. With the support of regeneration specialists and developers, redeveloping some of these would help meet the regional growth plans whilst concurrently reducing its own liabilities
- Similar opportunities exist in other parts of the UK particularly around cities where demand for redevelopment land is often higher than rural areas. For example,

- An EU project, '*Sustainable use of former and abandoned landfills for you*', involved 2 UK sites: Belfast Giants Park and Moston Brook in NW England. The project's aim was to share best practice with respect to landfill redevelopment. For each site a strategy was developed that included identifying relevant stakeholders and potential development opportunities
- Belfast identified a 340 acre former landfill site on the north shore of Belfast Lough. The site took waste from 1958 to mid 2000s. The site was identified, as part of the Local Regeneration and Investment Strategy, as one with the potential to attract investors, create jobs and opportunities. The site is the largest development site in Belfast and known as 'Cleantech Hub', it aims to provide a cluster of innovative renewable energy businesses bringing 400 jobs and £105 million investment into the city.

In summary, identifying suitable development sites is very important to our economy and landfills can help us achieve our growth plans. We must however demonstrate to all stakeholders that the redevelopment can be done safely. In our role to the development process as risk assessors, we must:

1. Reduce uncertainty in the conceptual model to a level that is suitable to support the safe development of landfills
2. Consider the potential implications of remaining uncertainty upon the redevelopment plans and use this to inform our decision making for further investigation or remedial works.

So, that's enough from me. We have a wealth of experience in this room and our speakers will now discuss some of the challenges of landfill redevelopment from their perspectives to help us in the workshops this afternoon.

Please turnoff your mobile phones, if you've not already done so and I'll invite our first speakers David and Aldona who will demonstrate how a landfill can be successfully redeveloped in particular focussing on the use of real time VOC boundary air monitoring to provide confidence to stakeholders the work is being done safely. Aldona, from the local authority, will identify what the regulators are looking for to demonstrate the landfills can be developed safely and ultimately result in a site that is suitable for use in line with the planning process.