

# SoBRA Annual General Meeting

12 December 2023

Jo Wilding, 2023-2024 Chair

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# Agenda

- Administration
- Membership
- Accreditation Scheme
- Summary of SoBRA activities throughout the year
- Financial report (including appointing independent examiner / auditor for the year ahead)
  
- The Secretary will make a brief record
- Minutes will be put on SoBRA website
- The AGM is being recorded alongside the rest of this conference

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# Our Values

“The Society of Brownfield Risk Assessment (SoBRA) has been established to support the growing number of professionals working in land contamination risk assessment... Its goals are to improve technical knowledge in risk-based decision-making related to land contamination applications and to enhance the professional status and profile of practitioners.”

## SoBRA's core objectives:

1. To support technical excellence in the assessment, estimation & evaluation of risks and associated uncertainties from land affected by contaminants.
2. To encourage "good practice" in the practical applications of risk assessment to support decisions regarding the appropriate management of land contamination.
3. To facilitate and widen access to the dissemination of knowledge regarding land contamination risk assessment.
4. To form relationships and work in a constructive manner with other organisations and professional bodies involved in land contamination and remediation, as well as the environmental sciences in general.
5. To assist in the development of future guidance, either through coordinated responses to consultation documents or by providing direct input to guidance.
6. To identify areas of future research that would benefit the assessment of land contamination.
7. To co-ordinate and encourage such research and, where appropriate, explore funding arrangements to support it.

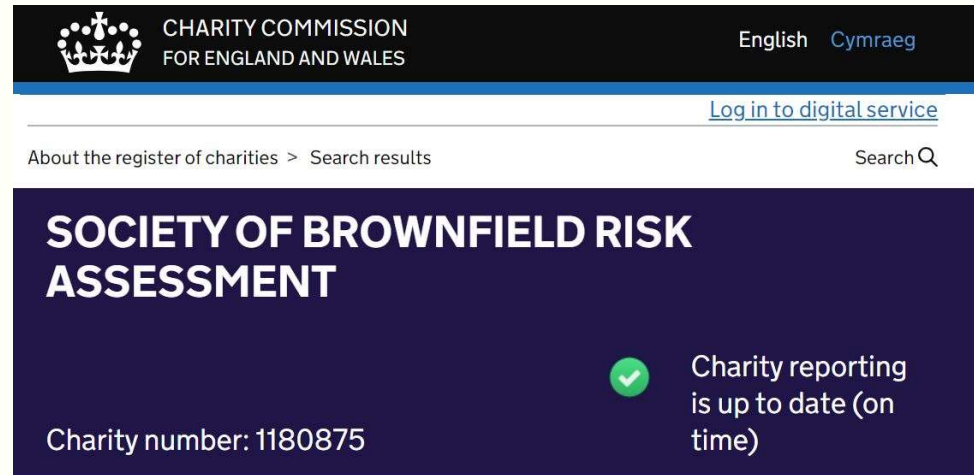
<https://sobra.org.uk/about-us/>

“SoBRA is a not-for-profit society. It is run on a voluntary basis, by a democratically elected committee. Membership is open to any individual who is involved in, or has an interest in, land contamination risk assessment.”

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# Charitable Status

- No change in charitable status (achieved in 2018)
- Trustees are the members of the Executive Committee
- We submit an annual report to the Charity Commission



The screenshot shows the Charity Commission for England and Wales website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Charity Commission logo and the text "CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES". To the right, there are language options for "English" and "Cymraeg". Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar with the text "Log in to digital service" and "Search". The main content area displays the name of the charity, "SOCIETY OF BROWNFIELD RISK ASSESSMENT", in large white letters on a dark blue background. Below the name, there is a green checkmark icon and the text "Charity reporting is up to date (on time)". At the bottom left of the main content area, the charity number "1180875" is displayed.

<https://sobra.org.uk/about-us/constitution/>

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# Executive Committee Changes

Current EC:

**Chair** – Jo Wilding

**Vice Chair** – Kate Baker

**Outgoing Chair** – Simon Cole

**Secretary** – Melinda Evans

**Membership and website** – Fiona Towney

**Treasurer** – Rachel Dewhurst

**Ordinary members** – Tim Rolfe, Lawrence Bowden, Greg Gibson

**Accreditation** – Chris Taylor (non-executive position)

<https://sobra.org.uk/about-us/committee/>

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# Executive Committee Changes

Changes for 2024:

Standing down – Simon Cole, Aliyssa Glen

Re-elected for 2024-2026 (voting in October/November 2023) – Tim Rolfe, Rachel Dewhurst

New ordinary members for 2024-2026 – Melanie Lyons, Sarah Bannon

<https://sobra.org.uk/about-us/committee/>

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# Membership

- Circa 633+ members
- 110 accredited members (R+A)



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# Accreditation Scheme

- Scheme started in 2016
- We have now completed 14 application windows
- There are 110 members currently on the register
- 53 members who have achieved the highest ASoBRA level in a discipline
- 57 members hold RSoBRA in a discipline
- In 2023, accreditation was awarded to another 24 members, 5 of which achieved ASoBRA

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# Accreditation Scheme

- January window: 16 applicants
- August window: 6 applicants
- We are always looking for new scrutineers....
- Gareth Barns – new scrutineer for human health and controlled waters

[Home](#) / [Accreditation](#) / [Register of SoBRA Risk Assessors](#)

## Register of SoBRA Risk Assessors



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# Sub-Groups

- Ground Gases, with a new radon working group
- NAPL
- Early Careers
- CSM and Statistics

<https://sobra.org.uk/about-us/sub-groups/>

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# Activities

- The Controlled Waters and Climate Change sub-group have been busy.....

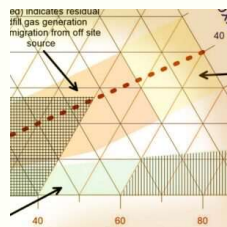


<https://www.brownfield-awards.environmentanalyst.com/2023-winners>

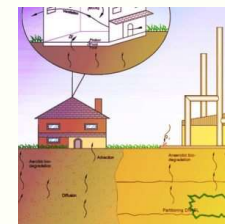
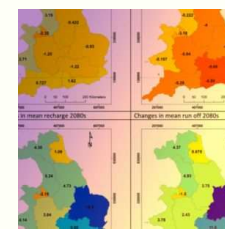
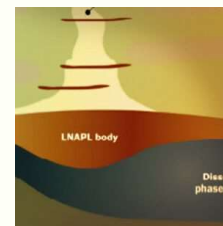
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# Publications and events

- Early careers webinars (6 in 2023)
- Top Tips from the Ground Gas sub-group
- The Climate Emergency: Practical Considerations in Brownfield Risk Assessment – summer 2022 workshop report
- VI sub-group publication of 3 guidance notes, IES webinar
- NAPL sub-group – various documents
- Top Tips on conceptualising and characterising contaminant distribution in soil



<https://sobra.org.uk/resources/>



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# Social Media



1394 followers

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/sobrauk/> -  
primary means of social media communication

[https://twitter.com/SoBRA\\_UK](https://twitter.com/SoBRA_UK) – no longer used

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# Financial report

- 2022-2023 Auditor: Sarah Bannon (Ramboll)
- Bursary: Steve Forster to attend CEN TC351/WG5/TG51 Sampling and quantitative determination of asbestos in construction products – April 2023
- Bursary: Gemma Shaw to attend AquaConSoil (with poster) - September 2023
- Scholarship: None
- Research grant: None (ongoing payments to University of Greenwich)
  
- Volunteer call for FY2024-2025 auditor

<https://sobra.org.uk/about-us/funding-options/funding-awarded/>

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# Financial report - summary

FY 1st October 2022 – 30 September 2023

<b>Starting balance</b>			<b>£58,785.15</b>
	Income	Outgoing	Balance
Running the Society	£16,605.00	£6,017.21	
Accreditation	£3,740.00	£3,630.00	
Conferences	£2,124.63	£238.49	
Research grant etc		£17,572.00	
<b>End Balance</b>			<b>£53,797.08</b>

## Current liabilities:

- Accreditation £1,000
- Research grant £3,682
- Pending payments on Paypal £75
- Winter conference TBC

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# Financial report - income

<b>Opening / End of 2022/23 Year Balance</b>					<b>£42,623.55</b>
<b>Paypal</b>					<b>£16,161.60</b>
<b>Income</b>					<b>2022/2023</b>
Membership Fees (Not for Profit)					£650.00
Membership Fees (Standard)					£11,010.00
Membership Fees (Accredited)					£3,770.00
Membership Fees (Accredited -					£175.00
Accreditation Fees					£3,740.00
Summer Workshop 2022					
Joint December RSC Event (50% of profit)					£2,124.63
Insurance					£1,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>					<b>£22,469.63</b>

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# Financial report - expenditure

Expenditure	2022/2023
Refunds	£75.00
Paypal Fees	£747.83
Eventbrite Fees	
Website	£4,823.00
Summer Workshop 2023	£143.40
Christmas Conference	£95.09
Insurance	£206.64
Scholarship	£17,572.00
Scrutineering Expenses	£3,630.00
Committee Expenses (marketing, travel to meetings)	£164.74
Support to Specialist Groups	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£27,457.70</b>
<b>Current Balance</b>	<b>£53,797.08</b>
<b>Cash in bank at end 30/9/23</b>	<b>£47,586.77</b>
<b>Balance on paypal at end 30/9/23</b>	<b>£6,210.31</b>

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# Next Year...

- Sub-group publications
- Review past sub-group publications to ensure current / relevant
- Further early career webinars
- Continued industry collaboration
- Summer workshop – potentially to be led by the Early Careers sub-group (tbc)
- Winter conference – call out for presentations
- New sub-groups?

<https://sobra.org.uk/about-us/sub-groups/sub-group-suggestion-form/>

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# Closing and thanks

- Chris & Marlene Taylor for Accreditation Scheme administration
- All the EC members
- RSC Toxicology Group, Kate Jones, and Burlington House for hosting this conference
- All the sub-group volunteers
- You our members!



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