

## **SOBRA SUBGROUP – CONTROLLED WATERS<sup>1</sup> AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE (JUNE 2021)**

#### **Membership**

Simon Cole (SoBRA Committee Sponsor)	(AECOM)
Helen McMillan (Lead)	(RSK)
Emma Khadun (Secretary)	(LK Group)
Katie Gamlin	(WSP)
Roisin Lindsay	(WSP)
David Drury	(Golder/WSP)
Emma Evans	(AECOM)
Emma Hipkins	(Golder/WSP)
Jesse Davies	(Ramboll)
Leon Warrington	(Hydrock)
Suzanne George	(Mott MacDonald)
James Wilson	(Fugro)

*Note: Membership of the subgroup will be under regular review, with places allocated to those who actively contribute, i.e. fulfil their work remit in the timescales agreed with the subgroup Lead, in liaison with SoBRA's Executive Committee.*

*The SoBRA Executive Committee, in liaison with the subgroup Lead, reserve the right to remove Members of the subgroup.*

*Only members of the subgroup who have actively contributed will be credited within any publications.*

#### **Privacy Statement**

At SoBRA, we are committed to protecting and respecting privacy. SoBRA retains a Privacy policy that can be found at <https://sobra.org.uk/about-us/>. As members of this subgroup you are agreeing to the terms of this Privacy policy in full. Throughout this project subgroup members are also agreeing to share their email and contact details with the other members of this group. Personal data should not however be disclosed to unauthorised people, either within SoBRA or externally without approval

#### **General Aims**

The overall aim will be to develop robust and practical guidance to ensure Controlled Waters risk assessment take into account climate change with respect to land contamination. The general aims of the Controlled Waters and Climate Change SubGroup will be:

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<sup>1</sup> Controlled Waters is a term used in legislation in England and Wales. Its equivalent in Scotland and Northern Ireland is the Water Environment. Throughout this document this term is used to refer to regulated groundwater and surface water throughout the UK

- To promote technical excellence in the consideration of climate change when assessing, estimating and evaluating risks to controlled waters from land contamination;
- To encourage best practice by delivering clear, practical advice to support decisions about the potential effects of climate change through all stages of controlled waters risk assessment;
- To develop guidance in a timely manner;
- To periodically represent SoBRA at conferences to share learning outcomes;
- To mentor and support one another.

The above are considered to align with the SoBRA core objectives:

- To encourage “good practice” in the practical applications of risk assessment to support decisions regarding the appropriate management of land contamination.
- To facilitate the dissemination of, and widen access to, knowledge regarding land contamination controlled waters risk assessment.

### Resource Expectations

All Members are anticipated to attend a minimum of 4 calls per year. Resource expectations will vary by individual and with delivery expectations. It is anticipated that 3-4 hours on average per month should suffice.

### Details of the Initiative

A new controlled waters and climate change subgroup was requested by our members for 2021. Helen McMillan has agreed to take its leadership. The group will be sponsored by Simon Cole on behalf of the SoBRA Executive committee.

The need to incorporate the effects of climate change into qualitative and quantitative risk assessments is set out within Managing and reducing land contamination: guiding principles (GPLC2) FAQ 8, 2010, and the National Planning Policy Framework. However, there is currently little guidance on how to consider the effect of climate change on land contamination.

With this in mind, the aim of the subgroup will be to provide clear practical advice on how to include for the potential effects of climate change in the assessed stages of land contamination controlled waters risk assessment .

We have a desire for concise and practical guidance to support UK industry with:

- An overview of the UK regulatory guidance, and rationale as to why inclusion for the potential effects of climate change in the assessed stages of land contamination controlled waters risk assessment is an important consideration.
- How the effects of climate change should be incorporated in the conceptual site model (CSM) and whether additional Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) linkages may need to be considered.
- Identifying model parameters that may be affected by climate change and defining a suitable parameter range (numerical) for use in controlled waters DQRA.
- Signposting towards useful data sources to aid the consideration of climate change in controlled waters risk assessment.

## Suggested Deliverables

0: In progress, 1: On Target, 2: Progress made but behind target, 3 No progress

Action	Owner	Key Measures	Priority	Target Date	Current Status	% complete
Min. 4 Teams calls per year to discuss issues and progress	All	A record of minutes and actions to be added to Teams. Dates for calls to be agreed early and added to diaries for the year	High	Monthly		
Delivery of Progress Report No. 1	All	Max. 2 sides A4 including a summary of progress towards 2021 objectives; key learning lessons and easy wins	Medium	September 2021		
White paper 1) guidance on inclusion of the potential chronic effects of climate change in land contamination controlled waters risk assessment	All	<p>A concise document which incorporates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uncertainties/limitations of the guidance</li> <li>• UK legislation and regulatory guidance relating to climate change and risk assessment, and rationale to inclusion for the potential effects of climate change in the stages of land contamination controlled waters risk assessment.</li> <li>• Review of literature sources about the effect of climate change on risks to controlled waters from land contamination</li> <li>• How climate change may influence the conceptual site model (CSM) and what additional Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) linkages may need to be considered</li> <li>• Addressing climate change in GQRA</li> <li>• Addressing climate change in DQRA including providing a numerical range for parameters that may be influenced by climate change and quantification of suitable parameter ranges for consideration through sensitivity analysis</li> <li>• Provision of data sources / references to aid assessment.</li> </ul>	High	November 2021 (initial draft)		
Presentation of learning outcomes at min. 1 external conference	HMCM	Presentation of learning outcomes / progress	Medium	Sept 2021		

### Proposed Method(s) of Working:

To be agreed during first workshop meeting, but to expedite matters if we have sufficient interest it would be better for groups of 4 people to work on different items, and then we use the group to peer review the work.

### Anticipated Timescales and Outputs

1. Technical paper – **December 2021** (draft approved by subgroup).
2. Presentation at SCLF conference – 8/9<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
3. Presentation at other external conferences - TBC

*Note: The subgroup will aim to deliver a minimum of one publication per year, to be agreed annually with SoBRA's Executive Committee. Failure to deliver objectives may lead to the disbanding of the subgroup and reallocation of resources towards another group where delivery is more achievable.*

*Note 2: The Scottish Contaminated Land Forum (SCLF) (theme: land contamination, remediation and reuse in the circular economy to tie in with COP26) which will be held in Glasgow on 8/9th September provides a potential opportunity to present our initial draft findings.*

### Liaison with Executive Committee

1. Following the first meeting this document is to be submitted to the Exec Committee for approval.

### Liaison with CL:AIRE and others (e.g. EA, SEPA, NRW, BGS)

1. Emma Evans to update Nicola Harries at Land Forum events, before deliverables are published and to engage with CL:AIRE.
2. Engagement with regulators for feedback.

### Data Storage

A dedicated Teams channel has been set up for the subgroup to be used as a secure repository for the sharing of data. The Sponsor will annually transfer its contents to the SoBRA Dropbox that acts as a central repository of all Society-related efforts and communications.

By reminder, everyone who works for or volunteers with SoBRA has some responsibility for ensuring personal data is collected, stored and handled appropriately. Each member that handles personal data must ensure that it is handled and processed in line with this policy and data protection principles. When data is stored electronically, it must be protected from unauthorised access, accidental deletion and malicious hacking attempts as per the requirements of our privacy policy.