

## Environmental Search Requests

We hold a range of environmental information, which is available to the public upon request.

Our Development Assessment Team receives two common types of requests on a regular basis:

- From conveyancing solicitors and house purchasers for information regarding contamination and environmental issues in relation to a property sale.
- From consultants and companies undertaking an environmental assessment of a site.

Requests for this information are dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Where a contaminated land issue has been flagged from another commercial search agency relating to a property sale, we recommend that further information is requested. Our Contaminated Land team is able to provide up to date and local information, including details of whether or not the property or site has been determined as contaminated land under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, whether or not the property or site is subject to inspection under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in the future, and if so what priority has been given to the property or site for inspection (high to low risk).

You will appreciate that there are resource implications in providing a suitable response to a request and therefore it is necessary for us to make a reasonable charge for the following Environmental Search Requests:

- Past industrial use(s) of the property or site and surrounding area
- The property or site's prioritisation for inspection under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, where appropriate or to confirm whether there is an entry on the public register
- List of geoenvironmental reports held for the property or site and surrounding area and details of site investigations and remedial works, if available
- List of unlicensed, pre-licensed, closed or active landfill sites within a 250 metre radius of the property or site
- Part A and Part B Installations within a 250 metre radius of the property or site
- Licensed Abstractions within a 250 metre radius of the property or site

The charge for the above requests is £99.

The response will be set out in a structured report. It will also include a covering letter and receipt of your payment. Alternatively, you can view the information free of charge by visiting our offices. Please contact us (details below) to arrange an appointment in advance.

## Making a Request

All requests should be sent by post or email (details below). They must include your preferred contact details along with full address including the postcode of the property or site your request relates to, and a map clearly showing the boundary.

Payments can be made by cheque or debit/credit card. If paying by cheque please send the full payment made payable to 'Durham County Council' to the address below. If paying by debit/credit card please contact the telephone number below and state the address of the property or site in which the payment relates to.

Our Development Assessment Team will provide the response within 20 working days following receipt of the required information to process the request and the payment. Please state if the request is urgent and we will endeavour, where possible, to respond sooner.

Following your initial enquiry or receipt of your letter or email if we do not receive payment within 60 working days we will assume you do not wish to proceed.

## Additional Information

Geoenvironmental reports, if listed in the structured report can be requested and where possible will be supplied electronically.

The information is compiled in good faith using information obtained from the Council's own researches and/or received from a number of different sources.

The information supplied, with regard to the inspection priority status of sites is being continuously reviewed and may change at any time.

All information is supplied on the understanding that the Council makes no representations, guarantees or warranties (whether express or implied) as to the accuracy or completeness of this information and (to the extent permitted by law) neither the Council nor any officer, servant or agent of the Council shall be liable for any losses or damages whether in contract, tort (including negligence), breach of statutory duty or otherwise arising under or in connection with the information supplied and/or arising under or in connection with any inaccuracies, or omissions contained therein whether due to inadvertence or negligence or from any other cause whatsoever.

Information with regard to the site prioritisation under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 is being continuously reviewed and may be subject to change. New sites may be added to, re-prioritised or removed from the inspection list as new information comes to light.

The Environment Agency holds information regarding unlicensed, pre-licensed, closed or active landfill sites, pollution incidents, groundwater, source protection zones, surface water courses and consents for discharge in County Durham. You can contact them through details listed on The Environment Agency website.

You can also visit The Information Commissioners Officer's website for more advice regarding your rights to access information and increasing public access to information.

### **Contact Us:**

**Address:** Development Assessment Team, Community Protection Service, Neighbourhoods and Climate Change, Durham County Council, Annand House, Meadowfield, DH7 8RF

**Email:** contaminated.land@durham.gov.uk