From: Glyn Evans < glyn.evans@gesl.net>

Sent: 17 April 2018 15:44

To: David Carr

Cc: Lesleyanne Walsh; Sam Dicocco

Subject: RE: Letchworth. Avenue 1. - 18/00615/doc

Attachments: BS8576 2013.pdf; CIRIA C682 The VOCs Handbook.pdf; BS 101752011+A12013.pdf

Hi David.

The client has requested that we use their machine on site to save on costs. We will now be undertaking the investigation by trial pitting. I trust this meets with your approval. We hope to carry out the works in one day, using two engineers. The pits will be terminated 1.0m into the natural soils.

It has been confirmed that we are attending site next Tuesday.

We will base our head space screening method on BS8576, CIRIA C682 and BS10175 (all attached). Section 6.2 of C682 (The VOC Handbook) runs through head space testing.

As part of our RAMS will state that use of olfactory detection is not safe for the site personnel in terms of exposure to potentially harmful vapours and also that olfactory sensitivity reduces over time of exposure to various VOCs and thus is not a reliable method. I trust this also meets with your approval.

Please call should you wish to discuss.

Regards

Glyn

Kind regards

For and on behalf of Geo-Environmental Services Ltd

Glyn Evans

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From: David Carr [mailto:David.Carr@north-herts.gov.uk]
Sent: 06 April 2018 15:52
To: Glyn Evans <glyn.evans@gesl.net>
Cc: Lesleyanne Walsh <lesleyanne.walsh@asheconstruction.co.uk>; Sam Dicocco <Sam.Dicocco@north-herts.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Letchworth. Avenue 1. - 18/00615/doc

Glyn

Thank you for the proposal for additional ground investigation work at this planning application site. Having reviewed this I have the following comments.

1) The locations proposed for the new window samples numbered WS1, WS2 and WS3 should enable the issues surrounding the visual and olfactory evidence of contamination in WS5, WS6 and WS7 to be resolved.

2) In the absence of any site specific historical land use information, the additional window sampling and associated testing that is proposed will go a long way to addressing the concerns about the extent and design of the original site investigation. However, the concerns about there having been no attempt to target potential

sources of contamination remain and so considerable attention should be paid to ground conditions during the demolition and construction phases of the development regardless of the outcome of the additional ground investigation.

3) Please ensure that the identification numbers that are used to identify the additional window sampling locations do not duplicate the identification numbers used for the window sampling locations that formed the original site investigation. i.e. there should not be more than one WS1, WS2 etc.

4) The proposed 4m depth of the window sampling holes is fine because it should, in the vast majority of cases, ensure that the holes are terminated in the chalk.

5) The inclusion of leachate tests at a minimum of 5 samples of made ground and 5 samples of natural ground is supported and would also seem to go some way to addressing the requirements of the Environment Agency.

6) I have concerns over the reliance on PID screening to assess for the presence of VOCs and sVOCs. In order to address these concerns the following should be implemented:

    a. A detailed methodology for the use of the PID should be provided.

    b. Calibration and servicing records should be provided for the PID that is being used.

    c. The make and model of the PID should be specified as well as confirmation that the presence of VOCs, such as trichloroethene and tetrachloroethene result in a positive detection by the PID .

    d. Lab testing for VOCs should be routinely undertaken where there is olfactory and/or visual evidence to suggest the presence of relevant contamination, regardless of the results of the PID screening. And that the appropriate storage (sealed containers within cool box) of those soil samples is expedited prior to delivery to the analytical laboratory. For example, if this approach were applied to the initial ground investigation it would have been expected that a soil sample from WS5 (1m – 1.9m bgl) and also from WS7 (1m – 1.5m bgl) would have been submitted for laboratory analysis for the presence of VOCs and sVOCs.

e. In addition to the screening for VOCs and sVOCs at 0.5m intervals, particular attention should be given to the interface between the made ground and the natural ground, whether it is the chalk or the superficial deposits of sandy, gravelly clay.

I trust that the above makes sense and represents constructive comments in relation to your proposals. However, should you have any particular questions arising from it please let me know.

Please also let me know when you intend to undertake the additional ground investigation work so that if I am available I can make a visit to the site to coincide with the investigation work.

Thanks and regards

David Carr
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From: Glyn Evans [mailto:glyn.evans@gesl.net]
Sent: 05 April 2018 14:38
To: David Carr
Cc: Lesleyanne Walsh
Subject: Letchworth. Avenue 1.

Hi David, thanks for chatting things through with me last week.

To provide a more robust risk assessment we would propose the following scope of additional ground investigation works.

2 days window sampling (say 10 holes), providing general coverage around the site and targeting WS5, WS6 and WS7 (GIP report). (see proposed borehole location plan)

Window sampling holes will be taken to a depth of 4.0m with regular environmental sampling.

Laboratory testing (including leachate tests) on 10 samples of Made Ground and natural soils to assess the risk to human health and controlled waters. Contaminants to be tested as per GIP report, Section 6.4.6 p.29. Including targeting samples from the depths where “contamination” was recorded in WS5, WS6 and WS7.

Head space testing for VOC’s on samples every 0.5m. Lab testing for VOC’s and SVOC’s if VOC’s are detected in the field.

Letter report evaluating results and providing further risk assessment to controlled waters and any other perceived third party receptors.

Note, that at this stage, we have not included for the provision of a Detailed Quantitative Groundwater Risk Assessment (DQRA) which may be required by the EA to assess the level of risk.

Your comments/suggestions would be welcome.

Regards

Glyn

Kind regards

For and on behalf of Geo-Environmental Services Ltd

Glyn Evans
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