GeoEnviron Contaminated Land Management System

The Contaminated land Module is the ideal solution for managing all your Part 2A data and day to day workflows associated with planning consultations and enquiries from the public. It includes a tried and test site prioritisation system and integrated GIS. The system is currently being used by over 50 local authorities across the UK.

Managing Part 2A Data

It is now over a decade since Part 2A was introduced and most authorities, despite the many uncertainties, have come a long way in implementing their strategies. One of the main tasks will have been to obtain sufficient data on potential sites for the purposes of:

- Prioritisation of sites for inspection and remediation under the Part 2A regime.
- Advising Planners and Developers on requirements for the redevelopment of brownfield sites under the Planning regime.
- Advising the professional and general public in relation to property transaction enquiries.

The data that has been collected also forms the basis of a historical land use archive that will be used for many years to come. It is therefore an invaluable resource and needs to be properly managed and protected.

What kind of Information Management System do I need?

Some of the main aspects to consider when assessing information management systems are outlined below:

Robustness – Typically a professional SQL database management system (DBMS) will be used for the purpose. Such systems are built to a high standard and have been thoroughly tested for design flaws and bugs that may lead to security vulnerabilities (e.g. unauthorized access), data loss/corruption and performance degradation etc. They can also be set up to run on a corporate server allowing for backups to be taken on a nightly basis.

It is not recommended that you store your data in a standalone databases such as Microsoft Access or Excel spreadsheets. Not only are there significant performance constraints and capacity issues associated with such databases, they can easily become corrupted or be inadvertently deleted by users. Furthermore, ensuring that backups are taken regularly can also be problematic. Therefore you risk losing not only the data but also all the hard work that has gone into collecting and collating it.

Security - Information on contaminated land can be very sensitive with potential to cause a lot of misunderstandings if released into the public domain in an controlled manner. By using standalone database files you run the risk that they can easily be copied, distributed and accessed by unauthorized users.

Fit for purpose - Robustness and security should not be the only criteria for choosing the information management system that will take you into the future. It is critical that whatever system you choose has been properly designed by developers that understand contaminated land and Part 2A. This will ensure that the system is "fit for purpose" and has all the features that you are likely to need in the course of implementing your strategy.

Easy sharing of data – Ideally the system should be in a form that allows you to easily extract data from it so you can share it with relevant departments and third parties (i.e. Planners, Environment Agency, members of the public, etc).

What is the GeoEnviron Contaminated Land Management System?

GeoEnviron is a suite of bespoke environmental data management solutions for local authorities. The Contaminated Land Management System has been specifically designed to assist local authority officers implement their Part 2A strategies..

Key Features

Some of the key features of the system are described below:

- Reliable, efficient and secure data management – GeoEnviron uses professional databases such as Microsoft SQL server or Sybase SQL Anywhere giving all the benefits of tried and tested technology. The system can be implemented as a single or multi-user system and is ideal for use in agile working environments. Web browser based applications allow for effective sharing of data in the database with internal colleagues and the public via an intranet or the internet.

- Brings all your data under one umbrella – GeoEnviron allows you to reliably and efficiently manage a wide variety of datasets. Report documents, GIS layers, digital images, videos, soil, gas and water sample analytical data, borehole logs are just some of the datasets that you can manage using the system. The systems powerful querying capabilities allow you to easily search through the different datasets and quickly find the information that you need.

- Powerful seamless GIS capabilities - You can choose from a suite of specially tailored seamless integrations to Geographical Information Systems including ArcGIS, Mapinfo, Cadcorp, GeoMedia and Microstation. The integrations allow the results of database queries to be instantly visualised in the GIS and vice versa. For example, whenever a site(s) are retrieved in the database (i.e. all gasworks sites), the GIS automatically zooms to the location of the site(s).

- A proven Site Prioritisation System - the system includes a robust and transparent site prioritisation system that is easy to use and understand. Once the required source –pathway - receptor data has been captured into the database, the risk ranking is then automatically generated. The methodology does not require the expensive and time consuming digitisation of a current land-use (CLU) layers. Furthermore running your prioritisation takes seconds rather than days as with some systems. Another major advantage of using a relational database to drive the prioritisation means that that it is easy to update your prioritisation with any new information that comes to light.

- Extensive decision support – The system includes a extensive knowledge database that includes information such as all the DOE Industry profiles, chemical properties of over 1000 potential contaminants, commonly used generic guideline values and remediation technologies. You also can add your own data to the knowledge database.

- Planning application tracker – the systems case management facilities allow you to track the progress of planning applications by for example generating reports showing applications where desktop study, SI or remediation reports are outstanding.

- Task management - keep on top of your reactive workflow using the task and procedures facilities and the associated diary. Tasks are automatically generated and placed into your diary whenever a case is generated.

- A system designed with knowledge and experience – the system is designed and developed by contaminated land specialists with many years experience of working with local authority contaminated land teams.

- Access to the GeoEnviron User Community - The module is currently being used by over 50 local authorities across England, Scotland and Wales. We have user-group meetings across the country each year to allow for sharing of experiences and knowledge.

- On-going Support and Maintenance - We pride ourselves on the customer support that we offer though our maintenance scheme. The maintenance programme gives you unlimited access to our telephone hotline support as well as to regular online web tutorials. The system is constantly updated to ensure that it will run with the latest versions of Windows and GIS platforms meaning that you can have the peace of mind of knowing that your software will always work.   We also strive to continuously improve the software's functionality driven by feedback obtained from our clients. All software updates are supplied free of additional charge.

Benefits

- Peace of mind in the knowledge that your data is as safe and secure as it can be.

- Significant time and cost savings associated with data management and reporting.

- Peace of mind knowing that you have a prioritisation system you can rely on and defend.

- Easier to keep track of planning applications through use of built in procedures and officer diary.

- Better and faster decision making through improved access to information.

- Peace of mind associated with knowledge that your system is supported by contaminated land experts.

- Share information and experiences with local authorities across the country through membership of the GeoEnviron User Group

What the users say...

"We've been using GeoEnviron for a while now and as we progress with our Part2A work we continue to use more and more of the system. The support from STM has been brilliant"

"The GeoEnviron package is the key facilitator of our Contaminated Land service. Not only does it allow us to undertake rapid site prioritisation and manage cases quickly and efficiently; the intuitive nature of the package and its responsive development team at STM Environmental, allow GeoEnviron to be flexible enough to meet our business needs for the foreseeable future."

Consultancy

Software

Training

Smart and reliable workflow management solutions for environmental professionals