

Part 2A at 25: Speaker Bios

Past speakers

David Carr, Dacorum Borough Council

David has worked for the last 6 years as a Lead Scientific Officer in Environmental Health at Dacorum Borough Council with responsibility for land contamination and environmental permitting, having previously worked for 15 years at North Hertfordshire District Council in a similar role. Prior to that David had 6 years working at an environmental consultancy. David has an MSc in Environmental Health and an MSc in Environmental Diagnostic and a BSc in Environmental Studies. During his 20 or so years working in Environmental Health, he has been involved in numerous Part 2A investigations, several of which have progressed to determination and remediation, or agreement to voluntarily investigate and remediate outside of the statutory regime.

David currently Chairs the Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Neighbouring Authorities Contaminated Land Forum, he is a committee member of the National Contaminated Land Officers Group and a member of the CIEH Environmental Protection Advisory Panel. The latter has provided the opportunity to represent that group on the SiLC Professional and Technical Panel.

Rebekah Norbury, Cheshire East Council

Rebekah Norbury is a Local Authority contaminated land officer working for Cheshire East Council and has been for around fourteen years. Prior to that, she worked for around six years as an environmental consultant specialising in contaminated land.

She is on the NCLOG Steering Committee and is also a Chartered Chemist. As well as land contamination, she also has an interest in air quality and has been assisting Cheshire East Council's air quality team with their education objectives. When she is able to, she enjoys doing outreach activities in schools relating to her job, as she is a STEM Ambassador.

Sarah Hamill, West Dunbartonshire Council

Sarah graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Topographic Science from Glasgow University in 1996 and started her career as a Hydrographic Surveyor in the offshore industry. Sarah then returned to university, gaining a Masters in Environmental Studies from Strathclyde University in 2002. Sarah has since been involved in contaminated land management for both the private and public sectors with experience being gained in a variety of different projects ranging from small scale desk studies/investigations to large scale residential/commercial developments and remediation projects. Sarah was appointed as the Contaminated Land Officer for West Dunbartonshire Council in 2006. During this time Sarah has managed to progress the Council's Contaminated Land Strategy through the investigation of a number of potential Part IIA sites and has subsequently overseen the

successful remediation of a number of these. More recently Sarah's main duties have been in relation to many of the large scale regeneration projects within the authority including the Former Carless Oil Refinery (bombed during WWII blitz and only dual regulated Part IIA/special site in Scotland), EXXON Bowling Site (highly commended 2024 Brownfield Awards) and the former John Browns shipyard (where the QE2 was built) in Clydebank.

Sarah is a fully registered member of the IES and has recently joined the NCLOG committee as a representative for the Scottish CLOs prior to which she represented the Central/West Authorities on CLAG (Contaminated Land Advisory Group) chaired by the Scottish Government.

Ian Jarrett, Walsall MBC

Ian is the Principal Environmental Protection Officer at Walsall MBC. Ian's responsibilities include all aspects of 'pollution control' work but his main focus is on land contamination. Initial background in engineering before moving to Health and Safety when HASAWA implemented in 1975. Ian then transitioned to LA Pollution Control – now environmental protection in late 1980's. He became attracted to land contamination when Part2A implemented. He is the Link Officer for Willenhall Town Gas Works investigation, determination and subsequent.

Don Payne, Fife Council

A geologist by training, Don studied climate change in South America and worked as a cartographer in South India before joining the team at Fife Council. In addition to inspecting potentially contaminated sites, his public health duties include local air quality management, promoting greenspace and active travel, and a deep and longstanding interest in energy security: particularly mine-water district heating.

David Jones, Powys County Council

David has worked specifically in the contaminated land field since 1998 starting with consultancy work with Atkins. With them he gained extensive site investigation experience all over the UK and in Europe. He then moved into regulation with Sefton MBC in 2003 and undertook a number of P2A Statutory Inspections. Since 2008 he has been with Powys CC where along with responsibility for contaminated land he manages the Council's portfolio of closed landfill sites. At Powys several P2A inspections have been progressed. David is a Chartered Scientist with IES.

Present speakers

Neil Brown, RSK Geosciences

Neil is an Associate Technical Director at RSK Geosciences who has over 20 years' experience in the land contamination sector for both regulatory and private sector organisations. He is a Chartered Scientist, registered Specialist in Land Condition (SiLC) and a Suitably Qualified Person under the National Quality Mark Scheme. Prior to his consultancy experience, Neil previously worked for a Scottish local authority as Contaminated Land Officer, and has detailed working knowledge of applying Part 2A legislation and statutory guidance. Neil provides specialist technical support to RSK colleagues and clients with respect to ground investigation design and implementation, risk assessments (human health, controlled waters/ water environment and ground/ mine gas), soil waste management and reuse, and the development, implementation and verification of remediation strategies.

Angela Haslam, Senior Advisor in the Environment Agency's National Land & Contamination Management Team

Angela has worked for the Environment Agency for over 25 years and is a Chartered Waste Manager and a Chartered Environmentalist. She is the EA's land contamination and PFAS working group legacy contamination lead providing specialist operational support and represents the Environment Agency at several contaminated land industry groups and forums.

Future speakers

Madeleine Berg, Scottish Government

Madeleine Berg is the contaminated land policy lead at Scottish Government, working within the Environmental Protection Team that also covers Air Quality and Noise policy. Madeleine has a research background in Geology and worked in the third sector before joining Scottish Government in 2022.

Richard Clark, Welsh Government

Richard heads up the Local Environment Quality Team in the Welsh Government's Environment Protection Division and have responsibility for several policy areas including litter, fly-tipping and the Part 2A contaminated land regime. I have worked in the Welsh Government for 20+ years and have experience in various policy areas including public health and sustainable development.

Darren Watson, OEP

Darren Watson is a chartered environmentalist with over 25 years' experience in environment and public health. He holds master's degrees in environmental science and contaminated land management.

Prior to the OEP, he worked on the environmental management of gas and electricity infrastructure and associated construction projects with National Grid, where he also led the development of the company's climate adaptation reports for Defra. At Severn Trent Water, he worked on the public health response to water quality incidents and led two river restoration partnerships within the national Catchment Based Approach scheme. In local government, he led the implementation of Coventry Council's contaminated land strategy after previously working in consultancy. He currently sits on the CIWEM contaminated land panel.

At the OEP leads on environmental indicators, methodological statement and our application of the UKSA code of practice for statistics within our Environmental Improvement Plan progress reporting work, which is laid in Parliament annually. As part of this, he also leads on waste, resources and circular economy, and is keen to progress the OEP's understanding and interest in brownfields and contaminated land.

Mark Davies, Six Pump Court Barristers

Mark is a specialist regulatory barrister at Six Pump Court where he has been in practice since 2017. He is one of the few barristers to have direct experience of the Part IIA regime having assisted the Environment Agency in dealing with the ongoing St Leonard's Court bromate and bromide groundwater plume, which was designated under the regime in June 2002.