

CASE STUDY:

nationalgrid

Northwest Cluster Project

History

As a responsible property owner it is our job to bring sites that have been dormant for many years back into beneficial use. Using best practice guidelines and new engineering techniques we are carrying out a rolling programme of regenerating brownfield – former industrial land – across the UK. As a market leader this case study will demonstrate our commitment to improving the historic legacy of old gasworks sites.

The Northwest Cluster Project was an innovative project to remediate four sites, with one site being used as a central hub for activity. Excavated materials from all the sites was sent to the hub site for treatment and then used as backfill across the suite of sites.

The main hub site was in Common Lane, Partington, with cluster sites at Warrington, Runcorn and Prescot. All four sites were remediated as a result of the work.





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swimming pools)

Re-used
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109 tonnes
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30% saving
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Regeneration Strategy

A project of this complexity had not previously been carried out, so several assessments were undertaken to ensure the most appropriate sites were included in the cluster. Through our close working relationship with our regulator, who trusts us as experts in our field, we were able to use this new technique to enhance performance, reduce costs, lorry movements and CO2 emissions as well as reducing nuisance to neighbours. At time of writing, this is the only known project to satisfy all of the requirements of the CL:Aire Definition of Waste Development Industry Code of Practice and the current Environment Agency position statement on the use of cluster sites.

Some key facts include:

- 49,500m³ of excavated material (enough to fill nearly 20 Olympic sized swimming pools)
- Re-used 30,000m³ of material on the sites
- 109 tonnes of CO2 emissions compared to four separate remediation projects
- 30% saving in cost compared to four separate remediation projects

Outcome

The team successfully managed all stakeholder liaison throughout the life of the project, despite the multiple regulators involved with the various sites and the new approach taken to remediating these sites.

All 16 regulators were invited to visit the soil treatment centre to see it in operation. This was very well received as it allowed them to view the operation close up and find out more about the innovative technique used to remediate the sites.

The project demonstrated that the hub and cluster approach successfully maximises material that can be reclaimed and recycled. It was made possible by the close collaboration between National Grid Property, VHE Construction and Worley Parsons.