

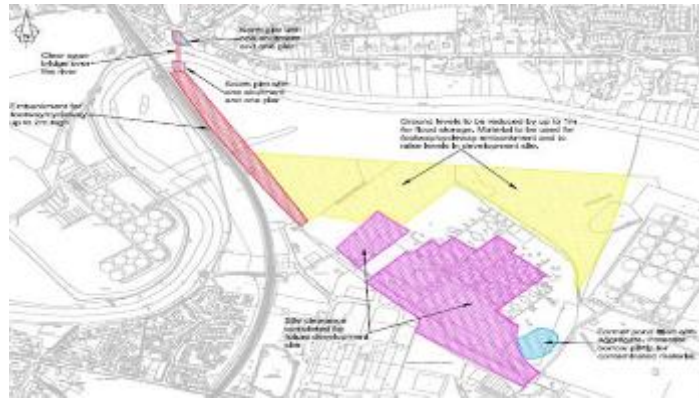
# Standards and Guidance

BS 10175:2011+A2:2017



Investigation of potentially contaminated sites - Code of practice

 Association of Geotechnical & Geoenvironmental Specialists



bsi.

IS THERE ANY REAL DIFFERENCE?

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Principal Environmental Engineer



# Introduction

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- What are Standards?
- Why use them?
- When is a Standard not a “Standard”?
- Guidance
- Conclusions



# Standards – what are they?

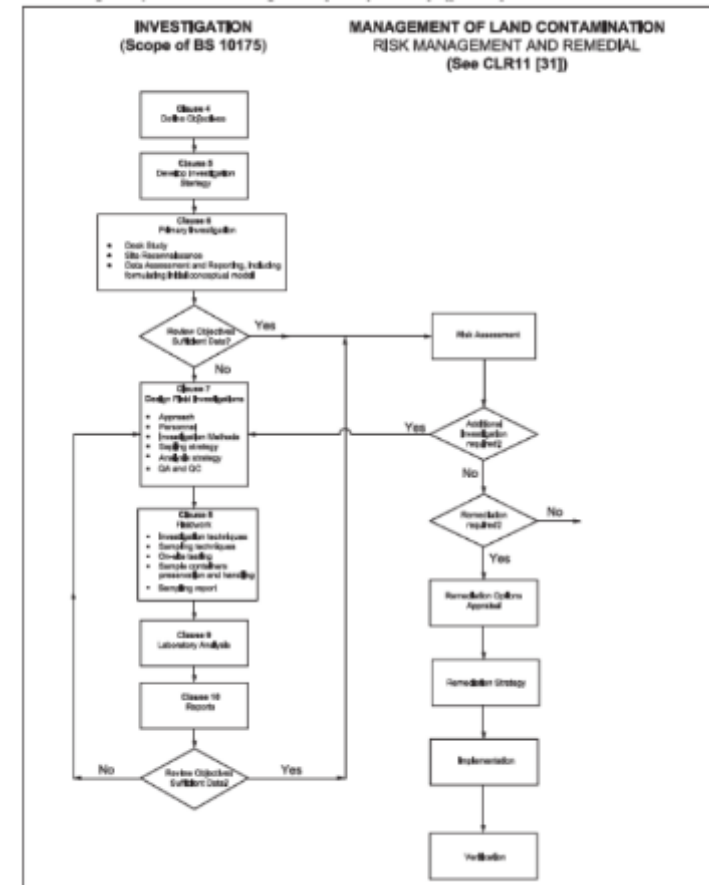
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- Produced and accredited by a national or international standards body
- Usually produced by experts in the field
- Subject to scrutiny by fellow experts, interested parties and public review
- Good practice – not always best practice
- Updated and reviewed on rolling programme
- Can become outdated but we do try....
- Can be a compromise...



# Why produce or use a Standard?

- Promotes good practice
- Encourages innovation and passes on knowledge
- Levels the playing field
- Provides surety to Clients and Regulators
- Benchmark
- Legal confidence
- Promotes professionalism



# When is a Standard not a “Standard”?

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- When it is a guidance document
- Most “standards” in our field are in fact guidance documents
- BS10175, BS8485
- “You should” not “you must”
- But... Usually expected to justify deviations from it
- Other bodies produce guidance, is it of equal relevance?
- Standards can also be suggestions or ways of doing things – guides to good practice
- Examples: AGS – Data Format, Asbestos, Site Investigation, Etc.



# Work in Progress



- ISO18400 Series
- Mostly UK written - Based in part on BS10175
- Covers sampling, planning, strategy, safety, transport, QA, On-site sample preparation, agricultural soils and more
- Some overlap with existing BS documents, so not all may be adopted i.e. - 204 overlaps UK gas standards
- VOC's in Soil...

BS ISO 18400-100:2017



## Soil quality — Sampling

Part 100: Guidance on the selection of sampling standards



# Standards to be aware of..

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- ISO 18504 – Sustainable Remediation
- ISO 11504 – Impact of Hydrocarbons on soils
- BS EN ISO 14001:2015 - Environmental Management Systems. Requirements with guidance for use
- BS 8576:2013 - Guidance on investigations for ground gas. Permanent gases and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)
- BS 8485:2015 - Code of practice for the design of protective measures for methane and carbon dioxide ground gases for new buildings
- ISO 17924 Bioavailability of metals in soil to humans – BGS method

# Other Recent Standards of note

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BS EN ISO DIS 15175 (REVISION) Soil & ground water protection.

BS ISO 15176 (REVISION) Re-use of excavated soil and soil materials

BS ISO 15799 (REVISION) Ecotoxicological characterization of soil & soil materials

ISO 15800 (REVISION) Human exposure

ISO CD 16133 Design of monitoring programmes [for soil quality]

BS ISO 18512:2007 Guidance on long & short term storage of samples

BS EN ISO 19258 (REVISION) Determination of background values

CD 21365 Conceptual site models for potentially contaminated sites

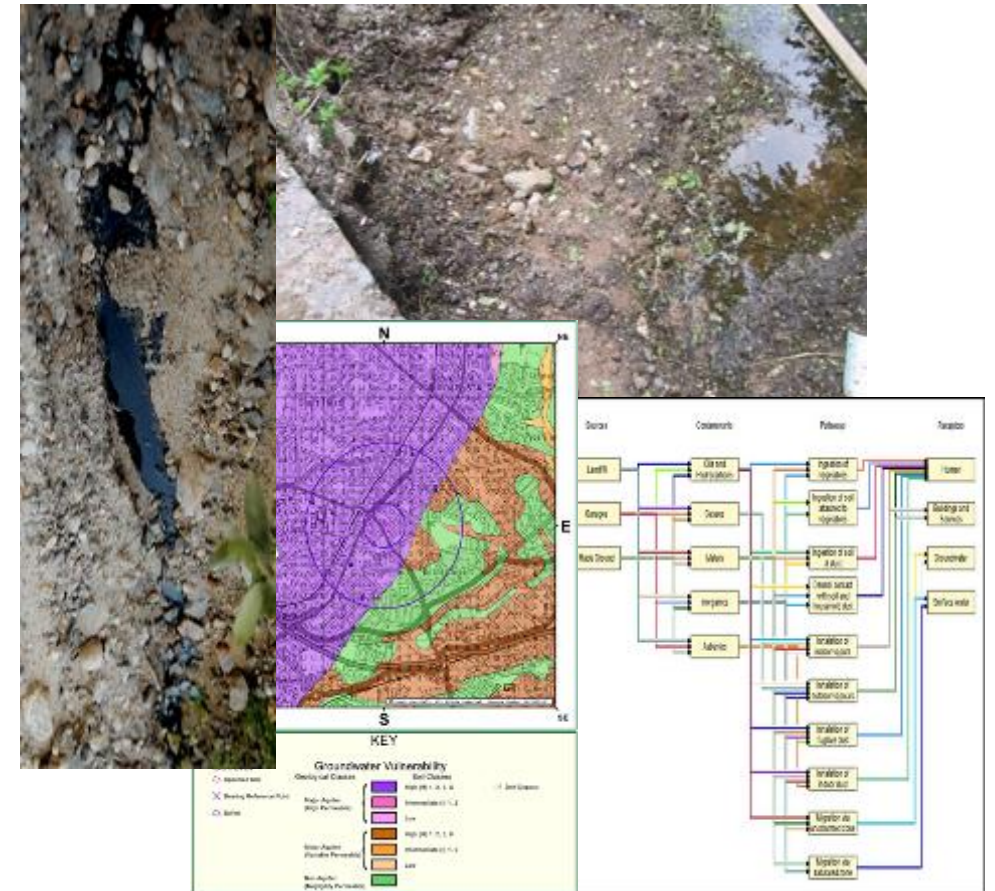
CD 25177 Field Soil Description\* - AGS compatible





# Other “Standards” are available

- AGS
- Ciria
- Local Authorities
- Geol Soc
- SoBRA
- CL: AiRE
- EA?



# What is Guidance?

Best practice / Good practice?

Not applicable to standards format?

Applicable to UK custom, practice and law?

Specialist?

Cheaper / more flexible?

Reflective of industry requirements?

Produced by experts?

Subject to greater scrutiny?

Any better?



AGS Guide to Environmental Sampling



# Guidance

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Can be “better” than standards

Can be cheaper

Vested interest in updating

Reflect vested interest in promoting

More flexible with changes

More focused on real world issues

Are they enforceable?

Is ignorance a defence?



# Conclusions

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Standards drive or are driven by identified needs from industry, so is guidance

Should promote consistency and a level playing field for practitioners

Moves the industry forward, promotes professionalism

Can only reflect the views of those who participate or comment – please do

Industry guidance can have the same influence as standards

Taken over from regulator guidance in UK?

The way forward?



# Any Questions?

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**soils**  
LIMITED