

# **Gale Common Extraction Project**

**Cobcroft Lane, Cridling Stubbs, Knottingley, North Yorkshire WF11 0BB**

**Environmental Statement Volume II – Technical Appendices**

**Appendix 11B: Outline Soil Management Plan**

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**Applicant: EP UK Investments Ltd**  
**Date: May 2019**

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## DOCUMENT HISTORY

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## GLOSSARY

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Description</b>
PFA	Pulverised fuel ash

**CONTENTS**

1.0 INTRODUCTION & PROJECT BACKGROUND..... 1  
2.0 SOIL EXTRACTION AND STOCKPILING..... 2  
3.0 SOIL MANAGEMENT..... 4  
4.0 REFERENCES..... 5

**FIGURES**

Figure 1 - Ground Contamination Discovery Strategy Decision Tree. .... 3

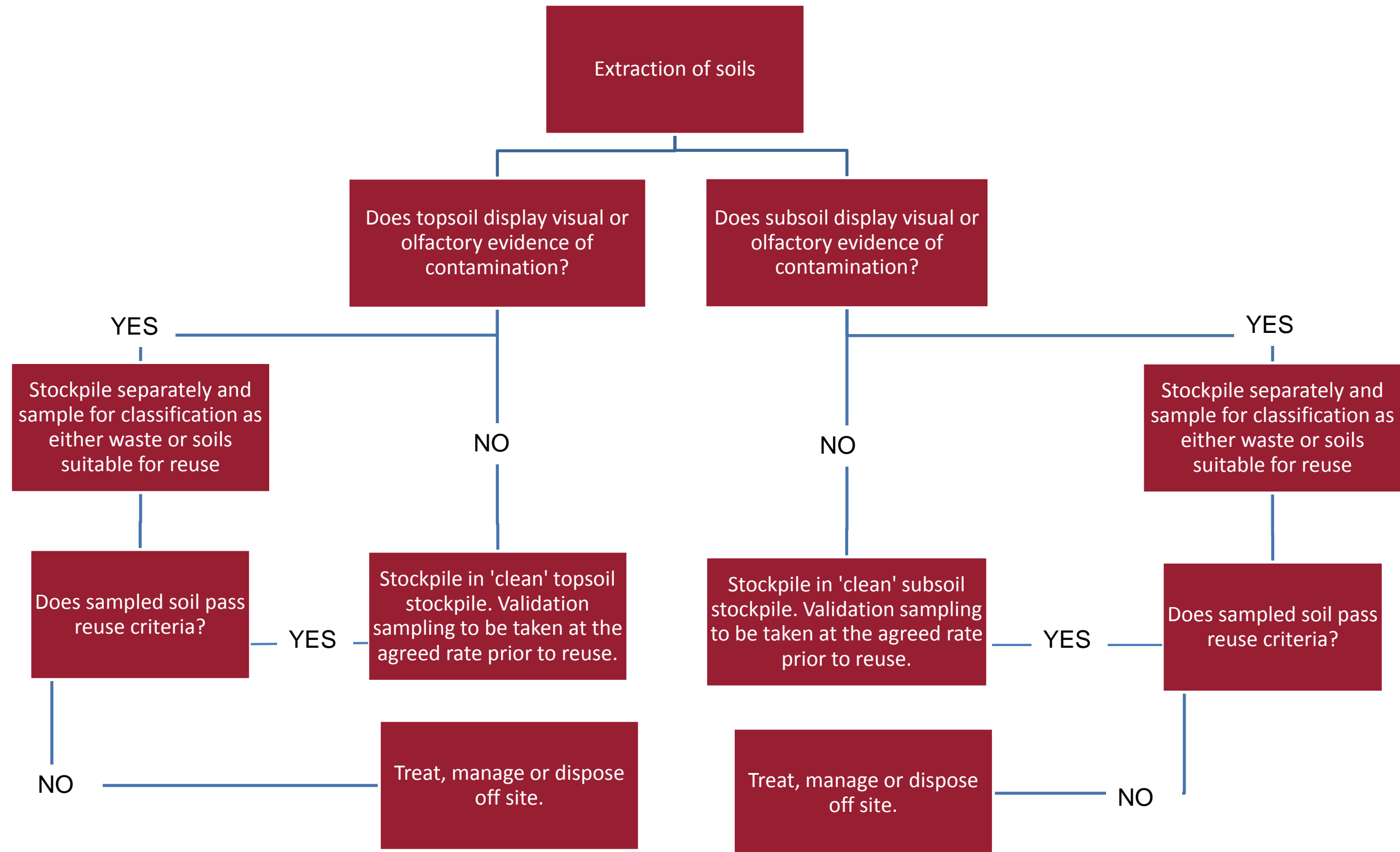
## 1.0 INTRODUCTION & PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1 AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Ltd (AECOM) has been commissioned by EP UK Investments Ltd (the Applicant) to produce an Outline Soil Management Plan for the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site. A site location plan is provided at Figure 1.1 in the Environmental Statement (ES) Volume III.
- 1.2 The Gale Common Ash Disposal Site has been an operational landfill since 1967, accepting mostly pulverised fuel ash (PFA), but also furnace bottom ash from both Eggborough and Ferrybridge coal-fired power stations. As both power stations have ceased coal burning operations, EPUKI is seeking permission to increase the permitted PFA extraction operations at the Site (currently 30,0000 tonnes per year(tpa)) to up to 1 million tpa, with provisions for minor extraction of shale and furnace bottom ash where encountered.
- 1.3 The Gale Common Ash Disposal Site extends to approximately 301 hectares (ha) in area. The proposed areas of extraction are shown in Figure 3.3 in ES Volume III.
- 1.4 In order to identify topics to be reported on in the ES, the Applicant submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report to North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC). NYCC provided a Scoping Opinion in response to the EIA Scoping Report in January 2019, which amongst other matters set out that *"a soil management plan is needed in order to protect and manage site soils needed for restoration"*.
- 1.5 The Outline Soil Management Plan addresses this requirement and relates to the removal of soil which is present over PFA in some parts of the areas intended for extraction (for example the outer slopes of the Stage II ash disposal area). To extract the PFA the soils will need to be removed, with the intention of storing these materials on site for the duration of the operation (currently planned as around 25 years) for subsequent use as restoration soil capping when PFA extraction operations have completed.

## 2.0 SOIL EXTRACTION AND STOCKPILING

- 2.1 Where soil cover is present over PFA this will need to be removed before PFA extraction. The soil horizon will be identified by the site geo-environmental clerk of works through visual, chemical, biological e.g. invasive weeds, and olfactory assessment. Handling of the extracted soils will be carried out in accordance with the flow chart detailed as Figure 1.
- 2.2 The following steps will be followed:
- Vegetation cover to be removed taking heed of any restrictions (e.g. ecological issues);
  - Soils are to be classified as topsoil or subsoil. Topsoil will be kept separate from subsoils.
  - Extracted materials will be stockpiled in designated 'clean' stockpiles and subject to validation sampling for laboratory analysis.
  - If suspicious olfactory or visual conditions are encountered within excavated materials a delineation exercise will be carried out to define the extents of these materials. Excavation of suspicious materials shall then commence and be separately stockpiled and sampled for an appropriate suite of contaminants for the material type and proposed future use.
  - If laboratory results of sampled materials pass comparison against the established reuse criteria then these will be judged suitable for reuse. Failure by comparison against the reuse criteria may require separate treatment, handling or placement in agreement with the Regulators.
  - Where materials cannot be reused, waste materials should then either be disposed of in accordance with the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 or whatever applicable statutory legislation and guidance should supersede those regulations in the future.

Figure 1 - Ground Contamination Discovery Strategy Decision Tree



### 3.0 SOIL MANAGEMENT

3.1 Proper handling of excavated soils will be carried out during extraction to retain soil quality for future reuse, and prevent environmental pollution. The Applicant will manage soils in accordance with the Soil Strategy for England (Defra, 2009) and the Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites (Defra, 2009). This Outline Soils Management Plan will be updated as required during the operation of the Proposed Development, and further details may be recorded including:

- maps showing material types and areas to be stripped;
- methods for stripping, stockpiling, stockpile drainage and safety management, redepositing and improving the soils (if required);
- location and content of each soil stockpile;
- schedules of volumes for each material;
- expected after-use for each material;
- stockpile height and geometry to maintain safe development; and
- a Materials Management Plan produced under the CL:AIRE '*Definition of Waste: Code of Practice (DoW:CoP)*' if required to ensure that the extracted soil does not enter the waste stream.

3.2 Measures to counteract or prevent the following environmental effects will be implemented:

- reduction in loss of soil quality from compaction and erosion in stockpiled and unstockpiled materials;
- migration of contamination from impacted soils via run-off, leaching or Aeolian erosion;
- spread of invasive or injurious species;
- migration of contamination via tracking of site vehicles; and
- adverse impacts to human health, controlled water or ecological receptors from contact or exposure to site soils.

## 4.0 REFERENCES

British Standards Institution (2015) *BS10175 + A: Investigation of Contaminated Sites - Code of Practice*

Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (2009) *Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites.*

Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (2009) *Soil Strategy for England.*

UK Statutory Instruments (2011) *The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.*

Contaminated Land: Applications in Real Environment (CL:AIRE) (2011) *The Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice (version 2).*