

# Enquiries about contaminated land



## Contaminated land

Land could be contaminated as a result of industrial work. This contamination may cause a risk to people's health or the environment (although serious harm is rare).

These sites will probably have been cleaned up when they were redeveloped. However, this is not always the case, especially when sites were redeveloped some time ago.

Under part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, which came into force on 1 April 2000, local authorities must inspect land in their area to check for possible risks to people's health or the environment.

## How this affects you

### Moving house

Solicitors and conveyancers must warn you about the possible dangers of buying a property built on contaminated land.

Under certain circumstances, the current owner or occupier may have to remove, treat or control the contamination at their own cost.

Before you buy a property you should have an Environmental Search in order to find out if a property is likely to be affected by contamination. A number of private companies will provide this service to you for a fee – your legal advisor or estate agent will be able help.

## Information we hold

We may be able to give you information about contamination at a particular property. We must provide this in line with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

## Environmental Information Regulations 2004

The Environmental Information Regulations came into force on 1 January 2005 to replace the Environmental Information Regulations 1992. They give you the right to get information we hold about matters relating to the environment, although some conditions and exemptions apply.

If you have questions about the kind of information we would be able to supply, phone 01702 318111 or send an email to [customerservices@rochford.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@rochford.gov.uk)

## How can I find out environmental information about a property?

- Check our website at [www.rochford.gov.uk/contaminated-land](http://www.rochford.gov.uk/contaminated-land) or call us, to see if you can get the information you need for free.
- Ask us to give you a form to fill in to make sure that we have all of the correct information or you can download a copy from our website.
- Make sure your request is as clear as possible. If it isn't, we may need to contact you, which may delay our response. You should also include a **map** of the site.

- Our website will give you our current fee or you can call our Customer Services on 01702 318111.  
[www.rochford.gov.uk/contaminatedland](http://www.rochford.gov.uk/contaminatedland)

## What happens next?

Once we have received your form (clearly stating your questions), map and payment, we will start to carry out our enquiries.

Send your form, map and payment to:

**Environmental Health Department  
Rochford District Council  
Council Offices  
South Street  
Rochford  
Essex  
SS4 1BS**

**The standard fee is for up to four hours' work.** This is normally enough for most enquiries, however, if your request involves extensive investigations, the following extra charges will apply:

Investigations taking more than four hours will cost more.

If we think we will need to do more than four hours' work, we will let you know. Please phone us on 01702 318111 to find out how much our standard fee is.

**Rochford District Council**  
Council Offices, South Street, Rochford,  
Essex SS4 1BW  
Phone: **01702 318111**  
Email: [customerservices@rochford.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@rochford.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.rochford.gov.uk](http://www.rochford.gov.uk)

## The Information Commissioner

If you want more information about your rights under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, visit the Information Commissioner's website at [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk) or write to the Commissioner at:

EIR/FOI Complaints  
Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane, Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Phone: 0303 123 1113  
Fax: 01625 524510

If you would like this information in large print, Braille or another language phone us on  
**01702 318111**