

## **Contaminated Land**

Contaminated land needs to be dealt with properly to avoid any unnecessary risks to human health, buildings and the natural environment.

### **How contaminated land can affect planning applications**

Land can be affected by contamination. This usually happens when the land has been used in the past for industrial processes or waste disposal or if there has been an accidental spillage.

When the council is considering a planning application, the issue of contaminated land must be taken into account.

If contamination is known or suspected, or if the proposed development is particularly vulnerable (e.g. a hospital, school, housing) then the applicant must provide the following information:

- sufficient information to determine the existence or otherwise of contamination
- the nature of the contamination
- the risks the contamination may pose and whether these risks can be reduced to an acceptable level

If potential risks are identified, the contamination will need to be dealt with before the development begins. This process is called remediation.

### **The Contaminated Land Register**

Northumberland County Council's Environmental Health Service is responsible for maintaining a Public Register of contaminated land sites in the county.

[Find out more and view the contaminated land strategy here.](#)