

Method/Risk Assessment for mitigation of Ground Contamination

Our ref: 182271

Re: Old Shredded Wheat Factory, Welwyn Garden City

The chosen piling technique of Continuous Flight Auger (CFA) is the best suited method to prevent contaminants being transferred down the pile, causing possible migration to groundwater leading to the risk of pollution. This can lead to issues generated when adopting the use of driven piles as it has been argued that the method causes the natural strata around the pile shaft to be disturbed, with the potential for transferring contaminants to the underlying groundwater either along the shaft or on the underside of the base (if a flat section). However, as CFA piling involves pumping concrete under pressure when extracting, this creates a sufficient seal between the concrete and the natural strata surrounding the pile shaft. This therefore prevents ground water contamination through this method.

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