

THE INSTITUTE OF PETROLEUM

Code of Practice for the  
Investigation and Mitigation  
of Possible Petroleum-Based Land Contamination



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Investigation and Mitigation  
of Possible Petroleum-Based  
Land Contamination**

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## SCOPE

This Code of Practice describes the recommended procedure to investigate land for possible petroleum-based *contamination* and subsequent procedures to assess its relevance and any remedial measures deemed necessary.

Although hydrocarbons are the main products associated with oil industry sites, depending on the products stored, other chemicals such as organic leads and petroleum product additives may also be present.

For the purposes of this Code a contaminated site is defined as a site at which hazardous substances occur at concentrations above *background levels* and where assessment indicates they pose, or are likely to pose an immediate or long term *hazard* to human health or the environment. *Background levels* in this paper refer to ambient levels of a contaminant in the local area of the site under consideration.

The Code provides practical working guidelines identifying the stages of a site investigation, assessment of risks to health and the environment and the establishment where necessary of appropriate treatment criteria. In addition reference is made to responsible authorities who should be consulted during the investigation. The authorities are named for England and Wales, (in other countries equivalent authorities would need to be consulted).

Although the document does not aim to enable the Site Manager or Engineer to carry out a site investigation, it will provide an appreciation of the process of site assessment and *remediation* work.

It is envisaged that the document will be of particular interest to companies involved in the manufacture, storage, handling, sale, and use of petroleum products and to local authority departments with responsibilities for planning, environmental health and building control or land use.