

## Quarterly Newsletter

Quarter 3 – 2021

### A NEW START



### A NEW COMMITTEE, NEW SPONSORS AND A NEW START

It's been a big year for the IBN. In April 2020, a new Executive Committee was formed with new members and a new structure. We have also set a number of goals for the IBN that include:

- Formalising our membership structure.
- Securing new sponsors.
- Keeping membership free and open to all involved in brownfield and contaminated land in Ireland.
- Improving standards and competency for all brownfield and contaminated land professionals in Ireland.
- Working closely with other networks and institutions like the Institution of Environmental Sciences (the IES), SoBRA and the Institute of Geologists of Ireland (IGI), amongst others.

We have also been fortunate to secure Eurofins Chemtest as a Sponsor and we are indebted to them for their help.

Anyone interested in joining the IBN can apply [here](#).

David Kerr (Chair of the IBN)

### WASTE AND SOIL RESUSE WEBINAR SUCCESS

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 the Ireland Brownfield Network co-hosted an online web event with IES (Institution of Environmental Sciences) titled '*Waste Soil on Development Sites on the Island of Ireland: Challenges, Opportunities and Regulatory Compliance*'.

Presentations on the legislation and policy relating to soil waste and re-use were provided by:

- **Philip Nugent** *Dept. of Environment, Climate and Communications*
- **Caitríona Collins** *Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Environmental Sustainability*
- **Brian McVeigh** *Northern Ireland Environment Agency's (NIEA) Land, Groundwater and Regulatory Transformation Team*

The formal presentations were followed by breakout sessions to discuss pertinent topics on the waste hierarchy, classification and re-use /disposal options for soils.

IBN was encouraged by the level of engagement by participants and looks forward to future successful initiatives on soil waste and re-use.

Claire Clifford (Chair of Waste and Soil Resuse Sub-Group)

### THE IBN LAUNCHES EARLY CAREERS SUB-GROUP

The Ireland Brownfield Network has recently launched its new 'Early Careers Sub-group'. This group is open to all student, graduate and early career professionals with an interest in brownfield redevelopment in Ireland. The aim of the Early Careers Sub-group is to bring together a network of young professionals involved in, or seeking to be involved in, brownfield redevelopment, and to provide networking opportunities, advice, complementary training options for professional development and ultimately to encourage professional qualifications with relevant bodies. The Early Careers Sub-group will initially be chaired by Rebekka McIlwaine, with Amy Turner acting as Vice-Chair.

Anyone interested in getting involved in the committee for the Early Careers Sub-group should join the Ireland Brownfield Network by completing the 'Membership Request Form' available on the IBN website (<https://www.irelandbrownfieldnetwork.com/join-us/>) and by indicating their interest in this specific area.

Rebekka McIlwaine  
(Chair of Early Careers Sub-Group)

## QUB URBAN AGRICULTURE PHD OPPORTUNITY

Queen's University Belfast and Belfast City Council have recently won H2020 funding as part of the UPSURGE consortium to assess the impact of nature based solutions on urban regeneration and recarbonisation of soils. Seven demonstration projects will be undertaken across Europe including the development of a brownfield site in Belfast for sustainable urban food production. QUB has secured funding for a PhD studentship to consider the risks and benefits of urban agriculture. The PhD research will develop the site's conceptual model and options for community redevelopment and will consider aspects such as soil carbon capture by a variety of methods, potential bioaccessibility / bioaccumulation pathways and air quality monitoring. Works will be completed in conjunction with Belfast City Council, who will be developing the site. The successful student will work with QUB's stable isotope facility to look at atmospheric carbon capture (Dr Ogle and Dr Doherty), use the UBM for bioaccessibility testing to consider soil uptake of contaminants (Dr Cox) and use air monitoring sensors to map effects of site specific and city-wide pollution (Prof McKinley). More information can be found [here](#).

## QUB FUNDED RESEARCH – BIO-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND CONTAMIANATED LAND SECTORS

Queen's University Belfast has launched a €1.27M funded Ireland-US supported project to investigate the use of microbes and enzymes to stabilise hazardous substances (such as asbestos fibres) present in brownfield soils and construction materials. If you are interested in collaborating with the project as an industrial partner or would like to register an interest in the project's outputs, please contact Rory on [r.doherty@qub.ac.uk](mailto:r.doherty@qub.ac.uk).

## PFAS AND EMERGING CONTAMINANTS SUB-GROUP

Emerging contaminants are compounds that are not currently or only recently have become regulated. The Irish EPA have recently released two key reports and produced a webpage dedicated to the emerging contaminant PFAS. The IBN are keen to help knowledge about these contaminants grow and are launching a new sub-group to share information with the wider community and promote good practice. The sub-group is currently seeking members and any member with an interest are encouraged to contact the IBN [here](#)

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE & COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTATIONS

The Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy is Ireland's new roadmap for waste planning and management, full details can be found [here](#).

The Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy sets out a range of aims and targets for the State and the measures by which these will be achieved, including increased regulation and measures across various waste areas including Construction and Demolition and Waste Enforcement.

Consultation is now open for the Proposed Publication of the Circular Economy Strategy. The aim of which is the development of a high-level, whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy to set a course for Ireland to transition across all sectors and at all levels of Government toward circularity.

Olivia Hall (Secretary of the IBN)

The IBN is proudly sponsored by:



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