

Loco Works – Horwich



Customer

Morris Homes North Ltd

Address:

Morland House,
Altrincham Road,
Wilmslow SK9 5NW

Value:

£3m+

Contact:

Chris Whyte
Technical Director
Morris Homes Ltd

Project Description

Horwich Loco Works was originally railway sidings linking the former Horwich Loco Works to the mainline, dating back to the late 19th century. Also present on the site, a former town gasworks, and historic sludge beds and large deposits of slag. The site itself was compromised by high levels of metal contamination, leaching into the adjacent Nellie's Clough watercourse, typified by a strong ochre discolouration.

Commenced in January 2021, the strategy developed sought to segregate and treat the source of the metal contamination reducing the contribution of the site to the historic impacts on water quality, using Urban Regen's Mobile Treatment Permit to mitigate the need for off site disposal.

Similarly, the widespread impact of Japanese Knotweed over 16% of the developable acreage with over 30000m³ of soils affected, in tandem with the background levels of contamination, led to the implementation a strategy of segregation and encapsulation within lined cells, in POS areas, with a full insurance backed warranty provided to the developer, avoiding prohibitive disposal costs.

Further constraints included the demolition of an existing culvert and installation of lightweight aggregates over a 36" high pressure aqueduct to strict United Utility guidelines, diversion of HV services, sterilising large swathes of the site and the controlled management of peat, slag impacted soils, segregation and recovery of soft clays for re-use as garden subsoils, and within the shallow groundwater environment.

Urban Regen has worked closely with the geo-environmental consultants E3P and Morris Homes to ensure the successful remediation of the site has been carried out in accordance with the approved remediation strategy, whilst managing the numerous historic obstacles identified.

The success of the project to date was recently highly commended at the British Safety Industry Federation Awards in the Water Pollution Prevention award.

Scope of Work

- Full depth re-engineering of former railway sidings & landfill site (250,000m³+) to facilitate VSC foundations
- Processing of wastes to maximise recovery
- Stabilisation and solidification of metalloid contaminated soils to mitigate risk to controlled waters
- Segregation and encapsulation of Japanese Knotweed impacted soils
- Remediation of former gasworks
- River realignment and aqueduct protection works
- Complex management of separate soils streams

