

# From the ground up

*Award winning approach to remediation...*

**B**rownfield regeneration and remediation could make an important contribution towards meeting the UK's challenging regeneration targets. On-site remediation diverts contaminated soil away from landfill and provides solutions that are both environmentally sustainable and cost-effective.

Celtic, a key UK specialist in contaminated land regeneration, takes a unique and, indeed, award winning approach to remediation.

Formed in 1992, Celtic is one of a few companies to offer its range of on-site remediation technologies. Celtic's systems are designed on a project-by-project basis. As described by Director Barry Ellis, Celtic's solutions include the EvoCem soil stabilisation system, which can make the remediation process quicker than competing approaches, as well as more financially efficient.

The First Street Development has presented Celtic with a number of environmental challenges. The £750m development, on which Celtic is the principal contractor for ground remediation and enabling works, will bring new shops, offices, homes and a children's play area, alongside a vast centrepiece, tree-lined pedestrian boulevard, stretching from Hulme to the site of the former



Hacienda night club and fronted by cafés, high-end retail and leisure destinations. This is all taking place on the site of a former gas works and the disused BT building. In relation to this project, Barry Ellis continues: "Regardless of the remediation approach or technologies applied, ensuring full compliance with stringent environmental and human health criteria is essential to our work, along with ability to guarantee success with fully documented validation certification."

The First Street site will also feature Manchester's first green wall on the side of the BT building, and the green motif is clearly one that developer partners Ask Developments wish to push. Celtic's role in this has been to take soil, in some cases heavily polluted due to the site's former use, clean it on-site and in situ using its advanced mobile remediation technologies, and return most of it to form the bedrock of the new neighbourhood. The company's methods also comply with all the latest waste

acceptance criteria and pre-treatment requirements associated with the landfill directive, if material needs to be exported from site as part of the wider development scheme.

Celtic seeks to use on-site remediation processes together with risk-based project closure procedures to ensure minimal adverse environmental impact and deliver an improved environment for developers, local authorities and communities alike.

Celtic has recently won a prestigious industry award; the 2008 Brownfield Briefing Remediation Innovation Award ([www.brownfieldawards.com](http://www.brownfieldawards.com)) for the most sustainable remediation project and the company can be found providing unique remediation solutions on brownfield sites across the UK. From its regional offices in the South East, Midlands, North, Wales and South West, Celtic has worked on over 1,500 brownfield projects in the UK providing assignable warranties. Over the last 17 years, Celtic has worked across a broad range of industries including





nuclear, oil and gas, chemical, property and utilities. Now, despite the economic downturn, is an exciting period for the company.

Celtic's success is based on the quality of its employees and a robust understanding of the fate and impacts of chemicals in ground and groundwater. Its technical knowledge enables Celtic to manage its




customers' statutory liabilities and facilitate site redevelopment and reuse. Celtic's work is backed up with a successful track record in remediation project delivery and its position at the forefront of the rapidly evolving remediation industry enables Celtic to identify pragmatic and cost-effective remedial solutions with a proven pedigree. It is this direct knowledge of systems and equipment facilities development coupled with Celtic's extensive experience that provides its customers increased value and optimises risk management.

Celtic recognises that its customers can find the remediation process daunting and so the company is dedicated to providing a free pre-project consultancy service enabling customers to be fully informed right from the word go. Barry Ellis urges clients who are at the beginning of a regeneration process to get in touch: "Generally the earlier we are able to get involved, the more cost-effective is the likely solution, often resulting in significantly reduced timescales. We

have been known to step up to the bar mid-project although the earlier the better really."

If the future of development is 'sustainability', then Celtic's approach to on-site treatment, minimising off-site disposal and landfill tax, will play a key part; beginning sustainable developments from the ground up and bringing urban brownfield sites back into useful service.



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