



Dual Phase Extraction

Terra Vac (UK) Ltd and Major Food Distribution Depot (Aylesford)

A large plume of contamination was discovered beneath a major food distribution depot near Aylesford in Kent. Terra Vac (UK) Ltd was asked to design and install a remediation system that would remove the contaminants, whilst allowing the site to remain operational.

A national supermarket chain acquired a large food distribution depot near Aylesford in Kent. The site had been operating as a distribution centre for many years, with in excess of 400 truck movements per day. The depot is operational 24 hours / day, 7 days / week. Significant amounts of diesel fuel (DERV) were stored on site for the refuelling of delivery vehicles.

In 2005, whilst undertaking unrelated works, oil was found in boreholes drilled on an adjacent site, and the source of the oil was traced to the distribution depot. Investigations revealed a large plume of fuel, varying between 6m bgl and 9m bgl, in parts being over 2m thick, and extending to an area of approx. 2 hectares.

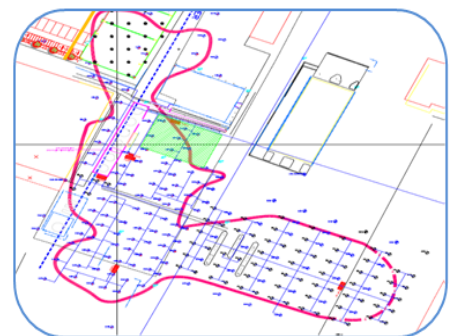
The source of the contamination was traced to a leak in underground pipework feeding the refuelling facility. Losses had been ongoing for some time.

Terra Vac was invited to undertake the overall delineation of the plume, and to design and install a dual phase extraction system. Key to the remedial approach was the requirement not to impact on the ongoing operation of the distribution centre, which services stores throughout the South East. The remedial system was designed to be installed below ground in a phased manner so as not to disrupt vehicle movements.

During 2007, over 200 extraction wells were drilled and a network of vacuum header mains was installed below ground. Despite changing ownership of the site, the system has continued to be operational and between 2007 and 2011, in excess of 600,000 litres of free product has been recovered.

The adjacent site is now clean, and the distribution depot is scheduled to reach its Environment Agency targets by mid-2011.

The site has remained fully operational throughout this process and there has been no impact on the day to day running and management of the depot.



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Contaminated Land and Groundwater Remediation