

## Prison!

### The price you could pay for environmental fall-out!

#### **Beware of the New Environmental Liabilities Directive!**

If your business's operations do anything to cause pollution to land, water or protected ecological settings, then this new Directive (in force 1 March 2009) could hit you - personally. Going further than ever before, in requiring you to prevent environmental damage, but also to remedy any serious damage caused (or pay compensation), the new Directive holds

company directors and owners/principals liable for corporate operations. You may think your public liability insurance covers you, but think again. You could face an unlimited fine or up to two years' imprisonment.

Learn more about this key Directive at an essential breakfast briefing by Sirius and expert guest speakers on 24 March. Click [here](#) to read more...



### New Tyne Crossing Benefits from Sirius Expertise



*The drilling rig in operation on the River Tyne*

Sirius expertise is helping with one of Britain's biggest transport infrastructure projects. Construction of the New Tyne Crossing - a second vehicle tunnel under the River Tyne, Newcastle - means dealing with an area of contaminated river bed sediments found on the exact line of the new tunnel.

Sirius outperformed expectations, reducing the scheduled drilling works to obtain samples for chemical analysis from two weeks to four days, with the client benefiting from a significant cost saving as well as a job well done. Sirius is also providing earthworks... Click [here](#) to read more ...

### FREE BREAKFAST BRIEFING

#### ON ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITIES DIRECTIVE

**TUESDAY 24 MARCH, 08.30-10.30,**  
BRIAR COURT HOTEL, HALIFAX ROAD, BIRCHENCLIFFE, HUDDERSFIELD

Sirius and guest speakers (legal and insurance experts) explain and discuss this important new Directive.

More details from Genevieve Boshoff on 01928 515715, email: [genevieve.boshoff@thesiriusgroup.com](mailto:genevieve.boshoff@thesiriusgroup.com)

### Dormant Site? Knotweed Never Sleeps!

The Japanese knotweed season is almost upon us. Although current economic gloom will ensure many sites remain undeveloped in 2009, site owners with knotweed problems need to think ahead and get the infestation treated now. Costs for an appropriate survey and subsequent herbicide treatment aren't huge and an established plan to treat knotweed infestation could pay dividends when the development market picks up again.

If you have a knotweed problem, think about a treatment programme whilst the development cycle is on hold - it could save you thousands and reduce uncertainties in the long run.

We can look at your site and come up with some ideas and an appropriate proposal. It could cost much less than you think. Contact Phill Collings now on 0191 378 9972, email: [phillip.collings@thesiriusgroup.com](mailto:phillip.collings@thesiriusgroup.com)



*Japanese knotweed - banish it now!*



For further information please contact us:

Sirius Yorkshire  
Tel: 0113 264 9960

Sirius North East  
Tel: 0191 378 9972

Sirius Midlands  
Tel: 0115 9061 335

Sirius North West  
Tel: 01928 515 715

Email: [info@thesiriusgroup.com](mailto:info@thesiriusgroup.com)

Web: [www.thesiriusgroup.com](http://www.thesiriusgroup.com)



## Go Green with Geothermal Energy!

### *Geothermal Energy Use Ticks the Right Boxes with Planning Authorities*

As building energy use regulations tighten to incorporate the UK's ambitious renewable energy targets, planning applications and development proposals that include geothermal energy use will increasingly be viewed more favourably by planning authorities.

To help you make the most of

opportunities linked to low carbon footprint, renewable energy and sustainability, Sirius has launched a total 'Ground Source Heat' package and can offer practical advice and ideas about the most suitable and economical ground source heat system for your development. Click [here](#) to read more ...



*A well designed ground source heat system has energy efficiencies of 350%, compared to about 80% from modern domestic gas condensing boilers!*



## Demolish Where Appropriate to Relieve your Liabilities

Tough economic conditions are having a devastating effect on many tenants and landlords, leaving numerous buildings dormant, almost derelict, but still with rates to pay. In this situation, with little chance of finding tenants, it can be better to demolish the buildings and get rid of rates liability and health and safety concerns.

That's exactly what's happened in Middlesbrough, where Sirius is making good progress on demolishing three former multi-storey college campus sites, following Middlesbrough College's relocation to a new facility near the River Tees. The decision to proceed with major demolition works by the site owner was prompted by long-term health and safety and security concerns, combined with the cost of imposed rates, as the buildings were no longer classed as an educational establishment.

If you are in this situation, give us a call to weigh up demolition costs and see whether it may be your best option. Speak to Matthew Powell on 0113 264 9960 or email [matt.powell@thesiriusgroup.com](mailto:matt.powell@thesiriusgroup.com)

## Anyone for Tennis?

The dangers of not knowing what's beneath you were brought home to a Cumbrian school recently when a depression in the middle of the school's tennis court turned out to be more than just subsidence. Investigation by Sirius revealed the tennis court had been built over an old iron stone mine and the depression was a collapsing mine shaft. The shaft was 200 metres deep and cost over £300,000 to fill up, cap off and make safe! It proved an expensive solution for a bad bounce...

but at least the kids are safe now!

Although an extreme example, it highlights the importance of putting aside money to deal with problems associated with mine workings and how they can affect future development. Typically, for a mineshaft of 40 or 50 metres' depth, you might allow £15,000–30,000 to grout up and cap it off.

For advice on ground stabilisation issues and the most cost-effective way of dealing with abnormal ground problems contact Andy Thomas on 0113 264 9960 or email [andrew.thomas@thesiriusgroup.com](mailto:andrew.thomas@thesiriusgroup.com)

*The disappearing tennis court being 'treated'*

