Asbestos Containing Material (ACM)
Advice Sheet for Allotment Holders at Little Lane Allotments, Pirton

1) Introduction:

In May 2011 concerns were raised about the possible presence of asbestos containing material at the Little Lane allotments, Pirton and as a precaution access to the allotments was prevented.

In June 2011 an environmental consultant was contracted by North Hertfordshire District Council to sample and analyse the suspected ACM and the soil of the allotment.

The results of the analysis were:

3 types of ACM were identified, photographs of which are included in Section (3). All 3 types of material were identified as cement containing chrysotile asbestos fibres bound into the cement. This type of material typically contains up to 25% asbestos fibres as a percentage of the total sample mass.

10 soil samples were analysed for the presence of ACM and loose asbestos fibres and no ACM and no fibres were detected.

The interpretation of the results of the analysis is that there is no significant possibility of significant harm to the health of the users of the site from asbestos. In other words the risk is LOW.

In July 2011 all of the ACM that was visible on the allotment site was removed by an authorised asbestos waste contractor. This action reduced the risk to human health even further and made it **possible for the allotment land to be reopened to the allotment holders**.

2) Risk summary:

Asbestos only represents a hazard if fibres are released to the atmosphere and are breathed in. This circumstance is not considered likely at the Little Lane allotments because:

- No loose asbestos fibres have been identified at the site
- The ACM that has been identified has been cement sheet which contains a relatively low percentage of asbestos in a form that is tightly bound within the cement.
- All of the ACM visible on the site in July 2011 has been removed.
- The site is outdoors and would therefore make the inhalation of loose fibres unlikely.

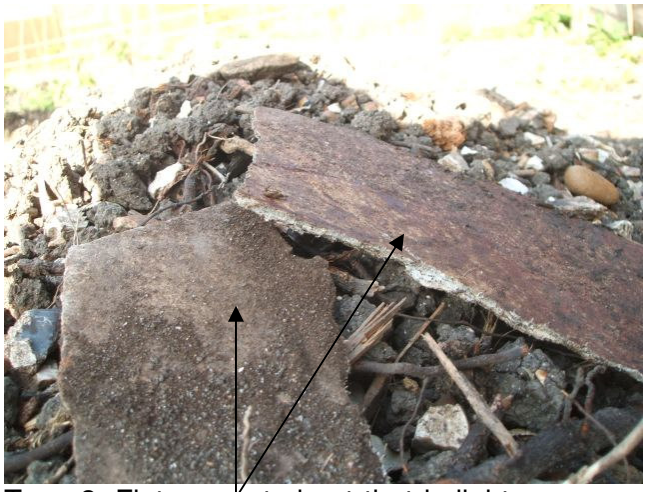
In summary, in relation to the asbestos issue, **the allotments are suitable for their intended use and do not represent a risk to the health of those using the site**.

There remains the possibility that fragments of ACM will occasionally be identified by allotment holders during their work on the site. In such circumstances the advice outlined in Section (4) should be followed.

3) Examples of the ACM identified on site:

3 types of ACM were identified:

Type 1: Curved or flat cement sheet that is light grey in colour on all sides and edges.



Type 2: Flat cement sheet that is light grey on one side and at the edges and red on the other side.

Type 3: Flat cement sheet that is light grey on one side and at the edges and black on the other side.

4) Action to be taken by allotment holders if suspect ACM is encountered:

a) Check whether the suspect ACM matches any of the examples described within Section (3), if it does not match, the material is unlikely to be ACM and no further action is required.

b) If the suspect ACM matches any of the types described in Section (3), **or** if you rare unsure about its identification, take the following 4 steps of action:

Step1: Obtain an asbestos waste sack from the Pirton Parish Council.

Step 2: Damp down the ACM with water. If there are multiple pieces of ACM and it is difficult to separate the ACM from the surrounding soil damp down the ACM and the surrounding soil with water.

Step 3: Transfer the damp ACM and any associated soil to the asbestos waste sack.

Step 4: Seal the asbestos waste sack and return to a contact at the Pirton Parish Council so that arrangements can be made for the disposal of the material as asbestos contaminated waste by an authorised asbestos waste disposal company.

If at anytime a large quantity of buried ACM is uncovered on the site, temporarily cover it back up, mark the location, contact:

- **the Environmental Protection Team at NHDC (01462 474000)**

and the

- **Pirton Parish Council (parishclerk@pirtonparishcouncil.org)**

and wait for further instruction.