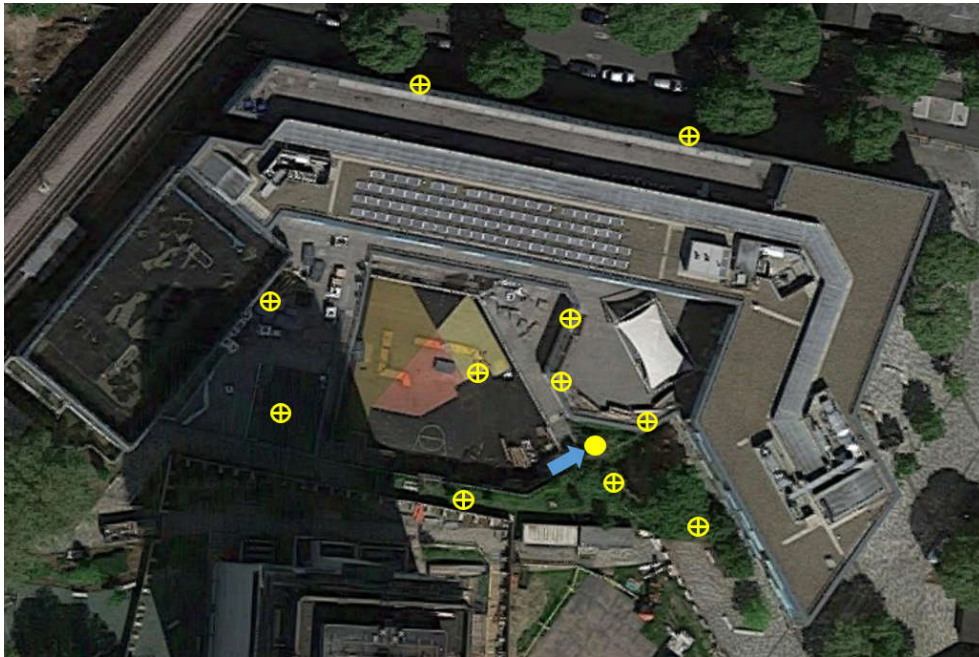


Background

In October 2018, MLM Consulting Engineers Ltd (MLM) carried out testing of soil in planted areas across the academy site. The location of these samples is indicated in the aerial image below.

The samples were analysed in the laboratory for a standard suite of potential contaminants, including metals, cyanide, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and asbestos.



Results

With one exception, contaminants were either below laboratory method detection limits or within the range considered acceptable for use in a domestic garden.

The exception was a sample labelled "IP06", which was taken from a raised tree planter and contained higher than expected levels of three PAH compounds named benzo[b]fluoranthene, benzo[a]pyrene and dibenz[a,h]perylene. Sample IP06 is identified on the aerial image with a blue arrow.

A more detailed study, whilst not definitive, indicated the PAHs could have been combustion in origin.

Further Action Taken

Following the survey, the school was advised to remove the topsoil from the affected planter and replace it with a new clean topsoil.

Once this work had been completed, MLM carried out repeat sampling in February 2019 and we can confirm the topsoil now in place is of a standard suitable for use in a domestic garden and, therefore, more than adequate for use on the school premises.