



Airborne Environmental Consultants Ltd

Robert Harris – Technical Director & Expert Witness

Mr R. Harris is the Technical Director of Airborne Environmental Consultants. He has extensive experience in working with local authority, government, industrial and private sector clients. He is an experienced environmental consultant with relevant expertise in a range of occupational hygiene monitoring (solvents and particulates primarily), asbestos monitoring, surveying, assessment and management, Health and Safety and Environmental auditing.

Qualifications

BSc (Hons) Applied Physics

British Institute of Occupational Hygiene (BIOH)* Occupational Hygiene Module S301 - Asbestos and Other Fibres

British Institute of Occupational Hygiene (BIOH) – Certified Competent Person (CCP Asbestos)

British Institute of Occupational Hygiene (BIOH) Occupational Hygiene Modules P402, P405, P304, P901, P902 & P903

Chartered Physicist (C.Phys)

Member of the Institute of Physics (M.Inst.P)

Chartered Member of the Institute of Occupational Safety & Health (CMIOSH)

*** NB. BIOH later became BOHS [British Occupational Hygiene Society]**

Employment

1997 - present	Technical and Managing Director – AEC
1996 - 1997	RPS Thomson – Operations Director and senior asbestos consultant.
1988 - 1996	Principal Engineer, Wimpey Environmental Ltd. Senior asbestos consultant
1986 - 1988	Winton Applied Occupational Hygiene. Senior consultant and asbestos surveyor.
1985 - 1986	Westminster Council – Asbestos Surveyor
1983 - 1985	London Borough of Lambeth. Technical Officer – Asbestos.
1981 (Apr – Oct)	Institute of Geological Sciences – Temporary ASO, Oil & natural gas surveys in South East England
1980 (Apr – Oct)	Health & Safety Executive – Temporary ASO, R&D Project measuring airborne asbestos fibre concentrations



Airborne Environmental Consultants Ltd

EXPERIENCE PROFILE

Mr Harris is company Technical Director of **Airborne Environmental Consultants Ltd.** and jointly manages the technical and operations element of the business.

Mr Harris is ultimately responsible for the technical management and performance of the company across a broad range of health, safety and environmental disciplines, including AEC's training academy, asbestos services, legionella and water quality consultancy, occupational hygiene services and laboratory services.

Background

At the **Health & Safety Executive (HSE)**, Mr Harris carried out research and development work aimed at designing an effective method for accurately measuring the levels of airborne asbestos fibres in air.

At the **Institute of Geological Sciences**, Mr Harris carried out an extended gravitational anomaly assessment of government license areas in the southeast of England. This was used to assess the potential for oil and natural gas deposits in the underlying geological strata.

At **Lambeth Borough Council**, Mr Harris was employed as an Asbestos Technical Officer in the Technical and Pollution Section of the Environmental Health Department. His duties were to undertake asbestos surveys of council properties, carry out asbestos air monitoring and to answer complaints from councillors and the general public regarding asbestos and other deleterious materials.

At **Westminster City Council**, Mr Harris was employed as an asbestos team surveyor. Responsible for drawing up work specifications for the safe removal of asbestos containing materials from Westminster housing stock (either as an environmental hazard or a maintenance access problem), setting up contracts and arranging tenders, liaising with asbestos removal contractors and carrying out on-site supervision during removal.

At **Asbestos Management Ltd**, Mr Harris worked as a Senior Consultant Hygienist responsible for several large contract clients, carrying out detailed surveys of all kinds of buildings for the presence of asbestos, carrying out bulk sampling of suspect materials and the subsequent laboratory analysis. His role also involved the drawing up of detailed specifications for the safe removal of asbestos, arranging and receiving tenders for the removal of asbestos for clients, setting up the removal work and complete site supervision when asbestos removal is undertaken, including all air monitoring and subsequent filter analysis and counting.

Mr Harris also developed his knowledge and was involved with the carrying out of sick building surveys and surveys of water and ventilation systems for the presence of the Legionella bacteria.

At **Wimpey Environmental** Mr Harris was appointed as the Company Health and Safety advisor in addition to his existing consultancy role. Mr Harris reported directly to the company Safety Director and was responsible for advising line management on all safety issues, auditing the company's office and site operations and investigating accidents. Mr Harris was also involved in providing Health & Safety services to outside clients.

Mr Harris was originally appointed at Wimpey Environmental as a Senior Environmental Consultant and was then promoted in 1991 to Principal Environmental Consultant. He was



Airborne Environmental Consultants Ltd

responsible for several large contract clients, and his main duties involved the full range of asbestos consultancy work ranging from surveys and the preparation of detailed work specifications to laboratory analysis and the management of large asbestos projects. As a Principal Consultant, Mr Harris was in charge of all environmental assessment, Legionella and occupational hygiene consultancy. Responsible for the setting up of the Legionella and water microbiology laboratories. He was also extensively involved with the preparation of proofs of evidence for planning applications in respect to dust nuisance for proposed quarries and landfill operations.

Mr Harris joined **RPS Thomson** as Consultancy Manager in charge of a team of environmental scientists and responsible for the administrative, financial and operational management of all environmental projects in the North of the UK including work on air quality, process emission monitoring, asbestos, occupational hygiene, water quality, noise, and environmental assessments and audits.

His work, which was primarily for clients outside of the RPS Group, was for companies such as Powergen, Nirex, British Nuclear fuels, British Coal and many other large industrial companies and local authorities.

Later appointed Operations Director in charge of technical, financial and administrative control of the site consultancy and chemistry laboratory businesses.

Papers & Publications

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| Oct 1980 | "The removal of organic matter from waterborne asbestos samples using an injected ozonation technique". HSE Cricklewood, London. |
| July 1982 | "Hearing loss associated with exposure to high intensity impulse noise" J Moores University, Liverpool. |
| Feb 1991 | "Coping with COSHH - a discussion of the effects of the Control Of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (1989) on the quarrying industry" BACMI Conference, Lancaster. |
| May 1992 | "Asbestos - its uses in Construction" -The Construction Material Reference Book. Butterworth - Heinemann (1992). |
| Aug 1997 | Research Project for HSE: 'Costs and Benefits of imposing a duty to carry out asbestos surveys' - a pre-cursor to changes in the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations. |

Other Information – Expert witness & consultancy

Drafted proofs of evidence for proposed sand quarry in Bathgate, Scotland for Wimpey Minerals. Environmental and nuisance dust impact.

Drafted proof of evidence for proposed Landfill site in Bolton, Lancashire, for Wimpey Waste. Environmental and nuisance dust impact.

Took witness statements, carried out environmental monitoring and prepared experts report for group claim for damages resulting from dust release into private dwellings from major demolition works, Liverpool.



Airborne Environmental Consultants Ltd

Carried out air monitoring and prepared report on damage to a building and cars from metallic dust settlement from a nearby foundry operation, Manchester.

Took witness statement and prepared experts report for a claim of work related pulmonary asbestosis, Stoke on Trent.

Prepared experts report and represented client in negotiations relating to the discovery of significant quantities of asbestos contamination in a large commercial leased property.

Preparation of expert report relating to the risk associated with asbestos ground contamination at an international school site in Uganda.

Prepared expert report relating to historic asbestos contamination of an industrial building and contents resulting from asbestos cement roof replacement.

Mr Harris was involved in the establishment of FAAM [Faculty of asbestos assessment and Management] within BOHS. Was subsequently appointed as board director of the faculty upon its creation.