

PUBLICATION REVIEW

“Releasing Brownfields”

Author *Paul Syms*

Professor of Urban Land use in the Centre for the
Built Environment, Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom

This publication, produced by the RICS foundation, considers the redevelopment of ‘Brownfield’ sites. These are considered to occur when land has been previously used, and has not been returned to a pristine state. Accordingly, the land must first be upgraded to a suitable standard before redevelopment can occur. The prior usage may have left the land with partially demolished structures or with some form of contamination.

The publication has emerged as a result of a two year study conducted by Professor Syms in the UK, and is a response to a political initiative intended to address the question of the physical regeneration of ageing cities.

Whilst much of this study is specific to the UK, and treats the encountered problems within that cultural perspective, there is much that may be useful to the Australian practitioner. Twenty case examples would be of use and interest to any who would be involved with such a problem and chapters on risk assessment, Environmental concerns, the local community’s concerns, transport and valuing brownfield land will strike a chord with developers and local authorities.

A considerable amount of information concerning the problem of brownfield development in the UK has been gathered together, and a survey of 230 practitioners has produced a useful database, even although the statistical analysis used in the research is somewhat questionable at

times (e.g. rank ordering based on 3 decimal precision from a five point answer scale, and no confidence bounds).

The publication was produced in April 2001, and is 80 pages long.

A.P.Jeary DSc., PhD, FAIB, FStructE,
FCIOB, MIEE, MAIBS