

# Joint Northern Forum Sunderland, 6 July 2012

People, Prosperity, Place:

A Perspective on Brownfield Residential Development

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# Topics

- Sustainability and Sustainable Land Use
- Emerging Themes: *Meeting the Needs of the Present.....Without Compromising Future Needs* (Socio-economics vs socio-environmental?)
- Taylor Wimpey: Sustainability Examples
- Conclusions

# Sustainability and Sustainable Land Use

# One Planet Under Pressure

- Climate Change
- Biodiversity Loss
- Deforestation
- Ecological Footprint
- Population Growth
- Growing Middle Class
- Resource Scarcity
- Land Scarcity
- Food, water and energy Security
- Fisheries collapse

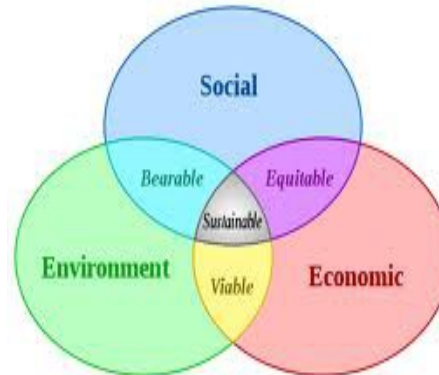


# Anthropocene



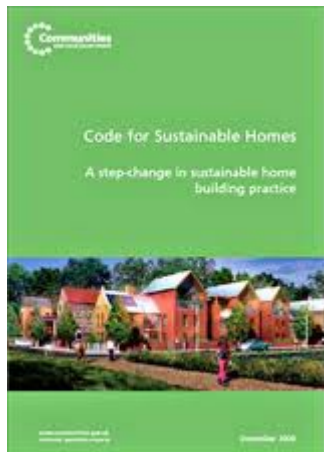
# Sustainability Definitions

- Bruntland - *meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*
- Triple bottom line
- UK Sustainable Development Strategy *Securing the Future* – 5 principles
- Sustainability vs Sustainable Development



# Sustainable Land Based Activities

- Homes (Eco-Homes, Code for Sustainable Homes)
- Other Buildings (BREEAM, LEED)
- Civil Engineering (CEEQUAL)
- Remediation (UK SuRF, US SuRF, NICOLE)



# National Planning Policy Framework

- *‘The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development’.*
- Presumption for Sustainable Development
- Allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value
- Reusing land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value





# Meeting the Needs of the Present

# Housing Shortage

- 2010 saw just 103,000 homes built in England, the fewest since 1923
- Official household formation projections show we should be building at least 232,000 per year
- In 2010 there were just 200,000 first time buyers, compared to 600,000 a decade ago, due to the lack of available housing and credit constraints.
- 18% of women and 29% of men aged 20-34 still live with parents (1 million women and 1.7 million men)
- 1.8 million families (5 million people) are currently on Local Authority waiting lists in England



# House Building and the UK Economy

- House building inputs significantly to the UK economy and is one of the country's leading employers
- According to Government figures, even in its current reduced state, housing supply accounts for around 3% of UK GDP and provides between 1 and 1.25 million jobs in the UK
- Each home built creates 1.5 direct full-time jobs and many more in the supply chain.
- Increasing current house-building to Government household projection levels (additional 130,000 units per year) would create 195,000 direct jobs and hundreds of thousands more in the supply chain



# And so.....

- We need to meet the needs of the present e.g. growth, homes
- This must be done in a way that does not compromise the needs of future generations
- Land use, including brownfield, is central to balancing our social, environmental and economic priorities



... Without Compromising Future Needs:  
Emerging Themes

# Emerging Themes ‘Principles’

- Sustainable land use must take into account Brundtland / triple bottom line thinking
  - Economic – Viability, jobs, industry etc
  - Environmental – Ecological limits, resource efficiency, climate change, biodiversity etc
  - Social – social capital, community cohesion, culture, participation, empowerment etc
  - Intergenerational Equity
- The initial allocation of a piece of land through planning is fundamental in setting its use change / development along the most appropriate path.

# Emerging Themes ‘Measurement and Indicators’

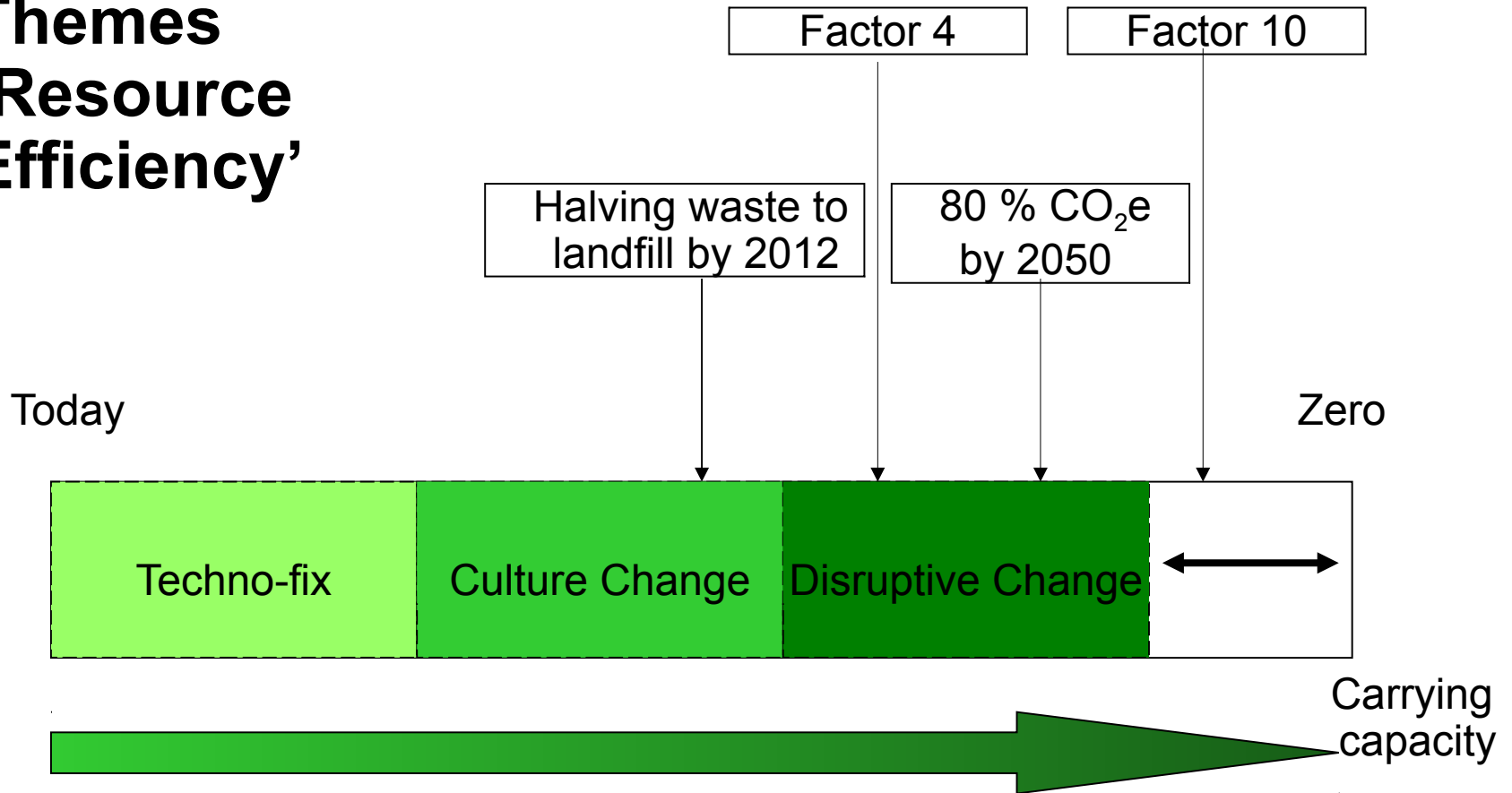
- SEE factors need to be measured by indicators across the land use cycle including:
  - existing uses;
  - intervention (development); and
  - in use.
- The benefits of the land use change must be greater than the impacts, and impacts must be within acceptable limits
- That development generally leads to socio-economic benefits (e.g. jobs, local economies, supply chains, infrastructure provision, homes) but environmental dis-benefits (e.g. land take, soil sealing, ecosystem services, carbon, waste, water).

# Emerging Themes ‘Scale and Context’

- That Sustainable Land Use must be considered at all appropriate scales - national, regional, local authority, neighbourhood and site—and within appropriate social, economic and environmental contexts.
- A greater understanding of how priorities at each scale translate into actions at each scale e.g.
  - national priorities translate to individual development decisions on individual sites is required.
  - how local priorities influence national policy



# Emerging Themes 'Resource Efficiency'



Massive Resource Efficiency Gains Needed

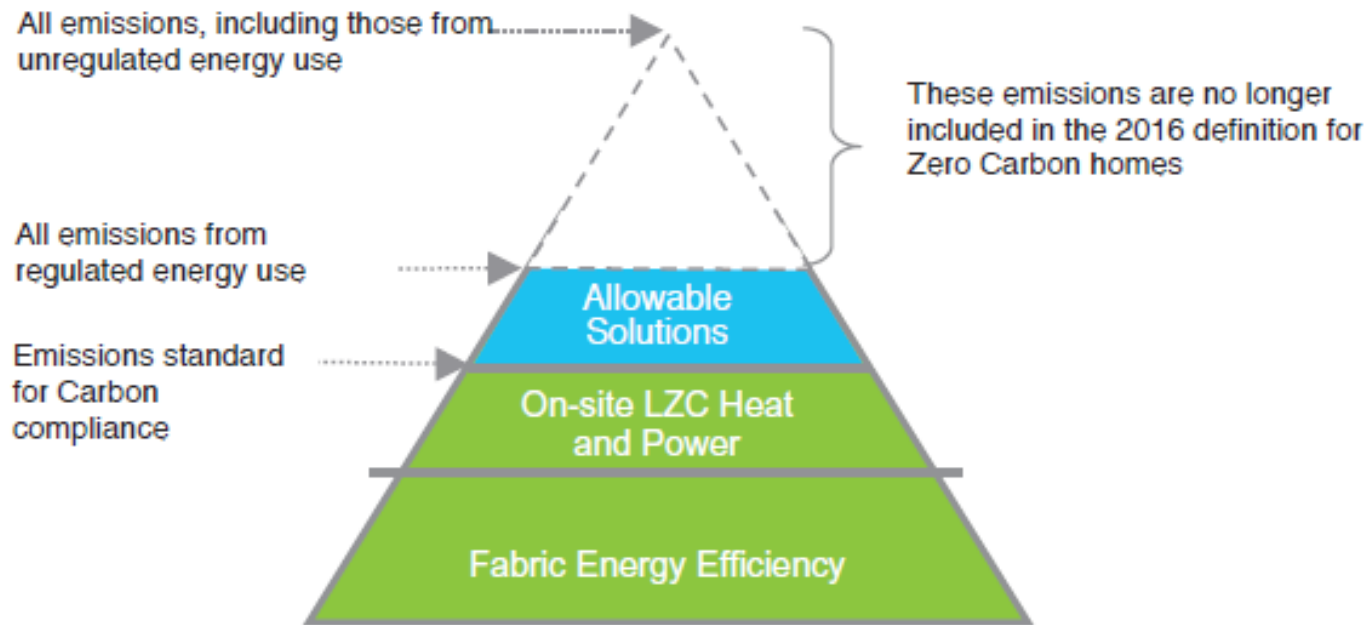
# Emerging Themes 'People'

- Stakeholder consultation is integral – but that different stakeholder groups may inherently disagree as to what is sustainable (e.g. commercial vs socio-environmental, national needs vs local interest) - and that there is not necessarily a correct answer.
- Sustainable development is not a technical equation with a predictable outcome divorced from stakeholder views
- It is not enough to measure and map the costs and benefits – it is equally important to understand upon whom the costs fall and who reaps the benefits.
- Localism is the theme of the coalition government – divestment of power to the most local level possible
- There are potential tensions between 'localism' (locals decide) and the NPPF presumption (development must proceed provided it is sustainable)

# **Some Pointers: Environmental Sustainability**

# Neutrality

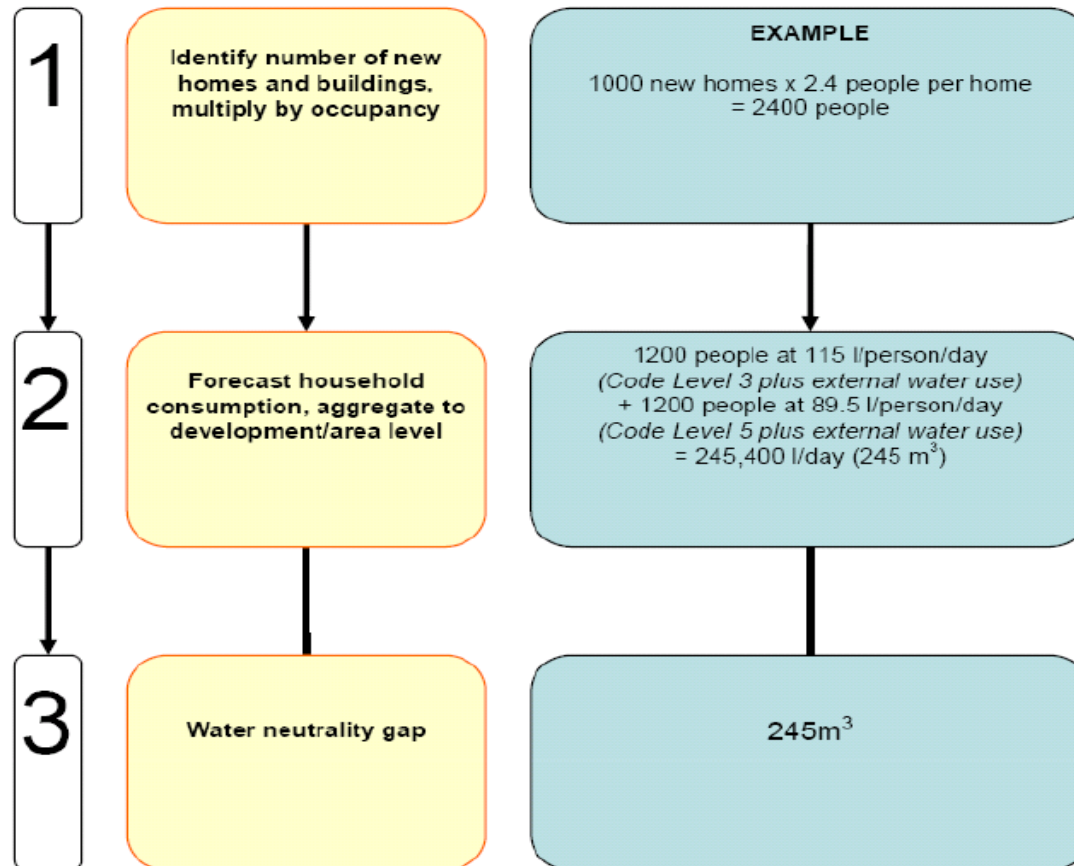
# Carbon Neutrality 2016



Source: Allowable Solutions Towards Tomorrows  
New Homes – Zero Carbon Hub

# Water Neutrality

Figure 1: Calculating the water neutrality gap



Source: Water neutrality advice note

EA (Sep 2009)

# Biodiversity Offsetting

- Biodiversity offsetting is a process by which conservation activities designed to deliver biodiversity benefits in compensation for losses are delivered
- Distinguished from other forms of ecological compensation by the formal requirement for measurable outcomes
- Developers who need to provide compensation for biodiversity loss under planning policy can do so through offsetting
- A developer employs a standardised formula to calculate the number of “biodiversity units” to be lost as a result of their development, based on the habitat(s) affected, and its condition and extent.
- The developer then provides an offset (either themselves or through a third party offset provider) to deliver an equivalent number of biodiversity units on land elsewhere.

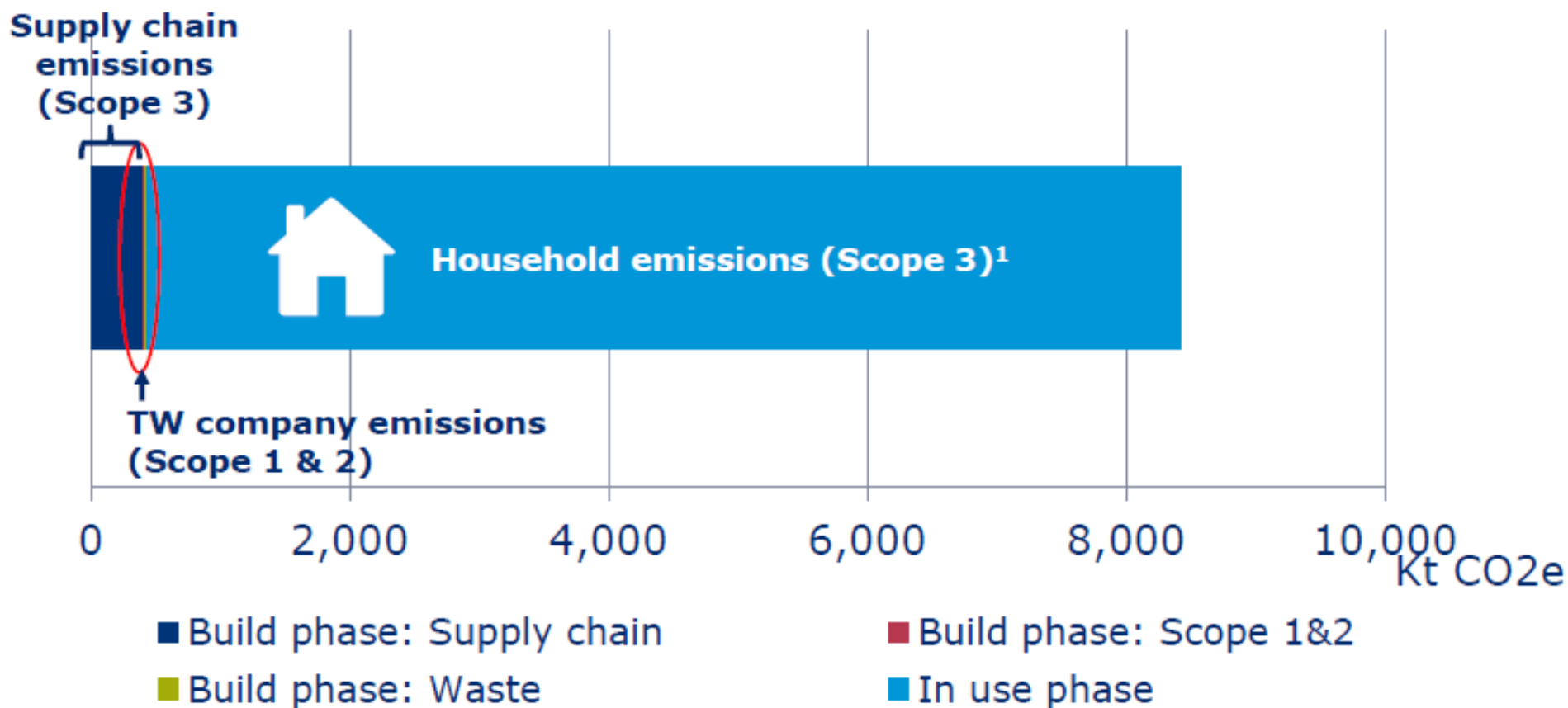


# Resource Efficiency Across the Build Cycle



**From a 'lifecycle' perspective, the carbon emissions of TW homes is almost 20 times higher than that of building them**

**Taylor Wimpey lifecycle emissions for build and use phase**



(1) Assumes 10,000 3-bed units built, with a 100 year lifetime

Source: Carbon Trust Advisory analysis, Taylor Wimpey, Small World Consulting

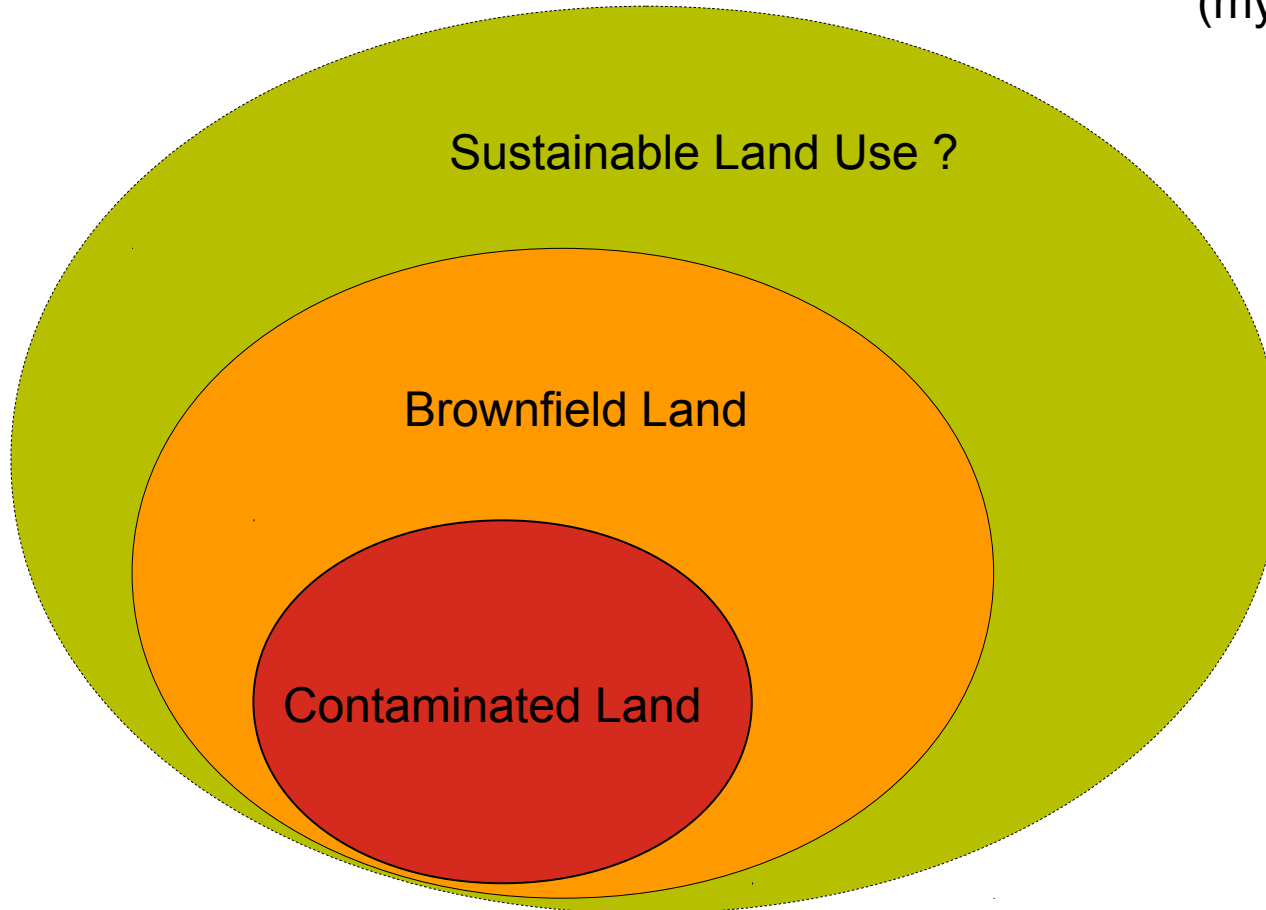
# Sustainable Land Use VS Brownfield First

# 'Sustainable Land Use vs Brownfield First'

- Sustainable land use necessitates using the best piece of land (brown or green) for the appropriate use taking all reasonable factors into account.
- This means brownfield and contamination become factors in deciding whether a piece of land is appropriate, and should not necessarily be an over-riding reason for site selection.
- Factors why brownfield might NOT be best in some circumstances:
  - Biodiversity
  - Inner city recreation
  - Cost benefit
  - The paucity of some greenfield

# Evolution of Land Management

(my own thoughts)



# Zero Agendas

# The difficulty with 'Zeros'

- Zero Carbon
- Zero Waste
- Zero Brownfield



# **Some Pointers: Social Sustainability**

# Land Trust: True Cost of Brownfield



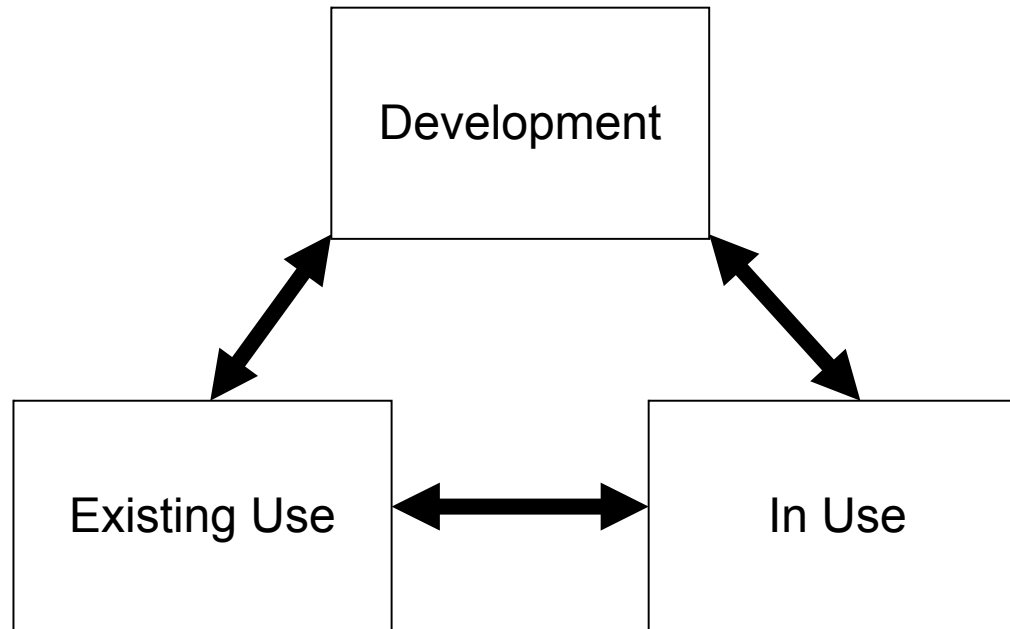
- Restoration of brownfield land has traditionally focussed on the balance between the physical costs of remediation and the direct economic returns that restoration will bring.
- There is already a strong body of evidence to show how derelict and disturbed land can create a whole range of “social ills” in terms of mental and physical health, and reduced opportunity and well being.
- However the actual costs of these impacts to society tend not to be fully understood (or at least addressed)
- The true costs of leaving derelict land un-restored should be closer to the heart of funding and remediation decisions.
- Based on this thinking, targeted funding can facilitate a whole range of social, economic and environmental gains - not only chemical remediation.

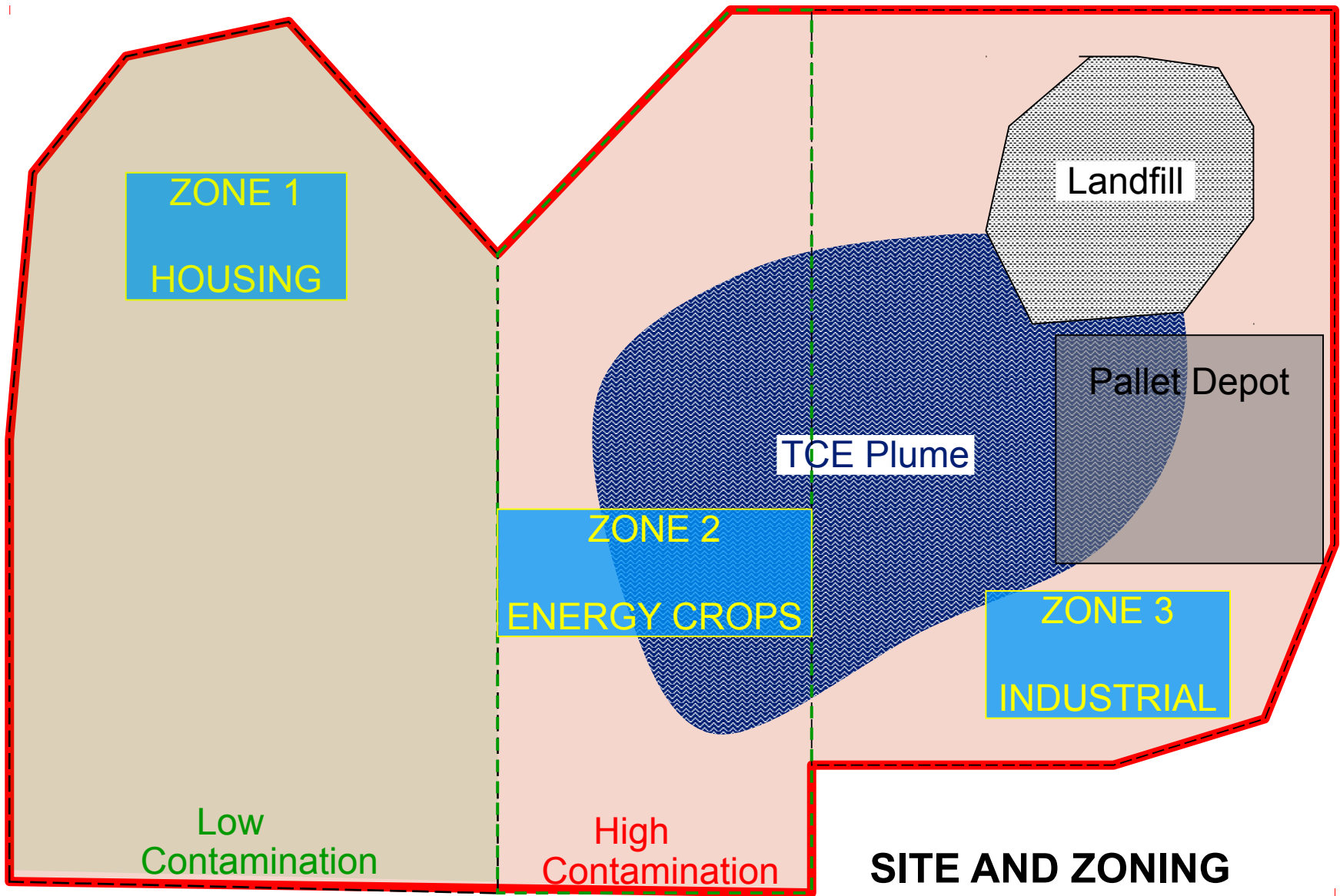


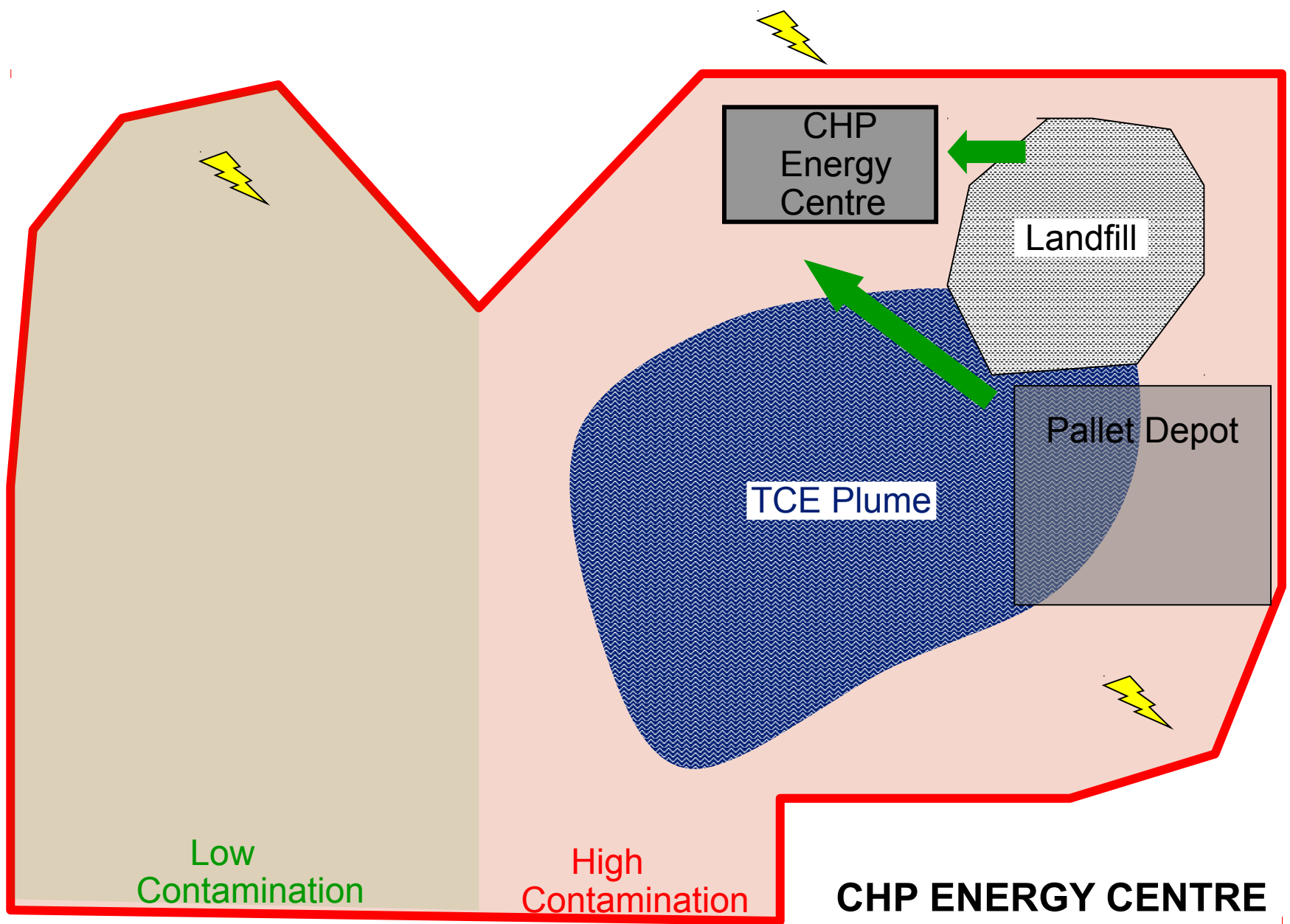
# Integration:

*Making the most of the site, the development process and the end use (a contrived example!)*

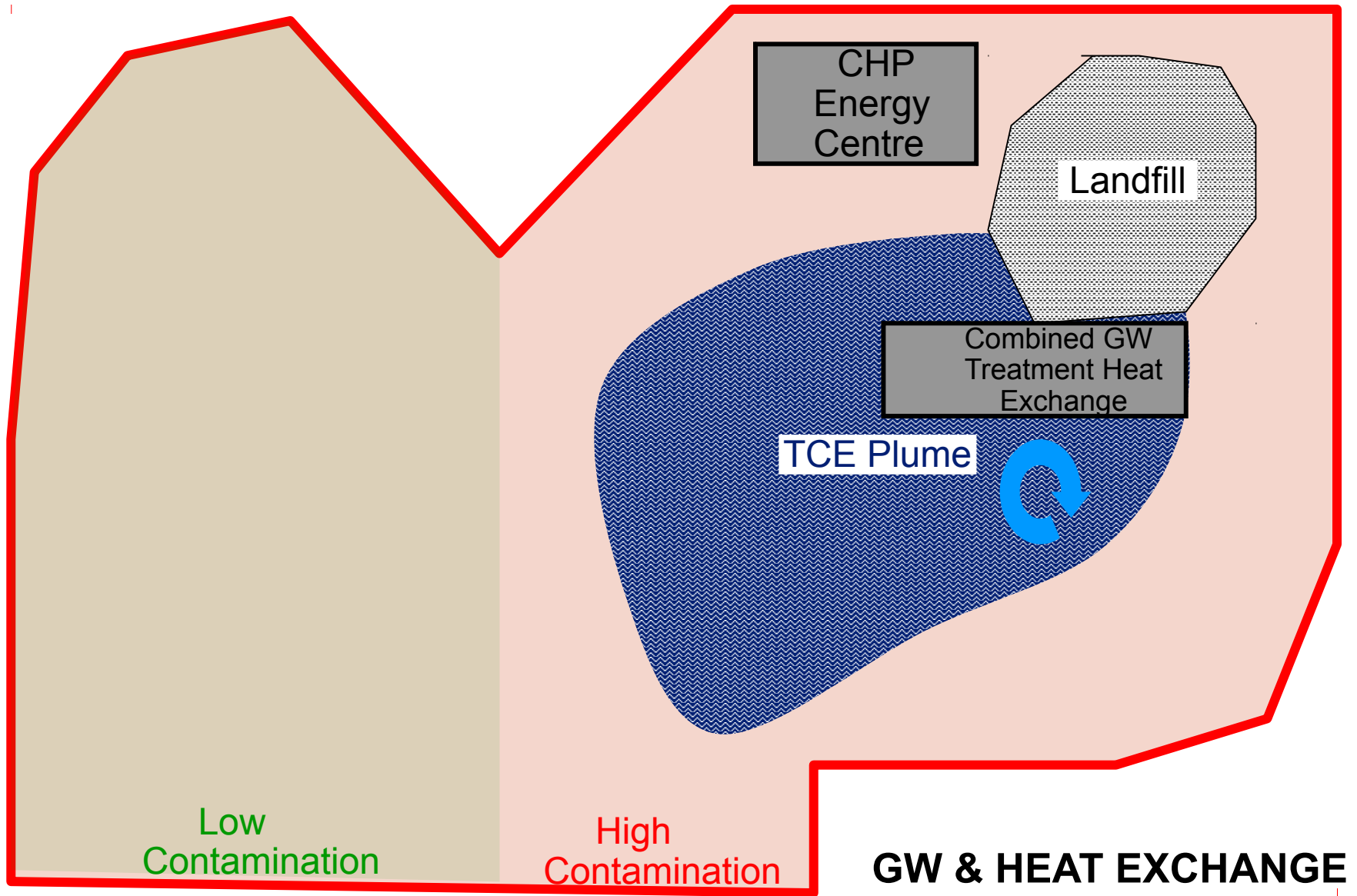
# Added Value through Integrated Sustainability



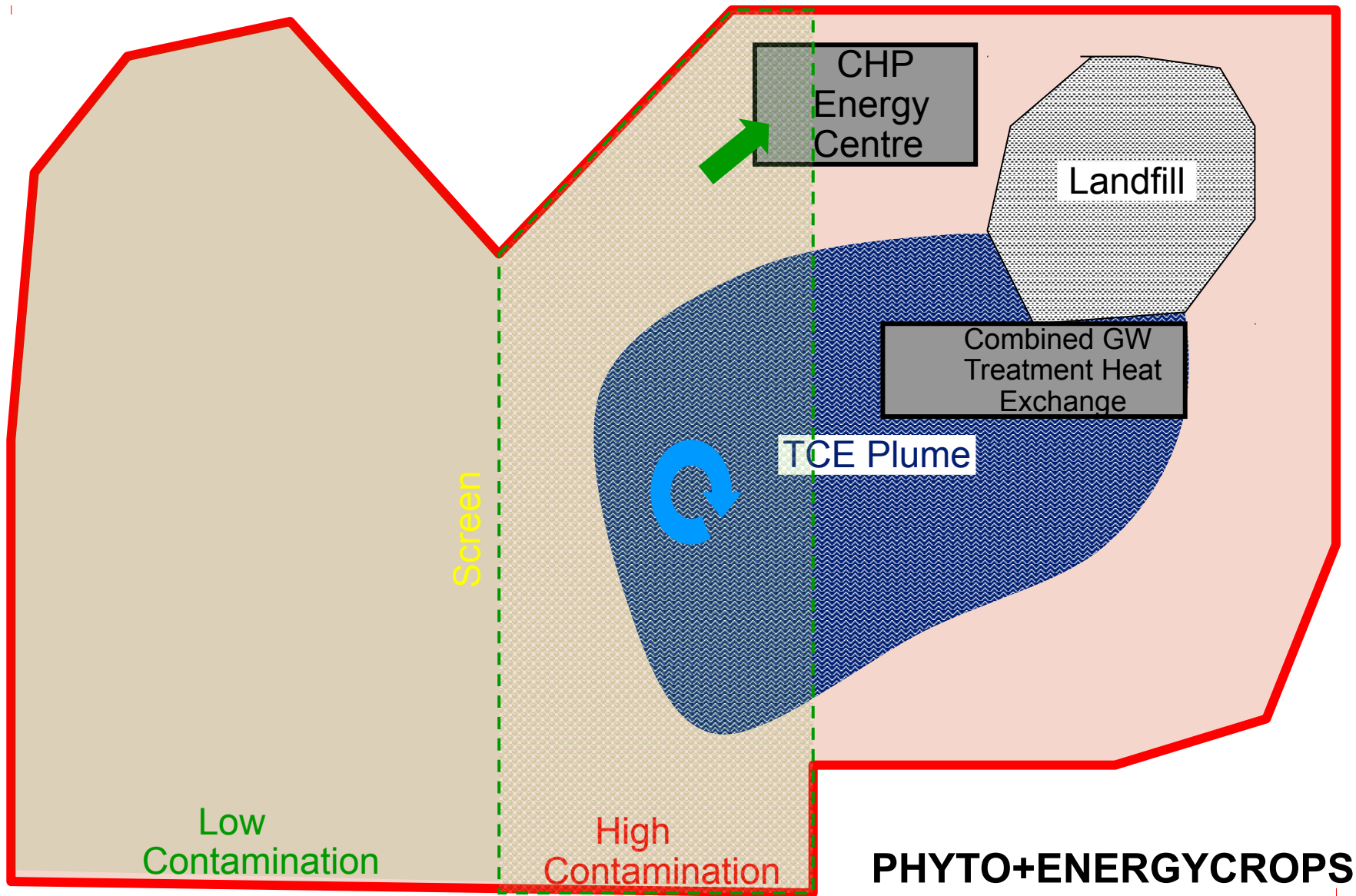




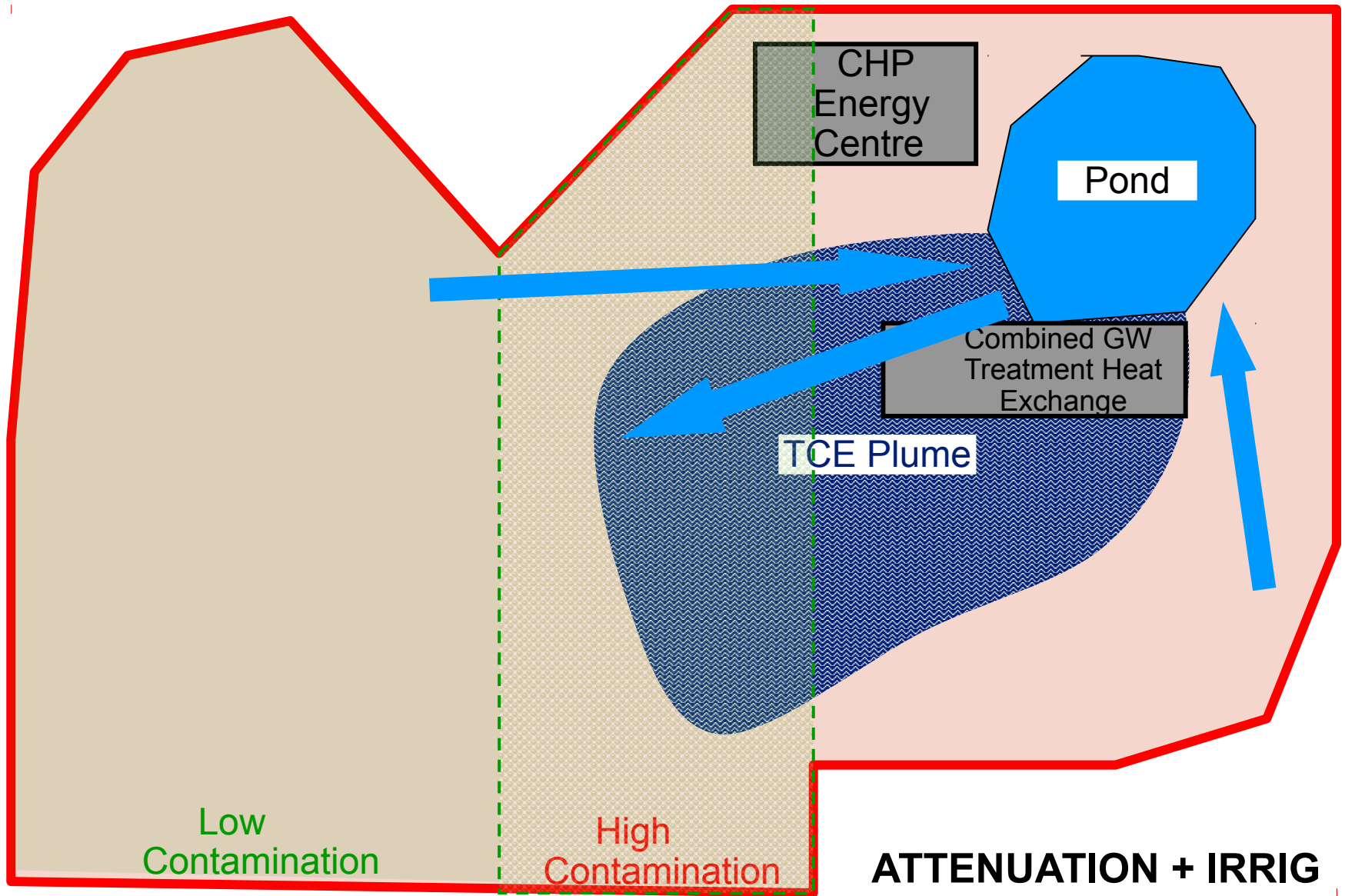
**CHP ENERGY CENTRE**

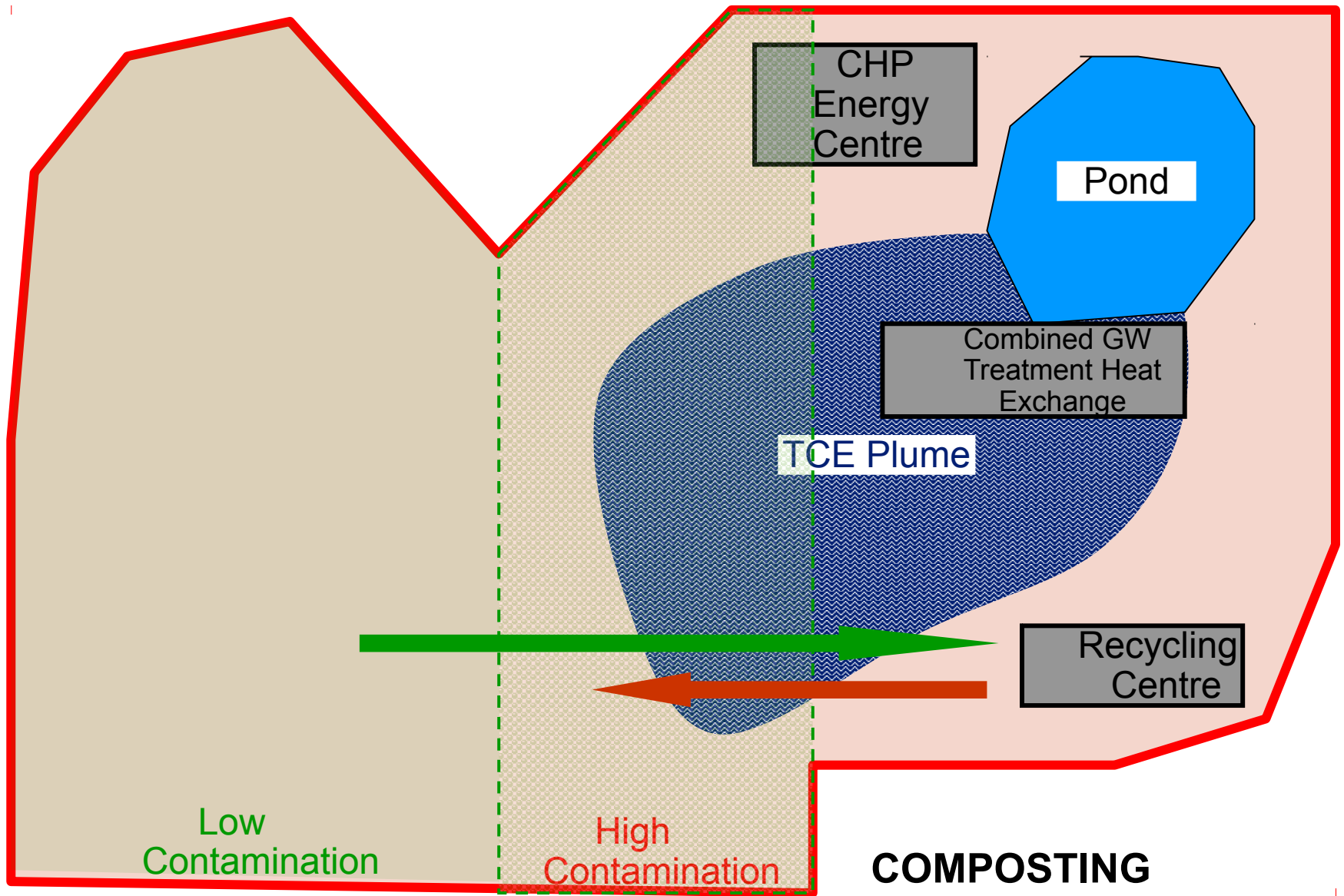


## GW & HEAT EXCHANGE

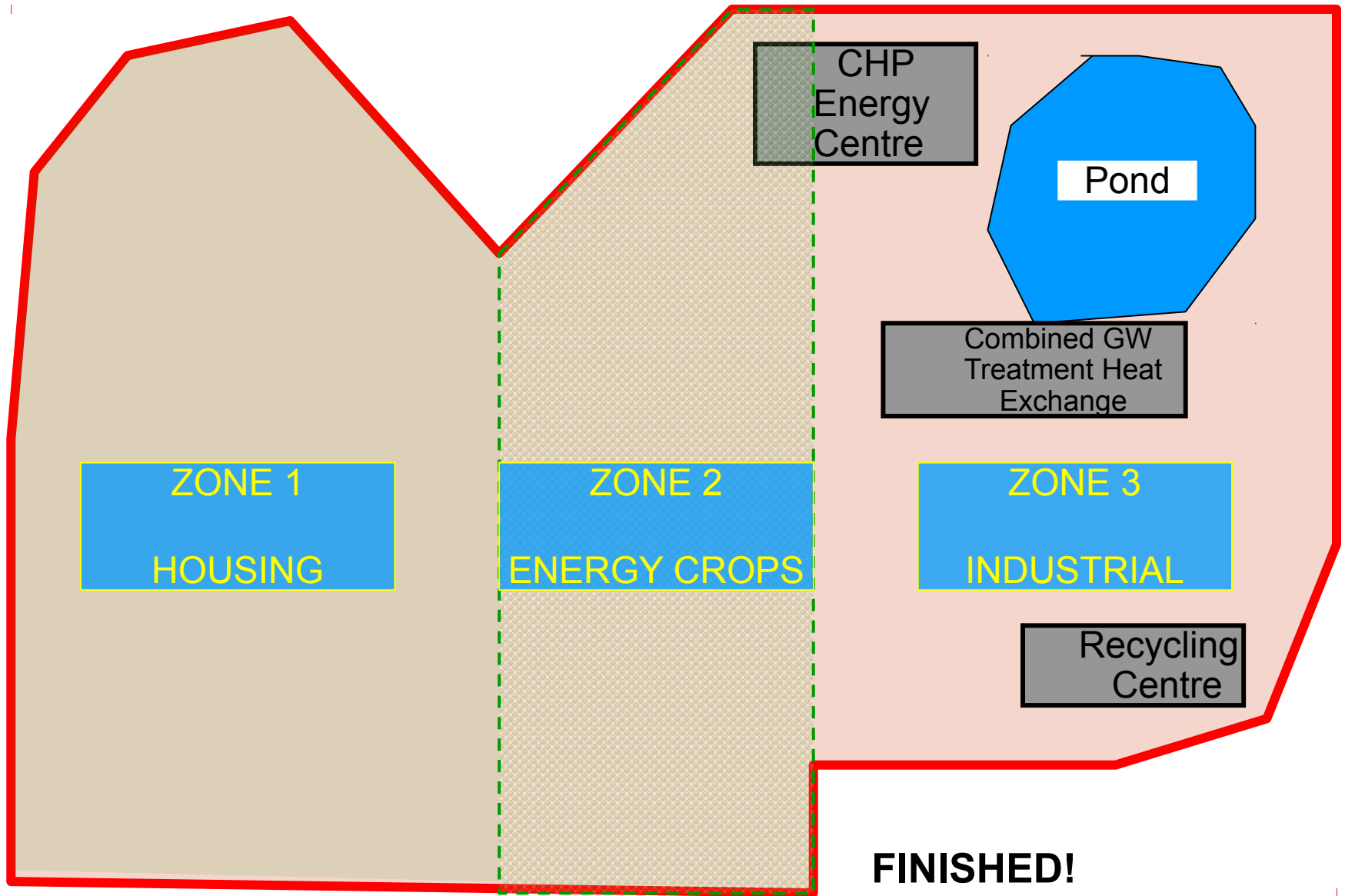


## PHYTO+ENERGYCROPS









# Some things we are doing: Taylor Wimpey Examples

# Community Led Planning

- Research and Reconnaissance
- Identification of the Community and stakeholders
- Prepare constraints plan (what can and cant change)
- Select Consultation method
- Evaluation of Responses
- Response to the Community
- Preparation of Consultation Statement (in planning application)

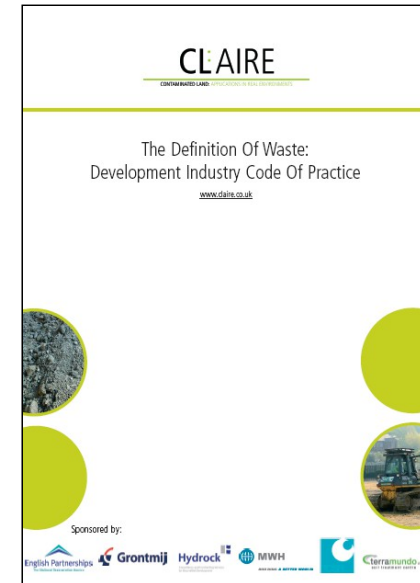


# Energy and Carbon

- Carbon Footprint
- CRC
- CDP
- Energy and Carbon Strategy
- Estate Review
- Supply Chain Review



# ReUSE





# Landfill Mining



# Conclusions

# Conclusions – the ‘Big Picture’ Challenge

- There is a formidable array of inter-connected environmental and sustainability challenges confronting us which need long term solutions
- We are generally failing to confront these (e.g. Rio+20)
- There are also acute short term pressures to promote economic growth and social welfare including housing
- Land, including brownfield land, are at the heart of many of these challenges



# Conclusions – Emerging Themes for a Conceptual Framework

- Sustainable land use is part of sustainable development and must take into account Brundtland / triple bottom line thinking
- Planning / land use allocation is central to sustainability
- We need much better ways to measure and understand the SEE consequences of our actions, at all scales and contexts
- Massive Resource Efficiency gains are needed but be wary of zero agendas
- Stakeholder consultation is integral - Sustainable development is not a technical equation with a predictable outcome divorced from stakeholder views

# Conclusions – Some ‘Development Level’ Pointers

- Neutrality i.e. no net loss of water, carbon, biodiversity will become increasingly important through planning
- Resource Efficiency is best considered on a life cycle basis
- Sustainable land use necessitates using the best piece of land (brown or green) for the appropriate use taking all reasonable factors into account
- The true socio-economic costs of leaving derelict land un-restored should be closer to the heart of funding and remediation decisions
- Join up the thinking: better integration of site opportunities, development processes and end uses

Thank you

