

RADON IN JERSEY HOMES

MARTIN WALTON originally trained as a Biology teacher, and in that capacity, served some time in Zambia.

He re-trained in Environmental Health at Cardiff and returned to his native island of Jersey in 1978. He recently qualified as a scuba diver and would be interested to hear of local opportunities. His main interest at work is in pollution which led to him initiating radon testing in Jersey homes in 1987.

SUMMARY The initial survey was carried out in 1987/88 when 3 houses out of the 30 tested were above the 200 bcq/m³ Action Level.

It was noticed that there appeared to be a correlation of higher levels with the granite 'shoulders' of the Island and a diorite boundary in the South East. This was confirmed in a second selective survey when 36% of tested houses were above the Action Level.

On present results, about 12% of Jersey homes are above the action level of 200 bcq/m³. The high results correlating well with granite and diorite features of Island geology.

Difficulties in delineating areas of high risk for new buildings are discussed and actions considered for the future.

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