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**From:** ['Mike Taylor'](#) ;

**To:** [Axtell, Beth](#)

**Cc:** [Connolly, Niall](#) ; [Glenda Egerton](#)

**Sent:** Monday, January 28, 2013 1:33 PM

**Subject:** RE: Isles Quarry (again) TM/11/01191

To : Beth Axtell, Environment Agency

Dear Beth,

Further to our conversations about Isles Quarry. From the Scott Wilson Geotech report and your own submission to this application, I have developed a growing unease about the dangers of the instability of the banks of the Bourne Valley, and that even the engineering works attempting to achieve stability could trigger a collapse.

My concerns about the collapse centred on the environmental damage downstream and into the Medway, but it suddenly occurred to me that there might even be a more serious consequences. If a collapse does occur that blocks the Bourne, it will be virtually impossible without really major earthworks, to ever open the valley again. The combination of the very steep and high banks, with the valley closed at the downstream end by the high bank carrying the internal haul road, means getting equipment in would be impossible, and even if achieved, the danger to operators working at the bottom of the valley would be unacceptable.

What I had completely forgotten about was that the Bourne at this point is a flood relief for Ightham via the Busty. We know from the 60s flooding of Basted Mill that extreme weather events can trigger an enormous volume of water down the valley. In the 60s the flooding of the Basted Lake and Odhams factory started in late evening, and I have pictures of the water still flowing through the site next day, where it had caused significant damage to many buildings. If the Bourne valley gets blocked, that water has nowhere to go, it could stay in Ightham, and Borough Green Rd from Darkhill to the Square are low lying and flat.

I am also concerned about the proposed demolition of the skip factory and its associated hard standing. This is a considerable area of concrete, and the ground underneath has not seen rain since the 1960s. Once weather gets into that ground, limestone fines and contamination will be washed into the Bourne, and the increase of hydrostatic pressure within the banks of the valley could lead to new breakouts and further collapse.

I would appreciate your thoughts,

Rgds

Mike Taylor

Chairman, BGPC

