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**BOROUGH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**RESPONSE TO TM/11/01191/RD Remediation condition 7**  
**Crest Nicholson Isles Quarry 171 houses**

**September 12, 2013**

Borough Green accepts the much more limited housing at Isles Quarry, and will be talking to both the developer and the Council regarding contributions to the village and our heritage. As the development moves forward, we have an allied duty with the Borough Council to ensure that the housing is safe for our new residents, and for the health of existing residents

The bundle submitted for BGPC's information is the most appalling planning submission I have ever seen, it is a 2 inch pile of loose sheets, and not the sort of submission expected for a development of this importance.

We still have serious reservations about the remediation plan, and the fact that the consultants seem to have a limited grasp of the ground and conditions they are dealing with. They have been given information about the history of the site that is at odds with local knowledge and easily available evidence.

There is a real danger of contamination of the extraction aquifer and local watercourses, aggravated by the need to pile through contaminated ground under the badly mistaken assumption that it is largely 70-80s inert material.

Nobody alive today can bear witness to what happened at Isles, but we have evidence that points in almost exactly the opposite direction to that the consultants assume.

**Water Pollution**

URS Dismiss the possibility that groundwater intruded into the landfill site. We have strong evidence that both the filler plant lagoon, and the rifle range did contain substantial quantities of water. We do not know whether this was the natural water table, and it could well be possible that many recent dry years, and excessive extraction, have lowered the water table, but the pathway still exists. They also presume that any groundwater they reached was "perched" and not deemed to be connected.

They note "cannot be determined if the principle aquifer is in hydraulic connectivity with the Bourne". In view of their own reports that the ground is granular, it seems very likely that connectivity exists between the aquifer, the Bourne, groundwater and any other underground water. Piling will provide a direct pathway from pockets of identified contamination in the landfill into that connected water, and there is a high risk that it will reach the Principle Aquifer from which our local drinking water is extracted a scant kilometre away.

I append a newspaper report from 1950 about the Ashby lad who was drowned in the lagoon: proof that the water table intruded into the quarry void, and subsequently the landfill. I have an eye witness to the event, and "F Bowman" pictured in the report still lives in the village, and has supplied a transcript of a Kent Messenger report of the same incident.



# BOROUGH GREEN BOY DROWNED IN QUARRY

## Man's gallant attempt at rescue

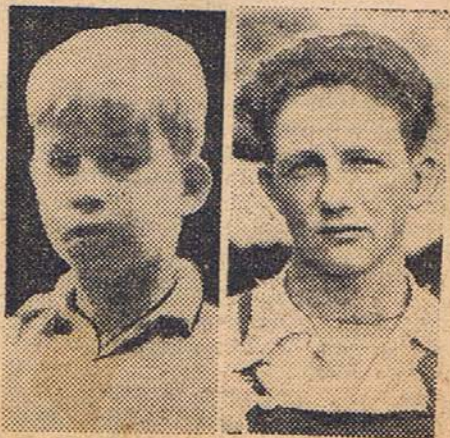
A VERDICT of "Accidental death" was recorded at Wednesday's inquest at Borough Green on nine-years-old Arthur John Ashby, 5, Chapel Street, Sevenoaks Road, Borough Green, who was drowned while playing in a quarry, owned by the Bristol Quarrying Company, on Monday afternoon.

Dr. N. H. Bolton, of Wrotham, said that death was due to drowning. There were no external injuries.

The boy's friend, eight-years-old Donald Harris, of Borough Green, told the coroner, Mr. J. H. Seady: "We were playing in the quarry. I was at the top and Arthur was at the bottom near the water. He was throwing stones at pieces of wood which were floating about. He got a piece of wood, pushed it into the water with his foot and fell in. He stayed on top of the water for a bit and then disappeared."

Mr. Cecil Cant, 10, Church Road, Ightham, said that he was working on the south side of the quarry, when he saw two boys playing near the water-hole.

"They were throwing stones at something in the water. I shouted at them and told them to get out.



A. J. ASHBY.

F. BOWMAN.

last tip, I saw one of the boys going up the bank on the opposite side of the quarry. I couldn't see the other boy."

### DIVED TO RESCUE

Working on top of the quarry was Mr. Edward Dobson, Quarry Hill Bungalows, Borough Green, who told the coroner that as he was leaving for home, he saw the boy Harris climb over the top of the quarry.

"He told me that there was a boy in the water and that he was drowned. I looked down into the water-hole, but could not see the boy."

Mr. Dobson added that Harris pointed out where Ashby had fallen in and Mr. Frederick Bowman, of Dark Hill Cottages, Borough Green, dived into the water to see whether he could save the boy.

When Ashby had been taken from the water, Mr. Dobson said that he applied artificial respiration. "I felt his pulse soon after and there was a faint sign of life."

### WARNING NOTICES

P.-Sgt. Pettitt, of Borough Green, said that when he arrived at the quarry 15 minutes after the boy had been taken from the water, he could not detect any signs of life, although artificial respiration was continued until the arrival of Dr. N. H. Bolton, who said the boy was dead.

The police sergeant added that he had tested the depth of the water on Tuesday and found it to be 4ft. 6in. deep at the sloping side of the quarry where the boy had fallen in.

There were warning notices in various parts of the quarry and it was common knowledge among the boys in the Borough Green area that they should not be there.

The boy's widowed mother, Mrs. Lillian Ashby, said that her son could not swim.

Recording his verdict, the Coroner said: "This was a very unfortunate accident. These boys will go to the quarry and no-one is to blame. I can only add that this happening will be an incentive to the children of Borough Green to keep away from the pool."

Representing the owners of the quarry, Messrs. Bristol Quarrying Company, Mr. G. Dulland said that the company wished to express their sympathy with the boy's mother.

### Surface Water

They are now proposing that surface drainage water(52%), except residential (48%), is tanked and then introduced to the public sewers. BGPC had concerns about the inadequacy of the local sewage infrastructure when the proposal was just foul sewage

from 171 houses, there was no mention in the past of diverting surface water in these volumes as well. The planned pathways used to divert residential runoff into the Bourne need careful monitoring to ensure this does not undermine the fragile steep banks.

### **Soil Contamination**

The Soil investigation attempt to make the case that the landfill is only inert quarry waste, despite evidence in earlier reports of PAH, clinker, etc etc, and now deny the existence of putrescence. The report then contradicts itself by noting that there are still exceedences of CO2 and Methane levels. These gases are direct evidence of landfill putrescence, 50 years after that landfill was capped, and long after any minor traces should have leached away: it is clear that landfill gas is still being generated.

### **High Level Platform and Tarmac Plant**

We note that there still has been no investigation of this ground that was subjected to decades of contamination by oil/diesel/tar/creosote because of the material heaps excavated from the Hornet Access Road and fly-tipped strategically by Hanson. The reports just talk of lowering levels and removing. We believe this operation will need careful monitoring, and fresh sampling of the buried materials.

### **Skip Factory Site**

We see no evidence of investigation by the consultants into the effect of rainwater entering ground that has been dry since the 60s under the ship factory hardstanding. Water penetration here could find a pathway to the adjacent loose banks of the Bourne, and there is a conceivable risk of a catastrophic collapse, blocking the Ightham flood relief path

### **Landfill dates:**

The report baldly states that landfill occurred intermittently between 1974 and 1992, but these dates are completely at odds with the evidence. The Vehicle Workshops, now known as the skip factory, was built as a factory for Fluostatic in the 60s, on top of the landfill that they say was not even commenced until 1972.

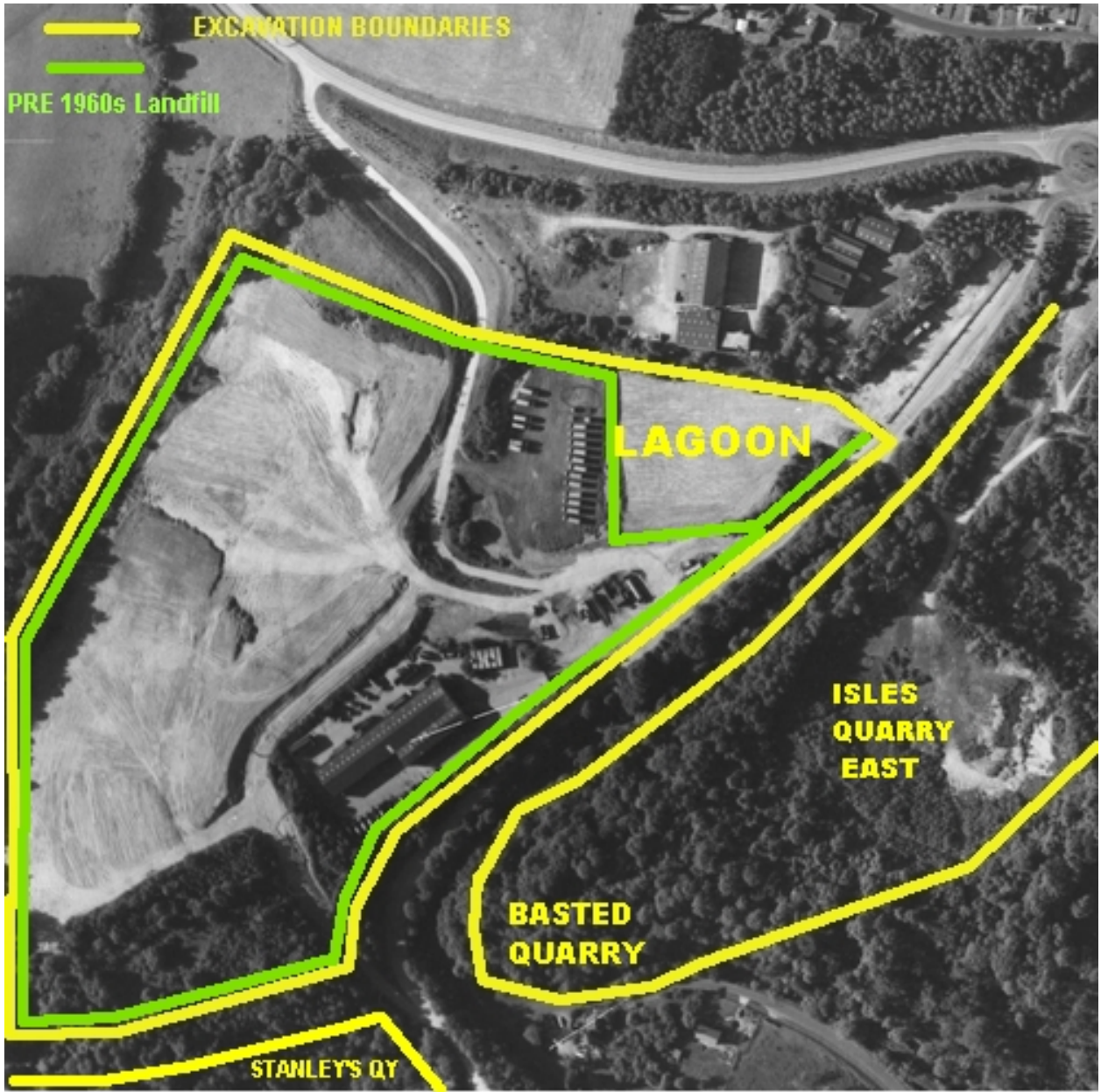
The area of land to the north, the main residential area, was also filled at the same time in the 60s, save the filler plant lagoon. This open area, particularly to the west, was filled with bunded settlement lagoons taking slurry from the Stangate operation. The filler plant lagoon, and the rifle range were backfilled sometime around 1987 with hassock, quarry waste, as evidenced by the 1988 aerial photo showing the fresh patch just to the right of the truck park in the centre.

We have inserted the excavation boundaries, and the extent of the pre-60s landfill, and this assessment fits well with the photo of Isles Quarry taken in 1921 looking north east towards the crushing plant and Borough Green, and the 1938 map also showing Isles Quarry.

Below that again is a less cluttered version of the 1988 aerial photo.

It is also worthy of note that the ground levels shown across what is now known as the Main Housing Area, was virtually level right across the site towards the west, whereas now it rises sharply to the west. It is clear that new material has been introduced since 1988 : where did it come from?

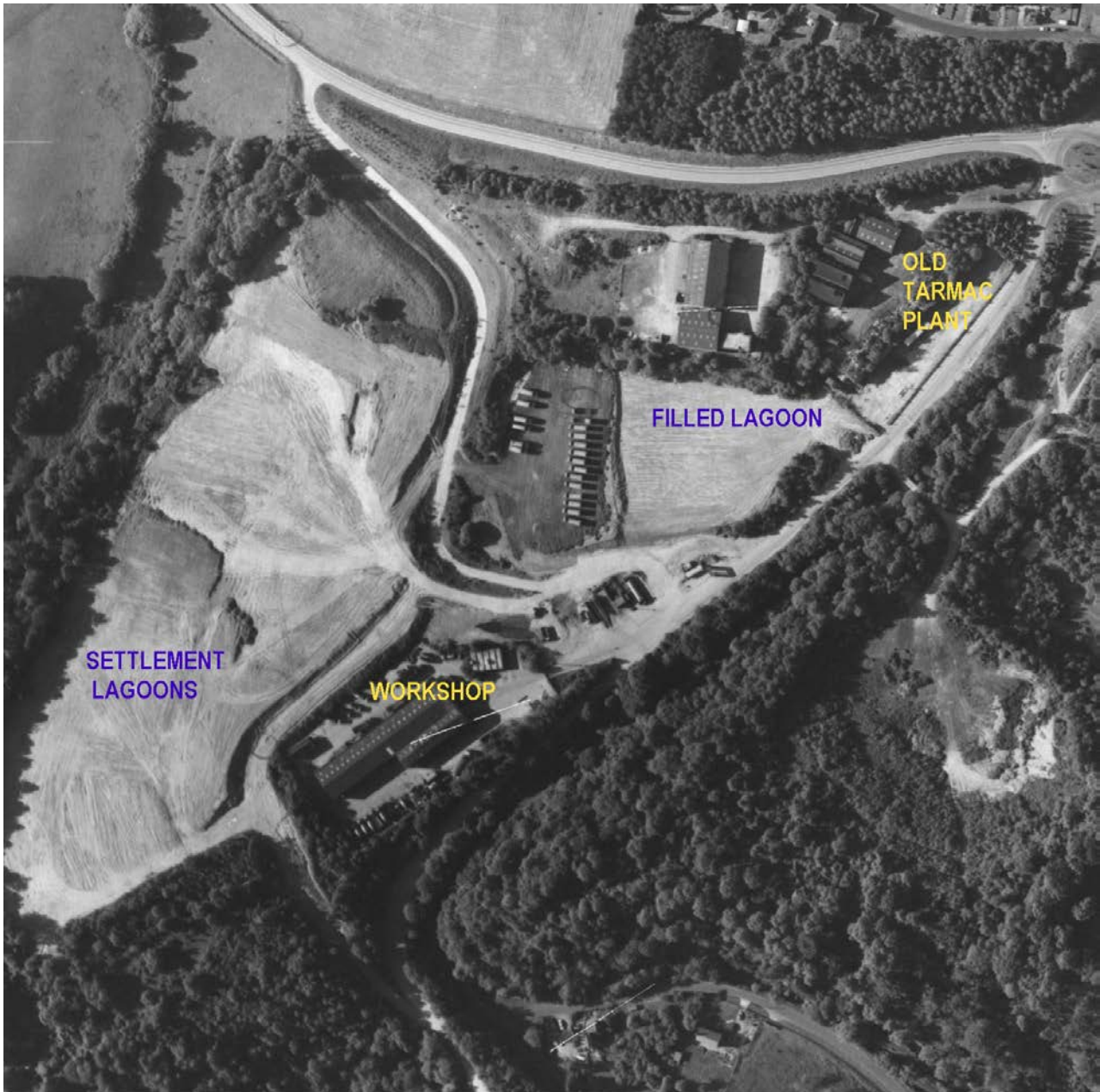












Yours Sincerely

Mike Taylor  
Chairman, Borough Green Parish Council