Investigation on the site of the former Walton Gas Works
Resident and Landowner Autumn Update

The investigation work which started on 1 November was completed on Friday 17 November 2017. Thank you to everyone for your understanding during both the preparation for this work and the onsite investigation. In particular we would like to thank the residents who provided locations for the investigation on their property; this has enabled the successful collection of samples and the installation of monitoring points across the investigation area.

The next stage of our investigation involves weekly sampling of the monitoring wells and you will see a small team from Geotechnical Engineering Ltd back regularly over the next six to eight weeks to do this. (Further information below)

The soil samples are undergoing various tests to determine whether ground contamination is or is not present. Water and ground gas samples taken during the monitoring events over the next few weeks will also be sent for testing.

Following this analysis, there will be a rigorous evaluation of the data, ensuring that the conclusions reached with regards to ground conditions are robust, appropriate and reasonable. It is possible that further onsite data collection may be required to reach a definitive conclusion.

BuroHappold have informed us that the final report of the findings is currently expected early next summer and we will inform residents of progress with this at the earliest opportunity. We appreciate that this seems a long time to wait, but it is crucial that the conclusions reached can be relied upon and based on robust, scientific reasoning and assessment.

Thank you for your continued support, if you have any further questions please contact us through the online form on the webpage – elmbridge.gov.uk/gasworks or on 01372 474752.

Environmental Services Team, Elmbridge Borough Council

Works Completed

The works that have been completed across the entire former gas works site involved:

- Rotary boreholes to a depth of approximately 6 to 7.5 metres
- Shallow window sample boreholes to a maximum depth of 2 metres
- Shallow soil samples using spade and hand tools
- Sediment samples from the river bank
- Installation of monitoring wells to ground level in all boreholes, finished with flush, lockable cover at ground level
- Reinstatement of the shallow soil sample locations with arisings, to previous conditions consistent with surroundings.
Further Monitoring

Groundwater monitoring and sampling of the monitoring wells on the former gas works site will be taking place at weekly intervals over the next six to eight weeks. There is no requirement for special plant, vehicles or machinery to be brought back; however, you will see a small team from Geotechnical Engineering Ltd in the area during that time who will be using hand-held instrumentation and equipment.

The team from Geotechnical Engineering Ltd will not need access into any resident’s homes to undertake the monitoring. Our consultant, BuroHappold, may be in touch with individual residents before coming to view the monitoring wells if, for example, a parked car needs to be moved temporarily.

All members of the monitoring team will have a photographic identification in the form on a CSCS card (Construction Skills Certification Scheme). The colour of the card varies depending on the role of the person, but there will be a holographic ‘CSCS’ in the top corner, with a photograph and chip. An example is shown to the left.

All contracting and consulting staff on site will be wearing standard protective equipment, including hard hats, gloves, eye protection, coveralls and hi vis jackets.

For any queries relating to the monitoring please contact BuroHappold, either Geoffrey on 07912 670682 or Hugh on 07894 0044890 or Hugh.Mallett@BuroHappold.com, or you can always contact us on 01372 474752.

Can I continue to use my garden?

A question that was raised during the investigation was, “can I continue to use my garden?”, and our response to that is “yes”, residents should continue to use and enjoy their gardens as they normally would with general good practice hygiene measures for anyone with a garden.

Prior to this investigation we did not have any evidence that ground conditions in the area were causing adverse effects on the wellbeing of residents; the soil samples collected during this investigation will inform us of the soil quality once testing and analysis is complete.

Towards the end of the onsite investigation works one resident asked BuroHappold if an additional sample could be taken from their garden. As this was possible to accommodate and would increase the understanding of the site, samples were taken. One of the samples encountered some suspect “tarry / oily” material beneath the topsoil. This resident has been given advice about this.

Further questions and answers can be viewed on our webpage elmbridge.gov.uk/gasworks.