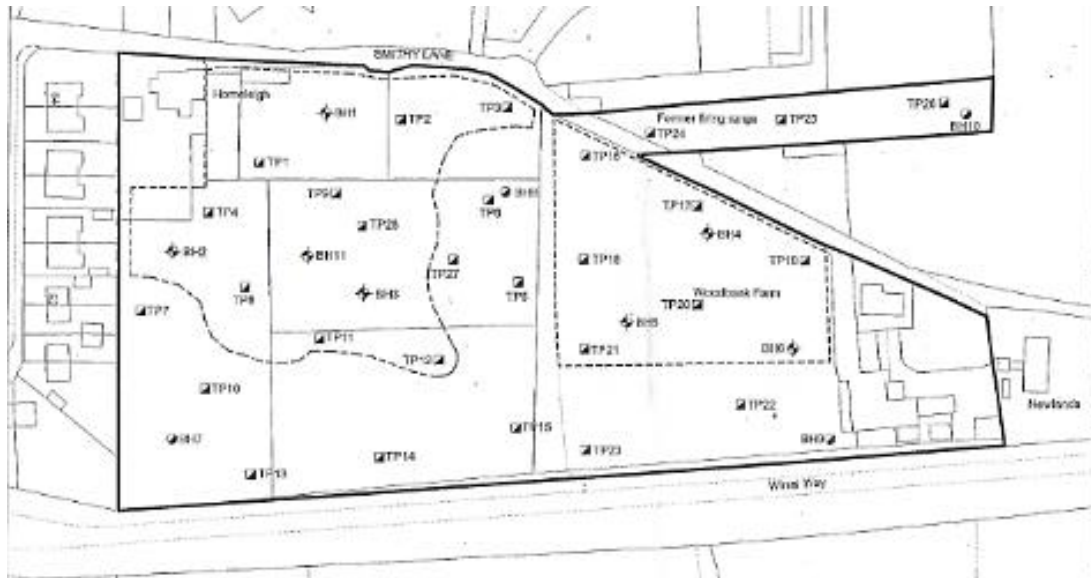


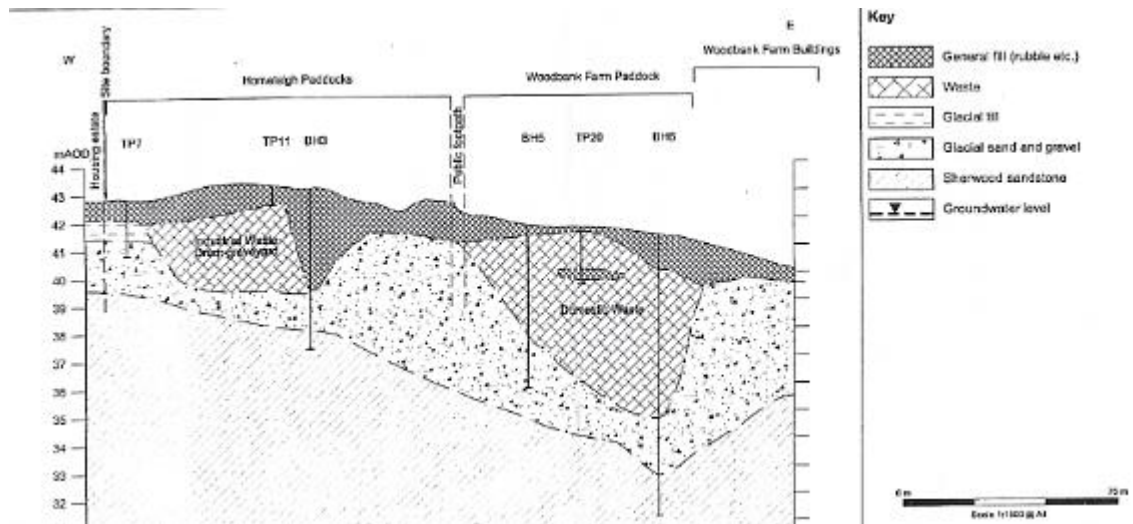
Investigation into section of land between the Wirral Way and Smithy Lane

In 2002 Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council decided to investigate a site of a section of land used for horseriding and grazing livestock situated between the Wirral Way and Smithy Lane. This site was historically used to extract sand and gravel and this created a series of pits which were then infilled with both domestic and unspecified industrial wastes in the 1950s and 1960s. Records were not kept so it was not clear what had been tipped or by whom.



Eleven boreholes and twenty-eight trial pits were excavated. 49 soil samples and eight groundwater samples were analysed. Some industrial and domestic waste was identified. The industrial waste was buried chemical drums which had some contamination, including elevated levels of various chemicals and vapours.

The risk assessment showed that there was no impact on groundwater beneath the site and there was unlikely to be an impact within the next 50 years. There was some risk to health of humans and livestock from ingestion of contaminated soil and inhalation of contaminated dust. This is only to people using the site frequently over a number of years. There was no risk identified to casual users e.g. people walking their dog along Smithy Lane or the Wirral Way.



Eileen Macdonald remembers: *When the tip was closed, a mass exodus of rats made their way onto the old railway line, heading for pastures new!*