



*making water work*

**Southern  
Water**

Guildbourne House  
Chatsworth Road Worthing  
West Sussex BN11 1LD  
telephone (0903) 205252  
telex 877340  
BRITDOC No DX 3728

Graham Nicholson Director of Administration  
Graham J Heyes Chief Solicitor

Our ref. KGH/MR/WR286/1  
Your ref.

When calling please ask for :- Mr. Hall

4 June 1986

Dear Sir

WATER RESOURCES ACT 1963  
VARIATION OF ABSTRACTION LICENCES  
BLACKHOLE DYKE AND NEWNHAM STREAM  
KELSEY FARMS LIMITED AND E H HOLDSTOCK & SONS

You will recall that you made representation last year against the applications to lower the controlling flows at Seaton Bridge for licences from 5 million gallons per day to 3 million gallons per day. Two of the four applicants have now decided on an alternative scheme which should lessen the impact of the existing abstractions on the Little Stour at Wickhambreaux.

The proposal is to construct a new weir on the Blackhole Dyke downstream of Wickhambreaux but upstream of the abstraction points, so as to prevent the abstractions from drawing water from the Little Stour to the Blackhole Dyke at Wickhambreaux during times of low flows. The licences would then be subject to the River Stow flow at Plucks Gutter. This proposal has been discussed with the Ickham, Littlebourne, and Wickhambreaux Conservation Society and the Council for the Protection of Rural England (Kent) and it is expected that they will consider their positions once the applications are published. I am writing to you now, therefore, in view of your past interest, to inform you that notice of these applications will appear in the Kentish Gazette of 13 and 20 June. The period for representations in respect of these new applications will expire on 11 July.

Yours faithfully

for CHIEF SOLICITOR

I Taylor Esq  
Nailbourne Protection Society  
3 Whitelocks Close  
KINGSTON  
Canterbury  
Kent

THE ICKHAM, LITTLEBOURNE AND WICKHAMBREUX  
CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Canterbury 721431

Forge House,  
Wickhambreux

31st August 1985

Dear *Mr. Taylor*

We are grateful to members and friends for writing to the Southern Water Authority and making clear their concern about the future of the river and the dangers of further abstractions.


Those who objected to the latest batch of applications will have received a standard letter back from the Authority, and we hope none will be deceived by its assertion that "the applications do not relate to any new or increased licensed abstractions" nor by the suggestion of some misunderstanding.

Neither the farmer-applicants nor the Society are under any misapprehension. If the applications succeed, more water will be taken from the Little Stour - not by increasing the licensed quantities but by substantially and critically reducing the stringent condition hitherto applied.

We shall be pursuing this matter with the Authority (and its apparent partiality) and are encouraged to have strong support from the Council for the Protection of Rural England and the Nailbourne Protection Society.

Our July letter spelt out in some detail the Society's views but we shall be pleased to discuss the matter further with anyone who feels this would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

 D. LE JEUNE

Hon. Secretary

*Many thanks for the fruits of your research.*

Nail Post Soc

3

W. Close

Kings Church

16.1.84

To:

~~D W Webb~~

Chief Smeili

Southern Water Auth.

Guildbourne House

Worthing, Sussex BN11 1LD

Dear Sir,

Re: Application by H Meant + Sons Ltd Bekebourne

to vary licence NO 9/40/4/1407/G

and amalgamate 9/40/4/177/SR

+ 9/40/4/307/S

This Society is interested to understand the implications of the above Applications.

May we please have photocopies of the Applications and maps so that effect can be studied. I will be pleased to send the cost of photocopying you. You will appreciate

that to call at Worthing would

involve a long journey

with Thanks

Yours faithfully



**Southern  
Water**

Graham Nicholson  
Director of Administration

Graham J. Heyes, B.A.(Law)  
Chief Solicitor

Guildbourne House  
Worthing, West Sussex  
BN11 1LD

Telephone Worthing 205252  
Telex 877340  
BRITDOC No. DX 3728

When calling please ask for Mr. Hall

Our Ref: KGH/WR286/1/MK

30th August 1985

Dear Sir,

Water Resources Act 1963  
Applications to Vary Licences to Abstract Water  
Little Stour - Lowering of Minimum Residual Flow.

Thank you for your letter of 28th August. Whilst not wishing, at this stage, to enter into discussions on specific aspects which may not be relevant to the determination of these applications, there are clearly points in your letter which require reply or clarification.

All abstraction licences limit the quantities of water which may be abstracted annually and monthly, and usually hourly. They may also limit the period of the year during which abstraction may take place, but generally, subject to the maximum licensed volume and rates of abstraction, the water may be taken at any time during the authorised periods. The Authority would not normally have information as to actual abstractions during specific months.

My information is that a flow at Seaton Bridge of 5 mgd exceeds the minimum flow which is necessary to meet environmental and amenity interests. The question still to be answered is what the minimum flow should be, having regard also to downstream riparian interests.

I made it clear that these applications are not for new or increased licensed abstractions because some letters of representation appeared to be based on an assumption that they involved proposals for new or extended irrigation installations. As you correctly say, the applications are intended to increase the opportunities for the licence holders actually to abstract what they are licensed to abstract.

../..

I.D. Taylor, Esq.,  
Nailbourne Protection Society,  
3 Whitelocks Close,  
Kingston,  
Canterbury, CT4 6JG.

When referring to the intended Little Stour study, you mention the two obvious factors affecting flow as being rainfall in the catchment area and quantity of water abstracted. Although I am sure you will well understand the principle, it is often not recognised that the spring and summer flows of predominantly groundwater streams, with little surface run-off, ~~are~~ determined by the extent of the recharge of the underground aquifer from the preceding autumn and winter. The relevance of rainfall during the period when abstraction for spray irrigation would normally be taking place is that it reduces the need for such abstractions. The summer flow of the Little Stour should comprise principally regular, but falling, groundwater outflows and, subject to the maintenance of a minimum flow, abstraction of "excess" flows does not prejudice the total available quantity from which the flows are derived. The situation is, of course, totally different in the isolated Stour marshes where a complicated feeding operation is necessary to replenish ditches from which water has been abstracted.

All aspects of these applications are being investigated and the Authority's proposals will be notified to you.

Yours faithfully,



for CHIEF SOLICITOR.

# The Ickham, Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux Conservation Society

Affiliated to the Council for the Protection of Rural England; Member of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies;  
Registered with the Civic Trust

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*Aim: to conserve the rural character of our villages and countryside*

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Seaton House,  
Ickham,  
Canterbury,  
Kent.

Your ref. KGH/WR286/1/MK

30th August 1985

Dear Sir,

Application to Vary Licences to Abstract  
Water Little Stour - Lowering of Minimum  
Residual Flow.

Thank you for your letter of 3rd August. In the second paragraph you referred to some misunderstanding. So far as we are concerned there is no misunderstanding. You know, the applicants know and we know what it is all about - it is about taking more water out of the river.

Whilst it is true, as you said, that the current applications do not constitute any new or increased licence abstractions, what they do seek is relaxations of conditions which would permit considerably more water to be legally taken from the river, which would not have been possible without such relaxations. If you look at the licences and conditions of the four applicants, 306a, 120, 82, 432 and 471, they are all subject to minimum flow conditions, to a greater or lesser extent, and, therefore, if the M.A.F. is reduced, it will inevitably permit considerably more water to be taken out of the river. We are particularly worried about licence 306a, relating to borehole abstraction from the aquifer catchment just above the Well Chapel springs source of the Little Stour, and licence 120, which also affects the flow of the river at a critical point close to its source.

We are very glad that you have accepted that the flow in the river is not what it should be and that you are making a study of the Little Stour catchment. Surely, it would be more sensible to await the outcome of this investigation before making any more concessions.

Yours faithfully,

  
Anthony Mauduit  
Chairman

G. J. Heyes, Esq., B.A. (Law),  
Southern Water,  
Guildbourne House,  
Worthing,  
West Sussex,  
BN11 1LD.



# Southern Water

B. R. Thorpe, LL.M.  
Chief Executive

Guildbourne House  
Worthing, West Sussex  
BN11 1LD

Telephone Worthing 205252  
Telex 877340

BRT/AB

David Crouch, Esq., MP,  
House of Commons,  
London, SW1A 0AA.

16th August, 1985

*Dear Mr. Crouch,*

## Little Stour

I am replying on the Chairman's behalf to your letter of 7th August at some length in order to give a full explanation of the points you raise.

The majority of the water abstracted from the Little Stour catchment is by way of licences issued under the Water Resources Act 1963. This Act contained provision for the issue of licences of right to abstractors who could show in their application that they had taken the quantities applied for over the five year period from 1st April 1960 to 1st April 1965. The then Kent River Authority was obliged to issue such licences in terms similar to the mode of operation taking place in the five year period. The Authority could not have regard to minimum flow requirements unless the applicant was unable to show that they had abstracted prior to the passing of the Act on 31st July 1963.

Some abstractions and operations in surface streams are, however, exempt, e.g. operation of mill sluices and some mill wheels, agricultural purposes of riparian owners (with exception of spray irrigation).

Licences and variations to licences applied for after 30th June 1965 have to be advertised and consideration given to objectors and existing water users. These licences are nearly always subject to minimum residual flow conditions, or season conditions, or both.

The current minimum residual flow for the Little Stour, measured at Seaton Bridge is 5 million gallons per day and was applied primarily to ensure a minimum summer flow sufficient to dilute the mine water discharge from Snowdown colliery and final effluent discharges for local sewage treatment works. This condition has so far been retained for all river abstractions (other than licences of right) notwithstanding a strong representation by four of the affected licence-holders (all of whom abstract for spray irrigation) seeking a reduction to 3 mgd. A formal appeal under Section 29, Water Resources (Licence) Regulations 1965 was submitted on 15th March 1982 by one of the abstractors, H. & E. B. Kelsey Ltd., and this led to a review of the control conditions. The criteria for the MRF were then as follows:-

- (i) Protection of downstream abstractors and other protected rights.

- (ii) Maintenance of water quality conditions with respect to both sewage works discharges and Snowdown mine water discharge.
- (iii) Maintenance of satisfactory environmental and amenity conditions (including fisheries).
- (iv) Protection of the public water supply source at Plucks Gutter.

Preparations were, by that time, already in hand for diversion of the mine water via a pipeline to a sea outfall. It was expected that a substantial improvement in river water quality would follow and that this could in turn permit some relaxation of the MRF. The appellants subsequently withdrew on the understanding that the MRF would be reviewed on the basis of river quality data obtained over a period following commissioning of the diversion works.

The mine water was diverted on 31st August 1983 and the monitoring programme which followed confirmed the improvement in river quality. Kelsey Ltd. again approached the Authority seeking a revision of the MRF and in due course, together with three other spray irrigators, submitted a formal application for a reduction to 3 mgd. The application in turn attracted strong representation from conservation interests, mainly on grounds that a relaxation of the MRF would result in further depletion of flow during the summer months.

On 2nd June 1985 officers of the Kent Division met representatives of the applicants and objectors, including Ickham, Littlebourne & Wickhambreaux Conservation Society, in order to explain the licensing policy and to promote a strategy for the future management of water resources in the catchment. Our objective, as explained at the meeting, will be to reconcile the competing requirements of lawful abstractors and conservation interests. The main features of the strategy are as follows:-

- (i) To carry out a detailed hydrological study of the catchment to gather all information data required for setting appropriate conditions for any future abstraction.
- (ii) In the meantime the application by Kelsey and others for a reduction in the MRF will be determined in the light of improved river conditions. An interim, time-limited MRF of 4 mgd will be applied, subject to review following completion of a catchment study.
- (iii) Other applications relating to spray irrigation will be determined by the grant of time-limited licences subject to an MRF of 5 mgd or refused altogether.

Abstractors are required to fit meters to their pumping equipment from which readings are taken. Should the meter fail, they are required to keep records of the time the equipment operated. Authority staff do visit licence-holders, especially in summer months, and are alert to illegal abstraction. The Authority also notifies licence-holders when river flows fall below the prescribed levels. However, with 1,100 licences valid in Kent, of which over



800 are for spray irrigation, I am sure you will appreciate that our resources are stretched and it is inevitable that some farmers, betraying the trust put in them by the Authority, go undetected. The annual returns made by spray irrigators are used to determine the charges made. Should no return be received, the irrigator is charged for his full licensed quantities irrespective of his usage.

The Authority shares the concern expressed for the Little Stour which has resulted in the study referred to above. It is likely that this study will take about two years to complete, but once complete will give us a better understanding as to what the minimum residual flow should be.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brian [unclear]". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text "Yours sincerely,".

# The Ickham, Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux Conservation Society

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*Aim: to conserve the rural character of our villages and countryside*

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Seaton House,  
Ickham,  
Canterbury,  
Kent.

12th August 1985

Dear Sir,

Application for Reduction in the  
Minimum Acceptable Flow (M.A.F.)  
of the River Little Stour by Messrs.  
Hayes, Twyman, Kelsey & Holdstock.

The conservation and the amenity interest of the Little Stour river have been a matter of great concern to local people and to this Society for many years. Our involvement over recent years has, briefly, been as follows:-

In 1972 this Society mounted a major campaign when the river was threatened by large scale abstraction by the Thanet Water Board. Fortunately, after two public inquiries, the application did not succeed.

At the beginning of November 1982, the Southern Water Authority convened a meeting at Wickhambreaux Village hall for local people closely concerned with the Little Stour. The reason for calling this meeting, and indeed the whole tenor of the meeting, was prompted by a general anxiety about the continuing low flows in the river and the consequent silting and shoaling which was building up year after year. As a result of this meeting, it was agreed that the Southern Water Authority would carry out a dredging and clearing operation from Littlebourne to the Seaton weir, which has only just been completed. A measure of the necessity for this is well illustrated by the large quantity of silt which was taken out at Seaton, enough to be spread over half a three acre field, causing it to be 'out of action' for a year.

The following January, 1983, our Society, in pursuing its concern over the river, invited Mr. Cotton, the S.W.A. Assistant Director of Resource Planning, to meet the committee to discuss and define what is the catchment area of the Little Stour, how much water falls into it, how much is artificially removed from it and, consequently, how we stand over the river flows. As a result, Mr. Cotton kindly gave us a copy of a plan showing groundwater contours with the catchment area marked on it.

2.

In November 1984 the Society was again alerted to a further threat to the spring sources at Well Chapel by Messrs. Mount's application to increase their licensed abstraction. Because of this, a meeting was arranged at the S.W.A. office in Capstone Road, Chatham, between Mr. Warren, the Resources Engineer, Mr. Ballington and two members of our committee. The purpose was to check and define details of existing licences and to express, again, our general anxiety about river flow. We thought that we had made our point adequately and that Mr. Warren had agreed that 'enough was enough' and that the time had come when a stop had to be put to anything that would affect the vital flow from the aquifers to the river source at the Well Chapel springs. You can imagine our feelings when, shortly afterwards, Mount's application was granted. We have been asked several times if the S.W.A. has ever been known to refuse a farmer's licence application. Have you?

The last meeting we have had about the river was at the beginning of July this year, at Messrs. G.W.Finn's office, specifically to discuss this present application. The meeting was attended by Mr. Warren and Mr. Marsland for the S.W.A., Mr. Kelsey one of the applicants, Mr. Hugh Finn a local farmer representing the C.P.R.B. and three from our Society. Necessarily, large areas of old ground were covered yet again, which you will realise by now we are becoming fairly familiar with, but it was agreed by everyone that the Little Stour has suffered a decline in flow in recent years, the reasons for which are not easy to define. This agreement is no mean achievement, for it is what those of us who live locally have observed for many years.

The accuracy of the S.W.A. measurements taken at Seaton Mill was, and is, called into question and it was agreed that this could be greatly improved if more sophisticated equipment were to be used, perhaps something on the V-notch principle with continuous recording applied to the weir of Seaton Mill. Mr. Swift, one of our committee members who was at the meeting, described how he is now taking measurements of river flow at Ickham Mill (actually in Littlebourne) where he lives, with a simple V-notch, the water level of which he measures regularly. This Society, therefore, does now have a useful check on the S.W.A. figures, albeit on an amateur basis.

It was also agreed, we think, that it would be generally helpful to have really reliable flow measurements taken at two places on this part of the Little Stour. In this respect Ickham Mill might provide a suitable second situation.

Another matter which concerns us is the doubt that the S.W.A. has the resources to enforce effectively licence conditions, particularly so the more complex the conditions become and the more that licences are aggregated together. How is anyone to know who can pump what and when, least of all ordinary people, whose only wish is to see the river flourish naturally? It is widely believed that farmers pump out just what they like, metering being only theoretical or self-regulatory. Even if everyone conscientiously played according to the rules, how are farmers to know, in a scorchingly hot summer, whether they may or may not pump, unless flow figures are published virtually on a daily basis? Officers of the S.W.A. have admitted to us that they think licences are regularly over pumped. If this is so and if we were now to agree to a 40% reduction in M.A.F., as the applicants propose, we would simply be legalising what is now illegal.

There appears to be a predisposition, on the part of the S.W.A., to reduce the M.A.F. on the Little Stour on the grounds that the discharge of mine water at Wenderton has ceased and, therefore, dilution rates of this order are no longer required. It also seems that some form of undertaking has been agreed with the applicants to this effect. Our position on this point is that we challenge the right of the S.W.A. to make any such arrangement without telling anyone. Such reasoning may have had some validity downstream of Wenderton but the recent case of Mr. John Whitehead proved conspicuously the opposite. However, upstream of Wenderton, in our view, it has no validity whatsoever. As we have repeatedly tried to point out, river flows are not needed only to dilute mine water. A good river flow is vital to support the healthy natural life of the river, to scour and clean the bed of the river, to ameliorate shoaling, to dilute farm chemical pollution which results from run off from the fields and to dilute pollution from the roads now being washed off and drained off into the river. Many of these factors are of relatively recent origin and only get worse year by year. So how can it be contemplated officially to sanction less water in the river, which is what reducing the M.A.F. really amounts to, when we all agree that the river is already suffering from all the symptoms of water deprivation and is generally agreed to be already grossly over abstracted?

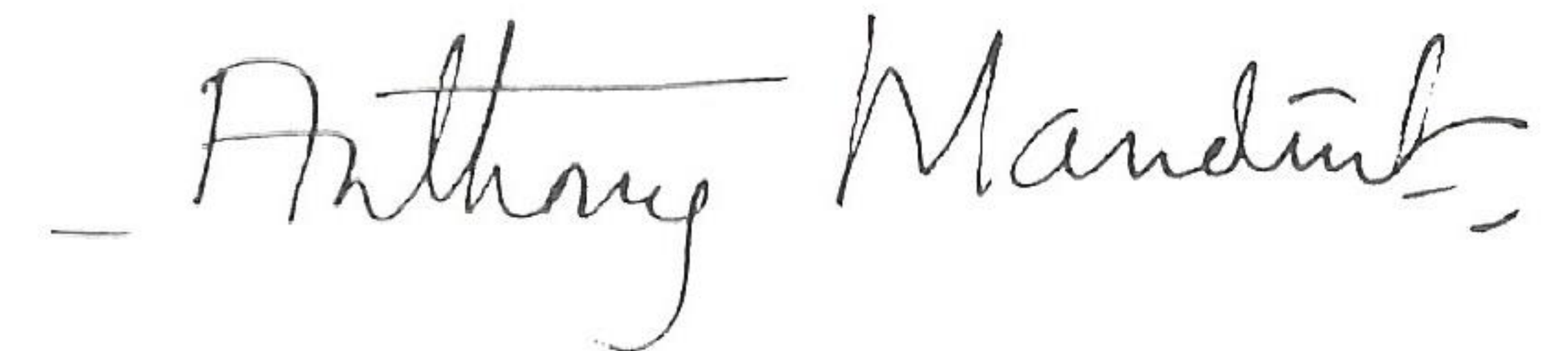
It has been suggested to us that officers of the S.W.A. are afraid of refusing an application because it might be granted subsequently at appeal. We cannot understand the grounds for such an attitude and, if an application is properly refused for good reasons - as there are in this case - there is nothing to fear from a subsequent appeal. We would be the first to support the S.W.A.

The Society has discussed the wider issues concerning the river with Mr. David Crouch, the Member of Parliament for the Canterbury constituency, and a copy of this letter has been sent to him.

We would like to acknowledge Mr. Warren's letter to our Society of 9th July and we very much welcome his initiation of a three year water resources study of the Little Stour catchment, together with the suggested presumption against any further licences during this period and also the taking into account of the flow into the Blackhole Dyke in relation to that at Seaton Mill. We appreciate the advance in all these directions but, for all the reasons that have been set out in this letter, our Society cannot agree to any reduction in the M.A.F. It is tantamount to applying the leech to a patient already bleeding to death.

We, therefore, ask that this application be refused.

Yours faithfully,



Anthony Mauduit  
Chairman

The Chief Solicitor,  
Southern Water Authority,  
Guildbourne House,  
Worthing,  
Sussex. BN11 1LD.

Name	Licence No. 9/40/	Annual in Million Gallons	Daily in Million Gallons	Source	Purpose	Period	Remarks
Mrs Hayes	306(a)	0.4	0.003	Chalk well	Agriculture		When 180,000 gpa has been abstracted then no abstraction when Little Stour flow is less than 5 mgd at TR 225 587
W.E. Kerr Bramling Court Farm, Wingham	306(b)	0.25	0.003	Chalk well	Agriculture		
Mount	307	16	0.18	Ponds	Spray Irrigation & Impounding	1 Mar-31 Aug	Max. rates Mar-May 0.75 mgd. Jun-Aug 0.3 mgd <u>Cancelled</u>
Twyman	323	1.75	0.18	Lampen Strm	Spray Irrigation	1 Mar-30 Sept	In aggregate with 122, 24,000 gph. No abst'n when water level at TR 225 610 is below 3.5' OD or 1.5' OD in Lead Dyke. <u>Expired.</u>
Hall Aggregates (SE) Ltd Cannon Street, Maidstone	349	175	0.6	Drift Excav. Ickham	Gravel Washing		
RMC (SE) Ltd 116 London Road, Sevenoaks	365	2	0.012	Whitfield Sewer, dykes	Drift Concrete Production		Pump rate 6,000 gph. No abstraction when Little Stour flow at TR 225 587 is less than 5 mgd. <u>Revoked.</u>
Bateman The Quaives, Wickhambreaux	374	1.5	0.02	Blackhole Dyke	Spray Irrigation		No abstraction when flow in Little Stour at Seaton Bridge is less than 5 mgd. <u>Expired</u>
Lilliot Hook Farm, Grove	390	1.5	0.096	Little Stour & Newnham Stream	Spray Irrigation		Less than 5 mgd at Seaton Bridge, & less than 0.075 mgd OD Newnham Stream - no abstraction Apr-Oct. <u>Expired</u>

Name	Licence No. 9/40/	Annual in Million Gallons	Daily in Million Gallons	Source	Purpose	Period	Remarks
S.W. Mount & Son Little Barton Farm, Canterbury	400	4.2	0.02	Chalk borehole	Spray Irrigation	1 Apr-30 Sept	
M. M. Wyant Place Farm, Ickham	402	6.516	0.096	Chalk & Tert. borehole	Spray Irrigation	1 Apr-30 Sept	Vegetable washing water to be discharged to soakaway.
Ickham Court Farms, Ickham Court	403	0.68	0.0905	Little Stour	Spray Irrigation	1 Apr-31 Aug	No abstraction if flow less than 5 mgd in July-Aug. period.
H. Mount & Son Woolton Farm, Bekesbourne	407	6	0.24	Chalk borehole	Agriculture	1 May-31 Aug	
E. Smith & Sons	408	3.5	0.1	Wingham River	Spray Irrigation	1 Nov-28 Feb	0.33 cumecs at Durlock. No storage or lapse: expired 10/7/83
H. & E.B. Kelsey Quaives Farm, Wickhambreaux	432	10	0.3	Blackhole Dke	Spray Irrigation	1 Mar-30 Sept	Frost Protection 1 Mar-31 May. 6 mgs 0.21 mgd No abstraction if flow is less than 5mgd at Seaton Bridge.
T.J. Offord Woodbine Cottage, Grove	449	0.1	0.012	Preston & Deerson Strm	Spray Irrigation	1 Feb-31 May	If used Feb-Mar no storage, if used Apr-May storage to be used.
Rickards Farms Ltd The Hoath Farm, Bekesbourne	453	1.1 4.4	0.192	Chalk borehole	Spray Irrigation Trickle Irrig.	1 Mar-30 Sept	
H. Mount & Sons Ltd Woolton Farm, Bekesbourne	465	6.6	0.18	Trib. Lampen Stream	Spray Irrigation	1 Apr-30 Sept	Stream must flow at 1000gph or no abstr'n
P. & M. Mayes Treasury Farm, Ickham	470	1.6	0.115	Ditch at Wickhambreaux	Spray Irrigation	1 May-30 Sept	)
H. & E.B. Kelsey	471	0.4	0.028	Blackhole Dke	Spray Irrigation	1 May-30 Sept	) AppORTIONED from 4/125 )

## LITTLE STOUR

Name	Licence No. 9/40/4/	Annual in Million Gallons	Daily in Million Gallons	Source	Purpose	Period	
P. Christodoulou Tudor House, Wingham Well	22/G	1 73 19	0.2	Chalk Bore-hole 70'	Spray Irrigation Agriculture Watercress		
M. List-Brain Preston Court, Preston	41	0.225	0.045	2 spring-fed ponds	Spray Irrigation	1 Mar-31 Aug	
H. & E.B. Kelsey Quaives Farm, Wickhambreaux	46	1.1	0.144	Little Stour	Spray Irrigation	1 Mar-31 Oct	
Southern Water Wingham Pumping Station	58	2008	7	Chalk	Water Supply		
H. Mount & Sons Woolton Farm, Bekesbourne	75	0.55	0.025	Thanet Beds 6 ponds	Agriculture	1 Dec-31 Jan	
H. Mount & Sons Woolton Farm, Bekesbourne	76	0.45	0.02	Thanet Beds Well	Agriculture	1 Dec-31 Jul	
H. Mount & Sons Woolton Farm, Bekesbourne	77	0.2	0.013	Fishponds	Spray Irrigation	1 Apr-31 Jul	Cancelled
P.H. Holden & Son Beaute Farm, Shatterling	78	1.54	0.025	Wingham River	Spray Irrigation	1 Apr-31 Oct	
E.H. Holdstock & Sons Elbridge Farm, Sturry	82	4	0.18	Newnham Strm Feed & Blackhole Dyke	Spray Irrigation & fill reservoir	1 Apr-30 Sept	If abstract 2 mga and is below 5 abstraction is used.
H.W. Twyman Reynolds Place, Littlebourne	120	2.964	0.168	Little Stour & Silver Dke	Spray Irrigation	1 Mar-30 Sept	Flow condi 5 mgd at S for part o
H.W. Twyman Reynolds Place, Littlebourne	122	3.5	0.168	Stream &	Spray Irrigation	1 Mar-30 Sept	Pump rate
	123						Combined w

Name	Licence No. 9/40/4/	Annual in Million Gallons	Daily in Million Gallons	Source	Purpose	Period	
F.A. Pembroke Frognall Fruit Farm, Wickhambreaux	125	2	0.144	Blackhole Dke	Spray Irrigation	1 May-30 Sept	Cancelled
D.H. Thomas Mellands Farm, Preston	128	5.2	0.065	Little Stour Preston, Deerson & Newnham Dkes	Spray Irrigation	1 Apr-30 Sept	No abstracti dykes when 1 or below 3'
C.J. & G. Burt Stodmarsh Court	144	8.64	0.240	Lampen Strm & Lakes	Spray Irrigation	1 May-30 Sept	Pump rate 24
H.E. Rattue Gipsy Court, Shatterling	149	0.07	0.004	Woolwich/ Thanet Beds borehole	Spray Irrigation	1 Apr-30 Sept	
	153						Revoked 1977
D. & M. Mayes (Ickham) Ltd Treasury Farm, Ickham	159	4.5	0.216	Little Stour	Spray Irrigation	1 May-30 Sept	Pump rate 18
Ickham Court Farms Ickham Court	189	1.085	0.0905	Little Stour	Spray Irrigation	1 Apr-30 Jun	Aggregate ab with 403 not 92,000 gpd
Richard D.E. Spencer Lower Garrington Farm, Littlebourne	200	1.358	0.195	Silver Dyke	Spray Irrigation	1 Apr-30 Sept	Pump rate 18
	214						Exempt
	215						Exempt
	229						Exempt
Arthur Marchant & Sons Gilton, Ash	234	1.81	0.195	Wingham River & Dyke	Spray Irrigation	1 Apr-30 Sept	Pump rate 18
R.D.E. Spencer Lower Garrington Farm	237	1.629 0.362	0.136 0.091				Provided ma are 0.136 mg
Mid Kent Water Company Barham Pumping Station	271	912.5	3	Chalk	Water Supply		
W.A. Turner The Limes, Bridge	287	0.05	0.002	Chalk 2 Wells	Agriculture		Cancelled 19



**Southern  
Water**

F. N. Midmer, CEng, FICE, FIWES, FBIM  
Divisional Manager

KENT DIVISION  
Capstone Road, Chatham  
Kent ME5 7QA

Telephone Medway (0634) 46655  
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Emergency Night Service  
Telephone Medway (0634) 46655

Our ref. W.4 4/159 4/120 HAB/SP

Your ref.

21st January 1985

Mr D. Le Jeune,  
Hon. Secretary,  
The Ickham, Littlebourne and  
Wickhambreaux Conservation Society,  
Forge House,  
Wickhambreaux,  
Near Canterbury, Kent.

Dear Sir,

Licences in the River Little Stour Catchment

Thank you for your letter of 5th January 1985.

Attached hereto is a map (Scale: 2½": 1 mile) showing the position of licences in the majority of the River Little Stour Catchment and adjacent areas.

The broken line running roughly south west to north east, to the north west of the River Little Stour is considered to be the approximate surface boundary between the River Little Stour and Great Stour Catchments.

The schedule of licences which is attached to the map shows the licensed source and annual authorised quantities.

There are several protected rights, i.e. ST/12 etc. shown on the map, but these are like the water mills, numbered 4/214, 4/215 and 4/229, exempt from licensing under the above Act.

There are changes from time to time and you may consider it to be worth writing in at say 6 monthly intervals to find out if your records need up-dating.

I hope the map and schedule prove to be suitable for your purposes.

Yours faithfully,

G.D. Warren  
Resources Engineer

Enquiries to: Mr H.A. Ballington Ext.4633

Protected Rights

ST/12

ST/21

ST/33

ST/40

ST/48

ST/81

ST/82

ST/121

ST/122

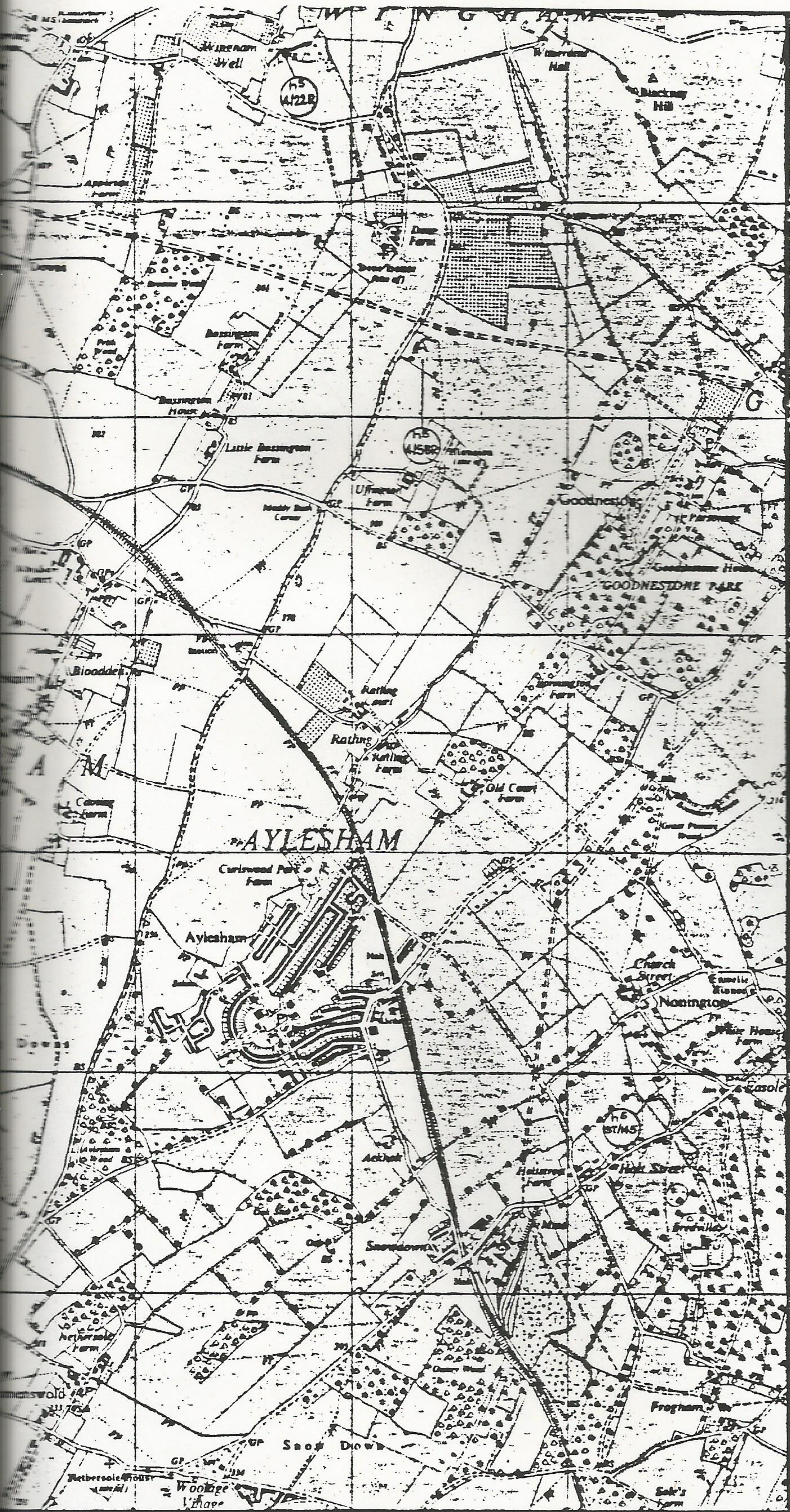
ST/138

ST/140

ST/145

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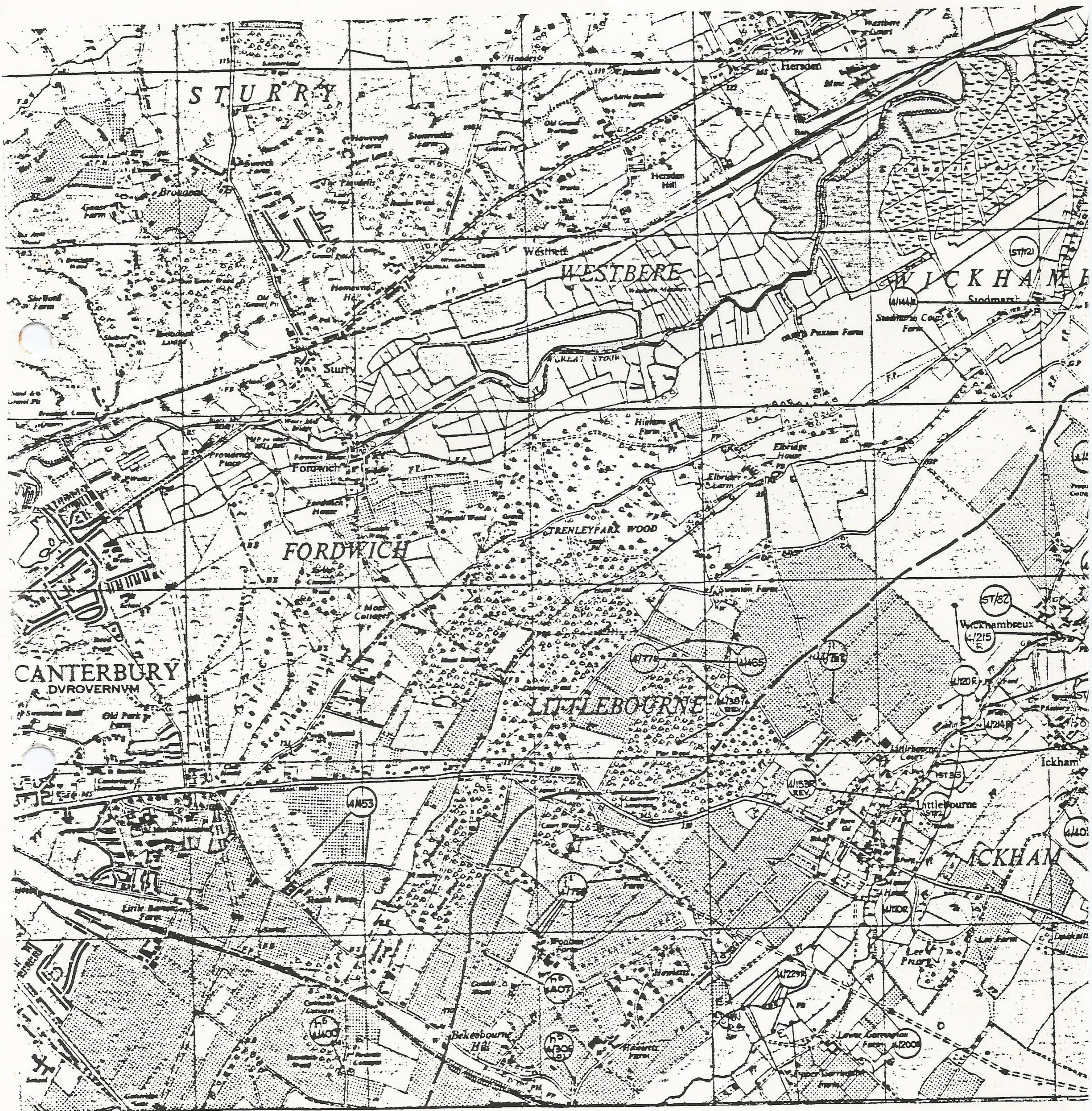
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24

25

STOUR 2





STURRY

WESTBERE

ICKHAM

FORDWICH

LITTLEBOURNE

ICKHAM

CANTERBURY  
DVROVERNVM

GREAT STOUR

STRENLEY PARK WOOD

Wickhambreux

Littlebourne

Bekebourne Hall

Lower Carrington Farm



# Nailbarn Protection Soc

3 Whitehorses Place

London W1

tel. 830039

1963/4

Dear Sir,

I am sorry to hear from

you of the 1963-64 to the fact, a continuing

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If there is not a minimum amount of

for the White Street we must arrange

the Dept of the Environment for an

We are not as happy help as

Water Authority might wish

Yours

1963

1963

THE ICKHAM, LITTLEBOURNE AND WICKHAMBREUX CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Forge House,  
Wickhambreux

~~31st July 1985~~

(6 h ms)

Canterbury  
721431  
(see in  
ex-  
directory)

Dear Mr. Taylor,

Extractions from the Little Stour

We are writing to riparian owners and others with a known interest in the river to alert them to four applications at present before the Southern Water Authority, and lodged by Mrs. A. Hayes, Messrs. H.W. Twyman, Messrs. E.H. Holdstock and Son and Messrs. Kelsey Farms Ltd.

If approved, the applicants will be licensed to extract water when the daily flow at Seaton Bridge reaches 3 million gallons, rather than the 5 million gallons at present specified. It follows that, were the applications to succeed, more water would be taken from the Little Stour and related dykes.

This is a matter of the utmost concern to the Society since the health of the river in terms of the fauna and flora it supports requires a reasonable flow: in our judgment no concession should be made, and a prohibition on extractions, if the Minimum Acceptable Flow of 5 million gallons is not reached, should remain for all new and recent licences.

Older villagers have said how both the condition and appearance of the river have deteriorated since before the war: today there is a greater likelihood of pollution from agricultural chemicals and from the run-off from roads, the effects of which can be mitigated, to some extent, by dilution if a reasonable flow is maintained.

In 1972 the Society mounted a major campaign to save the river which was threatened by the Water Authorities' proposed boreholes near Lee Priory, and we were finally successful after fighting the issues through to a Public Inquiry.

There remains a need for constant vigilance. The Southern Water Authority appears to grant all licence applications, so that the groundwater levels and surface flows of the Little Stour catchment continue to decline. Under pressure from the Society the Authority has initiated a study of the catchment's water resources, but, in our view, no further licences should be granted or conditions lifted, at the very least, until this study is completed.

The Society will be objecting to the present clutch of applications and very much hopes that those who share our concern will do so too. The river and dykes are important for wild life and as attractive landscape features, from the principal source at Well Chapel down to the Deadmill Bridge and beyond.

Representations or objections should be sent to The Chief Solicitor, Southern Water Authority, Guildbourne House, Worthing, Sussex, BN11 1LD to arrive by the 17th August at the very latest. Please get in touch with any of our Committee members named below if you want further information.

Yours sincerely,

D. LE JEUNE

Hon. Secretary

A.W. Mauduit,  
Mrs. J.F. Wilkinson,  
P.T. Swift

Seaton House, Ickham  
Wistaria, Wickhambreux

Canterbury 721458  
Canterbury 721427



**Southern  
Water**

Graham Nicholson  
Director of Administration

Graham J. Heyes, B.A.(Law)  
Chief Solicitor

Guildbourne House  
Worthing, West Sussex  
BN11 1LD

Telephone Worthing 205252  
Telex 877340  
BRITDOC No. DX 3728

When calling please ask for Mr. Hall

Our Ref: KGH/WR286/1/MK

23rd August 1985

Dear Sir,

Water Resources Act 1963  
Applications to Vary Licences to Abstract Water  
Little Stour - Lowering of Minimum Residual Flow.

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of representation against the above applications. Your representation was one of many received and I shall let you have comments on the specific points you have raised when I write to let you know the recommendation which will be put to the Authority in respect of these applications.

However, as some letters of representation have suggested a misunderstanding of the extent of these applications, I should like to take this opportunity of briefly stating the context of these applications. Firstly, the applicants originally obtained licences of right to abstract water on the coming into effect of the Water Resources Act in 1965; these licences are unrestricted as to the flow in the Little Stour. Subsequently, the applicants obtained either new licences or variations of their existing licences in which the Authority was able to impose a condition requiring abstraction to cease when the flow in the Little Stour fell to 5 million gallons per day (mgd). The applications now made are not to increase the total quantity which may be abstracted or the daily or hourly rates of abstraction, but to allow the existing quantities to be taken during lower flows of the river ~~down~~ to 3 mgd but not below that flow. The applications do not, therefore, relate to any new or increased licensed abstractions.

The Authority's flow records for the Little Stour show that its normal flows over the last few years have been lower than expected and the Authority is initiating a full study of the Little Stour catchment to identify the causes of this trend and to consider what action can be taken. The principal complaints as to the condition of the river relate to water levels when

../. .

I. Taylor, Esq.,  
Nailbourne Protection Society,  
3 Whitelocks Close,  
Kingston,  
Canterbury,  
Kent.

Southern  
Water

General Manager  
Water Supply  
8511 115  
Telephone  
8511 115

the flow is below 3 mgd and the situation should not be worsened by permitting abstraction to continue above that flow. However, the Authority recognises the need not to limit the possibilities for improvement in the future and no decision has been taken as to the extent to which the applications should be granted, if at all.

I can assure you that no such decision will be taken without you being notified.

Yours faithfully,

for CHIEF SOLICITOR.

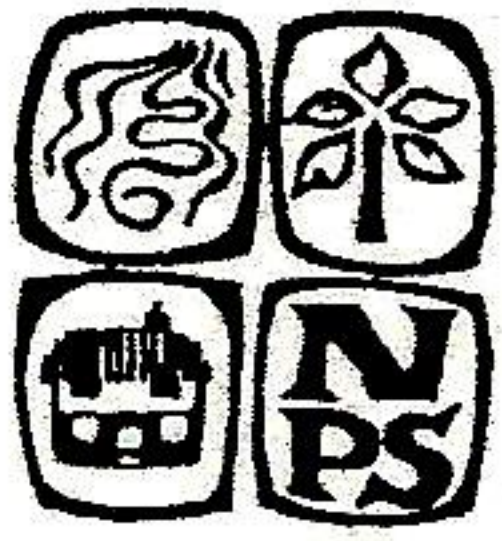
... Licences to Abstract Water  
... of Minimum Residual Flow.  
... receipt of your letter of representation against  
... applications. Your representation was one of many  
... and I shall let you have comments on the applications  
... let you know the  
... to be put to the Authority in respect of  
... their applications.

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... in which the Authority was able to  
... requiring abstraction to cease when the flow  
... 3 million gallons per day (mgd).  
... to increase the total  
... hourly rates

... lower flows of the river than to 3 mgd but not  
... the applications should therefore relate to  
... increased licensed abstraction.

The Authority's flow records for the Little Stour show that its  
... have been lower than  
... and the Authority is instituting a full study of the  
... to identify the causes of this trend and  
... what action can be taken. The principal complaints  
... of the river related to water levels when

1. Taylor, Esq.,  
Railburne Protection Society,  
3 Whitlocks Close,  
Kingston,  
Canterbury,  
Kent.



# Nailbourne Protection Society

3, Whitelocks Close,  
Kingston,  
CANTERBURY,  
CT4 6JG

The Chief Solicitor,  
Southern Water,  
Guildbourne House,  
Worthing,  
West Sussex  
BN11 1LD

28th. August, 1985

Your Ref XGH/WR286/1/MK

Dear Sir,

re: Application to vary Licences to Abstract Water

Thank you for your letter dated 23rd August 1985 which explains some interesting aspects of this matter so admirably. However, other aspects give increasing cause for concern.

Your letter states that "these (original) licences are unrestricted as to the flow in the Little Stour." But your letter does not state whether there is any limit at present upon the quantity of water which the present licences permit irrespective of the flow rate. Can you also advise what quantity of water is actually abstracted from the Little Stour per month during (say) 1970, 1975, 1980 and 1984?

This Society is encouraged to read in your letter of the concern of Southern Water to safeguard the flow in the Little Stour by prohibiting abstraction at flow rates below 5 m.g.d. But if these present applications were granted abstraction would be permitted at 3 m.g.d., and it is precisely when the flow is below 5 m.g.d. that the river needs protection from abstraction !

In January and February there may be a "healthy" flow at Seaton Bridge of 5 m.g.d. or more and it is doubtful if in these months the licence holders would wish to abstract water. In later Spring when rainfall is less, then the flow may well drop to between 3 m.g.d. and 5 m.g.d., and during these months it is probable that licence holders will wish to abstract water in substantial quantities. Your letter infers that there is no limit presently upon the quantity of water abstracted at 5 m.g.d. and, if these applications are granted, when the flow is as low as 3 m.g.d.

It is the late spring period when abstraction is greater that in order to maintain surface flow NO water should be abstracted.

Your letter also states that "the applications do not..... relate to any new or increased licence abstractions." This statement is clearly wrong. If the present applications are granted then abstraction can - and undoubtedly will - take place at flow rates of between 3 - 5 m.g.d. and abstraction at (say) 3.1 m.g.d. (unlimited)? is abstraction additional and of "new" water over and above that which present licences permit. If abstraction at 4 m.g.d. is not presently permitted but became permissible then water will be abstracted which presently is prohibited.

NAIL PROT. Soc.

/ 3 Whitelocks Close  
Kingston  
Canterbury.  
15.8.85.

To: The Chief Solicitor  
Southern Water Authority  
Worthing.

Dear Sir,

Re: Water Abstraction Applications; Hayes, Twyman, Kelsey  
Holdstock

This Society is most concerned that yet again applications are before the Southern Water Authority the effects of which, if granted, will be to allow increased volumes of water to be abstracted each year from the Little Stour. Any further interference with the flow at Seaton Bridge will affect the saturation levels throughout the Nailbourne Valley with consequential detriment along the entire length of the Nailbourne and Little Stour.

The Southern Water Authority has a responsibility to maintain and protect river flows within the area and so preserve the environment. Those who wish to use large quantities of water can and should obtain their supplies from other sources which do not reduce the moderate but very important flow of water along the Little Stour.

This Society strongly opposes the granting of new licences the results of which will be to cause greater quantities of water to be taken from the Little Stour. This Society also urges the Southern Water Authority to fulfil its lawful responsibility to protect and maintain all rivers, their flow rates, purity, banks, beds, and courses etc, for the benefit of all now and in the future, and not succumb to the interests of those whose actions are commercially motivated.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Ian Taylor  
Hon. Sec.



NAILBOURNE PROTECTION SOCIETY

c/o 3, Whitelocks Close,  
Kingstone,  
Canterbury, CT4 6JG  
Tel. 830039

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are invited to a short A.G.M. of the Society to be held in THE BARN, KINGSTONE on FRIDAY 6th. APRIL 1984 at 7.30 pm. This brief meeting will be followed by an address "The Nailbourne River" to be given by Mr. C. Cotton of the Southern Water Authority, and will explain how and why the Nailbourne River occasionally flows.

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of last A.G.M.
4. Matters arising
5. Secretary's Report - already circulated
6. Treasurer's Report - already circulated
7. Election of Officer's and Committee
8. A.O.B.
9. Address - The Nailbourne River

Ample parking. Refreshments available. Life Membership £5.  
Ordinary Membership £1 for 2 years. Donations welcomed.  
Members and non members welcome.

Yours faithfully,

Ian Taylor, Hon. Sec.

Ian Taylor

Hon. Sec.

March 1984

NAILBOURNE PROTECTION SOCIETY

It must not be forgotten that in 1972 the Nailbourne Protection Society was the first society to stop a "Pop Festival" (before the Night Assemblies Bill became law).

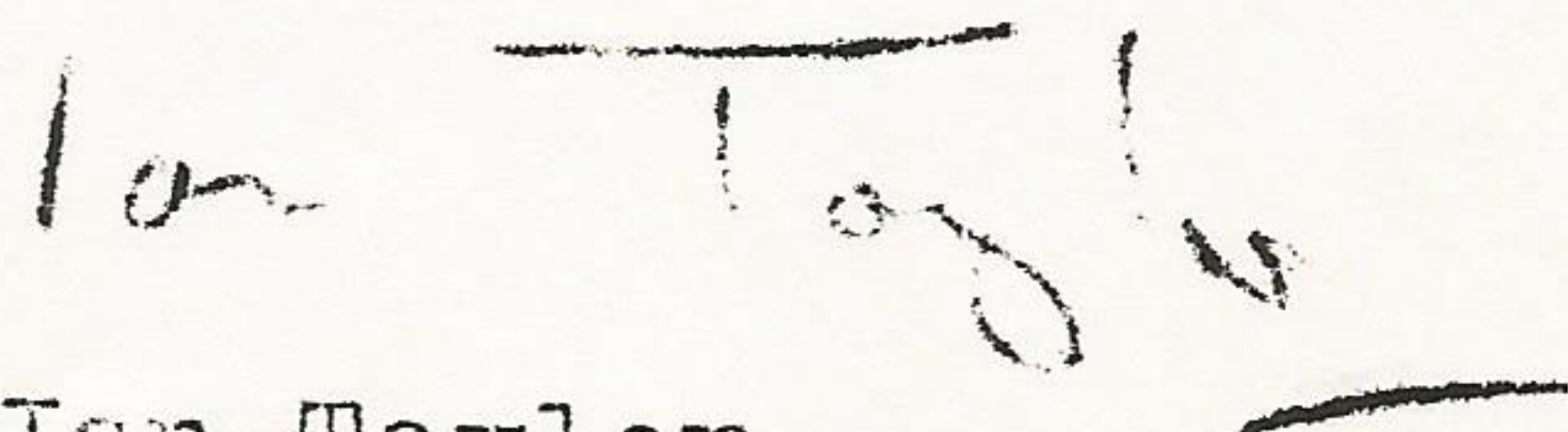
During 1980/81 the Society supported the Bridge/Canterbury Traffic Group in opposing a massive Motorway type Service Station adjacent to the A2 at Bridge. Permission was not granted.

Since January 1981 the Society made representations in respect of the following planning matters.

1. Kent Countryside Plan - Feb. 1981- Letter of General Approval.
2. Application to build house on 7.8 acres at Brickfield Rd. Barham- Feb. 1981- Letter of objection sent to C.C.C. Application not granted.
3. Appointment of Conservation Officer North Downs A.O.N.B. - Feb. 1981- Letter sent to K.C.C. urging the appointment. A Conservation Officer was appointed.
4. Advertising Sign on B2065 - March 1981- Letter of objection submitted. Application not granted.
5. Bungalows off Kingston St. - April 1981- Letter to C.C.C. objecting to backland development of 3.85 acres. Application not granted.
6. 2 houses at top of Kingston St.- April 1981- Letter of objection to C.C.C. Application not granted.
7. 3 houses Kingston St. opp. Barn- Oct. 1981- Letter recommending 2 not 3 properties. Application granted for 3 houses.
8. Bungalow South Barham Rd.- Oct. 1981- Letter of objection sent to C.C.C. Application not granted. (Appeal lodged but withdrawn.)
9. Temp. Caravan at Westwood Farm- Dec. 1982- Not opposed but 2 year period questioned. 2 year permission granted.
10. Coppicing Quilters & Featherley Woods- Jan. 1983- Not opposed but T.P.O. to be respected. Permission granted.
11. Outline 70 bedroomed Motel at Bridge Bypass- Feb. 1983- Proposals challenged. Outline permission granted.
12. House on old Railway line, Covet Lane, Kingston- April 1983- Opposed. Application not granted.
13. Questionnaire K.F.A. Soc. Fly-tipping- June 1983- Questionnaire returned.
14. A2 Radio signs- Aug. 1983- K.C.C. challenged re these 1 year experimental signs.
15. Appeal to grub out 42 acres Quilters & Featherley Woods, Kingston Feb. 1984- Public Inquiry attended and representations submitted. Sec. of State for Environment's decision awaited.

Many other Planning Applications relevant to the Nailbourne Valley have been submitted to C.C.C. and the Society has not considered it appropriate to make representations.

Present membership has lapsed to about 211. New members are welcomed.

  
Ian Taylor

Hon. Sec.

March 1984.

HAILBOURNE PROTECTION SOCIETY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1983

	<u>1983</u>	<u>1982</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Donations and Subscriptions	-	19.04
Building Society interest	45.54	54.39
	45.54	73.43
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Donations and subscriptions	5.00	5.00
Printing, postage, sundries	-	17.04
	5.00	22.04
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	40.54	51.39
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME	-	-
Balances at 31st December brought forward:	727.24	675.85
<u>BALANCE</u> carried to Balance Sheet :	£767.78	£727.24

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER 1983

FUNDS OF THE SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure account (above)      767.78      727.24

Represented by :

Current Assets

Building Society Account	763.01	717.47
Cash at Bank	4.77	9.77
	£767.78	£727.24

These Accounts are subject to audit.

NAILBOURNE PROTECTION SOCIETY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 82

	<u>1982</u>	<u>1981</u>
<u>INGOME</u>		
Donations and subscriptions	19.04	11.00
Building Society Interest	54.39	59.71
	<u>73.43</u>	<u>70.71</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Donations and Subscriptions	5.00	130.00
Printing, postage, sundries	17.04	33.05
	<u>22.04</u>	<u>163.05</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	51.39	-
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME	-	92.34
Balances as at 31st. December		
brought forward :	675.85	768.19
<u>BALANCE</u> carried to Balance Sheet :	<u>£727.24</u>	<u>£675.85</u>

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st. DECEMBER 1982

FUNDS OF THE SOCIETY

Income and expenditure account (above) £727.24                      £675.85

Represented by :

Current Assets

Building Society Account	717.47	663.08
Cash at Bank	9.77	12.77
	<u>£727.24</u>	<u>£675.85</u>

These accounts are subject to audit.



# Nailbourne Protection Society

3 Whitelocks Close  
Kingston  
Canterbury  
(0227) 830039  
15.2.84.

Mr C. Cotton  
Southern Water Authority  
Guildburn House  
Worthing.

Dear Mr Cotton,

Thank you for so kindly agreeing to address our  
A.G.M. on FRIDAY 6th <sup>APRIL</sup> ~~MARCH~~ 1984 at 7.30 p.m. in "The Barn"  
Kingston. Perhaps we can title your talk "The Nailbourne River".  
Please advise if you require a projector or screen etc.

It is difficult to anticipate numbers but I  
expect about 40+ will be present.

The business of the A.G.M. will take only  
about 20 minutes.

Should any difficulty arise regarding attendance  
on 6th April I will be pleased if one of your colleagues could  
attend.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Taylor  
Hon. Sec.

# H. MOUNT & SONS LTD.

MANAGING DIRECTOR LADY J. MOUNT  
J. R. MOUNT, P. D. MOUNT, M. D. C. MOUNT,  
SIR JAMES MOUNT, C.B.E., U. H. B. ALEXANDER,  
R. H. R. LATHAM, V. J. LATHAM, S. C. ROBINSON

Fruit Growers

WOOLTON FARM - BEKESBOURNE - CANTERBURY

23 January 1984

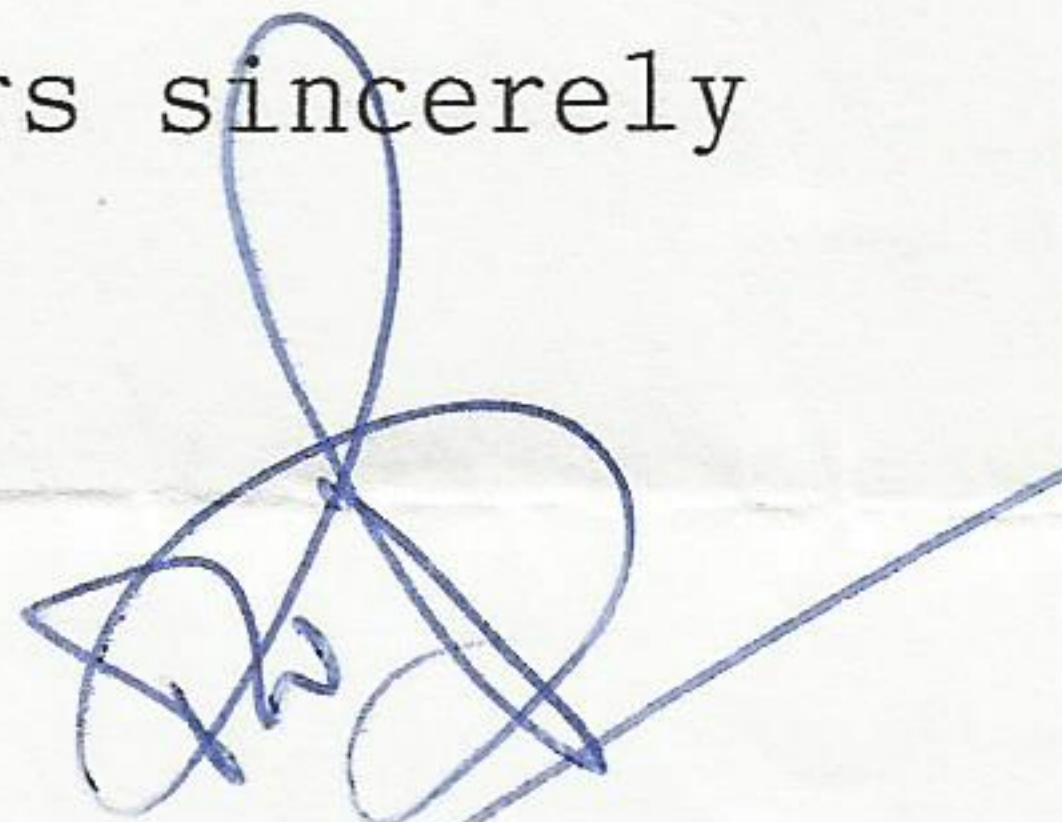
Mr I D Taylor  
3 Whitelocks Close  
Kingston  
Canterbury  
Kent

Dear Mr Taylor

I understand that you would like to examine the maps associated with our application to the Southern Water Authority amending our water licences.

The maps can be inspected on any day Monday to Friday between 8.30 am and 4.30 pm at the Woolton Farm office at Bekesbourne.

Yours sincerely



Mr D W Roberts  
COMPANY SECRETARY

See over  
T

2/7 Feb/1984 Visited Nount.

① 2 ~~was~~ boulders at Littlebourne like amalgamated  
in lie.

② Increase in for bore hole at Bekebourne  
4,000,000 galls. lie granted = 1976

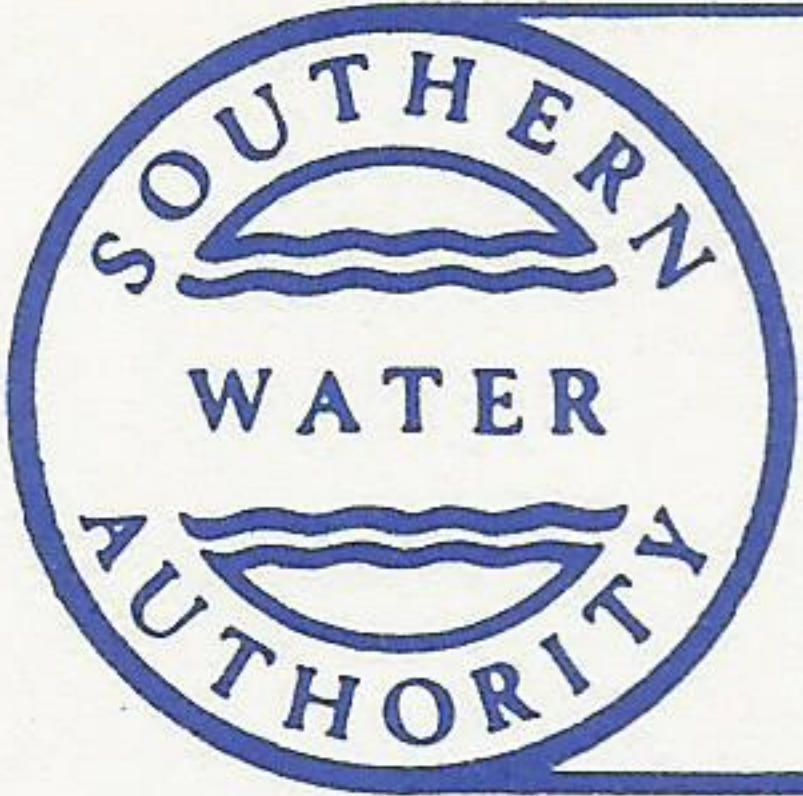
Now wish to increase to 6,000,000 galls.  
is using just over 4 million.

Nount use surface water - collected in storage pools  
Also use mains water

~~Do~~ Doubt if increase to 6m. could be  
stopped and it is for good rural/agric. use.

T. J. H.

See over T



SOUTHERN WATER

KENT RIVER & WATER DIVISION  
Miller House,  
Lower Stone Street, Maidstone ME15 6NE

Telephone MAIDSTONE 55211

Telex RW MAIDSTONE 965625

D. W. BRIANT CEng FICE MIWES MBIM  
Divisional Manager

Our ref. DC.3 - JWD/KLC  
Your ref.

Enquiries to: Mr. J.W. Dodd  
Ext. 173

22nd May 1980,

Dear Sir,

R. Nailbourne, Kingston

I refer to your recent telephone call to my office drawing my attention to the soil which has been deposited adjacent to the watercourse at Kingston.

The site has now been inspected by my Pollution Officer and it is not considered that the material tipped constitutes a pollution hazard nor an obstruction to the watercourse.

I believe it has already been explained to you that this length of the R. Nailbourne is not designated 'main river' and is therefore not maintained by the Authority.

I would suggest that if your Society is still concerned the matter be taken up directly with the owner of the land on which the material was tipped.

Yours faithfully,

*D.W. Briant*

Divisional Manager

Mr. Taylor, *JW*  
R. Nailbourne Protection Society,  
3 Whitelocks Cl.  
Kingston,  
Canterbury,  
Kent.





## SOUTHERN WATER

D. W. Briant, C.Eng., F.I.C.E., M.I.W.E.S., M.B.I.M.  
Divisional Manager

KENT RIVER & WATER DIVISION  
72 St. Dunstan's Street,  
Canterbury, Kent CT2 8BW

Telephone CANTERBURY 65525

Assistant River Operations Controller  
(Eastern Area)

Our ref. RSW/PT/OP.1011  
Your ref.

Enquiries to: -  
Extension:

2nd May, 1980

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 30th April, 1980 concerning the Nailbourne Stream at Kingston. I am passing your letter on to our Development Control Section at our Head office in Maidstone and doubtless you will be hearing from them in the near future.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T.G. Wickens'.

PP T.G. Wickens  
AROC(E)

Mr. I.D. Taylor (Hon.Sec.),  
Nailbourne Protection Society,  
3 Whitelocks Close,  
Kingston,  
Canterbury,  
Kent.

*Please call  
13/5/80  
soil typed on private  
land. No action!  
T.C.*

3 WHITELOCKS CLOSE  
KINGSTON  
CANTERBURY  
30.4.80

Dear Sir,

It has come to my attention that several loads of soil & rubble have been deposited into the Nailbourne stream at Kingston. This obstruction can only hinder any flow in the course of this small river. This Society is concerned to protect the Nailbourne Valley and I have been asked to bring the matter to your attention so that you may take any action you consider appropriate.

The location is adjacent to the small bridge at The Street, Kingston just off the B 2065. I do not know but I believe the rubble may have come from a nearby property where foundations for an extension are being prepared.

I will be pleased to hear from you.

To Kent Rivers Authority  
72 St Dunstons St Canterbury.

Yours faithfully  
I. or J. Taylor (Hon Sec)



Chief Executive  
of the County Council  
W. U. Jackson

County Secretary: W. G. HOPKIN

Col. G. G. Elliott, D.S.O.,  
Nailbourne Society,  
The Paddock,  
Bishopsbourne,  
Canterbury, Kent.

Tel: Maidstone (0622) 671411

Extension: 3281

Ask for Mr. Majewski

Our ref: 3/DC/1/CA/76/756

Your ref:

Date 15 February 1979

Dear Sir/~~Madam~~,

#### BROAD OAK RESERVOIR SCHEME

You will recall that I wrote to you in August 1977 setting out the County Council's views in regard to the above-mentioned proposed scheme.

As you may have heard, the relevant Planning Applications have now been called in by the Secretary of State for the Environment so that all aspects of the Scheme can be considered at a local inquiry, the arrangements for which have yet to be finalised.

In my earlier letter I referred to the question of recreation facilities. Two new applications in this respect have been submitted and these relate to the Blaxland Farm site only, thus allaying any of the doubts there might have been concerning Mayton Peninsula. The County Council's Planning & Transportation Committee has considered the attitude it will adopt should the Secretary of State grant permission for the Reservoir and this policy is detailed in the enclosed copy of a press notice which has recently been issued. These views will be made known at the Inquiry.

Yours faithfully,

*K Majewski*

for County Secretary

### 'TAP RESERVOIR PLAN POTENTIAL'

A reservoir planned to meet the demands for water in part of Kent could provide the setting for a major leisure area.

If the scheme goes ahead it will create the largest stretch of water in the County, a 650-acre reservoir fringed with woodland.

Kent County Council's Planning and Transportation Committee has decided that full advantage should be taken of the recreational and tourism opportunities the reservoir will provide.

A water sports centre for activities such as sailing and fishing has been suggested. Picnickers and ramblers could use the picturesque countryside surrounding the lake in the Sarre Penn Valley at Broad Oak, near Canterbury.

A public inquiry is to be held by the Department of the Environment into the reservoir plan, drawn up by Southern Water Authority the Mid-Kent Water Company.

Mr. Martin Pym, Chairman of the County Council's Planning and Transportation Committee, said: "It is for a higher authority to decide whether objections to the reservoir scheme should be overridden.

"All we are saying is that should the water authority be given permission to proceed then the maximum tourism and recreational benefits should be derived for residents of Kent and visitors to the County.

"It could become a very great attraction."

Mr. Pym said the County Council's detailed studies on the future development of Kent had revealed two things with a direct bearing on the reservoir plan.

"The Structure Plan tells us that most use should be made of the economic and other benefits of tourism," he said, "and that water recreation opportunities should be improved.

"Here, in one proposal, we have an opportunity to boost both those objectives.

"There would be benefits to the Canterbury area, to which the tourist trade is important. And there could be a spin-off effect for the East Kent resorts. At the same time careful consideration must be given to the effect of this sort of use on local residents."

Now the Committee is to consult the South East England Tourist Board, the Countryside Commission and the Greater London and South East Council for Sport and Recreation.

. . . . . ENDS . . . . .

PRESS enquiries to  
Ron Green, ext. 3389

23/79

7 February 1979

# BLEAN, HACKINGTON & TYLER HILL SOCIETY

*Return to -*

Col G G Elliot, D S O.

November 1978

Nailbourne Society

'The Paddock'

Bishopsbourne, Canterbury

Dear Colonel Elliot,

Re: THE BROAD OAK RESERVOIR SCHEME.

The Secretary of State for the Environment has recently called for a Public Inquiry into the Southern Water Authority's and Mid Kent Water Company's joint proposals for a reservoir in the Sarre Penn valley at Broad Oak.

Together with the Parish Councils of Blean and Hackinton, this Society has formed a Working Committee, the aim of which is to ensure that the Proposers' plans are rigorously examined and local interests protected. It is our intention to brief Lawyers and Engineers to represent our views at the Public Inquiry.

This Society, along with many others, feel that a number of factors pertaining to the Proposers' application have yet to be publicly explored. It has always been our case that:-

- 1) The Demand figures purporting 'need' for such a reservoir are suspect, as is confirmed by a recent analysis of the Authority's statistics which was commissioned for us by the Council for the Protection of Rural England.
- 2) The 'Impact' on the immediate surrounding area and on the Canterbury East Kent region is unassessed. It is scarcely credible that there are no plans for an 'Impact Survey' contained in the proposals.
- 3) Even if a need for such a reservoir can be shown, the case against using the proposed site must far outweigh any geographical advantages.
- 4) The indications are that the effects of reduced water in the River Stour downstream of the extraction point could well be disastrous.

- 5) The loss of around 1000 acres of good agricultural land in the Sarre Penn valley; the loss of amenity to a rural environment and the effects of increased traffic would significantly change the locality for ever.

Whether the proposals are approved or not we have to collectively ensure that our environment is properly protected into the foreseeable future. To be sure of a rigorous scrutiny of the Proposers' case and a public examination of their underlying policies we need to be able to brief Lawyers and Engineers experienced in this type of enquiry. We are already supported towards this end by membership on our Working Committee of a Senior Officer of the Council for the Protection of Rural England:

This Society is willing to act as a co-ordinator for those who would wish for a concerted collective protection policy and to have their views expressed professionally at the Public Inquiry.

As Honorary Treasurer, I am writing to urge you and your Society to contribute to our appeal as generously as possible. An account has been opened specifically for this purpose.

Our objective is to raise a minimum of £5000.

Please send your contribution to the address overleaf. All contributions will be gratefully acknowledged.

All those Societies who contribute to this fund will be invited to send a representative to a meeting to be held, we hope, in mid December when objectives can be agreed and a formal briefing of Lawyers take place.

Yours sincerely,

*Ray Evison*

Ray Evison.

Honorary Treasurer

Elean, Hackington and Tyler Hill Society.

Finally, we should say that the flow of the river Little Stour, which has been declining for several years, is now so slight as to be barely noticeable and, consequently, its water area is practically obscured by siltation and the growth of weed from the sides. This may be largely due to the lack of rainfall in recent years but we have little doubt that the situation has been aggravated by the previous test pumping from the aquifers at Lee Priory and by the existing permanent pumping by the Thanet Water Board at Wingham.

Yours faithfully,

J.H. SLADE-POWELL (Brigadier)  
Chairman.

Copies to:

- David Crouch, Esq., M.P.
- W. Deedes, Esq., M.P.
- The Clerk, Bridge-Blean Rural District Council
- The Clerk, Kent River Authority
- The Manager, Thanet Water Board
- The Clerk, Littlebourne Parish Council
- " " Ickham Parish Council
- " " Wickhambreaux Parish Council
- Sir Charles Empson, K.C.M.G.
- ✓ Colonel G. Elliott, D.S.O.,
- David Spencer, Esq.
- David Martin, Esq.,
- Anthony Mauduit, Esq.
- C. Riddell, Esq. c/o "Kentish Gazette"

File

My Association has always opposed siltation from the banks of the river Little Stour. We have been in touch with both the Kent River Authority and the Thanet Water Board for some years now and the siltation of the Lee Priory water source last summer with the Public Supply already referred to. It gives us no pleasure to see a shortage arise, so what we might justifiably say "I told you so". We only want to see a solution found to the water problem, which will not permanently destroy the beauty of our river and jeopardise the natural beauty of the area.

Finally, ...



ICKHAM, WINGHAM & DISTRICT  
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

*Water*

New Place,  
Ickham,  
Canterbury,  
Kent.

26th June 1973.

The Secretary of State for the Environment,  
2 Marsham Street,  
LONDON SW1P 3EB.

Dear Sir,

Temporary Application to Abstract 300,000 gallons per day  
from Lee Priory Borehole.  
Water Act 1958, the Thanet Water Board (Drought) Order 1973.

The Water Board's application, under the above Act, has been brought to the notice of my Committee. As a responsible body, we would not oppose such an application under crisis conditions. Nevertheless, if the application is granted, we would like to be assured that a real emergency does exist and that the licence should be allowed only for a strictly limited period.

In connection with this matter, we would like to refer to your Inspector's Report (Your reference WS 3468/521/69 and 3348/23/11) in which an appeal for abstraction from the same borehole was dismissed, our letter to the Secretary of State, dated 22nd May 1973, about the application by the same Water Board to test pump at the Port Rill site and the Bridge-Blean Rural District Council's letter to the Secretary of State dated 21st June, 1973.

If it is found that there is no alternative other than to allow the Water Board to abstract from the Lee Priory borehole, my Association can only express profound regret and disappointment at seeing the very situation, against which we have fought so long, come about under duress.

We can only hope that the Secretary of State may now feel able to bring pressure to bear on the Thanet Water Board to make them hurry on with their long term plans for the future supply of water to this district, so that a halt can be made to their present reliance on their "day to day" palliative methods.

My Association has always opposed abstraction from the headwaters of the river Little Stour. We have been in touch with both the Kent River Authority and the Thanet Water Board for some years now and the culmination of the Lee Priory matter occurred last summer with the Public Inquiry already referred to. It gives us no pleasure to see a situation arise, in which we might justifiably say "I told you so". We only want to see a solution found to the water problem, which will not permanently destroy the beauty of our river and depreciate the natural amenity of the area.

/Finally, we.....