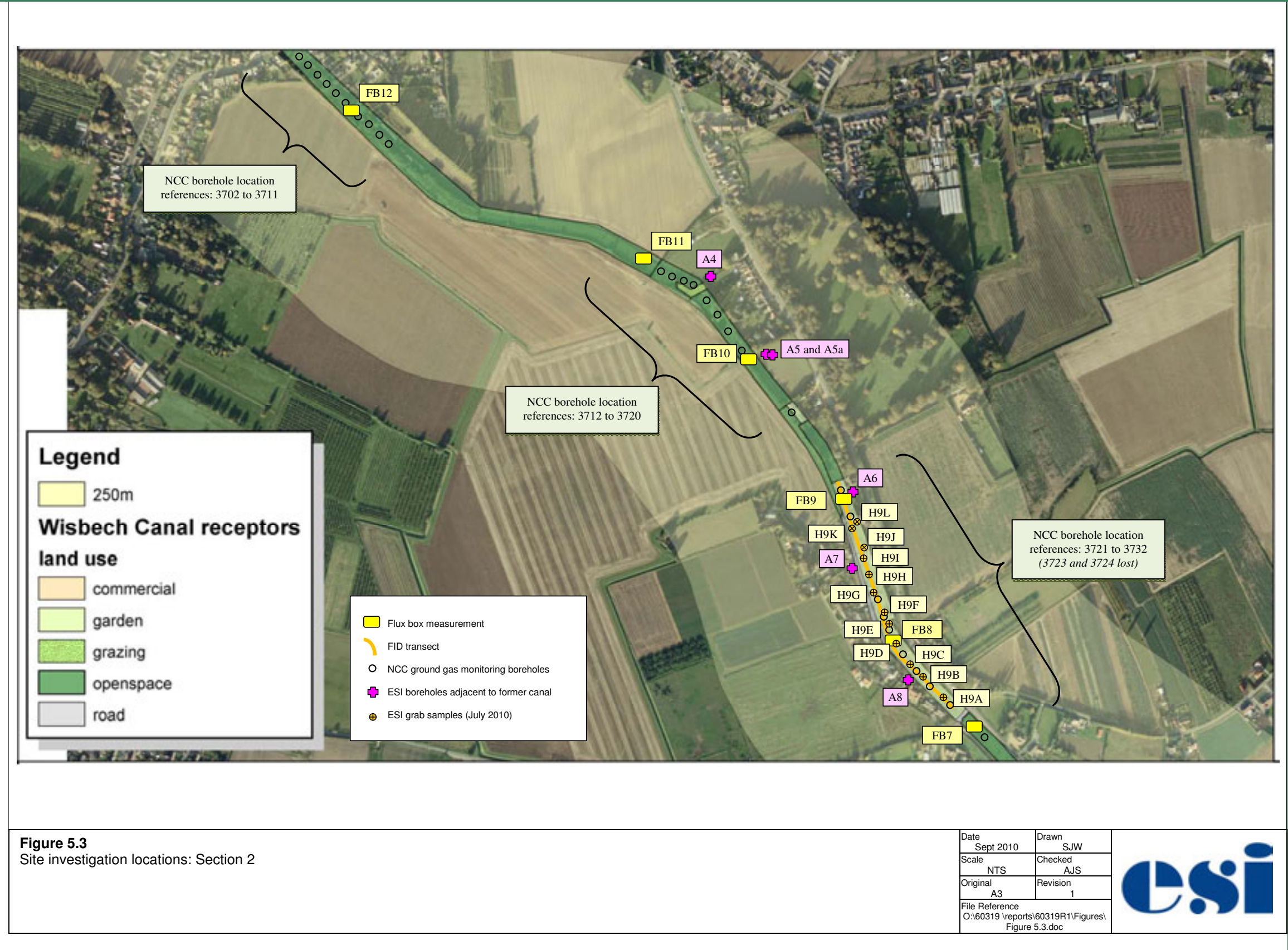
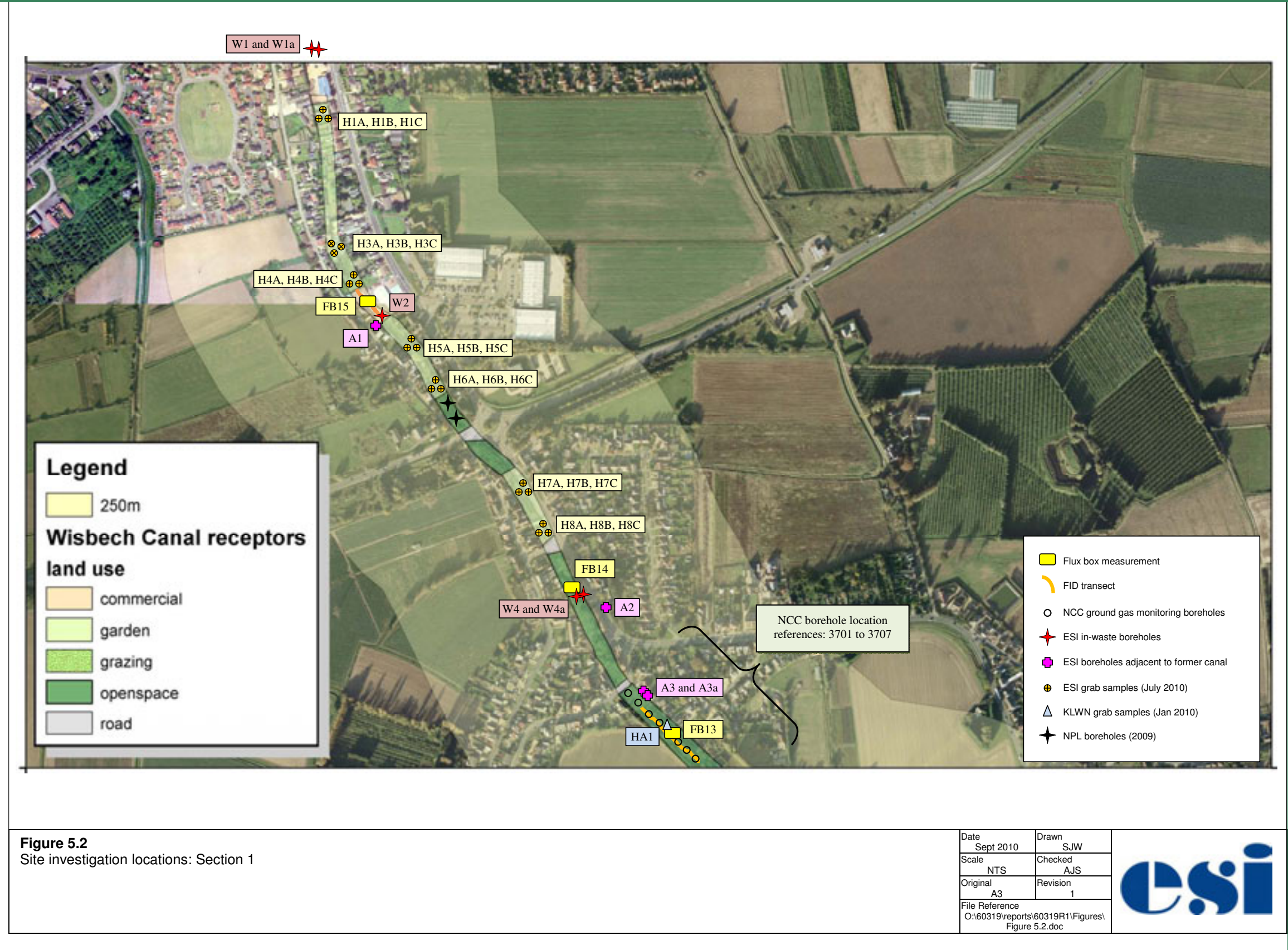
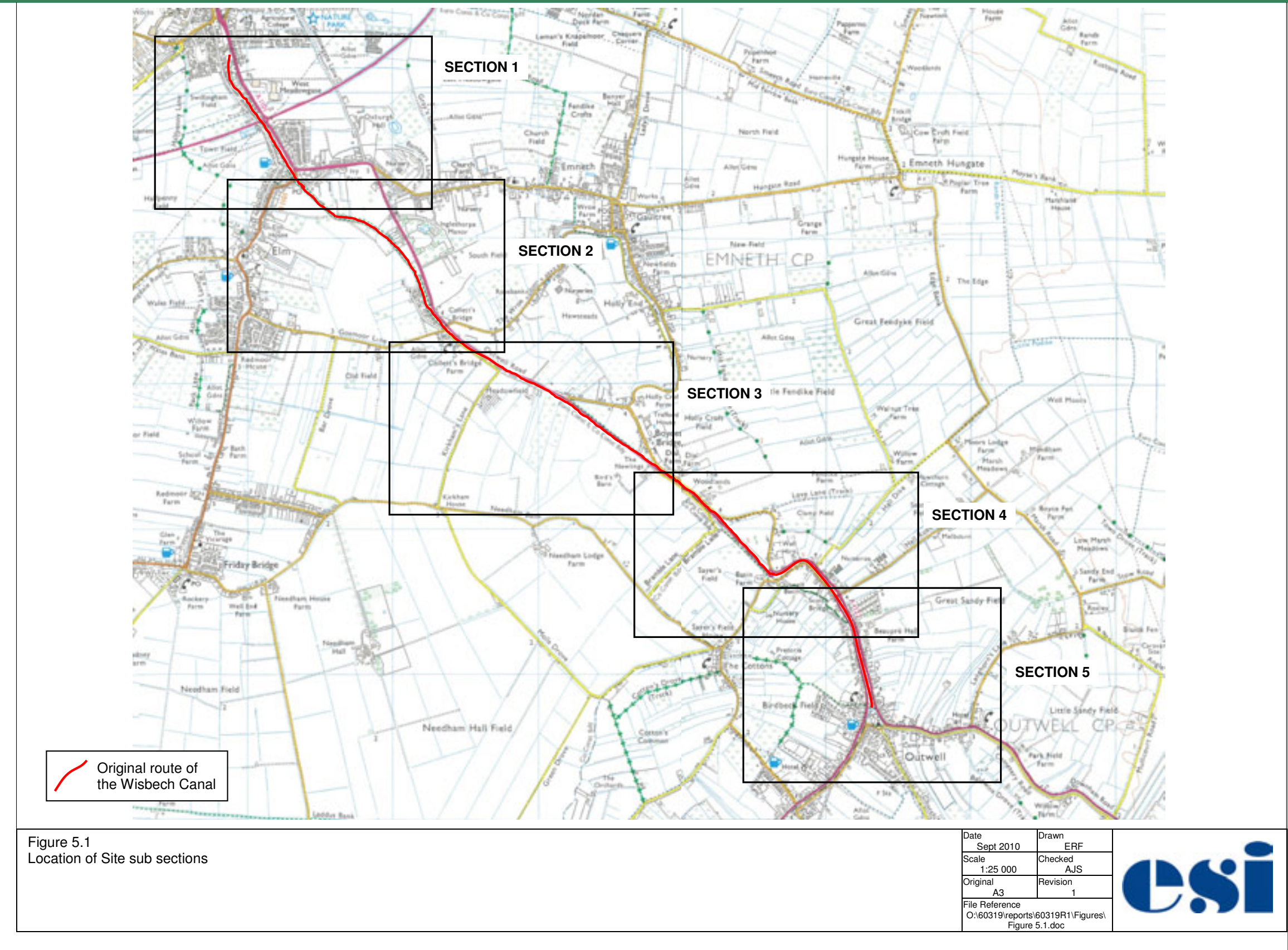


Wisbech Canal Project

Over the last few months the Borough Council of King’s Lynn & West Norfolk and Fenland District Council have completed a joint investigation into the environmental impacts of the landfilled materials contained within the former Wisbech Canal.

A company called ESI Ltd was appointed to carry out the detailed site investigation on behalf of both local authorities. Here is the area we looked at.

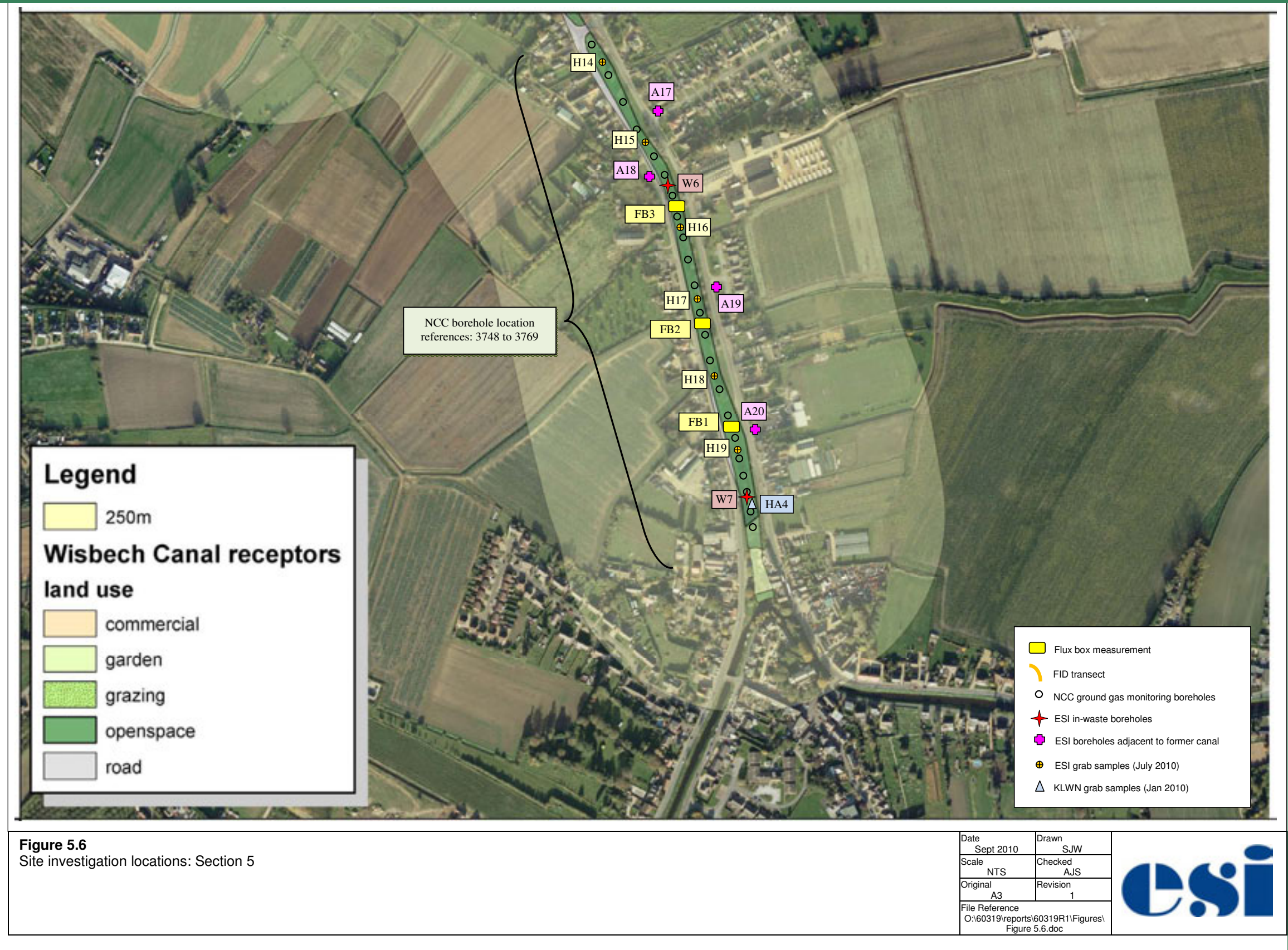
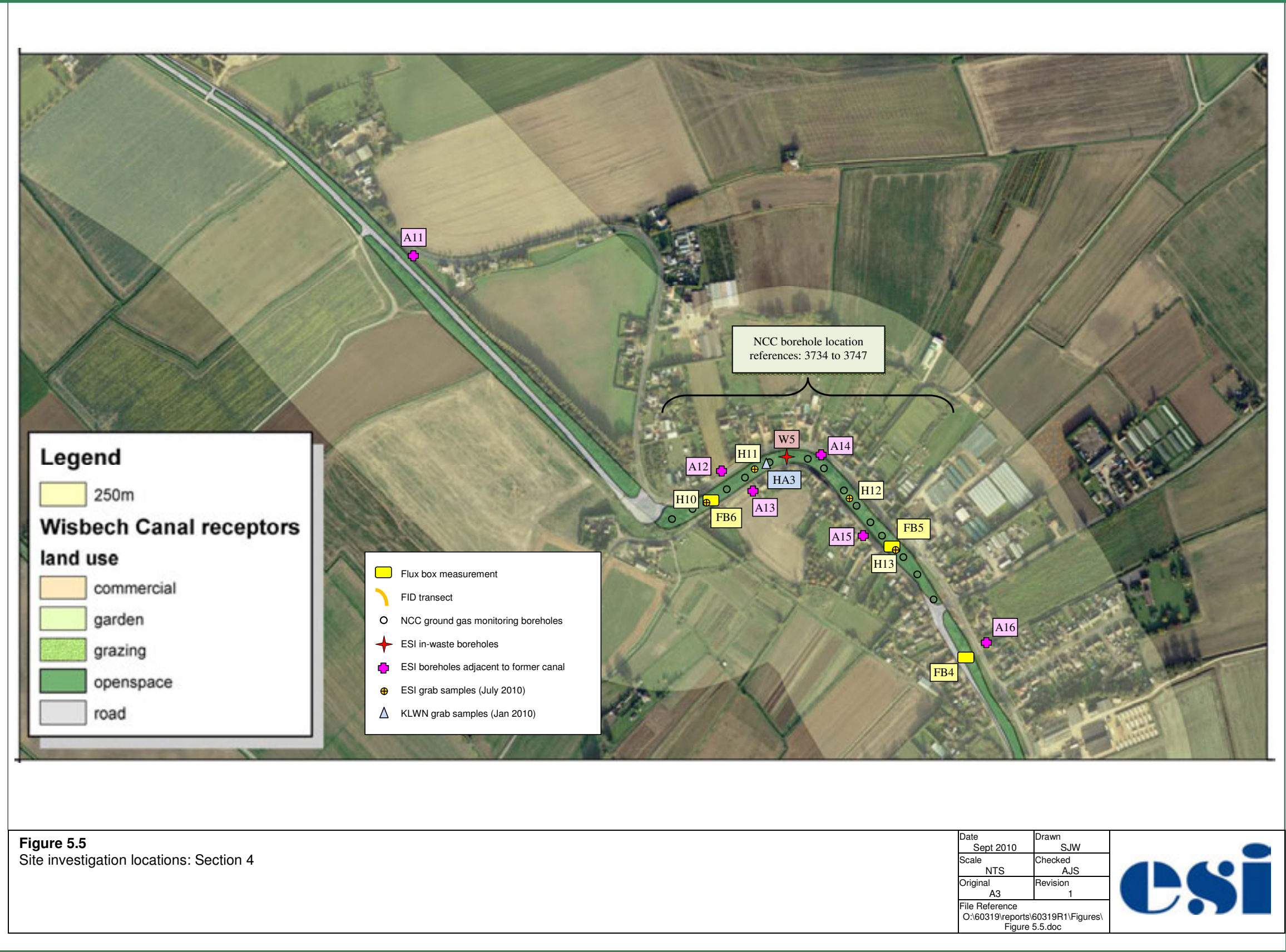


Site maps

Fifty five soil samples were taken along the course of the former canal from roadside verges, green open spaces, gardens and allotments.

Eight new boreholes were installed in the waste and twenty-two boreholes outside the waste. We took gas readings from all of the boreholes on six occasions between August and November. Additional gas measurements were also taken to identify if methane emissions could contribute towards climate change.

Chemical testing was carried out on ground water samples along the length of the canal including one sample taken from a private water well in Outwell.



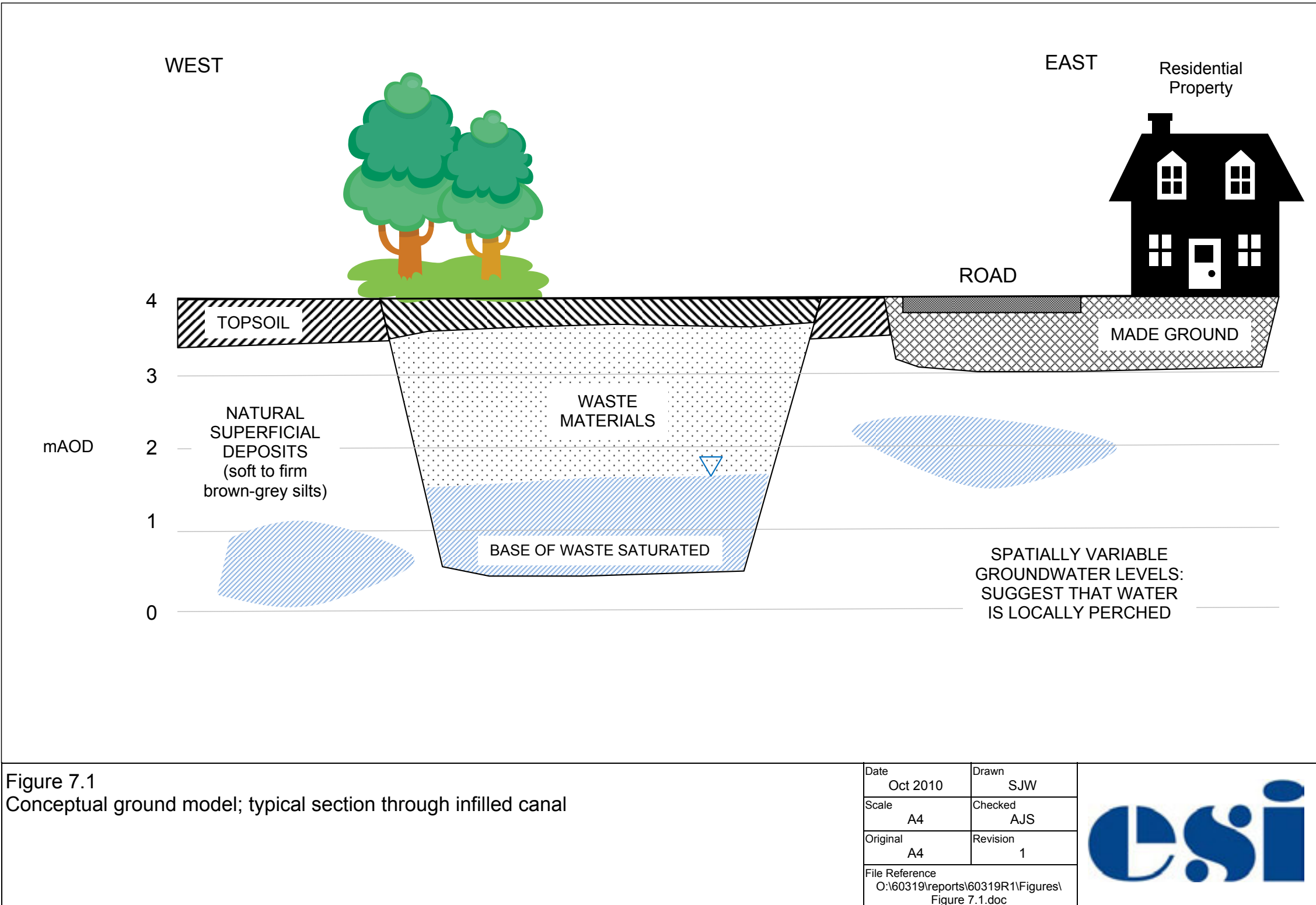
The investigation

Results

We wanted to find out if people, buildings or local rivers could be affected by any chemicals found in the infilled waste materials.

| Contaminant | What we looked for | What we found |
|--|--|---|
| Chemicals in the waste and in the overlying soil. | Chemicals which could be a risk if they are touched in garden soil, eaten via the soil attached to plants and vegetables, or breathed in as dust or vapours. Chemicals which could damage building materials. | People No human health risks from exposure to shallow soil or deeper wastes. No significant dusts or vapours. Produce, crops and livestock No significant risks from exposure to shallow soil or deeper wastes. No significant dusts or vapours. Buildings No significant risks from exposure to shallow soil |
| Chemicals in the waste and in the overlying soil. | Chemicals dissolved in water. | People No significant human health risks from water in the ground or in ditches. Water No evidence of serious contamination. Buildings No evidence of significant contamination in contact with buildings. |
| Landfill gas including methane and carbon dioxide. | Gas travelling towards buildings. Landfill gas passing into the air. | People No evidence that significant amounts of gas are escaping from the landfill. Climate Change Gas emissions are low and unlikely to contribute to climate change. |

This picture shows a cross-section view through the infilled canal.



Your questions answered

Where can I find a copy of the full Report?

A copy of the consultant's report and a non technical summary can be downloaded from our websites. West Norfolk residents can find the information at www.west-norfolk.gov.uk and Fenland residents at www.fenland.gov.uk.

Is the former Wisbech Canal Contaminated Land?

The Report shows that the landfill and surrounding land is not classified as Contaminated Land under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This means that there is no significant risk of harm to people living or working nearby or to their property, crops or livestock.

Could this report affect my house sale or purchase?

The report shows that the landfill does not pose any significant risks to nearby houses. When buying or selling a house near to a landfill site, the purchaser may ask for additional information. The report is available so that residents can now use it to demonstrate the low risk from the landfill site.

Can the report be used when applying for planning permission?

Previously when applying for planning permission to build a new home or large extension within 250 metres of the landfill site, each applicant would have been required to carry out a site specific contaminated land survey to look for chemicals or gas travelling out of landfill. The results of the investigation mean that we will not have to ask for a survey for this reason. This will save time and money.

Are there any additional costs to local council tax payers?

No, we received a grant from central government to carry out the investigation. The grant will cover the full costs of the detailed site investigation. The project was completed on time and on budget.

Can I use my garden as normal?

Yes you can. The investigation showed that any chemicals are contained within the landfill waste. We will provide separate advice to people if you have to dig deep into the waste materials for any reason. If you are gardening in soil then this is clean cover material that was added once the canal was filled.

Get in touch - we're here to help.

The work on the project has now been completed. However if you have any questions or concerns regarding the Wisbech Canal in the future, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



**West Norfolk residents should contact the
Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk.**

- **Call the Environmental Quality team on 01553 616200 during normal office hours**
- **E-mail: wisbechcanal@west-norfolk.gov.uk**
- **Visit: www.west-norfolk.gov.uk**



Fenland District Council

**Fenland residents should contact
Fenland District Council.**

- **Call the Environmental Health team on 01354 654321 during normal office hours**
- **E-mail info@fenland.gov.uk**
- **Visit: www.fenland.gov.uk**