

Dear Mike

I am indeed very unsatisfied with the way that this matter has been handled.

Could you please provide me with the following information:

- Where do you believe the asbestos in the Country Park came from?
- Do you believe the asbestos in the Country Park came from the Rocklands site?
- We believe the asbestos waste probably comes from the old apartment building demolished in 2010. Have you seen documented evidence from Rocklands that this waste was disposed of properly?
- You say that Rocklands have removed and disposed of the asbestos. Have you documented evidence that Rocklands have now properly disposed of all asbestos waste from the site?
- Have your officers made a detailed inspection of the Rocklands site?
- We believe asbestos might have been buried on the Rocklands site. Has anybody from HBC visited the Rocklands Caravan site to take soil samples?
- We believe that asbestos waste might have been used to form foundations or roads and car parking. Have samples been taken to ensure that this is not the case?
- What measures have your department taken to clear asbestos waste from the landslip area in the Country Park?
- Have safety notices been posted to warn the public of an asbestos hazard in the Country Park?

I remain very concerned about this issue and following your response to these questions will be considering taking the matter to the Health and Safety Executive.

Thanks in advance

Chris Hurrell

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**From:** Mike Hepworth [mailto:[MHepworth@hastings.gov.uk](mailto:MHepworth@hastings.gov.uk)]

**Sent:** 03 July 2014 10:45

**To:** Chris Hurrell

**Cc:** Lucy Pledge

**Subject:** RE: Concerns regarding asbestos waste at Rocklands Caravan Site

**Dear Chris** - our approach to complaints about waste on private land like this, where we have no evidence whatsoever of who put the waste there, is to notify the landowner & ask them to remove it. If they don't co-operate we may consider formal enforcement action, such as a Notice requiring the removal of the waste, & if that Notice was not complied with we would consider prosecution.

Our enforcement action has to be graduated, proportionate, & consistent.

You say that: "One assumes that the waste material was just dumped within the grounds of Rocklands at the edge of the site."

Enforcement agencies can't act on assumptions. We have to have good evidence to prove a case.

I'm sorry that you are not satisfied with the way that we have dealt with this issue, but I can assure you that this is consistent with how we deal with similar cases.

Best wishes,

Mike

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**From:** Chris Hurrell [mailto:[duckbrand@talktalk.net](mailto:duckbrand@talktalk.net)]

**Sent:** 02 July 2014 09:50

**To:** Mike Hepworth

**Cc:** John Hodges Cllr (Internet); Cllr Dawn Poole; Cllr Peter Chowney; Cllr Jeremy Birch; [amber.rudd.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:amber.rudd.mp@parliament.uk); 'Andrew Blackman'; 'David Woolf'; [michaelmadden54@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:michaelmadden54@tiscali.co.uk); Maggie Alderson; 'bob okines'; 'Tim Cross'

**Subject:** FW: Concerns regarding asbestos waste at Rocklands Caravan Site

Dear Mr Hepworth

Thank you for your reply.

White asbestos is a very dangerous substance and there are clear national guidelines on removal and disposal. Rocklands have failed to follow any of these guidelines.

It is clear that asbestos waste on the landslip has come from the Rocklands site. One assumes that the waste material was just dumped within the grounds of Rocklands at the edge of the site. Following the landslip this waste has now moved into the country park which is a SAC and an SSI.

I am astounded that no punitive measures have been taken against the developers. Can you please explain why your department has taken no punitive action.

Thanks in advance

Chris Hurrell

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**From:** Mike Hepworth [mailto:[MHepworth@hastings.gov.uk](mailto:MHepworth@hastings.gov.uk)]  
**Sent:** 01 July 2014 21:56  
**To:** [duckbrand@talktalk.net](mailto:duckbrand@talktalk.net)  
**Cc:** Scott Lawson; Lucy Pledge  
**Subject:** Concerns regarding asbestos waste at Rocklands Caravan Site

**Dear Mr Hurrell** - sorry that we haven't come back to you with an update on this sooner. I'm afraid that we've been extremely busy & the whole department relocated offices in the last few weeks.

Following your complaint that there was asbestos waste on the area of the site affected by the landslip, my colleague Scott Lawson visited & took a sample. This was sent to a specialist contractor for expert analysis. The results were positive for white asbestos, which fortunately is considered to be the least hazardous type of asbestos. It was commonly used in building materials such as corrugated asbestos cement roofing sheets, which are still found on many buildings from domestic garages to agricultural barns. It is not clear how the broken up building material got to this location.

We provided a copy of the analysis to the operators of the Rocklands site as well as some guidance on the safe handling & disposal of this sort of asbestos waste. They have subsequently removed & disposed of it.

Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

Best wishes,

Mike

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