

The Railway, the Cutting, the Fridges and the Tip !

Do you recognise the view in the photograph below ?



This is on one of the busiest routes out of the village and this is how it looked back in the 1970s prior to the development of the recycling centre at the Heath. The building in the right of the photo is Bridge Farm, which was for many years run as a thriving business by the Pingree family. The small patch of ground to the left is where the tip now stands and in between them both is a rather large railway cutting and bridge. The structure of the top of the bridge, or what's left of it can still be seen on either side of the road as you are driving on the Heath Road today

The railway was the Cambridge to March line, and ran up the Heath from St Ives station, and under the bridge on its way to the next station in Somersham. According to the information available today, the line closed in 1967 and was left alone pretty much until the 1970s when the railway lines were removed, the cuttings filled in and the land returned, where possible, to agricultural use.

In Bluntisham, quite a novel approach was taken to fill in the cutting as this article from the Hunts Post back in 1976 explains:

PHOTO: PETER... (partially obscured)

A rubbish dump is not most people's idea of the best sort of next-door neighbour to have, but that's not the way former Gerry Pigrae and his wife Maureen feel about it.

The Pigrae farm at Blunston, Hereford, since January this year they have had a county council waste disposal site on their land. But they have been pleased to discover that paving the way to the site has meant working with a business. The business is in fact, at Maureen Pigrae's job, they are not often reminded that the tip is there at all. Furthermore, the dump has the added attraction of eventually providing the Pigrae farm with an additional source of agricultural topsoil.

The project here at Blunston has been doing two valuable jobs at once. It has been to dispose of the huge quantities of rubbish generated by our modern, over-packed, top-tip, open-air society, while at the same time recovering land that was once the site of a railway track that ran from Cambridge to Shrewsbury.

Since the old railway track that ran from Cambridge to Shrewsbury was taken up about a year ago, the deep cutting that formed the level under the Woodbury to Blunston road has been left in the state of a bare, unworked, and sterile soil. It is in this area that a Mr Pigrae has been able to plant British Railways' pulled out.

This started the land for several years, until Mr Pigrae was approached with a proposal from the county council's waste disposal officer, Mr Mike Tassell. For the money, Mr Tassell would acquire a site on the piece of land, and Mr Tassell, the site being mostly empty, would be filled with the rubbish that is dumped and covered in the earth layer by layer. In this way, the old railway bed would be gradually brought up to level with the land on either side of it, with a good depth of topsoil to finish the job off. In other words, Mr Pigrae would have his railway cutting, which is well served into an extra eight acres of valuable agricultural land.

An offer he could not refuse, as not to do so.

The first loads of rubbish began arriving at the Blunston site in January this year, rolling in at a rate of about 31 tons a day. This rubbish is carefully covered with earth as soon as each load is dumped, working in steady layers about the entire width and length of the bridge, which cleared yield about 16 acres of arable land over the next seven or eight years. This steady covering of the rubbish has been the policy of work at the site since it opened, thus avoiding the more unpleasant and messy disposal of waste which would have meant no more super-flowing streams, no flies or bad smells—all very common in the past.

And this policy seems to be working well, as Mr and Mrs Pigrae will testify. The project has been a success, as has been pointed out in other aspects of waste disposal have been come



● No flies on this tip! As the refuse is quickly covered with earth, this is the way along the railway cutting to the road bridge. On the left is pictured Mr Mike Tassell, the waste disposal officer.

Oh what a lovely rubbish dump!

by Chris Dunn

land and Engineering at Blunston.

The one other facilities for householders is a small large tank of water, the old tank and, instead of water, plants and the like. The other seems to be a road for the when you consider that in the days to work no less than 20 tons of rubbish a day were delivered to the site. If there might have been some use for road side during the past, there is certainly not today.

So if you have been wondering what to do about that pile of rubbish, the site here is a model of what you should be doing. It is a work of being it all out to you, and the accident of it is a good one, outside the main road, and many people have visited in the past.

All you have to do to get into of your rubbish tip is to go to the site, where it will be located a few miles from the site, and if you can't manage to go, you can get a car to the site, and you will be glad to see it. The site is a good one, and it is a good one, and it is a good one.

The Blunston operation is also running a pilot scheme to collect and recycle waste on. Although most of the old and new rubbish has been into the site, it is a good one, and it is a good one, and it is a good one.

Who recycles it for some purposes of its interest. Mike Tassell and his deputy are very active in promoting the 30 per cent of the year and park, and so far the site is doing very well. Wood has got most of the British rubbish pretty quick, and rubbish of all kinds is being sorted in from the tip, but the site is a good one, and it is a good one, and it is a good one.

So now you know where you can get your rubbish tip, and you will be glad to see it. The site is a good one, and it is a good one, and it is a good one.

Site n

Two, they reported by a... (partially obscured)

More p

Another has been... (partially obscured)

Company's new offices

Pranger Travel officially opened their new offices at 38 High Street, Bath, on a Wednesday. The new site is a fine one, and it is a good one, and it is a good one.

Torn away

The High Street road from the site of the Little Church, Bath, on the 11th of October, and the site is a good one, and it is a good one, and it is a good one.

So, next time, as you drive up the Heath Road look out for the stones from the top of the railway bridge at either side of the road, they form the curb. This is what is left of the bridge over the cutting and the land where the tip now sits and where the poly tunnels are is the old cutting, filled to the brim with rubbish. Maureen tells me that it took ten years to complete and there is all sorts buried underneath; fridges, mattress', cookers, all covered in a good layer of topsoil. Hard to imagine that it was once a thriving railway line at the bottom of it all.