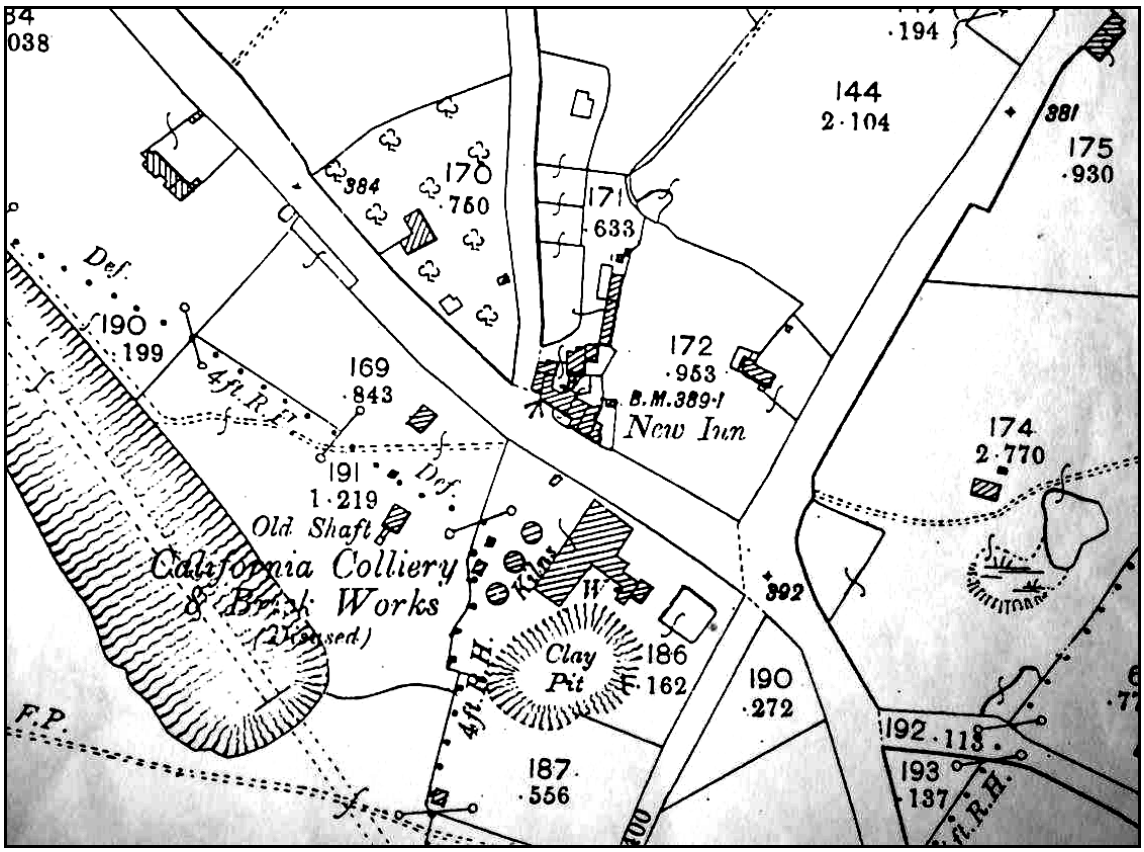
A SANITARY DISGRACE AT PEGG'S GREEN IN THE 1950s.



Extract from 1903 O/S Map showing Brickworks clay pit in the centre bottom of the map. Note its location in relation to the 'New Inn'. See the following text relating to this clay pit.

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - NOV 2026

INTRODUCTION

Those of a certain age will probably recall as youngsters, walking up the track from Stoney lane which went by the rear of the back gardens of the houses on Zions Hill and running parallel to the former Coleorton Railway. This brought you out by the old California Brick Works clay pit, only a stones throw from the 'New inn' which was progressively daily filled with the contents of the lavatory pans collected by council trucks from around the parish of Coleorton and beyond (**see the map on the front cover**). There was no safety fences around this deep, steep sided clay pit, which from memory, was half filled with the bubbling effluent and it would have been easy to fall in there, never to be seen again!! It was a favourite meeting place to play football. The trucks used to enter the site from Stoney lane where the Coleorton railway line crossed over.

Transcribed from the Coalville Times - Fri 20 Jan 1952

Pegg's Green Residents Write To The Editor

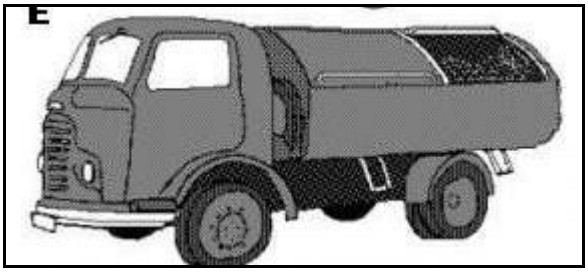
"WE HAVE A COUNCIL TIP ON OUR DOORSTEP"

Dear Sir,

The people of Pegg's Green read with overwhelming surprise the feature "Clean food means better health" in connection with the campaign by Ashby Rural and Urban Councils.

We are fighting for "better hygiene" here, as we are all "finicky people," but we are struggling under a great handicap as the Council's tip is practically on our doorsteps, and all the contents of the district lavatory pans are emptied there throughout the day by council trucks.

The trucks featured sliding partitioned side compartments with large bulk tanks designed specifically to transport waste, as shown below



The pans had a handle either side and the council men put the bins on their backs to carry them before tipping them into the truck. When returned back to the lavatory they had been taken from an awful smelling pink powder was put into them, the purpose of which was never explained to me.- The author



This photograph actually shows dustbin rubbish being tipped which the trucks were used for as well

We read that sanitary inspectors guard our health, but what chance of good health is there for us, and our children particularly, when we have to contend with swarms of germ-laden flies in our houses, and the stench that penetrates through closed doors and windows.

We would welcome the visit of these inspectors, but of course, we know that the only way of safeguarding our health is the removal of this nuisance, and the installation of a proper sewerage scheme.

A petition signed by a hundred people was sent to the Council last February, but the only thing they said in reply was that "the petition was considered by the Council at its last meeting, and the Council is taking all steps practicable to mitigate any nuisance caused by this tip."

We are still awaiting results, and we hope that the publicising of this state of affairs will help to get the matter settled to our satisfaction, before there is an epidemic. **Yours truly, E. WHEATLEY (MRS.) New Inn, Pegg's Green**.