

# Emergency Response and Recovery

Monday 18 November 2024

# Investigation Update

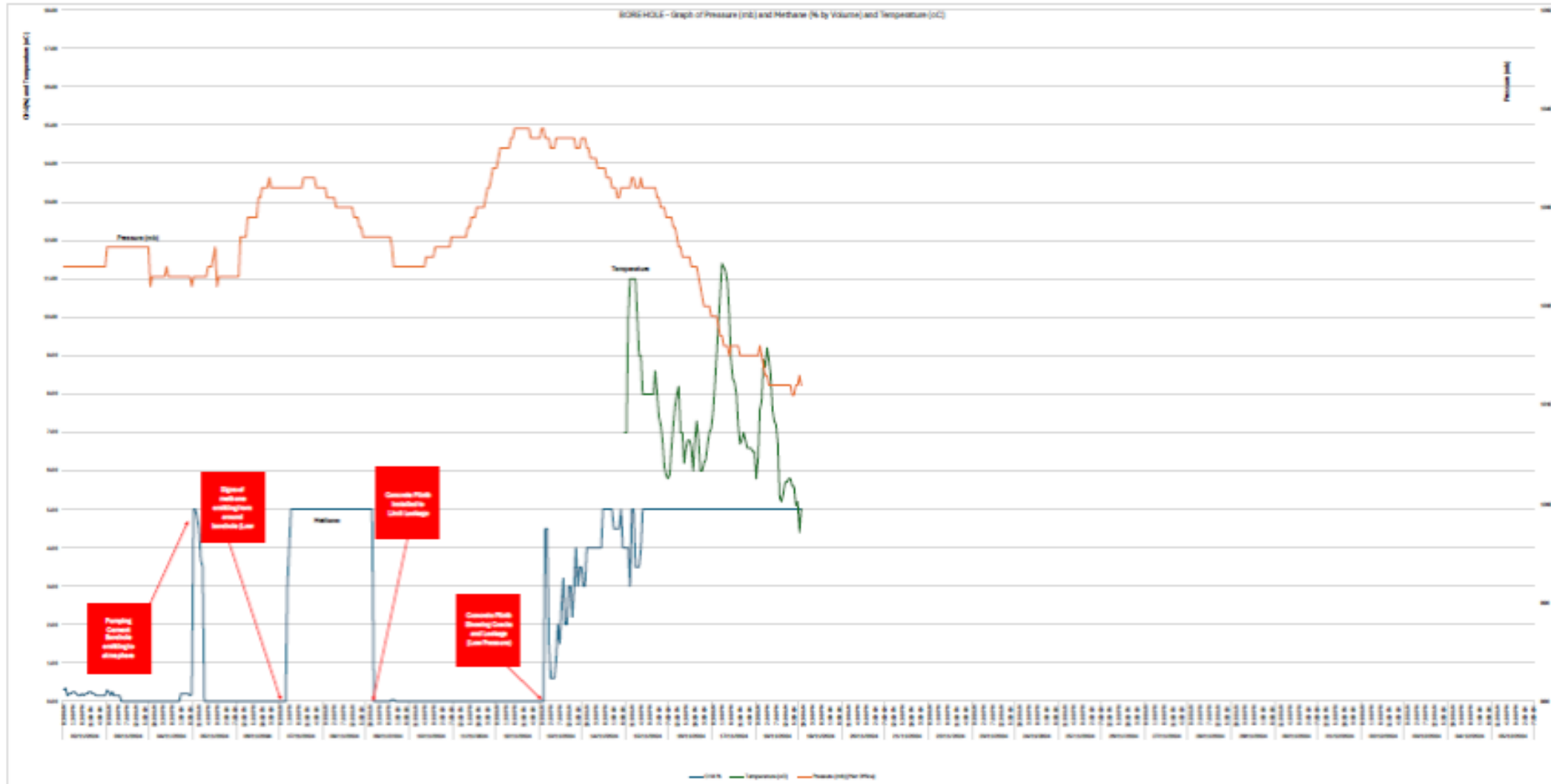
- We are continuing to work with key partners and specialist agencies to establish the cause of the explosion
- The explosion site will remain cordoned off in order to maintain the integrity of our ongoing investigation
- Officers from our community policing team will continue to conduct regular patrols in the area to support with reassurance amongst residents

Unfortunately, there is no update or established timeline regarding coroner's inquest.

# Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

## Update

# Gas and Safety



## What are we doing

- An overview of the underlying geology has been provided and a specialist team remains available
- Our team are undertaking repeat surveys to better understand the dynamic system. We continue to monitor for atmospheric and subsoil gas, and the transfer of ground to air gas
- The focus for monitoring this week has been the changes in atmospheric pressure starting on Fri 15<sup>th</sup> and forecast through to Tues 19<sup>th</sup> November
- We are increasingly turning our resources to interpreting the data and better understanding baseline levels for the area.





## Our data (initial readings from 29<sup>th</sup> October)

- Observing fluctuations in readings over time
- Methane in soil 29<sup>th</sup> October
- To note:
  - Above baseline on Wagstaff Cl
  - Above baseline Glenrose Av (outside/edge of cordon)





## Latest data (BGS methane in air)

- Outside BGS
- In air measurements
- 15<sup>th</sup> November





## Latest data (BGS soil gas)

- Soil gas readings
- 15<sup>th</sup> November
- Periodic extensions to the survey to the west of Cleat Hill assist with building an understanding of background in ground gas values





## Summary

- At present - our monitoring operations are recording low levels of gas, potentially below our current detection limits
- Latest BGS data supports the suggestion that gas flow from the borehole has been restricted, if not stemmed
- We have been able to record important data over the weekend during changing environmental conditions (including current fluctuations in atmospheric pressure). This work is ongoing as we seek to understand the potential impact that these environmental changes may have on gas levels and flow.
- The priority of BGS remains providing a robust set of data that the incident response coordinators can use in their decision-making, with our team remaining on site to continue monitoring work and collecting further readings.

# Gas Monitoring in Homes

- Working with industry safety specialist
  - Remote access to alarm levels
  - Provision of a 24/7 monitored solution
  - Protocol for Multi-Agency response
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- Completing individual risk assessments for each homes

# Next Steps and Developing Our Roadmap

- Feedback - What we have heard from the telephone calls and drop-in surgery about safety and communication:
  - A difference in opinion regarding returning home and what individual households need in order to feel safe returning home i.e., monitoring
  - Less text messages when there is no substantial update
  - Regular gas readings and evidence to be available to residents
  - Timeline of events
  - We will be updating the Questions and Answers on the FAQ page:  
<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/cleat-hill-resident-faq>
- Residents Association



<b>LRF ACTIONS PLAN 18/11/24 – 16/12/24</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY</b>	<b>High Level Aim</b>	<b>Milestone *</b>	<b>RAG**</b>
Individual property risk assessments completed	Scientific & Technical Advisory Cell (STAC)	To help provide assurance to individual residents/households by providing a safety-based risk evaluation of ingress of Methane gas into property and suitability of monitoring controls to alert households to the presence of gas.	22/11/24	AMBER
Introduce Indoor Property Methane Monitoring System to residents	LRF	Introduce residents to methane monitoring system, allow time for familiarisation of controls/mitigation/monitoring	18/11/24	GREEN
Methane Monitoring System – property evaluation	STAC & Humanitarian & Recovery Cell	Evaluation of monitoring system requirements for individual properties in line with individual property risk assessments as part of safety controls/mitigation/monitoring.	22/11/24	AMBER
Methane Monitoring Systems - installed into properties	Specialist Contractor Humanitarian & Recovery Cell	Where individual residents agree – installation of Methane Monitoring System.	06/12/24	AMBER
Gas specialists are continuing their onsite resource to support the resident's safe returns to collect belongings.	Specialist Contractor	Specialist contractors to provide ongoing technical support as the incident unfolds until residents are able to return to their properties and suitable controls and/or monitoring are in place	Daily	GREEN
Review of what technical support will be necessary for gas monitoring as and when residents return to property.	STAC	To identify what specialist monitoring will continue to be put in place (that complements ongoing monitoring)	22/11/24	AMBER
Evaluation of road cordons	Fire & Police and STAC	To remove and/or reduce cordons to enable those residents who wish to return to properties (and where individual property risk assessments deem it appropriate) to do so– Residents to be updated following SCG meetings as and when they occur.	Daily	AMBER

Officer representations across LRF providing on ground support until residents fully back to their properties.	LRF	Support residents until suitable mitigation is in place to ensure safety of residents and the removal for the need of a cordon	Daily	<b>GREEN</b>
Professional security employed to enhance the police presence on the ground around the boundary of those properties that back onto the golf club and/or depot/brook area	BBC	To continue until relevant households are able to return to their properties	Daily	GREEN
Resident Group.	BBC/LRF - Comms	Ascertain agreement of residents for the creation of a resident's group (BBC to facilitate and support with suitable governance arrangements).	18/11/24	AMBER
Weekly public meetings organised until further review and resident forum set up	BBC/LRF - Comms	LRF to engage with residents until residents are able to safely return to their properties and/or setting up of a resident's group	Weekly	GREEN
Offer resident drop-in meetings.	BBC - Coms	Offer residents bespoke appointment based drop-in meetings to discuss ongoing concerns and answer questions.	16/12/24	AMBER
Continue resident communications including text messages and calls	BBC/LRF - Comms	LRF to engage with residents until residents are able to safely return to their properties and/or setting up of a resident's group	Daily	GREEN
Regular press releases/media briefings	BBC - Comms	Provide opportunity for LRF to engage with residents until residents are able to safely return to their properties and/or setting up of a residents group	Daily	GREEN
Undertake a coronial investigation alongside HSE	Bedfordshire Police/Coroner	Aiming to understand the cause of the explosion and statutory implications.	Daily	GREEN
To support community reassurance visits and engagement with impacted community in support of Bedford Borough council.	Bedfordshire Police.	Will continue until residents are able to safely return to their properties	Daily	GREEN
Continue to have representation at warning and informing, and Humanitarian assistance cells whilst these remain in place.	Bedfordshire Police.	As incident continues and will continue until residents are able to safely return to their properties	Daily	GREEN

Provide specialist support to the investigation to determine the cause of the explosion and fire.	BFRS	<b>As incident continues and will continue until residents are able to safely return to their properties</b>	Daily	GREEN
To provide specialist support to the delivery of the LRF functions	BFRS	As incident continues and will continue until residents are able to safely return to their properties	Daily	GREEN
To provide resources that support partner agencies in delivering their respective responsibilities.	BFRS	Ongoing as incident continues and will continue until residents are able to safely return to their properties	Daily	GREEN
Recognise opportunities to adjust the plan for residents or circumstances change.	LRF	Continue to liaise with all stakeholders on an ongoing basis and adjust plans accordingly until residents are able to safely return to their properties. Issues log to be created/updated where any action unable to be completed or changes required.	Daily	GREEN
Land Registry invited to meeting	BBC	To ask/clarify concerns at 7 cleat hill and ongoing	18/11/24	GREEN



<b>LRF ACTIONS PLAN BEYOND 16/12/24</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY</b>	<b>High Level Aim</b>	<b>Milestones*</b>	<b>RAG**</b>
Coronal Investigation outcome	Police/HSE	Investigation outcome	TBC	AMBER
Coroners hearing	Coroner	Hearing outcome	TBC	AMBER
Residents Group formed and governance arrangements in place	Residents & BBC Coms	Residents (supported by BBC) in setting up suitable governance & support arrangements	10/01/25	AMBER
Evaluation of regulation relating to incident	HSE/BBC	To identify any learning from incident with a view to ascertain whether there is any regulatory improvements that can be introduced to help prevent further similar incidents.	TBC	AMBER
Legal position	BBC	Determine legal position once outcome of investigation and hearing	TBC	AMBER
Monitoring of gas in air, soil and properties (and for how long)	BGS	Identify what monitoring will continue following 16/12/24	6/12/24	AMBER
Evaluation of individual agencies ongoing response within LRF and creation of a recovery road map.	LRF & Humanitarian & Recovery Cell	Individual Agencies to identify what their role and ongoing response will be following 16/12/24	6/12/24	AMBER

- \*MILESTONES - Given the complex nature of the ongoing incident; varied nature of risks posed to individual property; the number of households involved; and the different risk perception of individual resident's milestones are aims for the relevant collective residents/households to be completed by not individual residents/households.
- \*\* RAG ratings – RAG rating will be assessed/reviewed on a daily basis therefore will be subject to change at any given period of time. Green will apply to those actions/milestones completed; amber will indicate a date where there is a need to complete action for all residents/households (understanding some actions, for some residents, will occur before milestones are completed; and Red will denote where actions not progressed within milestone aim . Issues log will be created where red is identified and this will be communicated to residents and relevant agencies.