

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WIRKSWORTH UDC WATER UNDERTAKING

Taken from Public Health Reports 1894 – 1962 (some reports missing)

Date	Description	
1894	Population of 3725 requires 67,050 gpd from springs yielding 2794 gph. Reservoir holds 38,000 gallons. This required turning off the water supply during the night. Ilkeston Borough expected to take Merebrook Sough supply.	Wash Green Res and Springs
1895	Talks about the spring supply from Millstone Grit being sufficient only in wet months and of building more storage. Aware of high yield of Merebrook Sough also being looked at by Derby Borough Engineers.	Wash Green Merebrook Sough
1897	The Springs at the base of the Millstone Grit Cap East of Wirksworth were allotted to the inhabitants of Wirksworth by Act of Parliament 1802. More springs bought in 1886 by the council. They all issue at about 790 ft aOD. Mention of 7 miles of water mains laid in 1882 and water leakage of older mains being a problem. Recommendation of a 5,000,000 gal storage reservoir required.	Wash Green Springs
1899	A Deacon Waste Water Meter hired for 3 months to good effect.	
1902	A Target is set of 2 years to improve the water supply system. Either increase storage or find new sources. Concerns still about the wastage of water which is not helped by the high pressure in the mains. Range is from 56 lbs / sq inch to over 100 lbs / sq inch.	
1903	Options for Increasing Quantity of Water: (1) Storing your own surplus water in the Winter months; (2) A supply from the Heanor and Ilkeston Water Board. (Limestone water) (3) A supply from the Derwent Valley Water Board. (Gritstone water) For 2 and 3 there is the expense of buying water, laying mains, building a service reservoir and pumping.	
1904	Instructed Mr. Percy Griffith, M.Inst.C.E.. to prepare and present a report for additional water supply.	
1908	Your Council have engaged Mr. F. W. Hodson, F.G.S., of Loughborough, to report on the best means of augmenting your supply.	
1920	The Homesford water supply is approaching completion. (spring supply to Homesford Cottages)	Homesford Spring
1921	Mention of: 1. Rise End . Well (with pump) in the limestone. 2. Godfrey Hole . Well in the limestone; supply sufficient for	

	<p>human consumption.</p> <p>3. Homesford. Spring from millstone grit by roadside. Collecting tank constructed and a service 1in. pipe conveyed to a relief tank which supplies the houses at Homesford. Work completed 9th June, 1921.</p> <p>4. Longway Bank. Spring near the chapel requires attention.</p>	
1925	The main reservoir supplies Wirksworth, and a smaller reservoir at a somewhat higher level supplies Bole Hill. There is also a separate small reservoir for Longway Bank and another for Homesford .	Wash Green
1937	Mention of good supply from Wigwell and Dunsley	Wigwell Bore Hole and Dunsley Spring
1938	The Wirksworth collecting system of pipework was found defective, and the system is being reconstructed at a cost of £600. Water supplies are being chlorinated as a precautionary measure.	Wash Green
1939	The old earthenware pipes on the Wirksworth collecting ground have been replaced by spun steel pipes and the pipe line is now satisfactory. Bolehill has also been connected up to the Wigwell Supply, thereby assuring a water supply to houses in the highest part of this district.	Wash Green Wigwell
1941	Proper dosing equipment should be acquired and operated.	Wash Green
1942	The original spring supply at Middleton has diminished considerably, and some measure will have to be taken to ensure a supply against breakdown in the Dunsley Hydrostatic system. (Hydrum)	Middleton Spring Dunsley Spring Middleton Res
1943	Hydrum overhauled and proposed Booster installation considered.	Via Gellia
1944	1. Pump & Engine at Wigwell bore hole overhauled 2. Booster Pump installation in the Via Gillia has proved satisfactory, the supply at Middleton being exceptionally good, and constant, throughout the year,	Wigwell BH Via Gellia Hydrum Middleton
1947	A new cylinder block was fitted to the Wigwell Diesel Pumping Engine	Wigwell
1948	1. Following some unsuitable samples all the service Reservoirs were cleaned and improvements made to the chlorination drip process. 2. Additional Supplies looked at for Wirksworth area now the town is growing. 3. The Wigwell Diesel Engine had a complete breakdown. A Gardner Diesel engine was temporarily installed. 4. The Hydrum at Via Gellia had difficulties and the electric booster pump was used	Wash Green and others? Wigwell Via Gellia Hydrum

1949	<p>Public Enquiry into sinking a Borehole at Hanson Farm. This will assure the supply for Wirksworth for years to come for whatsoever may be the development of the Town.</p> <p>Samples taken for having aggressive action on metals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dunsley Spring water from Ram feed at Via Gellia Pump House 2. Spring water at discharge point Middleton Reservoir. 3. Wirksworth Springs from measure Chamber 	Hanson Farm Borehole
1950	<p>The new borehole sunk at Hanson Farm, Longway Bank when pump-tested did not yield the supply which had been anticipated, due to the fine grained texture of the rock. Various suggestions have been made by the Consulting Engineers, such as driving adits, etc., but to date work on the site has been abandoned.</p>	Hanson Farm Borehole
1951	<p>Once again the open reservoirs were the cause of any unsatisfactory samples of water which were taken and this was particularly noticeable after very heavy prolonged rains. The chloros which is put into the open reservoirs is for the purpose of inhibiting algal growth and cannot under any stretch of imagination pretend to present a properly chlorinated water supply to the consumers tap.</p> <p>The Hanson Farm Borehole was finally abandoned after a explosives were fired into the well in an attempt to break up the finely grained rock.</p>	<p>Middleton</p> <p>Hanson Bore Hole</p>
1953	<p>A new source of water found at the Blobber Mine .</p>	Ladyflatt
1954	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A new pump-house has been erected containing meters and chlorination apparatus and pumping unit consisting of an Electric Submersible 24 h.p. Pump has been installed capable of delivering 144,000 galls. of water per day against a total head of 347 feet. Laying of new mains, alteration of existing mains and all ancillary works necessary have been completed. The water to be extracted from the disused mine and mixed with the present spring supplies is of excellent quality and entirely free from contamination. The normal procedure of bacteriological examination of the water will be carried out and any slight deterioration of quality can be corrected by the newly installed automatic chlorination plant. 2. the hydrostat at Via Gellia Pump House has not been too reliable and has been replaced with an 6.5 h.p. Electric Pumpset. This, of course, now means that the Council have 	<p>Ladyflatt</p> <p>Via Gellia</p>

	duplicate electric pumps installed at this Station.											
1955	A new submersible pumping unit has been installed consisting of a 14 Stage Centrifuge] Pumping Unit Type 14D5 complete with e 20 BHP, Squirrel Cage Submersible Motor. Supplied by the Pulsometer Engineering Company Ltd. of Reading is rated to deliver 3,500 g.p.h. of clean water against a total head of 525 feet. This pump is fitted with a sensitive pattern sump type Noflote relay.	Wigwell Bore Hole										
1959	<p>There was no shortage of water in Wirksworth, when many parts of the country were suffering from drought. The quality of the water at the 'spring' source is excellent, but, unfortunately, suffers deterioration from storage in open reservoirs. To effect improvement, in addition to chlorination, which is disagreeable, efficient filtration is necessary, or, alternatively, a covered reservoir and water softening plant where required.</p> <p>The Ministry of Housing directed survey of Fluoride at each source:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1. Wigwell Borehole Raw water at Discharge Point into Wash Green Reservoir</td> <td>0.06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Wirksworth Springs at Point of Delivery into Measuring Chamber - Raw Water</td> <td>0.05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Dunsley Spring Via Gellia Pump House</td> <td>1.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. The Moor, Middleton-by Wirksworth - from Pipe at point of discharge into Middleton Reservoir</td> <td>0.05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Lady Flatts, Millers Green, Wirksworth. Lady Flatts supply - raw water</td> <td>0.25</td> </tr> </table>	1. Wigwell Borehole Raw water at Discharge Point into Wash Green Reservoir	0.06	2. Wirksworth Springs at Point of Delivery into Measuring Chamber - Raw Water	0.05	3. Dunsley Spring Via Gellia Pump House	1.30	4. The Moor, Middleton-by Wirksworth - from Pipe at point of discharge into Middleton Reservoir	0.05	5. Lady Flatts , Millers Green, Wirksworth. Lady Flatts supply - raw water	0.25	<p>Dunsley</p> <p>Middleton Spring</p> <p>Middleton</p>
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1960	The South Derbyshire Water Board will come into operation on the 1st April, 1961,											
1961	The Council are aware that for many years I have advocated the building of a new high level covered reservoir so that the use of the old open reservoirs could be discontinued - unfortunately finances have never permitted this. The SDWB propose to go ahead with a new high level covered reservoir.	<p>Middleton</p> <p>Breamfield</p>										