

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATERWORKS COMPANY

R E P O R T

-- ON --

FINAL LOCATION OF NEW WELLS

-- BY --

HERBERT LAPWORTH, D.Sc. F.G.S., M.Inst.C.E.

SEPTEMBER 26th 1921

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATERWORKS COMPANY

R E P O R T

- on -

FINAL LOCATION OF NEW WELLS

- by -

HERBERT LAPWORTH, D.Sc. F.G.S., M.Inst.C.E.

SEPTEMBER, 26th 1921

To the Chairman & Directors of the South Staffordshire
Waterworks Company

Gentlemen,

With further reference to my Report of July 26th last, I visited your district on the 14th instant., in company with your Engineer and Prof. W.S.Boulton in order to locate finally the sites for four new wells.

We agreed upon the following :-

- (1) Little Hay
- (2) Sandhills
- (3) Rolling Mill
- (4) Prestwood

To put the matter upon record the following notes are given as to detail, and as to the reasons which governed our final decisions.

(1) Little Hay Site

The site selected was practically that known formerly as Little Hay, except that we agreed the field on the west side of the stream immediately south of Shenstone Park Lodge had slight advantages.

The reason which influenced our selection of this site in preference to the Bogs, was that the recent mapping of

H.M. Geological Survey showed the strata to be mainly Hopwas Breccia at the southern end of the Little Hay Brook, and not Bunter as originally mapped. This being so, it would follow that the thickness of the water-bearing rock could not be great at (and south of) the Bogs' site; also that the further north the well were located the greater the thickness of water-bearing rock and the greater the probable yield. With these data in mind, it was decided that the geological advantages of the Lodge site far outweighed the greater political drawbacks that might follow from the more northern location; or in other words that it was wiser to make sure of a good yield of water, even if the grounds for ^{probably} opposition[/] entailed a stiffer fight in Parliament.

Precise limits were agreed for the Parliamentary Plans such that headings could, if required, be eventually driven south and east of the Proposed Well.

(2) Sandhills Site

The precise site at Sandhills selected by your Engineer was visited and approved. The merits of the locality have already been fully set out in my own and previous reports of others.

(3) Rolling Mill Site

As pointed out in my previous Report, my father and I had a slight preference for the Birches site in this locality, while Professor Boulton and your Engineer rather favour the ground lower down at Rolling Mill. There is little to choose between the two, and the Rolling Mill site has certain engineering advantages over the Birches. I agreed, therefore, without question to the southern site, with the stipulation that powers be obtained for driving an adit, if required, up to the main road to the west of the Proposed Well, for a length of about 500 yards.

(4) Prestwood Site

It was agreed that the political difficulties likely to

arise in the event of seeking powers for a new well considerably to the south of the Company's limits at Prestwood would probably be great; and that it would be no easy task to persuade a Parliamentary Committee of the necessity, so long as a site at Prestwood, within the Company's limits, ~~were~~ was available. We agreed, therefore, that in the Proposed Bill a site at Prestwood itself should be applied for. The engineering advantages of the west side of the river were obvious, and a site immediately adjoining Smestow Brook on the west side, due east of Stourton Farm, was selected. This site lies a few yards outside the Company's limits, but this was considered of no moment. Geologically one side of the stream is as good as the other.

Powers for Increased Yields at Ashwood and Hinksford

It was agreed that application should be made in the Parliamentary Bill to increase the existing pumping limits already imposed by Parliament on the Ashwood and Hinksford Wells.

- (1) At Ashwood to 4 million gallons per day
- (2) At Hinksford to 2 million gallons per day.

I think there is little doubt that these proposals, coupled with the Proposed New Prestwood Well, will arouse considerable opposition; but the whole question has been most carefully weighed by us in all its aspects, and the decisions arrived at are agreed as the wisest possible course following the line of least resistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

Herbert Lapworth

15, Victoria Street,
Westminster, S.W.1.
September 26th 1921.