Southend Waterworks Company

A description of wells by Dr. Walters, the Medical Officer of Health in February 1898.

The Southend Well

Diameter, 6 feet.

Borehole Diameter, 9 feet narrowing to 2 1/2 inches.

Sunk, 385 feet.

Bored, 521 feet.

Depth, 906 feet.

Ordnance Datum, 108 feet above.

The Prittlewell Well

Diameter, 10 feet.

Borehole Diameter, 21 feet narrowing to 12 inches.

Sunk, 360 feet.

Bored, 517 feet.

Depth, 517 feet.

Ordnance Datum, 101 1/2 feet above.

The Eastwood Well

Diameter, 8 feet.

Borehole Diameter, 24 feet. narrowing to 18 inches.

Sunk, 247 feet.

Bored, 438 feet.

Depth, 685 feet.

Ordnance Datum, 50 feet above.

The Oakwood Well

Diameter, 8 feet.

Borehole Diameter, 27” narrowing to18 inches.

Sunk, 404 feet.

Bored, 464 feet.

Depth, 868 feet.

Ordnance Datum, 115 feet above.

The Noble’s Green Well

Diameter, 8 feet.

Borehole Diameter, 27” narrowing to18 inches.

Sunk, 356 feet.

Bored, 503 feet.

Depth, 859 feet.

Ordnance Datum, 65 feet above.

As to the site of the wells Southend and Prittlewell Wells are situated in the towns, the others in open country , and with no possiblity of cesspit pollution.

Methods of Pumping, with exception of Prittlewell Well, which has a bucket and ram pump, the pumping in all other wells is carried on by means of a lift pump which delivers the water into a cast iron tank at the enlargement of the well, and a ram pump forces the water from the tank into a pumping main.

The water from Noble’s Green Well is pumped into a rising main, which in its course is joined by a main from Oakwood, Eastwood and Prittlewell Wells. It then proceeds to Southend, receiving the main from this well, enters a water tower (at the bottom) near the station, and when the tank (which has a capacity of 50,000 gallons) is full, overflows into an enclosed and arched brick reservoir, which has the capacity for holding 300,000 gallons.

The Method of Supply to the Town, The supply is constant and always sufficient. The trunk main from Nobles Green, Oakwood and Eastwood Wells give off branches for the supply of Prittlewell.

After receiving the Prittlewell water, branch mains supply the vicinity of Porters Town, London and Milton Roads.

After receiving the Southend water the trunk main gives off branches to Trinity and Marine Avenues, before entering the water tower. From the tower all of the high level area of the town are covered. The low level area being supplied by the reservoir.

It will thus be seen that Prittlewell is at times supplied either by one well or a mixture of water from Noble's Green, Oakwood and Eastwood, when all these pumps are in action, or if the demand exceeds supply, water would be derived from Prittlewell and Southend.

The district supplied by branch mains between Prittlewell and Southend stations will be supplied with a mixture of all five waters if neccessary.

The districts supplied supplied from tower and reservoir receive a mixture from all the wells.

The mains are laid at a higher level than the sewers, the district service pipes from the pumping and trunk mains are commanded by a separate cock for each district.

The quantity of water supplied to the town each day at present time is a minimum of 400,000 gallons, and estimating the population at 20,000, gives 20 gallons to each person per diem.