

**[Report 1939] / Medical Officer of Health, Cricklade & Wootton Bassett
R.D.C.**

Contributors

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CRICKLADE AND WOOTTON BASSETT
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



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M E D I C A L O F F I C E R ' S R E P O R T

For the year ended 31st December, 1939.

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February, 1941.

To - The Cricklade & Wootton Bassett Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the District for the year 1939.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (acres)	46,618
Population	11,640
Number of inhabited houses	3,362
Rateable Value	£41,406
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£167

Population.

As given to Registrar General -

(a) For Birth Rate purposes	11,240
(b) For Death Rate and other purposes	11,640

Birth Rate

211 births were registered - 102 male, 109 female of which No. 204 were legitimate and 7 illegitimate. There were 4 Still Births, all of legitimate infants.

Birth Rate 18.77

Death Rate

144 Deaths were registered in the district - 82 males and 62 females.

There was no unusual number of deaths recorded from any special cause. No deaths occurred from Puerperal Sepsis.

Death Rate 12.37

Infantile Mortality.

6 deaths only of children under 1 year of age were registered.

Infantile Mortality Rate 53.57 per 1,000 births

Infectious Disease

Only 8 cases of Scarlatina, 2 of Diphtheria, 5 of Pneumonia and 1 each of Puerperal Pyrexia and Erysipelas were notified. The cases of Scarlatina and Diphtheria were all sent to Gorse Hill Hospital.

Measles and Whooping Cough were made notifiable diseases during the year by the Ministry of Health. An epidemic of the latter occurred during the year.

No deaths occurred from infectious notifiable disease.

Tuberculosis.

9 cases of this disease were notified during the year. 6 of these were of the Pulmonary type. Four deaths were registered as occurring from Tuberculosis, 3 from Phthisis and 1 from other form of Tuberculosis.

Water

There was a shortage of supply again at Wootton Bassett and Purton, and supplementary supplies were again obtained

from the United Dairies main and Broad Town and Patney,
at Wootton Bassett, and the G.W.R. main at Purton.

Work on the Comprehensive Water Scheme was in steady
progress during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage

The works at Cricklade, Purton and Wootton Bassett
continue to be satisfactory.

In September war was declared and the district was
found with the necessity of dealing with 2,600 evacuated
mothers and children. Up to the end of the year no
increase of infectious disease as the result of this
influx has been recorded. The problem of dealing with
verminous children and Expectant Mothers arose, however,
immediately. The former were dealt with by the help of
members of the V.A.D. organisations, the County Council
Nurses and other Helpers, and subsequently arrangements
were made by the County Authorities to send children to
the Children's Home at Marlborough. The women were sent
to Melksham Maternity Hospital for their confinements,
much good work being done in this connection by members
of the W.V.S.

The full and interesting report of your Sanitary
Inspector is attached.

I have the honour to remain,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J. H. Wootton
Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Council Offices,
Wootton Bassett, Wilts.

June, 1940.

Dr. J. N. Watson, Medical Officer of Health, Cricklade and
Wootton Bassett Rural District Council.

Sir,

I beg to submit my Annual Report dealing with the work carried out in the Sanitary Department during the year ended 31st December, 1939.

Housing

Number of new houses erected during the year -

(a) By the Local Authority	nil
(b) By other bodies or persons	36

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year -

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	87
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	193
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under The Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 & 1932	78
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	181
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	24
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	39

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	17
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(1) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of The Housing Act, 1936	
(a) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	nil

- (b) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices -
- (1) By owners 2
- (11) By Local Authority in default of owners nil
- (2) Proceedings under Public Health Acts -
- (a) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied nil
- (b) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices -
- (1) By Owners nil
- (11) By Local Authority in default of owners nil
- (3) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of The Housing Act, 1936:
- (a) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made nil
- (b) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 2
- (c) Number of undertakings given not to re-let houses until made fit nil
- (4) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made nil
- (b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV - Overcrowding.

- (1) (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 7
- (b) Number of families dwelling therein 7
- (c) Number of persons dwelling therein 51
- (2) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 10
- (3) (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 12
- (b) Number of persons concerned in such case. 79

(4) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... None

Number of houses measured and recorded	8
" " visits made re overcrowding	15
" " overcrowded houses discovered	10

(5) Other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions -

During the year, overcrowding has been abated in the following manner -

Overcrowded families vacated their houses	10
" case abated by a reduction in the number of inmates	1
" cases abated by removal to Council Houses	1

12

Number of overcrowded houses discovered during the year 1939 10

Add number of overcrowded houses remaining from the year 1938 9

Total number of overcrowded houses existing in the year 1939 19

Less number of overcrowded cases abated in the year 1939 12

Number of overcrowded houses existing on 31st December, 1939 7

Number of overcrowded houses under private ownership 6

Number of overcrowded houses owned by the Local Authority 1

Tabular Summary of matters dealt with under The Public Health and Housing Acts

Number of defective chimney stacks rebuilt	2
" " " " " pointed	1
" " dwellinghouse roofs repaired	9
" " " at which new eave troughing has been fixed	7
" " dwellinghouses at which new rainwater pipes have been fixed	6
" " dwellinghouses where damp walls have been cement rendered externally	3
" " dwellinghouses where damp walls have been rendered internally	3
" " dwellinghouses where damp walls have been pointed	2
" " dilapidated walls of dwellinghouses rebuilt	2

Number of new windows (complete) fixed at		
dwellinghouses	...	13
" " defective windows repaired	...	7
" " windows to which sashcords were hung		2
" " defective ceilings stripped and ceiled		
with plasterboard	...	11
" " defective ceilings replastered		5
" " walls replastered	...	14
" " rooms lined with wallboard	...	2
" " decayed board floors and joists taken		
up and renewed	...	5
" " defective floors repaired	...	6
" " rooms where new skirting has been fixed		-
boards floors laid in living rooms		3
" " concrete floors laid in living rooms		4
" " " " " sculleries		3
" " " " " larders		5
" " " " " washhouses		8
" " new doors and frames fixed at dwelling-		
houses	...	8
" " defective doors and frames repaired	...	4
" " staircases repaired and new fixed		3
" " handrails fixed to staircases		4
" " new larders built	...	2
" " larders ventilated by provision of		
new windows	...	1
" " broken cottage ranges renewed	...	7
" " new register grates fixed	...	2
" " washing coppers erected	...	3
" " defective washing coppers repaired		5
" " back yards paved with concrete		1
" " new w.c.'s erected	...	5
" " flushing cisterns fixed	...	8
" " pail closets built	...	4
" " privies converted to w.c.'s		1
" " " " " pail closets		2
" " concrete floors laid in pail closets		4
" " new drains laid to undrained houses		5
" " defective drains taken up and new drains		
laid	...	5
" " new septic tanks built	...	-
" " cesspits built	...	4
" " uncovered cesspits provided with new		
C.I. airtight covers	...	-
" " new traps fixed	...	11
" " " inspection chambers built		8
" " " ventilation pipes fixed	...	3
" " " sinks fixed	...	8
" " " urinals erected	...	3
" " foul ditches cleansed	...	1
" " choked drains cleansed	...	8
" " offensive accumulations removed		2
" " dwellinghouses at which light and		
ventilation have been improved		4
" " nuisances due to overcrowding, abated		12

Nuisances. Public Health Acts, 1875 and 1936.

Number of nuisances discovered	...	26
" " " abated	...	26
" " inspections made	...	74

Water Supplies

Number of water samples taken and submitted for analysis:-

Water Supplies

Number of water samples taken and submitted for analysis:-

	<u>Public supplies</u>	<u>Private supplies</u>	<u>Total</u>
Chemical	1	-	1
Bacteriological	38	3	41
Chemical and partial bacteriological	-	5	5
			<u>47</u>

Details of the above samples are as follows:-

	<u>Unfit for drinking purposes</u>	<u>Fit for drinking purposes.</u>
<u>Chemical Analysis</u>		
Public Supplies - Cricklade		1
<u>Bacteriological Analysis</u>		
Public Supplies -		
Ashton Keynes	-	3
Cricklade	4	12
Clyffe Pypard Heading	-	3
Purton - Heading	-	3
Pavenhill	-	3
Peak	-	2
Patney	1	1
Thornhill	2	3
New water main - New Road, Wootton Bassett.	-	1
	<u>7</u>	<u>31</u>
<i>Private supplies</i>	<u>3</u>	-
<u>Chemical and partial bacteriological analysis</u>		

Private supplies -		
Ashton Keynes	1	-
Broad Town	-	2
Clyffe Pypard	-	1
Lyneham	1	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>

Of the unfit samples taken from the Cricklade water supply, 3 were taken in the course of one week when there was a breakdown in the Chlorination Plant, and the other sample was taken from a new length of main. The Patney unfit sample was taken before the water was turned into the mains, and a Chlorination Plant was used before allowing the water to flow into the mains. After taking the second unfit sample from the Thornhill Supply, the water was chlorinated.

During a part of the year there was insufficiency of water from the sources at Wootton Bassett and Purton, the supplies having to be made up by bringing the Patney and Broad Town wells into operation, and by pumping from the United Dairies main at Wootton Bassett and the G.W.R. main at Purton.

The Broad Town well was used from September 11th to November 18th, and the Patney well from August 19th to December 5th.

Owing to shortage at Wootton Bassett, the water was turned off between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. from September 10th to November 4th.

Number of visits made re water supplies -

In connection with public supplies 329
 " " " private " 209

538

Inspection and supervision of food

Milk.

No. of Dairies on the Register 333
 " " inspections 146
 " " formal notices served under the Milk and Dairies Order re structural alterations nil
 " " informal notices served re structural alterations 12
 " " informal notices served re cleanliness 15
 " " samples of retail milk taken and submitted for analysis re cleanliness 28
 " " retail milk samples which failed either B.Coli or Methylene Blue Tests 6
 " " Pasteurised Milk samples taken 1
 " " " " " failing to pass test nil

Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938

No. of Licenced Producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk 7
 No. of Licenced Producers of Accredited Milk 61
 No. of Pasteurisers Licences issued 2

There are two pasteurising plants in the district, but only one plant is being used.

Percentage of Licenced Producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk in the District 2.10
 Percentage of Licenced Producers of Accredited Milk in the District 18.32

Meat

No. of Slaughterhouses on Register 16
 " " visits made to Slaughterhouses and shops and inspections made under The Public Health (Meat) Regulations 655

Carcases inspected and condemned

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs	Total
No. of animals killed	326	126	173	616	1528	2769
No. of carcases inspected	320	125	168	589	1508	2710
Percentage of carcases inspected	98.17	99.21	97.11	95.62	98.69	97.87

	Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs	Total
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	6	1	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	12	-	33	20	75
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	3.12	9.60	0.60	6.62	1.39	3.06
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcass condemned	-	3	-	-	-	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	38	26	-	28	-	92
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	11.87	23.20		4.75	-	3.51

Details and weight of condemned meat

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Beef	1	11	0	24
Veal			2	4
Bacon and Pork		9	0	9
Mutton and Lamb			2	12
Offal		11	1	25
	<u>2</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>18</u>

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Percentage of the total of condemned meat.
--	------	-------	------	------	--

Condemned - diseases other than Tuberculosis	13	2	12	25.72	
Condemned Tuberculosis	1	19	1	6	74.28

Whenever it is possible, ante-mortem inspection is carried out, but practically all inspection of meat has been post-mortem. The work at all the slaughterhouses throughout the District has been conducted in a satisfactory manner.

Knacker Yards

No. on Register	2
" of inspections made	4

Owing to the structural condition of the buildings at one of the Knacker Yards, the renewal of the Licence was not made on September 30th, 1939.

Factories Act

No. of Factories on Register	60
" " inspections made	11
" " notices served	3
" " " complied with	2

The number of Factories is made up as follows:-

Bakehouses	17
Blacksmiths Shops	7
Brickworks	1
Carpenters and Builders	10
Cheese, Dried and Condensed Milk Manufactories	2
Egg Factories	2
Engineering Works	2
Glove Factories	2
Implement Repair Shops	1
Joinery Works	1
Motor and Cycle Repair Shops	7
Milliners	1
Printing Works	2
Rope Works	1
Sawmills	2
Wood Turnery	1
Waterworks	1
	<u>60</u>

Infectious Diseases

No. of infectious cases notified	10
" " rooms disinfected	12
" " visits	19

It will be noticed that the number of cases of infectious disease is very low.

Drainage and Sewerage

There are sewers serving the more thickly populated parts of Cricklade, Wootton Bassett and Purton. In the remainder of the district, the larger residences are served by water closets drained to cesspits, septic tanks or small filter beds, and whilst some other houses have water closets, the majority of the premises have pail closets.

At Purton and Wootton Bassett Sewage Works the treatment is by precipitation tanks, rotary sprinkler beds and humus beds. At Cricklade Sewage Works there is land irrigation after passing through precipitation tanks.

No. of visits to sewage works	15
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Public Cleansing

Scavenging is carried out by direct labour, one "Dennis" 7 cubic yard lorry being used. The collection of house refuse has been carried out in a very satisfactory manner. All house refuse is collected weekly from the more thickly populated parts of the parishes of Ashton Keynes, Cricklade, Purton, and Wootton Bassett once per week. From the remaining parts of the district there was a bi-monthly collection of tins,

bottles, etc., up to the end of April, but commencing in May, the collection was made once per month.

Total cost of refuse collection (year ended 31st March, 1940)	£419. 11. 9
Running cost per mile	7.039d
Miles per gallon	8.09

Refuse is deposited at four tips, situated in the parishes of Ashton Keynes, Cricklade, Purton and Wootton Bassett. There have been no complaints made about tips during the year.

No. of visits to refuse tips 35

Shops Act

There are 110 shops in the district, in the majority of which no assistants are employed. Oil heaters are the most prevalent means employed in the heating of the shops.

Camping Sites

Only one application was received for a licence for a camping site and the application was approved.

Smoke Abatement

The emission of smoke and grit from a chimney stack from boilers at a factory gave rise to complaints. After several interviews with representatives of the factory, it was decided that a smoke washing and grit extracting machine should be installed. This machinery was installed in April, 1940.

Swimming Baths and Pools

The only Swimming Pool in the district is situated at Latton, but no sample was taken this year. There are no Swimming Baths in the district.

Disinfestation

Six houses were infested by bugs, three houses were infested by fleas, and three houses were infested by cockroaches. Of the six bug-infested houses, three were treated with "Zaldecide" liquid and then by "Lawes" block disinfestator, one with "Zaldecide" liquid only, and two with "Kilgercide" liquid and then "Lawes" block disinfestator. The houses infested by fleas were treated as follows:- one house with "Kilgercide" liquid, one house with "Kilgercide" liquid and "Lawes" block disinfestator and one house with "Lawes" block disinfestator only. All the houses infested by cockroaches were treated with "Kilgercide" liquid.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act

Only three complaints were received re infestation with rats and the premises were inspected and advice given. No complaints have been made of trouble at refuse tips, which is doubtlessly due to the good work carried out by the rat catcher employed by the Council.

As usual, a free supply of rat baits was available to persons making application for same during Rat Week, but the number of persons doing so was comparatively small.

Petroleum Acts

No. of Licences issued to store Petroleum	36
" " " " " Carbide	4
" " " " " Petroleum and Carbide	4

Petroleum is stored in underground tanks at all storage places excepting two.

... ..

As in other Departments, the normal work of the Public Health Department was greatly interrupted throughout the year owing to various work connected with A.R.P. and Civil Defence having to be carried out, no less than 881 visits having been made.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

C.E.JAMES.

Sanitary Inspector.