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BARNSTAPLE RURAL DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT


OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1969



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BARNSTAPLE RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1969

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:- S.V. Lewis

Vice-Chairman:- C.W. Trigger

Miss E.M.S. Boyd
Mrs. C.B. Burgess
J.E. Andrew
H.J. Bailey
C.J. Bartlett
G.H. Beard
R. Bowden
W.T.C. Buckingham
G.A.J. Cheesley
C. Chichester
A.J. Dennis
G.R. Huxtable
H.R. Latham
A. Moon
W.W. Nott
C.A. Passmore
W. Pengelly
F.C. Richards
H.B. Richards
F.J. Ridd-Jones
M.A.J. Sexon
G.H. Staddon
G.H. Stanbury
W.H. Tanner
C.G. Yeo

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

E. Williams, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

John Kemp, M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

F. Whittaker, M.A.P.H.I.

G.C. Dunford, M.A.P.H.I.

STUDENT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J.R. Lambert
(from 2nd September, 1969)

MEAT INSPECTORS

M.P. Davis

T.F.M. Ellicott

CLERICAL STAFF

Mrs. Yvonne Hornstedt

Public Health Department,
The Civic Centre,
Barnstaple.

Tele: Barnstaple 72511

To the Chairman and Members
of the Barnstaple Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I submit my report to you on the health and statistics of the district for the year 1969.

I wish to thank Mr. S.V. Lewis, as Chairman, and the members of the Public Health Committee for their help and interest in the work of the Department and to thank the Chief Public Health Inspector and staff for their co-operation and assistance throughout the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

E. WILLIAMS

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1970.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District in acres	129,346
Number of parishes	36
Estimated population	28,650
Population at 1961 census	25,073
Inhabited houses	10,333
Number of Council owned houses	776
Density of persons per house	2.8
Rateable value	£972,117
Estimated product of penny rate	£3,985

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Area comparability factors	Births	1.19
	Deaths	0.84
Live births		421
Live birth rate per 1,000 population		14.7
Live birth rate per 1,000 population corrected.. ...		17.5
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births		7%
Stillbirths		2
Stillbirths rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths ..		5
Total live and stillbirths		423
Infant deaths (under one year)		4
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 total live births ...		10
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births		10
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate do.		NIL
Neo-natal mortality rate (under 4 weeks per 1,000 do.)		10
Early neo-natal mortality rate (under 1 week per 1,000 do.)		7
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths		12
Maternal mortality (including abortion)		NIL
Maternal mortality per 1,000 live and stillbirths ...		NIL
Deaths		329
Death rate per 1,000 population		11.5
Death rate per 1,000 population corrected		9.7

POPULATION

During 1969 the population of the Rural District increased by 190 to 28,650.

Births exceeded deaths by 92 and illegitimate births increased from 23 to 31.

Out of 421 live births during the year; there were 4 infant deaths, giving an infant mortality rate of 10 per 1,000 live births.

POPULATION TRENDS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
1951 (census)	23,150	324	314
1952	23,030	342	322
1953	23,360	318	257
1954	23,410	346	296
1955	23,642	334	316
1956	24,070	343	302
1957	24,010	369	300
1958	24,370	362	276
1959	24,370	356	294
1960	25,050	365	272
1961 (census)	25,290	338	299
1962	25,580	353	336
1963	26,020	434	329
1964	26,670	428	325
1965	27,090	405	346
1966	27,560	426	390
1967	28,980	432	325
1968	28,460	429	370
1969	28,650	421	329

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births:</u>	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Legitimate	210	180	390
Illegitimate	21	10	31
	<u>231</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>421</u>
<u>Stillbirths:</u>	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Legitimate	0	2	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

DEATHS

During the year there were 329 deaths (161 males and 168 females) as compared with 370 in the previous year.

Summary of Causes of Death in 1969:

Male: Female:

Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	...	...	...	...	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	3	7
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	...	...	...	...	4	7
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	...	...	...	...	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	...	...	...	11	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	-	10
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	-	6
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	..	...	...	...	6	-
Leukaemia	...	...	...	...	3	2
Other malignant neoplasms	...	...	...	...	12	14
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	...	...	...	...	2	-
Diabetes mellitus	...	...	...	...	1	3
Other diseases of blood, etc	..	...	...	...	-	1
Mental disorders	..	...	...	...	-	2
Other diseases of nervous system etc.	...	...	...	...	1	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	...	...	...	...	4	2
Hypertensive disease	...	...	...	...	1	3
Ischaemic heart disease	...	...	...	...	47	35
Other forms of heart disease	..	...	...	...	6	3
Cerebrovascular disease	...	...	...	...	16	23
Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	9	15
Influenza	...	...	...	...	2	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4	9
Bronchitis and emphysema	...	...	...	...	12	2
Asthma	...	...	...	...	1	-
Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	-	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	...	...	...	...	1	-
Other diseases of digestive system	..	...	...	...	1	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	-	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	...	...	...	...	3	5
Congenital anomalies	...	...	...	...	-	1
Birth injury, difficult labour etc	..	...	...	...	2	1
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	...	...	...	...	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	1	-
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	4	1
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	...	...	...	...	1	2
All other external causes	...	...	...	...	1	-

161 168

Neo-Natal Deaths

This represents the number of deaths occurring in infants under the age of four weeks:-

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Infant Mortality Rate

During the year 4 infants (3 males and 1 female) died under the age of one year; giving the infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births of 10.

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Deaths in Age Groups

<u>Age</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 4 weeks	3	1	4
4 weeks to 1 year	0	0	0
1 to 4 years	0	0	0
5 to 14 years	0	0	0
15 to 24 years	2	0	2
25 to 34 years	1	1	2
35 to 44 years	4	3	7
45 to 54 years	4	6	10
55 to 64 years	26	23	49
65 to 74 years	57	50	107
Over 75	64	84	148

Cancer Deaths

There were ninety deaths from cancer in 1969; six more than the previous year.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Oesophagus	2	1	3
Stomach	3	7	10
Lung and Bronchus	11	1	12
Breast	-	10	10
Uterus	-	6	6
Leukaemia	3	2	5
Other	12	14	26
Prostate	6	-	6
Intestine	4	7	11
Larynx	-	1	1

Deaths from Lung Cancer

<u>Year</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1952	5	1	6
1953	5	2	7
1954	5	1	6
1955	5	-	5
1956	7	-	7
1957	8	2	10
1958	9	2	11
1959	7	2	9
1960	6	2	8
1961	9	2	11
1962	10	-	10
1963	11	2	13
1964	12	-	12
1965	12	-	12
1966	10	5	15
1967	8	6	14
1968	11	1	12
1969	11	1	12

Cancer Deaths since 1952

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>	<u>Cancer Deaths</u>		<u>Total</u>
		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
1952	322	26	29	55
1953	257	18	27	45
1954	296	20	30	50
1955	316	21	26	47
1956	302	25	30	55
1957	300	31	26	57
1958	276	21	22	43
1959	294	24	28	52
1960	272	20	21	41
1961	299	24	27	51
1962	336	34	37	71
1963	329	34	28	62
1964	325	35	27	62
1965	346	35	23	58
1966	390	36	29	65
1967	325	38	35	73
1968	370	47	37	84
1969	329	41	49	90

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of notifiable infectious diseases were reported during the year:-

Infective Jaundice	9
Scarlet Fever	4
Measles	144
Dysentery.	1
Food Poisoning	3

Four cases of tuberculosis (three of lung tuberculosis and one non-pulmonary) were notified in accordance with the Regulations, as follows:-

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1 - 5	1	1	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	-	1	-	1
55 - 64	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-

Lung Tuberculosis - Distribution of Cases

Fremington	2
Tawstock	1
Mortehoe	1

Incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis since 1951.

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Case Rate per 1,000 Population</u>	<u>No. of Deaths</u>	<u>Death Rate per 1,000 Population</u>
1951	23	0.99	7	0.30
1952	21	0.91	6	0.26
1953	24	1.03	3	0.12
1954	11	0.47	-	-
1955	4	0.17	-	-
1956	7	0.29	-	-
1957	5	0.20	1	0.04
1958	5	0.20	1	0.04
1959	4	0.16	1	0.04
1960	6	0.23	-	-
1961	5	0.20	1	0.04
1962	5	0.23	-	-
1963	2	0.075	-	-
1964	2	0.075	-	-
1965	5	0.185	1	0.04
1966	4	0.145	1	0.04
1967	4	0.143	-	-
1968	4	0.141	1	0.03
1969	3	0.105	-	-

The following table shows the number of cases on the Rural District tuberculosis register on 1st January and 31st December, 1969.

<u>1969</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1st January	53	38	91	10	19	29
31st December	53	40	93	10	20	30

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

TUBERCULOSIS

All cases of tuberculosis are now treated at Hawkmoor Hospital, Bovey Tracey.

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION.

Protective immunization and vaccination against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, smallpox and poliomyelitis are undertaken by the general practitioners and the Infant Welfare and School Clinics. There are four Infant Welfare Clinics organised by the Devon County Health Authority within the District held as follows:-

Fremington Parish Hall	2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons
Braunton Parish Hall	Thursday afternoons
Combe Martin Health Centre	2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoons
Woolacombe Methodist Hall	2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons

ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There is an infectious diseases section at the Kingsley Hospital, Bideford which serves Barnstaple as well as other local authorities in North Devon.

MATERNITY CASES

The North Devon District Hospital Maternity Unit at North Road, Barnstaple was opened during 1968. It has fifty four beds (forty eight general and six special care). As a result the maternity sections at the Ilfracombe, South Molton and Torrington Hospitals were closed as was the General Practitioners' Maternity Unit of thirteen beds at Highfield Maternity Home, Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

SMALLPOX

All the smallpox cases in the counties of Devon and Cornwall are sent to Liskeard Smallpox Hospital, or to Lee Mill Hospital.

The Plymouth Ambulance Service (Plymouth 64101) provide transport for smallpox cases.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 Section 47
and Amendment Act, 1951

This Section deals with the compulsory removal of elderly persons from their own homes to a County Welfare Home.

No cases were dealt with under this Section during the year.

THE MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT

The mass radiography unit visits Barnstaple fortnightly on alternate Wednesdays, between the hours of 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. It is situate in the Cattle Market (Tuly Street entrance) and is available to the general public (with the exception of children under fifteen years of age and expectant mothers). It is also available for cases referred by general practitioners in the area, thus releasing the X-ray Department at the North Devon Infirmary to cope with other important X-ray work.

JUNIOR TRAINING CENTRE, ABBEYFIELD, BARNSTAPLE

This centre provides training facilities for mentally-handicapped children between the ages of five and sixteen years. Hostel accommodation is provided for children living some distance from the centre.

ADULT TRAINING CENTRE, HAWLEY, BARNSTAPLE

An Adult Training Centre for the North Devon area was opened in 1966 for the training of handicapped adults. This centre also has hostel accommodation.

HOSPITALS

The North Devon Infirmary, situate in Barnstaple, serves the area and provides modern medical and surgical treatment for the residents of the district. There are also one hundred and twenty five beds.

Two wards, with a total of thirty three beds, at the Alexandra Hospital, Barnstaple are set aside as an annexe to the North Devon Infirmary and post-operative and recovery patients are transferred there as soon as possible.

There are one hundred beds for the chronic sick at the Alexandra Hospital.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 the local health authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) are responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and the Devon County Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. The Brigade serves the Borough and the Rural District and the headquarters are in Commercial Road, Barnstaple (Barnstaple 5321). The staff consists of four paid full-time members, twenty men volunteers and fourteen volunteer nurses.

The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available upon application to the hospital by the doctor concerned and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when the ambulance is not necessary.

LABORATORIES

The Public Health Laboratory, of which Dr. B. Moore is the Director, is situated at Church Lane, Heavitree, Exeter. It is installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all doctors.

Bacteriological examinations of water, milk and ice-cream are also carried out there.

There is a Pathological Laboratory at 75 Boutport Street, Barnstaple with a full-time pathologist and technical staff to meet the needs of the whole of North Devon.

The blood bank is at this local laboratory.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME

There are nine district nurses in the area, all of whom act as midwives.

CARE OF THE AGED

Wherever possible, elderly persons who are living alone are given every assistance to enable them to remain as long as possible in their own homes. They are visited by Health Visitors and in the case of ill-health by the District Nurse.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

The V.D. Clinic is held at the North Devon Infirmary, Glossop Annexe as follows:-

Males: Mondays at 5.15 p.m. Thursdays at 5.45 p.m.
Females: Mondays at 4 p.m. Thursdays at 4.30 p.m.

The Chest Clinic is held at the North Devon Infirmary Glossop Annexe as follows:-

Clinic and X-ray examinations - Tuesdays 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

HOUSING

During the year four Closing Orders and one Demolition Order were made by the Council. One formal Undertaking was accepted from an owner that a house would not be used for human habitation until such time as it had been made fit to the satisfaction of the Council and three formal Undertakings to carry out the necessary works to make the premises fit for human habitation were also accepted.

The number of applicants on the Council's housing list at the close of 1969 was 245 as compared with 170 at the close of 1968.

The remaining seventeen properties on the Poyers estate at Wrafton were completed during the year and phase one of the Heanton No. 5 site commenced.

During the year the following grants were approved for the improvement of old properties:-

	<u>Owner/Occupied:</u>	<u>Tenanted:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Standard	40	15	55
Discretionary	3	1	4

Public Health Department,
The Civic Centre,
Barnstaple.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Barnstaple Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my fifth Annual Report on the activities of the Public Health Department during 1969.

The year under review provided the usual varied mixture of problems and activities that invariably fall within the purview of this Department due to its widespread responsibilities and some, considered to be more important, are worthy of mention.

The newly constructed slaughterhouse premises at Rookabear were brought into use early in the year and whereas the extensive accommodation provided enabled this important industry to be carried out under good hygiene conditions, the prime reason for their enlargement was to enable the throughput to be considerably increased, which in due course would present the Council with an increased meat inspection problem.

The design of the new buildings necessitated inspection being carried out at the point of slaughter and this, coupled with an increased pace of operation, meant that additional inspection staff were frequently required. It must be appreciated that on those occasions public health work suffered immediately, and such important functions as the routine inspections of food premises during the summer season had to be neglected. The decision of the Council to exercise their powers of control over slaughtering hours from 1st July was of considerable assistance in this matter.

The refuse collection and disposal services were maintained throughout the year, not without appreciable difficulties at times and demanding a significant amount of attention, but again improvements and economies were effected which were adequate compensation.

It was pleasing to me that the Council agreed to the appointment of a Student Public Health Inspector. This is now the only method of obtaining new entrants to the profession and this is accepted by progressive local authorities as a worthwhile form of investment for the local government service.

Again I would wish to record my appreciation of the co-operative attitude by members of the Council and the Public Health Committee and, in particular, the assistance of Mr. Lewis, Dr. Williams and Mrs. Horntvedt.

The important public health matters of sewerage and sewage disposal are included in this report and I thank the Surveyor for the information provided.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN KEMP

Chief Public Health Inspector

WATER

PUBLIC SUPPLIES

The North Devon Water Board provides a supply of chlorinated mains water to all villages in the Rural District, with the exception of Challacombe and Saunton.

The mains water is distributed to almost all areas from the works at Bratton Fleming. The Brendon area is served by a mains supply from the Lynton water works.

The main reservoir at Wistlandpound has a capacity of 341,000,000 gallons and the Bratton Fleming water works distribute more than 2,000,000 gallons of water per day.

During 1969 mains water connections were provided for 264 properties, including farms, in the rural area.

PRIVATE SUPPLIES

Throughout all the parishes in the Rural District there are still hamlets, including isolated dwellings and farms, which rely on their own water supplies drawn from wells and springs. It is probable that the number of premises involved is in excess of one thousand. The largest private supply is at Saunton, which serves more than thirty properties.

SAMPLING

To assess the quality of a water supply bacteriological examinations should be carried out at least monthly, with any lesser frequency it is impossible to say that a supply can be regarded as satisfactory.

It will be realised that with the many private supplies in the area such a frequency of sampling would be extremely difficult to attain.

The North Devon Water Board arrange for the final water from the Bratton Fleming works to be submitted for bacteriological examination each week. In addition, mains water is sampled regularly throughout the district at consumers' premises.

The following summary shows the results of all water samples taken for bacteriological examination during the year in the various parishes.

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>Public Supply</u> (Taken by N.D.W.B.)		<u>Private Supplies</u> (Taken by B.R.D.C.)	
	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Arlington	-	-	3	14
Atherington	-	-	-	1
Berrynarbor	5	-	-	-
Bratton Fleming	145	1	-	1
Braunton	29	3	1	-
Brendon	42	-	-	-
Combe Martin	23*	-	-	1
Countisbury	-	-	-	2
East Down	-	-	4	2
Fremington	7	-	2	-
Georgeham	22	1	-	-
Heanton Punchardon	2	-	1	-
High Bray	2	-	1	-
Instow	27	5	1	1
Landkey	1*	-	1	-
Loxhore	-	-	1	1
Marwood	7	-	-	-
Mortehoe	34	-	-	-
Parracombe	9	-	-	3
Pilton West	-	-	-	-
Shirwell	10	4	-	8
Swimbridge	-	-	2	2
Tawstock	2	-	2	1
West Down	7	-	-	3
Westleigh	-	-	-	-
	374	14	17	47

* Includes two samples taken by B.R.D.C. following complaint.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Surveyor's Department operates main drainage systems in the following areas.

Atherington

This village scheme consistently produces an effluent of a quality well within the standards of the Royal Commission and the requirements of the River Authority.

Berrynarbor

A small sewage treatment works serves the properties at the southern end of the village. These works are not efficient and will eventually be abandoned when a comprehensive main drainage scheme is provided for the whole of Berrynarbor.

Plans have been prepared for a new length of sewer to serve Hagginton Hill and for minor alterations to the sewage treatment works in order to cater for the flow which will arise.

Bratton Fleming

Large volumes of surface and infiltration water enter this system and complicate the operation of the plant. Bratton Fleming is a key settlement and in order to overcome the present difficulties and to allow for future development it would be necessary in the foreseeable future to reconstruct the treatment works and to provide additional sewers.

Braunton

The flow in the Vellator sewage works exceeds 200,000 gallons per day during dry weather and rises to over 3,000,000 gallons per day during heavy rain. Further improvements have been planned in connection with the automatic control equipment to avoid the recurring failures which have occurred in the past.

Combe Martin

The village drains to a sea outfall through which untreated sewage is discharged into the sea below low water level spring tides. The system works entirely by gravity except for a number of properties in the Newberry area where a small ejector lifts the sewage into the gravity system. The outfall functions very efficiently and no complaints have been received.

The system has no equipment for measuring flows and consequently the volume discharged is not known.

Georgeham and Croyde

These villages drain by gravity sewers to a pumping station at Croyde Bay where the sewage is passed through macerating pumps and then into the sea by an outfall at Pencil Rock near Baggy Point. The new 12" rising main was laid at the end of the year and delivery of the new pumping equipment is expected in Spring 1970.

Goodleigh

The village system includes a treatment works incorporating a septic tank. The plant gives considerable trouble and a good quality effluent has never been produced since the works first functioned about eight years ago.

Plans are in hand to replace the stone filter media with a plastic media during 1970 in an effort to improve the effluent.

Knowle

The village of Knowle drains to a small pre-war sewage works which will be abandoned if and when the Knowle system is connected into the Braunton main drainage area. Meanwhile the works continue to produce an effluent just within the Royal Commission standard.

Marwood

A scheme to provide main drainage for the Milltown/Muddiford area is ready to go to tender, but to date the Ministry has withheld consent because of the absence of any proved public health nuisances.

Mortehoe and Woolacombe

Woolacombe has main drainage facilities in which sewage is passed via a partial treatment works to a sea outfall. Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare a report on the scheme with a view to reconstruction of the system in whole or in part. At North Morte, sewage is discharged to the sea through an outfall at Rockham Beach after treatment in a septic tank.

The village of Mortehoe is sewered and sewage is pumped from Castle Rock to the Woolacombe system for treatment.

Parracombe

This key settlement has a main drainage system constructed in 1960. The treatment works provide full biological treatment and consistently produces an effluent of a good standard.

Saunton

This is a very old sewerage system which continues to function without obvious nuisance. The sewage gravitates to a large septic tank and the effluent from this tank is distributed by a series of trenches in the sand dunes.

South Bank Sewerage Scheme

This system serves the built-up area of Hele Manor, Oakland Park, Bickington, Fremington, Yelland and Instow and includes that part of the Borough of Barnstaple which lies to the west of the River Taw. The bulk of the sewage is pumped to the treatment works at Yelland via pumping stations situated at Anchor Wood, Oakland Park, Fremington and Instow.

The pumps at Fremington deliver 75,000 gallons per hour and in dry weather operate for just over three hours a day, but in storm weather up to fifteen hours have been recorded.

Large volumes of surface water enter the sewers by the Magdala branch which serves Bickington village. The whole of the main road through the village drains to the foul sewers and a storm sewage overflow at Magdala reduces the volume to be dealt with by the pumps, but this is done to the detriment of the water course into which the overflow discharges. The Ministry of Transport has continued with improvements to the A. 39 road through Bickington and it is hoped that by mid-1970 all the highway water will have been removed from the foul system.

The Yelland treatment works provide screening, grit removal and primary settlement and the settled sewage is discharged into the River Taw at a point near the East Yelland Power Station. The works were designed to treat a dry weather flow of 369,000 gallons and at present have a capacity of approximately 40,000 gallons per day available. However, this is barely sufficient to cope with the increased loading which will result from the ultimate development of the South Bank area.

Taw Valley

The new Taw Valley scheme was brought into operation in

August. The area served includes Bishops Tawton, Landkey, Swimbridge, Mount Sandford and the Rumsam district of the Borough. Three pumping stations deliver sewage to the main central station at Pill, Rock Park, which discharges into the Borough sewers in Taw Valley. At present the whole of the sewage from this area is discharged crude into the River Taw at Castle Quay, but eventually will be pumped from Pottington to a new treatment works to be constructed at Ashford by the Borough Council.

West Down

A small treatment works serves part of the village and produces an effluent within the Royal Commission standard.

Westleigh

The village is sewered on the combined system which results in foul sewage and surface water being discharged directly into the River Torridge via a short outfall. At present no treatment is provided, but during the year plans were prepared for a new treatment works and Ministry approval is awaited.

Future Main Drainage Proposals

Following the Council's detailed examination of the main drainage situation in the district during 1968, the capital works programme has been put in hand and schemes have been prepared for the village of Stoke Rivers and for relief sewers at St. Peters Road, Fremington and Old Torrington Road, Tawstock.

Survey work has also been carried out for a joint scheme to serve the hamlets of Guineaford, Prixford and Kingsheanton.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Surveyor's Department maintains the following public conveniences.

Braunton (Parish Hall)

Damage to these conveniences is a regular feature as a result of vandalism.

Braunton (Car Park)

Brendon

During the Lorna Doone Centenary Year 1969 mobile conveniences were stationed at Malmsmead and at the end of the holiday season work commenced on a block of permanent conveniences.

Combe Martin (Seaside, Skirhead, Hollands Park and Kiln Car Park)

Situated in a holiday area these conveniences are in continuous use during the summer season.

Croyde (Village)

Croyde (Downend)

Croyde Bay

A block of new public conveniences was completed at Croyde Bay in time for the 1969 holiday season. This block incorporates a cubicle for disabled persons which it would appear has been greatly appreciated by people who have used it.

Georgeham

This small block of conveniences are no longer large enough for the heavy demands made upon them.

Instow

These are used extensively during the season as is the case with all public conveniences in the coastal resorts.

Woolacombe (Red Barn, Beach and Combesgate)

These conveniences are extensively used during the holiday season.

Woolacombe (Marine Drive)

Countisbury (County Gate)

The chemical system of public conveniences installed in both places give satisfactory service and are much used by holiday-makers.

Bratton Fleming

Mortehoe

The Council has an agreement with the Village Hall Committees whereby the conveniences are made available to the public in return for an annual contribution towards the running costs.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

COLLECTION

Weekly collections of household refuse were maintained from the majority of premises throughout the district, the only exceptions being in a limited number of small villages and hamlets which received a fortnightly service.

Summer Services

During the four months from the end of May until the end of September, two collections were made each week in the holiday areas of Instow, Croyde, Georgeham, Woolacombe, Mortehoe, Berrynarbor, and Combe Martin for the benefit of hotels, guesthouses, holiday caravan sites and certain business premises. Apart from the improved service for those places catering for visitors, the arrangement tended to ease the problems of collection.

The practice of providing caravan sites with internal collections during the summer season when they have been requested was continued. Charges were made for these special services. However, to ease the burden of refuse collection it was agreed that the removal of refuse from individual caravans would not be carried out in future years.

Several holiday establishments requested additional collections and these were also undertaken with a charge being made for each visit.

Service Establishments

Special chargeable collections were carried out at the Army Camps at Fremington and Instow and there was the regular collection of refuse from the Royal Air Force Station at Chivenor which is the subject of a yearly contract.

At Chivenor R.A.F. Station, collections were made frequently from the messes, twice weekly from the lines, certain offices and stores, clubs, shops, sick quarters and workshops and weekly from the remainder of the stores, offices, sections, hangars, boiler houses and married quarters.

Improvements

Detailed surveys of collection routes and areas were undertaken when time permitted. These are considered to be essential before any worthwhile reorganisation of rounds can be effected.

Unwanted Articles

On numerous occasions during the year, assistance was given to ratepayers with awkward, unusual or bulky items, or accumulations of refuse which they wished to discard.

Additional items of reasonable size were usually collected with the normal refuse without question. Arrangements were made for the collection of such articles as mattresses and furniture after residents had contacted the Department.

Considerable amounts of refuse, or bulky items such as car bodies, invariably necessitated a special visit by a lorry and crew and in certain instances a charge was made.

A local firm of scrap merchants accepted any abandoned vehicles collected by the Department and several cars were disposed of in this way during the year.

Particulars of the availability of these services were incorporated with notices in the local press regarding public holiday collection arrangements and resulted in many requests for special collections. This publicity was given during the winter and spring months when vehicles and men were more easily available for this additional work.

LITTER

During the summer months the smallest collection vehicle was used mainly for the collection of litter from the many receptacles that have been provided throughout the area. Where necessary containers were emptied two or three times each week.

Contributions towards the costs involved were received in respect of the collection of litter from sites within the Exmoor National Park and at lay-bys on various main roads within the district.

Permanent litter bins in villages and lay-bys are mainly of the large covered concrete type with wooden fronts, or particularly in the shopping areas of Braunton and Woolacombe and at various bus stops, a smaller concrete type.

Metal drum containers were used in remote areas of the district frequented by summer visitors. When necessary they were overhauled and repainted during the winter. These utilitarian receptacles are cheap, convenient and almost indestructible.

The Exmoor National Park was provided with plastic sack holders and these proved to be a successful innovation.

DISPOSAL

The use of sites at Claypit Coverts, Fremington and Berrydown, Berrynarbor for the tipping of refuse continued throughout the year.

Refuse from Brendon and Countisbury and other areas in the north-eastern part of the district was deposited at the Lyn Down tip of the Lynton Urban District Council and an appropriate payment for this use was made to that Authority.

Tipping proceeded at Fremington on part of the further area of land which had been leased adjoining the completed tip. Considerable amounts of rubble and soil were deposited at the tip and were most useful for the improvement of the approach road and as covering material.

Berry Down tip was affected with fire for a period during the summer. The position and depth of the tip presented considerable difficulties and being at the height of the holiday season, men, machines and water carriers were not available for sufficient time to affect a speedy control. After several weeks the fire was eventually extinguished.

VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

Refuse Collection Fleet

Details follow of the various vehicles in use, all of which are powered with diesel engines. The last two columns show the actual mileage travelled by each vehicle in 1969, together with the average fuel consumption expressed in miles per gallon.

<u>Make and Type</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>M.P.G.</u>
*1963 Shelvoke and Drewry Pakamatic	50 cu yd.	7,571	6
*1967 Shelvoke and Drewry Pakamatic	35 cu yd.	10,450	7
+1965 Bedford/Eagle Crushload	35 cu yd.	5,731 (i)	7
x1961 Shelvoke & Drewry Fore & Aft Tipper .	14 cu yd.	12,300 E	9
x1960 Shelvoke & Drewry Fore & Aft Tipper .	12 cu yd.	8,581	9
R1958 Bedford/Eagle Side Loader	10 cu yd.	9,278	12
1968 Land-Rover/Tiverton Rear Loader	7 cu yd.	16,660	15
1965 Ford/Homalloy Rear Loader	5 cu yd.	6,400 E(ii)	23

*Hydraulic ram for compression

+Hydraulic crushing and compression rams

xHydraulic compression plate

RReserve vehicle

EEstimated mileage

(i) de-licenced January to April

(ii) de-licensed January to May

The total mileage travelled by all these vehicles during the year was almost 4,000 miles fewer than the figure for 1968. For the past four years it has been found possible to effect reductions in mileage as the following figures show.

Approximate Annual Mileage of Refuse Collection Vehicles:

1966	94,000 miles
1967	87,500 miles
1968	80,700 miles
1969	77,000 miles

With the continuing increase in the number of premises in the Rural District, as well as the additional amounts of refuse to be collected from each property, this annual decrease in mileage is proof of the value of surveys of collection routes and subsequent reorganisation. These savings allow for further extensions of services with the existing number of vehicles and personnel and therefore effectively delay the time when these factors will need to be considered.

The 1958 Bedford/Eagle side loading machine rendered invaluable service with the minimum of attention. As the reserve vehicle it was in use during at least forty five weeks throughout the year.

The 1960 Fore and Aft Tipper suffered an engine failure early in the year due to a damaged crankshaft and main bearings. When the demands of the summer season were at an end this machine was taken out of service for a complete overhaul with the intention of being put into a thoroughly reliable condition to serve as a future reserve vehicle.

The 1961 Fore and Aft Tipper was in use almost continuously, but having regard to its general condition, at 31st December it was considered to be beyond economical repair and a breakdown at that time determined its withdrawal. The machine has been retained whilst the other vehicle of similar type is in use for spare parts that are becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain.

The 1963 Pakamatic continued to give good service. Repairs and replacements were effected to the hopper mechanism before the commencement of the summer season. Later in the year the motor unit required a major overhaul when new cylinder liners were fitted to the engine. The vehicle was out of action for approximately two weeks due to these repairs being undertaken.

The 1965 Ford vehicle required attention to the engine and gearbox and these were overhauled.

The 1965 Crushload broke down at the beginning of August having suffered a major engine failure. Having regard to the age of the vehicle and total mileage travelled, it was considered that a replacement engine should be fitted. Considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining the special motor unit required and eventually a specially made crankshaft had to be obtained. In consequence the machine was out of service for eight weeks during the summer season.

In December further attention was required to the working parts of the complicated crushing and compressing mechanism, necessitating a further two weeks out of action.

The 1967 Pakamatic had to have the clutch assembly renewed during January, but following representations to the manufacturers they agreed to make no charge for the parts used.

Tip Control Equipment.

Two machines are used for levelling and covering refuse at the two tips.

1966 Bristol Taurus tractor shovel

1962 Fordson Major four wheel drive tractor

The Bristol Taurus is a tracked machine which is normally in use at the main tip at Fremington. It is powerful and compact and most suitable for tip control work, being capable of soil and refuse excavation, as well as tip compaction.

The Fordson tractor, which is equipped with a bucket is not so powerful, nor robust, but has the advantage of being able to travel under its own power to other tips, as well as being a reserve unit. It has the disadvantage of being prone to punctures.

Future Replacements

In December approval was given to the purchase of a Shelvoke and Drewry Pakamatic refuse collection vehicle of 40/50 cubic yard capacity. It was intended that delivery of this new machine would be in May 1970 to be available to assist with the peak demands of the summer season.

Repairs and Maintenance

Expenditure on vehicle repairs during the financial year which ended on the 31st March showed a significant increase. This was considered to be due, not so much to an increase in actual repairs, but rather to increased labour charged incurred by having repairs carried out at local garages.

The suggestion that the time was opportune to consider the undertaking of repairs and maintenance to the Council's vehicles by direct labour was accepted, and a Chargehand Fitter/Mechanic was appointed for this purpose from July.

It was considered that in addition to being financially advantageous in the long term, if not immediately, there would be savings in lost time by vehicles awaiting repair as well as generally far more convenient arrangements for repairs and maintenance. Higher standards of maintenance and mechanical efficiency should be possible.

It was agreed that the fitter should be on the establishment of the Public Health Department to ensure priority for work on refuse collection vehicles, but the servicing and repair of vehicles of the Surveyor's Department is undertaken by mutual arrangement.

Garage accommodation at Wrafton Road, which was already provided with an inspection pit, was adapted for use as a workshop.

It was not envisaged that all repair work could be undertaken by the fitter, it being understood that major repairs would probably still need to be carried out by private garages. However, during the six months period, no work other than repairs likely to be the subject of warranty claims, was given to private firms.

PERSONNEL

The labour force of the Public Health Department totals twenty one and comprises a foreman, a chargehand fitter/mechanic, six driver/loaders, twelve collectors and a tractor operator.

These workers again proved themselves to be most reliable by keeping the essential refuse collection and disposal services functioning satisfactorily throughout the year, particularly during the summer season when their task was increased considerably. They coped with setbacks occasioned by the breakdown of vehicles, or absence of staff.

A large proportion of the men have worked for the Council for more than five years, three drivers for more than ten years and the tractor operator for more than twenty years and it was pleasing to note that staff changes were again few.

It was sad to relate that one of the Department's most reliable workers became seriously ill in January and did not return to work, he eventually passed away at the end of July at the early age of thirty nine.

Two other loaders resigned, one of these by mutual agreement as it was apparent that the heavy work in all weather conditions was aggravating his physical condition.

Few complaints were received regarding the refuse collection services and this should be regarded as a tribute to the men who are carrying out this heavy work in all kinds of weather. The Council is fortunate to have these hard-working men serving as their representatives throughout the district.

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HOUSING

The inspections of dwellings likely to be unfit for human habitation in accordance with the standards recommended by the Housing Act, 1957 were maintained and reports were regularly submitted at meetings of the Public Health Committee on houses that were not considered to be capable of being made fit at reasonable cost. Formal action normally resulted in the making of Closing Orders, Demolition Orders, or the submission of Undertakings from owners.

The majority of the properties were considered to be worthy of retention and modernisation and owners were encouraged to consider seriously such action wherever appropriate. Proposals for repair and improvement were forthcoming in a number of instances.

It is important to realise that the rate of progress in dealing with unfit houses must be related to the availability of suitable alternative accommodation for those persons who will be displaced.

It should be noted that the number of unfit houses in this District is reckoned to be appreciably fewer than in other parts of the country when the ever present demand for older properties for holiday and retirement purposes is considered.

Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses Elsewhere

Houses Demolished

Under Sections 16 or 17 (1) of the Housing Act, 1957 1

Unfit Houses Closed

Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1) of the Housing Act, 1957 and Section 26 of the Housing Act, 1961 9

Persons Displaced

From houses to be demolished 6

From houses to be closed 3

Families Displaced

From houses to be demolished 1

From houses to be closed 1

Unfit Houses Made Fit

After formal notice under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 17

CARAVAN SITES

The majority of the caravan sites within the district have been provided for holiday purposes and during the summer season these are inspected regularly to check that conditions appertaining to the site licences are being observed.

As there are almost thirty licensed sites located between Yelland and Parracombe and concentrated in the holiday areas of Croyde, Woolacombe, Mortehoe, Berrynarbor and Combe Martin, these inspections entail a considerable proportion of the time of the public health inspectors during the summer.

In addition, details are recorded of the number of caravans situated on sites during the particular months of June, July and August. This information is obtained for the County Planning Officer for use in connection with his annual survey of caravanning and the holiday trends and development in Devon.

Licensed Sites

Details are given of the main sites licensed under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. The majority are holiday sites, where caravans are permitted to be used for human habitation only during the period from March to October in each year, and touring caravans are not allowed to remain on the sites for periods longer than three weeks. There are, of course, no such restrictions for residential sites.

Other sites which have been granted licences, mostly for one caravan only, and none for more than three, are as listed hereunder.

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>USE</u>
Berrynarbor	1	Holiday
Combe Martin	1	Holiday
Fremington	1	Residential and touring
Goodleigh	1	Residential
Kentisbury	1	Holiday
Landkey	1	Residential
Mortehoe	1	Holiday
Shirwell	1	Residential

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>CARAVAN SITES</u>	<u>CARAVANS</u>	
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Resid.</u>
<u>ASHFORD</u>	Midland Caravan Park	63	-
<u>BERRYNARBOR</u>	Berrynarbor Trailer Park	65(*15)	6
	Indicknowle Farm	5	-
	The Napps	*20	-
	Sandaway Caravan Park	90	-
	Watermouth Caves	69	-
<u>BRAUNTON</u>	Dune View Caravan Park	56	56
	Lobb Field	*50	-
	Score Farm	22	22
<u>COMBE MARTIN</u>	Glenavon Holiday Park	80	-
<u>FREMINGTON</u>	Bickington Caravan Site	35	35
	Lagoon View, Yelland	200	5
<u>GEORGEHAM</u>	Barn Lawn	2	-
	Burrows Mead, Croyde	150	-
	Ora Stone, Croyde	31	6
	Lyncroft Farm, North Buckland	4	-
	Putsborough Sands	20	-
	Ruda Caravan Park, Croyde	280	1
	Seabirds Park, Croyde	6	-
<u>GOODLEIGH</u>	Riversmead, Snapper	*20	-
<u>HEANTON</u>	Chivenor Cross	*25	-
<u>PUNCHARDON</u>			
<u>KENTISBURY</u>	Kentisbury Grange	61	-
<u>LANDKEY</u>	Mount View	24	24
<u>MORTEHOE</u>	Cleavewood Caravan Park	80	-
	North Morte Farm	73	-
	Pine Cones Caravan Park	50	-
	Twitchen House	317(*42)	-
	Woolacombe Sands Caravan Park	70	-
	Woolacombe Bay Caravan Park	245	-
<u>PARRACOMBE</u>	Lorna Doone Farm	*20	-

* Touring caravans only.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MEAT PRODUCTION

Slaughterhouses

Four slaughterhouses were licensed for the year 1969.

The general standard of slaughterhouses within the Rural District was raised very considerably with the completion of new premises at Rookabear, where slaughtering was commenced in April.

The sub-standard slaughterhouse at Roundswell had been licensed until 31st March and this was extended until 30th April to allow for use for slaughtering in the event of any initial troubles with the new buildings and equipment and to satisfactorily transfer the slaughtering business without any unnecessary interruption. In fact it was not again used for slaughtering purposes once the new slaughterhouse commenced operations.

The new slaughterhouse has been built with sufficient facilities to deal with an ultimate throughput greatly in excess of the maximum possible at the old premises. Although the amount of slaughtering showed a steady increase throughout the year it was below the anticipated rate of growth.

The Fremington slaughterhouse continued to function on a similar scale to 1968 with frequent attention being required from the Department in matters of hygiene.

Of the two smaller slaughterhouses which are connected with butchery businesses, only the one at Braunton continued in use, no slaughtering taking place at Swimbridge.

Meat Inspection

The important duty of the inspection of all meat and offals from animals killed at the three slaughterhouses was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963.

The two Meat Inspectors were able to deal with all weekday meat inspection whilst the Roundswell slaughterhouse was in use, most of the time being spent with one at each of the two major slaughterhouses, where they undertook alternate periods of duty of two weeks.

The two Public Health Inspectors regularly assisted with weekend meat inspection throughout the year and a retired Public Health Inspector was employed on a casual basis to carry out inspections during the absence of the Meat Inspectors for holiday periods, sickness, or other emergencies.

Having regard to the circumstances and problems encountered with unlimited hours of inspection, together with the likelihood of an increased throughput at the new Rookabear slaughterhouse, a special Sub-Committee had given consideration to the possibility of exercising the power to control times of slaughter.

It had been accepted that, in the interests of securing full and adequate meat inspection at reasonable cost, slaughtering should be restricted to five and a half days a week on the basis of the following hours.

Mondays to Fridays	7.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
	2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Saturdays	7.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon
Sundays	no slaughtering

These proposals were submitted to the proprietors of the Roundswell and Fremington slaughterhouses who did not consider them to be acceptable.

In January the Sub-Committee interviewed both proprietors regarding the possibility of reasonably restricting hours of slaughter, but after further full discussion it was decided to defer further consideration of the matter until the new Rookabear slaughterhouse had been brought into operation and experience obtained.

The new premises were in use from mid-April, and in May the subject again received attention. The partners at Rookabear requested the Council to agree to slaughtering hours between 7.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. Mondays to Fridays and 7.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. on Saturdays.

The Sub-Committee carefully considered the question of the control of hours of slaughter and gave due consideration to the observations of the slaughterhouse proprietors. They were of the opinion that control should be exercised, but that a compromise should be made.

It was therefore agreed that from 1st July the permitted hours of slaughter at Rookabear and Fremington slaughterhouses should be determined as follows:-

Mondays to Fridays 7.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.
 Saturdays 7.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon
 Sundays no slaughtering

These arrangements were in fact applied only at the Rookabear premises from July, as the proprietor at Fremington made a formal objection to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food regarding the Council's proposals.

This action necessitated the provision of further information and observations to the Ministry, but in due course the Minister agreed that the days and hours of slaughter determined by the Council were not unreasonable. This decision was not received until December and therefore no controls were applied at the Fremington slaughterhouse in 1969.

Due to the layout of the Rookabear slaughterhouse and the increased pace of operation from the commencement of slaughtering there, it frequently became necessary for two inspectors to be in attendance.

In June the retired Public Health Inspector moved from the area, but at short notice it was possible to make further arrangements for casual meat inspection on a similar basis with a young woman who held an Authorised Meat Inspectors qualification.

From July onwards the assistance of this Meat Inspector was required for up to four days each week at Rookabear, with Public Health Inspectors also being needed during the absence of Meat Inspectors.

Animals Killed and Inspected

The number of animals killed at the four slaughterhouses during the past six years are shown as follows:-

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Beasts	2015	2418	1902	1446	1341	1656
Calves	1376	1777	3118	3095	2407	3662
Pigs	10190	13921	6988	4711	5760	7025
Sheep	86605	119321	132515	131174	119465	129501
Total Throughput	100186	137437	144523	140426	128973	141844

Carcases and Offals Inspected and Condemned

	<u>Cattle excl'd. cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Sheep</u>
Animals killed and inspected:	1346	310	3662	7025	129501
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	24	66	22	458
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	441	158	69	625	16124
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	33.06	58.71	3.69	9.21	12.80
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcass condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	48	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	0.68	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

FOOD PREMISES

Routine inspections of all types of premises associated with food trades were carried out, as frequently as possible, during the year. Particular attention was given to catering establishments in the holiday areas of the district.

Standards were generally found to be satisfactory, especially at premises in the holiday areas, which of course is most desirable.

The following list details the types of food premises within the district and is classified in accordance with the principal business of the various traders:-

Bakers and Confectioners	8
Butchers	17
Cafes and Canteens	51
Confectioners & Ice Cream Retailers .	33
Fishmongers and Fish Friers	8
Greengrocers	10
Grocers	99
Hotels	35
Licensed Premises	49
<u>Total</u>	<u>310</u>

MILK AND DAIRIES

Within the district there are more than eighty farms or dairies which retail raw milk. The majority of these are farms which bottle a proportion of their output, normally for local consumption. Frequently this is for the convenience of the inhabitants of small hamlets, who otherwise might have difficulty in obtaining bottled milk. In some instances the amount bottled may only be one or two gallons, or as few as half a dozen households supplied.

The periodical testing of the various supplies of milk, as received by the consumer, is the responsibility of the Devon County Council, but with such a large number of retailers in this district alone, the task of the County Public Health Inspector in arranging for them all to be checked at frequent intervals is formidable.

Occasionally it is possible for untreated milk to contain the organisms of brucellosis which, when transferred from the cow to the consumer in this manner, may give rise to the condition known as undulant fever which, since the eradication of tuberculosis, has become the most serious health risk in raw milk.

To assist the County Public Health Inspector, and more particularly to obtain first hand information on local milk supplies, inspectors from the Department continued to take samples of raw milk from the various retailers and submit them to laboratory tests for brucella and keeping quality.

Details of the results of the tests applied to the random samples of untreated milk obtained during 1969 follow:-

Samples for brucella ring test	<u>121</u>
Samples containing brucella organisms	5
Samples also for methylene blue test	89
Samples which failed methylene blue test ..	8

Where samples failed the test for keeping quality, checks were made on bottle cleaning and filling routines and repeat samples were all satisfactory.

Four of the positive results were obtained during the process of identification of the source of infection following a positive result on a sample of milk taken from a retailer who was supplied with raw milk from five different farms. Each supply of milk was checked and the infection traced to one farm. Several samples of milk were taken from each cow in milk in the herd which eventually enabled the offending animal to be identified and eliminated.

The fifth positive sample resulted in the farms veterinary surgeon arranging and carrying out the necessary sampling programme of elimination.

The farmers concerned co-operated by readily agreeing to the heat treatment of milk from their herds until the sources of infection had been determined and eliminated.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Brucellosis (Accredited Herds) Scheme is one of the first stages in the eradication of brucellosis, but unfortunately it is a voluntary scheme. Therefore until such a programme can be applied to all milking herds, there are no restrictions on the disposal of cows which have been found to have brucella organisms in their milk.

ICE-CREAM

Twenty one samples of soft and loose ice-cream from machines and bulk containers at various retailers' premises in the holiday areas of Croyde, Putsborough, Woolacombe, Mortehoe, Berrynarbor and Combe Martin were obtained during the summer season for bacteriological examination and submitted to the methylene blue reduction test with the following results:-

<u>Producer</u>	<u>Provisional Grade</u>				<u>Total</u>
	1	2	3	4	
A	10	1	1	-	12
B	6	1	-	-	7
C	2	-	-	-	2
Totals	18	2	1	-	21
The majority of samples from any one producer should fall into Grade 1 or 2					

FOOD INSPECTION

The presence of two grocery warehouses in the Braunton area involves Public Health Inspectors in the regular examination of large quantities of foodstuffs, most of which is canned.

During the year some 4,797 tins, mainly of meat, vegetables and fruit were voluntarily surrendered at these and other premises. The reason for the rejection of a large proportion of these foodstuffs was damage to the containers.

In addition, some 2,372 items of frozen food were surrendered due to breakdowns of refrigerated cabinets.

The total quantity of food surrendered and removed for destruction in 1969 was in excess of three tons.

OFFICES AND SHOPS

The more important matters which require attention where staff are employed are cleanliness, overcrowding, temperatures, ventilation, lighting, sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, drinking water, clothing accommodation, sitting facilities, eating facilities, first-aid equipment and the condition of floors, passages and stairs.

Registrations and General Inspections

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>Premises newly registered</u>	<u>Total registered premises</u>	<u>General Inspections</u>
Offices	1	24	9
Retail shops	5	97	50
Wholesale shops/warehouses	-	2	1
Catering establishments	1	24	11
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
<u>Totals</u>	7	147	71

FACTORIES

There are sixty two premises within the district registered as factories.

Notifications have been received of nine persons living within the district who undertake work in their homes in connection with the making of wearing apparel.

RODENT CONTROL

The Rodent Operative undertakes the treatment of infestations of rats and mice at residential and local authority premises throughout the district. Advice on treatment was given to the occupiers of business and agricultural premises who were referred, where necessary, to private firms carrying out rodent control work in the area.

All the sewage disposal works and refuse tips were visited regularly and treatments carried out whenever necessary. The laying of test baits in sewers at Braunton was undertaken and the results showed that there was only slight activity. Poison baiting and the subsequent follow-up visits dealt with the infestation.

In addition, the district received general surveys with particular attention being paid to known sources of infestation and previously infested properties.

Details of properties inspected in connection with infestations are as follows:-

	<u>Type of Property</u>		
	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Properties inspected:</u>			
(a) After notification	177	9	186
(b) On survey	300	10	310
<u>Properties found to be infested by:</u>			
(a) Rats	202	10	212
(b) Mice	30	6	36

WASTE FOOD PLANTS

The duties of licensing and supervising plants and equipment used for the boiling of waste foods for animal feeding are carried out under delegated powers from the Devon County Council.

At the end of the year there were eight premises in use, all of which were inspected during the year.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

Four premises within the district, in the parishes of Bishops Tawton, Bratton Fleming, Heanton Punchardon and Tawstock are licensed and required to be inspected to ensure that they are kept in a suitable condition for boarding animals.

All were inspected during the year and conditions were regarded as satisfactory.

PETROLEUM

Eighty five licences were granted to keep petroleum spirit at various premises throughout the district.

The quantities of petroleum stored ranged from 100 gallons to 1,750,000 gallons. The licences issued permitted the storage of a total of 2,040,740 gallons.

During the year particular attention was given to the inspection of petrol filling stations to ascertain that premises were constructed and equipped in accordance with the licensing conditions.

EXPLOSIVES

Thirty licences to keep gunpowder, or mixed explosives, were issued in respect of various premises within the district. These were mainly for the storage of fireworks.

PLEASURE BOATS

The licensing of pleasure boat proprietors and boatmen and the inspection of boats plying for hire at Combe Martin, Watermouth Harbour and Instow was carried out in connection with fourteen vessels.

Inspections were made regularly during the season to ensure that the conditions of licences were being observed, particularly with regard to the carrying of passengers, to ascertain that the permitted number of persons for each boat was not exceeded.

Detailed consideration was given to the terms and conditions relating to the issue of licences for pleasure boats and boatmen, with a view to securing uniformity of licensing standards with other local authorities in Devon. These matters were completely revised and amended to correspond with standards of licensing and conditions applied by the City of Plymouth.

It was agreed that these standards would become operative in 1970 and the principal changes included the issue of licences for different types of boats requiring the provision of varying standards of equipment and restrictions on times of operation of boats and the duration of licences.

