

[Report 1965] / Medical Officer of Health, Hereford R.D.C.

Contributors

Hereford (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1965

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/jjmkrpw3>

License and attribution

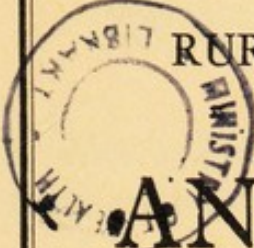
You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



RURAL DISTRICT OF HEREFORD

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1965

Library

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

RICHARD WOOD-POWER

B.A., F.R.C.S.(Ire), D.P.H.



which includes the

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

DONALD FODEN

M.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

HEREFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Medical Officer of Health :

R. Wood-Power, B.A., F.R.C.S. (Ire.), D.P.H.,
Public Health Department,
1 Ledbury Road,
Hereford.

21st April, 1966.

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you the Annual Report for the above District for the year 1965.

The birth-rate was 15.8 per 1,000, and the death-rate was 10.7 per 1,000 (and when adjusted by the comparability factors supplied by the Registrar General, were respectively 17.8 and 8.6 per 1,000), and the infant mortality rate 29.5 per 1,000 births.

The report of the Chief Public Health Inspector is appended hereto.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

R. WOOD-POWER.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health—

R. WOOD-POWER, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S.(Ire.), D.P.H.
(Part-time).

Chief Public Health Inspector—

DONALD FODEN, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B.,
Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Public Health Inspector—

R. L. SANKEY, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H., Cert. P.H.I.E.B.
Dip. Insp. Meat and Other Foods.

Clerk/Typist—

Miss S. E. WILLIAMS

Clerk to the Council—

R. A. SYMONDS, M.A.(Cantab.) (Part-time).

Physical Features and General Character

The Rural District of Hereford is situated in the middle of the county, and completely surrounds the city of Hereford. It is bounded on the north by the Leominster and Wigmore Rural District, on the north-east by the Bromyard Rural District, on the south by the Ross and Whitchurch Rural District, and on the west by the Dore and Bredwardine and Weobley Rural Districts. The middle of the district is low-lying.

In the north Dinmore Hill rises to a height of 747 ft., in the south Orcop Hill to 958 ft., and Aconbury Hill 905 ft., on the west Credenhill is 720 ft., while on the eastern side are Dinedor 595 ft., Backbury 738 ft., and Westhide 422 ft.

The district is well watered. The river Wye flows across from west to east in a very tortuous bed, and the rivers Lugg and Frome flow from north to south until they empty into the Wye. In the low-lying portions, following the courses of the rivers, is alluvial deposit.

Geologically the district is Old Red Sandstone. Credenhill, Dinedor, Dinmore and Callow hills are of Cornstone formation.

The subsoil is gravelly loam in those parishes through which the rivers flow, and in the remainder of the district for the most part marl or clay.

The population at the Census of 1961 showed an increase of 78 persons in the Rural District, and varied in the thirty-nine Parishes within the Area from 19 in Dinmore to 2,481 in Credenhill.

Legislation in Force

Bye-laws with respect to Hop and Fruit Pickers made 1909 were amended during 1937 ; Tents and Vans made 1912 were amended during 1955 ; New Buildings made 1918 were amended during 1954 ; Food Bye-Laws were made in 1950 ; and Bye-Laws with respect to swimming baths and bathing pools during 1961.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Professional Nursing in the Home

There is an adequate number of District Nurses/Midwives in the Area to cover all Parishes.

Their services are provided by the County Council and the Nurses are under the supervision of the Superintendent Nursing Officer.

Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological examinations are made by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the County Hospital, Hereford, where Dr. D. R. Christie is in charge.

The chemical analyses of water samples are carried out by Messrs. G. Rudd Thompson and Partners Ltd., Newport, Mon.

Hospitals

Hospital Services for the County of Hereford are under the Management of the Herefordshire Hospital Management Committee, who are responsible for the control of all Hospitals, to which patients can be admitted in case of need.

Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance facilities are available through the Herefordshire County Council Ambulance Service, whose services may be obtained through County Ambulance H.Q., Canal Road, Hereford (telephone 4451). The service is available to all registered medical practitioners and in certain cases to registered midwives. Attendance at accidents and sudden street illnesses can be obtained by the public by following the instructions given on the dial of the telephone.

Stretcher ambulances and sitting case vehicles are available at any time and are manned by trained personnel.

The H.Q. Station is supplemented by Sub-stations distributed throughout the County.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	County Hospital.
Venereal Diseases	...	...	...	County Hospital.
Orthopaedic	...	...	...	General Hospital

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies.

As from the 1st April, 1960, all publicly owned piped water supplies became vested in the Herefordshire Water Board.

Apart from a few smaller units of supply all other sources of supply are subjected to filtration and chlorination and 23 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, of which 16 were reported upon as being satisfactory and 7 as unsatisfactory. There is no evidence to believe that any of the supplies are liable to have plumbo-solvent action. Where adverse bacteriological reports are received information is immediately transmitted to the Board Engineer so that he can take appropriate remedial action.

The approximate number of dwelling houses supplied from public mains is as follows :—

(a) direct to the houses	...	...	...	...	1,899
(b) by means of standpipes	...	...	...	...	39

Sewerage and Drainage

The Council has continued to give earnest consideration to the provision of sewerage schemes and on its instructions the Consulting Engineers have carried out a survey of the whole area and have submitted a report defining those areas where schemes would be practicable. These proposals have been agreed in principle and consideration is now being given to the order of precedence in which the various schemes should be placed.

It is anticipated that the scheme for the village of Fownhope, where the residents should soon enjoy the benefit of a piped water supply, will be the next one to be commenced together with one for parts of Holmer. These should be followed by the scheme for part of Withington and the major portions of the parishes of Lugwardine and Bartestree. Attention is also being given to proposed schemes at Moreton-on-Lugg, Wellington and Holme Lacy.

Consideration is also being given to the provision of a cesspit emptying service having regard to the fact that it will be impossible

from economical and physical reasons to provide sewerage schemes for the whole of the Council's administrative area.

During the year the sewerage scheme for Kings Acre Road and certain other properties in the parish of Breinton, a portion of Kenchester and major areas of the parishes of Stretton Sugwas and Credenhill has been completed with great benefit to the householders in the parishes concerned.

A scheme for parts of the parishes of Allensmore and Clehonger together with one for the centre of Little Dewchurch village were completed some time ago.

Swimming Baths and Pools

None in the district but one proposed.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No infestations were discovered.

National Assistance Acts, 1948 & 1951

No action was necessary during the year under the provision of Section 50.

Registered Common Lodging Houses

None in the area.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1965

DISEASE	Sex	All Ages	CASES NOTIFIED												
			Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	55-	-65 over
Scarlet Fever	M.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	6	—	—	1	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia...	M.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	M.	10	—	1	5	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	5	—	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	M.	7	—	—	—	1	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	13	—	—	2	—	2	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	3

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

(a) Total number of outbreaks	0
(b) Number of cases	0
(c) Number of deaths	0
(d) Organisms or other agents responsible :	

Foods involved :—

Tuberculosis

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Number on register 31.12.64	51	29	12	15	63	44
New cases notified ...	1	1	—	—	1	1
Cases transferred to area...	1	1	—	—	1	1
	53	31	12	15	65	46
Cases removed	30	19	6	4	36	23
Number on register 31.12.65	23	12	6	11	29	23

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)**REGULATIONS, 1925**

No action was necessary during the year.

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1965

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—
4. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	2
5. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	—
6. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
7. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
8. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	12
9. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	—
10. Diabetes	—	—
11. Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	12
12. Coronary disease, angina	18	16
13. Hypertension with heart disease	—	3
14. Other heart disease	11	28
15. Other circulatory disease	4	3
16. Influenza	—	—
17. Pneumonia	3	9
18. Bronchitis	6	3
19. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—
20. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1
21. Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	—	2
22. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
23. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
24. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
25. Congenital malformations	1	—
26. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	5
27. Motor vehicle accidents	3	2
28. All other accidents	5	4
29. Suicide	1	—
TOTAL	100	106

The following report has been given by the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. Donald Foden, on work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1965.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

As required by the Public Health Officers' Regulations, 1959.

Inspections under :—	<i>Number</i>
Housing Acts & Regulations	1698
Housing—Tenancy Applications	28
Nuisances	319
Infectious Diseases	67
Water Supplies	312
Dairies & Milk Supplies	9
Food & Food Premises	184
Schools	2
Hop Pickers' Quarters	34
Factories with Mechanical Power	10
Factories without Mechanical Power	—
Other Premises under Factories Acts	4
Work Places	3
Petroleum Acts & Regulations	314
Damage by Pests Act	12
Temporary & Movable Dwellings	683
Refuse Collection and Disposal	388
Scrap Metal Dealers	10
Clean Air Act	4
National Assistance Act	—
Noise Abatement	3
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	5
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	129

Housing

Attention has been directed to dealing with unfit houses and action with regard thereto has been as follows :—

(a) UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT.	
1. After informal action... ..	141
2. After formal notice under :	
(i) Public Health Act, 1936	0
(ii) Housing Act, 1957	0
(b) UNFIT HOUSES DEMOLISHED	19
(c) UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED	3

The number of applications for Improvement Grants under the relevant provisions of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 and Housing Act, 1964, were as follows:—

	<i>Discretionary</i>	<i>Standard</i>
Number of applications received ...	13	39
(a) Applications granted ...	10	39
(b) „ rejected ...	3	—
(c) „ pending ...	—	—

It is to be hoped that with the increased assistance that can now be given in certain circumstances a greater number of applications for Standard Grant will be made.

No improvement areas under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1964, have been prescribed by the Council. Two applications have been received from tenants for the improvement of houses outside such areas and two improvement notices served.

The number of new houses erected during the year are set out below:—

Houses built privately ...	132
Houses built by Council ...	30
	—
Total ...	162
	—

Houses owned by the Council now number 669, and are situate in the following parishes:—Birch, Much (50), Breinton (8), Burghill (20), Clehonger (127), Dewchurch, Little (46), Dewchurch, Much (44), Dormington (10), Eaton Bishop (30), Fownhope (40), Hampton Bishop (2), Haywood (6), Holme Lacy (18), Lugwardine (22), Marden (24), Mordiford (48), Moreton-on-Lugg (44), Pipe and Lyde (8), Preston Wynne (8), Stoke Edith (6), Stretton Sugwas (36), Sutton (14), Wellington (18), Weston Beggard (10) and Withington (30).

During 1965 the occupiers of the 29 bungalows at Kingstone, which have provided temporary accommodation for a number of years, have been re-housed in permanent Council dwellings and the bungalows are to be demolished.

Thirty houses have been built by the Council during the year at Clehonger and sold—in some cases to people who were Council House tenants.

Nuisances.

No Abatement Notices were served during 1965—all nuisances being satisfactorily overcome by informal action.

Infectious Diseases.

Twenty-eight cases of infectious diseases, consisting of 7 cases of Scarlet Fever, 20 cases of Dysentery and 1 case of Para-typhoid Fever, were investigated.

Water Supplies.

Two samples have been submitted for Chemical Analysis and 142 samples for Bacteriological Examination, with the following results :—

	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Chemical	2	—
Bacteriological	54	88

Dairies and Milk Supplies.

There are on the register 24 distributors of milk, of whom one is a distributor of Untreated, Pasteurised and Sterilised milk, twenty-two are distributors of both Untreated milk and Pasteurised milk, whilst one retails only Untreated milk. In addition, so far as is known, there are 12 producers of milk, who are registered with the Ministry of Agriculture, who are also distributors in the area of milk for retail sale. Of this latter number four are known to be retailing Untreated milk, and three purchase and retail Pasteurised milk and five retail both Untreated and Pasteurised milk.

Food and Food Premises.

The number of known food premises in the Area is as follows --

General Food Shops...	...	...	...	...	48
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	3
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	...	...	4
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	2
Canteens	...	...	...	...	23
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	34
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	48

The above premises fulfil the requirements of Regulations 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

Fifty-two premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 as follows :—

Storage and Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	50
Manufacture of Sausages	...	...	...	2

During the year inspections of food premises have continued to ascertain that hygienic practices were being maintained. One hundred and eighty-four inspections were carried out, of which fifty-four related to registered food premises.

Forty-six samples of Ice Cream were submitted for examination and were reported upon as falling within the following Provisional Grades :—

Provisional Grade I	...	...	46
„ Grade II	...	...	—
„ Grade III	...	...	—
„ Grade IV	...	...	—

There are no licensed slaughterhouses or egg pasteurising plants.

Five hundred weights of pears were found to be unfit for human consumption, were condemned and destroyed by incineration.

Factories

There are 53 factories within the district, 50 with and 3 without mechanical power.

1. Inspections :

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power ...	10	—	—
Factories without mechanical power	—	—	—
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)	4	—	—
TOTALS	14	—	—

2. Defects found :

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ...	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:				
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	3	3	—	—

3. Outwork—Nil.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act

	<i>Registered</i>	<i>Inspected</i>	<i>Employees</i>
Offices	15	3	30
Retail Shops	20	12	47
Wholesale Departments and Warehouses	1	—	2
Catering Establishments and Canteens open to the Public	1	1	33
Fuel Storage Depots	1	—	4
	38	16	116

Total Inspections 129
 Accidents Notified 0

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act.

One Inspector/Operator is employed, but his services are shared jointly with the Bromyard, Ledbury and Ross and Whitchurch R.D's. The table set out hereunder records his work in this area during 1965 :—

	Premises Inspected	No. of Inspections	Total Infestations	RATS		Mice
				Major	Minor	
Local Authority's Properties ...	3	30	18	10	8	—
Dwelling Houses ...	120	190	70	—	62	8
Business Premises ...	8	14	5	1	3	1
Agricultural Properties	44	47	44	3	41	—
TOTALS ...	175	281	137	14	114	9

The four Councils concerned have decided to carry out a disinfestation service, two operators are employed, and contracts held in the four areas at the 31st December, 1965 amounted to £2,174, and the number of treatments carried out during the year in this area was 506.

Temporary and Moveable Dwellings

Following approval by the County Planning Authority licences in accordance with the Model Standards have been issued under the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, as follows :—

Multiple sites :—

Issued for a limited period	...	2
Issued without time limit	...	6

Individual sites :—

Issued for a limited period	...	7
Issued without time limit	...	10

In addition, there are several moveable dwellings in respect of which licences are not required under the provisions of the First Schedule of the Act, but which are, nevertheless, subject to the provisions of the Council's Byelaws, and a number of caravans are known to be stored at various premises but are unoccupied.

Considerable trouble is experienced in dealing with the nomadic type of caravan dweller who persists in siting his caravan on the verges of public highways and bridle roads.

The Council are anxious to obtain land whereon to provide a Council operated caravan site, but efforts to acquire ground in all respects suitable for this purpose have so far proved abortive.

Refuse Collection.

Three freighters, with three loader-drivers and eight loaders are employed and collections are carried out once in every week throughout the area including, under agreement with the County Council, the cleansing of and removal of refuse from various lay-bys.

With these regular collections there is no excuse for the indiscriminate tipping of refuse in old quarries and on wasteland in the area but it must be stressed that it is not always local people who are responsible for this reprehensible practice.

During 1965, 1,557 loads of refuse—approximately the equivalent of 18,684 cubic yards—were collected and hauled to the three disused quarries used for disposal.

Scrap Metal Dealers.

Fifty persons are now registered under the provisions of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1965, as dealers in old metal, and close liaison in dealing with these persons is maintained with C.I.D. Officers of the Central Division of the Herefordshire Constabulary.

Unfortunately many of these persons are nomadic in character and this creates additional difficulties in exercising the full control that is desirable.

Petroleum Acts.

The number of petroleum installations licensed by the Council is ninety-four.

During the year supervisory work together with the appropriate air pressure tests on tanks and pipelines was carried out at several new installations and at certain existing installations which were enlarged.

Provision of Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

There are nineteen premises consisting of 7 Flats, 2 Hospitals, 1 Hostel, 2 Schools, 5 Hotels, 1 Convent and 1 Home for Elderly Persons to which Section 60 of the Public Health Act, 1936 applies, and where the provision of adequate means of escape in case of fire must be provided and maintained.

These premises are visited regularly and the assistance of the Fire Prevention Officer with the consent of the Chief Fire Officer for the County, in this matter must be appreciated and acknowledged.

DONALD FODEN, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B.,
Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
1 Ledbury Road, Hereford.

29th March, 1965.

Tel. : 5457 Ex. 27.

