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Highworth Rural District.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

AND THE

Sanitary Inspector,

FOR THE YEAR 1919.

SWINDON :

Twitcher & Co., Victoria Press.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Highworth
Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my Report for 1919, I am pleased to be able to say that, with the exception of the outbreak of Influenza, which began in 1918, and continued into the first few months of last year, there has been no serious epidemic.

The principal points of importance are those of the lack of houses, the deficiency of proper drainage and sewerage in Rodbourne, and the need for a water supply at Church Hill, Wroughton. The first is being dealt with as speedily as circumstances will permit, but, in my opinion, the other two require serious consideration as affecting the health of the residents.

I wish to express my thanks to Mr. Hoddinott for his constant and hearty co-operation in dealing with all matters concerned with the health of the District, and to the Members of the Council for their consideration.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT P. BEATTY.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Population of the Highworth Rural District at the Census of 1911 was 15,141, but there have been so many changes as a result of the War (such as the alterations and increase due to the presence of a large Military Camp at Chisledon; the shifting of families owing to enlistment of men in the Army, or to men and women leaving the District for munition or other work connected with the War; the opening of a factory for nitrate production at Stratton, some of whose employees have been resident in the District), that an exact estimate cannot be made. But the figures on which the Death-rate and Birth-rate are based are taken, the former from the rationing returns of the Local Food Controller, and the latter including an average proportion of non-civilians distributed over the Kingdom. These figures are 13,224 and 13,775 respectively.

The former shows a marked decrease when compared with the 1911 census returns, which compares with the decrease of 236 children at the public Elementary schools since that date, pointing to a migration of the rural population to other areas.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

Highworth Rural District, situated in North-East Wilts, has an area of 49,174 acres. It comprises 15 parishes, and adjoins Gloucestershire and Berkshire on the North and East, and is co-terminous with other Rural Areas of Wiltshire, and the boundaries of the Borough of Swindon on its Southern and Western sides.

It is mainly occupied by a farming population, but in the parishes nearest to Swindon a large proportion of the residents are employed in the various industries of the

town, the chief of which are the Works of the Great Western Railway Company. A limited number are employed at Breweries at Stratton and Highworth. at a Mat Factory at the latter, and also in Racing Stables at Wanborough and Wroughton.

VITAL STATISTICS

are shown in Table I. The figures for preceding years are included, but the alteration in the method of estimating population makes the comparison less accurate than it would have been were the basis the same as it is now.

VICTORIA HOSPITAL.

Accidents and other surgical conditions are treated at the Victoria Hospital, Swindon, where there are 30 beds and cots. The institution is supported by voluntary contributions. There is also a hospital belonging to the Great Western Medical Fund Society for the treatment of its members and their dependents.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water.

The District is watered by tributaries of the Upper Thames, and is traversed by the now disused Berks and Wilts Canal, which serves as a useful source of supply for watering cattle.

The water supplies of the different parishes may be taken separately, as follows :—

BISHOPSTONE.—There is an abundance of excellent water in this village, the upper part being supplied by springs issuing from the hills.

A public well was sunk in the greensand in 1901, and yields a good supply to the remainder.

BLUNSDON.—Part of this parish is supplied with water of known purity from a spring. Before 1906, this flowed down a ditch and suffered pollution, which was remedied by the use of pipes and stand-pipes.

A further supply was provided in 1908 by sinking a well at the top of Blunston Hill with a pump. It would be a great improvement to have pipes laid to the houses to obviate the necessity of fetching it down the hill, which has a gradient of nearly 1 in 7 at the top.

Broad Bush is not well supplied. During the year one well, supplying three houses, was found on analysis to be polluted. An attempt to improve this failed, and notice to close it was served.

Springs and wells supply other parts of the parish.

CASTLE EATON.—A good supply is obtained from the sponge gravel, provided that precautions are taken to prevent surface contamination. At Lusshill the houses are supplied with water gravitating through pipes layed from a spring higher up the hill.

CHISLEDON obtains its water from wells of 70 to 100 feet in depth, sunk in the chalk. Some of these deep wells are worked by wind engines, and the water is laid on from them to houses and cattle-sheds. Some houses are supplied by springs issuing from the greensand.

Coate and Badbury Wick have a poor supply. Four samples were taken from wells, two of which were closed as unfit for human consumption, water being laid on from private works.

HANNINGTON.—The public well in this village was found on analysis to be polluted, and unsuccessful attempts have been made to prevent contamination. Other sites have been tried, but the water proved unsatisfactory. It is possible that water might be laid on from a spring on the side of the village nearest to Castle Eaton. This scheme is under consideration.

Hannington Wick has an abundant supply from the sponge gravel, which is overlaid by about 4 feet of Alluvial soil.

HIGHWORTH.—Improvements have been made to the well at Red Down, and the supply is sufficient at present. Two unsatisfactory wells have been replaced by supplies from the Council's mains.

At Eastrop a spring supplies a number of houses.

Sevenhampton is well supplied from springs.

One well at Highworth was ordered to be closed on account of pollution.

INGLESHAM is a small village supplied from Highworth.

LIDDINGTON.—There is an abundant supply from springs issuing from the hills, which is taken in its pristine purity at its source. Water is laid on from a spring to Dobbs Bottom, and is supplied through stand-pipes.

RODBOURNE.—The North Swindon Estates Company supply water to the Telford Road district and some other parts of the parish.

The Swindon Corporation mains are laid in the parish. There has been some shortage during the latter half of the year, which was common to all parts receiving their supplies from this source. But the villagers received the same treatment, as regards curtailment, as the residents in the Borough.

SOUTH MARSTON.—This village contains several shallow wells which are liable to contamination. One public well on the Shrivenham Road is used by the inhabitants of that district and has proved satisfactory.

STANTON.—A good supply from a well-constructed public well and from springs.

STRATTON ST. MARGARET.—The Swindon Corporation mains are laid on in nearly every part of this parish and new connections are being made. There was a shortage for some months from the same cause as at Rodbourne.

Three wells were condemned on account of pollution and orders made for their closure, and water is now laid on from the Corporation main. One well has been cleaned out.

WANBOROUGH.—This parish may be considered as consisting of three steps, rising from North to South, viz.:—Lower Wanborough, Upper Wanborough and Wanborough Plain-on-the-Downs.

The Rural District Council have Waterworks, which consist of an adit driven in the greensand, at Callis Hill, where there is a storage tank of 5,000 gallons capacity, whence the water gravitates to Lower Wanborough.

There was a shortage during the latter part of the year.

Upper Wanborough is supplied by wells sunk in the chalk and greensand.

Fox Hill and King Edward's Place—the chief estates on the Downs—are supplied with water pumped by engine from a deep well, and also by a hydraulic ram from a spring below.

WROUGHTON has two sources of public water supply, viz.:—the Rural District Council's Works and the Swindon Corporation Main. The Corporation have a large reservoir in the parish, fed by adits and from works at Ogbourne.

The District Council Waterworks derive their supply from an adit driven in the upper greensand in Markham Hill, whence it gravitates to two large cisterns, from which different parts of the village are fed.

These works were instituted before 1902, after an outbreak of Typhoid Fever which was traced to the water supply. Successive dry seasons and continuous draining of

the hill had seriously affected the supply, and in 1902 the tunnel in the hill was extended and dammed by an iron door which holds up the water during the winter months. Since then, the supply has been fairly satisfactory.

Water is laid on to Elcombe from the hill above it, and other outlying parts have wells and springs. But at Church Hill the houses which are above the level of the Waterworks have no supply, as the wells are unfit for human consumption, owing to contamination from the parish Cemetery, and water has to be carried up from the stand-pipes in the village street. Steps are urgently needed for the remedy of this defect.

All through the District there are private sources of water supply provided from springs and distributed to farms and cottages by gravitation, rams, or water-wheels, or by internal combustion or wind engines. In these ways, 215 houses are supplied.

The annexed Table shows the distribution of the different sources of supply throughout the District.

Table showing different Sources of Water Supply in the District. 1919

NAME OF PARISH.	WATER WORKS.				PRIVATE SOURCES.			TOTAL HOUSES.	Samples of Water taken.	Wells Condemned.
	Rural District Waterworks.	Swindon Water Works.	North Swindon Estate Water Works.	Private Water Works.	Wells.	Springs.	Rain Water.			
Bishopstone	...	...	...	20	46	51	...	117	...	...
Blunsdon	57	...	...	11	25	151	...	244	1	1
Castle Eaton	...	...	...	6	50	...	...	56	...	...
Chisledon	...	...	...	45	237	22	3	307	4	2
Hannington	...	...	...	11	45	3	...	59	1	1
Highworth	300	...	...	35	14	221	...	570	2	1
Hinton Parva	...	...	...	8	55	...	...	63	...	...
Inglesham	25	...	...	...	6	...	...	31	...	...
Liddington	13	...	...	7	53	21	6	100	...	...
Rodbourne Cheney	...	113	133	11	192	...	...	449	...	...
South Marston	...	...	...	1	96	...	...	97	...	...
Stanton Fitzwarren	...	...	...	...	24	11	...	35	...	...
Stratton St. Margaret	...	309	...	...	490	...	...	799	...	...
Wanborough	70	...	...	17	99	10	...	196	...	...
Wroughton	208	195	...	44	133	...	11	591	...	...
TOTAL	673	617	133	216	1565	490	20	3714	8	5

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

These are all tributories of the Upper Thames, and, therefore, are under the inspection of the Thames Conservancy Authorities.

The River Cole, which flows in an easterly direction, south of and parallel to the old Berks and Wilts Canal, receives the effluent from the District Council's Sewage Works at Stratton St. Margaret. Owing to the presence of H.M. Factory at Stratton, which was built during the War period for the manufacture of Nitrates in connection with explosive production, the quantity of liquid dealt with here has been greatly increased.

A scheme for improving the efficiency of the Sewage Works was under consideration, but has been held up pending the settlement of claims against H.M. Government. It is necessary that this matter, which is of urgent importance, should be pushed forward as soon as possible.

When the scheme is carried out, these works will be brought up to the latest methods of disposal.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The accompanying Tables give details of the Schemes for drainage and Sewerage in the different parishes under the Highworth Sanitary Authority, and of the Sanitary Conveniences.

There are 3,714 houses in the District. of which 2,147 are drained to sewers, whose contents are disposed of by irrigation and filtration.

At Stratton St. Margaret, out of 799 houses, 756 are connected with sewers, which lead by gravitation to a single outfall, where the sewerage is treated by subsidence tanks and filtration before passing into the River Cole, which has been mentioned before under the heading of "Rivers and Streams."

At Highworth, 454 houses, out of 570, drain to public sewers, which are carried to two outfalls, where the contents are treated by subsidence and broad irrigation.

Of 591 houses at Wroughton, 452 are connected with public sewers, which gravitate to a single outfall which is treated as are those at Highworth.

Rodbourne Cheney, including the outlying districts of Moredon and Haydon Wick, has 200 houses, out of a total of 449, connected with sewers. At Haydon Wick, the sewerage is disposed of by irrigation, but at Rodbourne proper and Telford Road the disposal is not satisfactory and a large number of cesspits are still in use.

A scheme of sewerage for these parts of the parish is very desirable.

With the exception of Hinton Parva, Inglesham and South Marston, all the other parishes have some description of sewers, many being old storm-water sewers.

There are 560 cesspits in the District, a decrease of 2 where the houses have been connected with sewers at Stratton. Four hundred and twenty-five are drained on the land, and 582 have no drains, the slop-water being thrown directly on to the land—an unsatisfactory method, even in a purely rural area.

Where plans are being made for the construction of new houses, suitable methods of dealing with the drainage problems are being worked out.

Table showing Drainage of Houses and Houses with no Drains, Drains Repaired, &c. 1919.

NAME OF PARISH.	Drained to Sewers	Drained to Cesspools	Drained to Land	Houses with no Drains	TOTAL HOUSES	New Drains	Drains cleared and repaired	Defective Gulleys Replaced
Bishopstone ...	13	23	60	21	117	...	...	...
Blunsdon ...	78	48	10	108	244	...	...	...
Castle Eaton ...	29	3	12	12	56	...	...	...
Chisledon ...	72	88	66	81	307	...	2	...
Hannington ...	39	2	3	15	59	...	...	...
Highworth ...	454	20	70	26	570	...	8	3
Hinton ...	...	2	27	34	63	...	...	...
Inglesham ...	...	8	19	4	31	...	...	...
Lyddington ...	13	12	27	48	100	...	4	...
Rodbourne ...	200	208	...	41	449	...	33	...
South Marston ...	...	44	4	49	97	...	1	...
Stanton ...	30	...	1	4	35	...	...	...
Stratton ...	756*	31‡	12	...	799	2	25	...
* Wanborough ...	11	46	60	79	196	...	...	...
Wroughton ...	452	25	54	60	591	...	31	23
TOTAL ...	2147	560	425	582	3714	2	104	26

* Note two additional houses drained to sewer during the year.

‡ Note, as result of above, two houses less drained to cesspools.

Closet Accommodation.

This is best shown in the accompanying Table. The number of privy vaults is gradually diminishing, with an increase of properly drained water-closets. Two new closets have been erected at Chisledon, and two at Stratton were connected with the sewers. One at Wroughton has been repaired.

Table showing Sanitary Conveniences of Houses in each Parish. 1919.

NAME OF PARISH.	W.C.s.	Pails.	Vaults.	Imper- vious Vaults.	Others, Dry Earth, &c.	TOTAL HOUSES.
Bishopstone	15	32	38	26	6	117
Blunsdon	18	118	102	...	6	244
Castle Eaton	6	21	26	...	3	56
Chisledon	46	116	144	...	1	307
Hannington	7	15	37	...	...	59
Highworth	337	124	101	...	8	570
Hinton	5	16	39	...	3	63
Inglesham	3	15	13	...	...	31
Lyddington	12	41	47	...	...	100
Rodbourne	98	292	59	...	...	449
South Marston	9	66	22	...	...	97
Stanton	2	32	...	...	1	35
Stratton St. Margaret	750	41	8	...	...	799
Wanborough	22	65	109	...	...	196
Wroughton	312	179	100	...	...	591
TOTAL	1642	1173	845	26	28	3714

Scavenging.

Public scavenging is carried out in the parishes of Highworth, Stratton St. Margaret and Wroughton, where the refuse is tipped into quarries or on waste land, and is covered with earth to prevent the creation of a nuisance.

The total annual cost is £70.

Sanitary Inspection.

The Sanitary Inspector visits each part of the District at intervals, apart from inspections made as the result of complaints, and where nuisances are found to exist informal notices are served. During 1919, all these informal notices were complied with, so that no further action has been necessary.

The following is a summary of these ;—

Polluted wells	...	8	closed and water laid on 5 ; cleaned 3.
Choked drains	...	83	all cleared.
Defective gullies	...	31	all replaced.
Privy nuisances	...	3	all abated.
Foul ditches	...	6	cleaned.
Manure accumulations		2	removed.
Filthy houses	...	1	cleansed and limewashed.
Animal nuisances	...	2	abated.
Cesspools ...	...	12	cleaned.
Smoke nuisances	...	2	abated.

150

1,323 inspections were made at houses, and 19 at Gipsy encampments.

The following Offensive Trades are carried on in the District :—

Gut scraping is carried on at Wroughton, in premises far removed from human habitation, in a field. Four inspections were made, and the conditions were satisfactory.

At Stratton St. Margaret, there are Bone and Manure Works. Six visits were paid, and conditions found to be good. These are carried on under licenses, and are inspected at frequent intervals.

A number of van-dwellers settle at Stratton and Blunsdon for the winter months. At the former they have been a source of complaints from the residents in the neighbourhood. Every legal power, including Model Bye-laws, have been used to prevent trouble, but it is impossible to prevent their settlement in the parish. Nineteen inspections were made.

There is also a Marine Store dealer at Highworth, whose premises are under regular inspection.

The following Factories and Workshops are under inspection :—

Blacksmiths	...	...	...	8
Brewers	...	...	...	2
Builders (2 Factories)	...	...	...	6
Carpenters	...	...	...	9
Corn Mill	...	...	...	1
Dressmakers	...	...	...	5
Manure Manufacturer	...	...	...	1
Mat Maker	...	...	...	1
Mineral Water Factory	...	...	...	1
Printers	...	...	...	2
Painters	...	...	...	4
Rope Maker	...	...	...	1
Shoe Repairers	...	...	...	6
Tailors	...	...	...	4

SCHOOLS.

The annexed Table shows the situation of the 26 Elementary Schools in the District, with the number of children on the books and the sources of water supply.

Hannington School was closed from October 9th to 27th, on account of a localised outbreak of Measles, and Inglesham School from February 28th to March 24th, owing to Influenza. At the latter, the rooms have been colour-washed; at Blunsdon, the playground has been asphalted; and at Liddington, the premises have been dis-tempered and painted.

The School Medical Officer is appointed by the Wiltshire County Council, but periodical visits are paid by the Sanitary Inspector and Medical Officer of Health.

The Schools at Highworth, Rodbourne, Stratton and Wroughton are provided with water-closets which are connected to sewers. In other parishes, pails or other receptacles are used and the latrines are in good order.

Table showing location of Public Elementary Schools, number of Scholars, rate per 1,000 population, Water Supply & Sanitary Conveniences. 1919.

NAME OF PARISH.	Schools.	Number scholars on Books	Average Attendance.	Population.	Rate per 1,000 P'pula'tn	Increase of Scholars	Decrease of Scholars	Water Supply.
Bishopstone ...	1	68				...	10.4	Spring
Blunsdon ...	1	138				16.5	...	Rain Water Tank
Castle Eaton ...	1	34				...	37	Well
Chisledon ...	2	187				...	29	Wells
Hannington ...	1	18				...	28	Well
Highbworth ...	2	366				...	13	Main
Hinton ...	1	39				...	8	Spring
Inglesham ...	1	14				...	2	Main
Liddington ...	1					...	...	Well
Rodbourne ...	3	401				...	51	Main
South Marston ...	1	73				...	15	Well
Stanton ...	1	36				4	...	Well
Stratton St. Margaret	5	739				...	144	Main
Wanborough ...	1	129				19	...	Well
Wroughton ...	4	441				13	...	Main and Wells
TOTAL, 1919 ...	26	2679						
TOTAL, 1911 ...	...	2915				...	...
Increase ...	...	...				...	...
Decrease ...	...	...				...	...

FOOD.

(A) MILK SUPPLY.—Being an agricultural district, the milk supplied is produced in each neighbourhood, the farms, cowsheds and dairies being frequently inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.

In 1913, the total number of farms was 194, having 5,721 head of cattle. Owing to the number of sales of farms and changes among the occupiers, it has been found impossible to give accurate statistics for 1919. Figures will be available by the end of 1920, when it will be seen whether the numbers have been increased owing to the high price of milk, or whether lack of labour has caused the farmers to reduce their stocks.

Many of the cowsheds are well built, with good lighting, ventilation and drainage, and, on the whole, are well kept, but there is much need for improvement in others.

Owing to the shortage of labour during the War, there have been accumulations of manure in yards adjoining the sheds, which increases during the winter months when the cattle are housed and the land is too wet to allow cartage. In such cases it is recommended that a hard road be made to an impervious tip to which the manure can be removed daily.

The farmers are recommended to scrape the dung from the cows, and to cut the brush of the tail in the Autumn, so as to prevent the filthy state into which they get during the period of housing.

Regular limewashing of the sheds is also carried out twice yearly, except that during the War this has not been enforced.

(B) OTHER FOODS.—Inspections are frequently made at Bakehouses, twenty visits having been made, and at Slaughter-houses and Butchers' Shops. There are 16

licensed Slaughter-houses in the District, but of these only 5 have been in regular use during the War. They are kept in accordance with the bye-laws, and butchers give every facility for their inspection and co-operate by giving early notice of any diseased or suspicious beasts killed on their premises.

On April 17th, 1919, a beast slaughtered at Stratton was found to have suffered from Tuberculosis. The carcase, weighing 1,164 lbs., was seized and destroyed; and on August 1st, another carcase, weighing 882 lbs., was similarly dealt with at Highworth.

Two complaints were made as to the accumulation of manure, which was promptly removed on the receipt of notices.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the first few months of the year the severe epidemic of Influenza which began in the Autumn of 1918 continued and resulted, during 1919, in 10 deaths directly assignable to this cause, and also indirectly in many of those certified under the headings of Pneumonia and Bronchitis, 15 deaths being certified as due to Bronchopneumonia and post-influenzal Pneumonia.

A localised outbreak of Measles occurred at Hannington, at the end of September, 16 cases being notified.

With these two exceptions, there were no actual epidemics during the year. But sporadic cases of other Notifiable diseases occurred, as follows:—13 cases of Diphtheria, of which 11 were removed to the Isolation Hospital in Swindon; 9 cases of Scarlet Fever, 4 being removed; a case of Polio-encephalitis at Wanborough, in which recovery is partial, leaving paralysis of one leg.

A case, reported as Typhoid fever, was removed to the Isolation Hospital from Wroughton, where the diagnosis of Encephalitis Lethargica was made by the Medical Superintendent, Dr. W. F. J. Whitley. This case died shortly after admission.

Ten cases of Malaria, and 1 of Dysentery, all in ex-soldiers who had served in the Tropics. Four cases of Erysipelas.

Twenty-five cases of Pulmonary, and 2 of other Tuberculosis were reported.

As soon as infectious cases are notified their surroundings are inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, who disinfects the premises when the patient has been removed to the Isolation Hospital, to which the patient's clothing and bedding are sent for sterilization.

When the patient is not removed, the Inspector supervises the precautions taken with reference to Isolation at home, and sees to the disinfection of the house, etc., when the period of isolation comes to an end.

For the treatment of Diphtheria, and for Prophylaxis, Antitoxin can be obtained at Messrs. Green & Co.'s, Wood Street, Swindon; or at Mr. Dunn's Pharmacy, at Highworth, where a stock is kept which can be used at the expense of the Rural District Council, for poor persons.

I have reason to believe that all cases of Tuberculosis are notified at once by the medical practitioners in the neighbourhood, while any that come to the notice of the County Tuberculosis Authorities are added to the Medical Officer's list.

The administration with respect to Tuberculosis is under the County Authority, but all cases residing in the District are inspected also by the Sanitary Inspector, who periodically disinfects the premises with Formaline.

No cases of Smallpox, Anthrax, or Rabies occurred.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

1. The Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, who holds a part-time appointment under the Rural District Council, and the Sanitary Inspector, whose whole time is given to this work, which involves daily journeys to the various parishes of this scattered District.

2. Hospital accommodation is provided by arrangement with the Swindon and District Hospital Board, whose institution is situated in the adjoining Borough, and which is sufficient in the character of its equipment and the number of beds. The Hospital is administered by the Medical Superintendent, who is also Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Swindon.

3. The following is a list of the general Adoptive Acts in force in the District :—

Sec. 44, PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Power of Local Authority to make bye-laws for :—

Cleansing of Footways and Pavements.

The Removal of House Refuse.

The Cleansing of Earth-closets, Privies, Ashpits and Cesspools.

Part III. of PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS AMENDMENT ACT, 1890.

Sec. 16—Relating to injurious matter being passed into sewers.

- Sec. 17—Relating to Chemical Refuse, Steam, etc., into Sewers.
- Sec. 18—Relating to Local Authorities making communications with drains, etc.
- Sec. 19—Relating to (Sec. 41 P.H.A.) examination of Drains, Privies, etc., on complaint of nuisance.
- Sec. 21—Relating to Sanitary Conveniences used in common.
- Sec. 23—Relating to (Sec. 157 P.H.A) making of Bye-laws respecting New Buildings and approval of Plans.
- Sec. 25—Relating to Penalty for erecting buildings on ground filled up with offensive matter.
- Sec. 26 (2)—Relating to the power to make Bye-laws for certain Sanitary purposes (where Authority undertakes removal of house refuse, etc.).
- Sec. 28—Relating to (Secs. 116, 117, 118 and 119 P.H.A.) Unsound Meat, etc. :—
- 116. Inspection of meat, etc.
 - 117. Power of Justice to order destruction of unsound meat, etc.
 - 118. Penalty for hindering Officer inspecting meat, etc.
 - 119. Search Warrant may be granted by Justice.
- Sec. 32—Relating to (Sec. 84 P.H.A.) Keepers of Common Lodging-Houses to give notice of Fever.
- Sec. 33—Relating to the use of Buildings described in deposited plans otherwise than dwelling-houses.
- Sec, 47—Relating to the restriction on throwing cinders, etc., into streams.
- Sec. 48—Relating to (Sec. 306 P.H.A.) Penalty on obstruction of execution of Act.
- Sec. 49—Relating to the powers of the Local Government Board to determine expenses to be "Special Expenses."

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

- Sec. 112—Offensive Trades, Restriction on establishment of offensive trade in District.
- Sec. 113—Bye-laws as to offensive trades.
- Sec. 114—Duty of Authority to complain to Justice of Nuisance arising from offensive trade.
- Sec. 115—Power to proceed where Nuisance arises from offensive trade carried on without District.
- Sec. 169—Power to adopt Towns Improvement Act, 1847, relating to Slaughterhouses.

TOWNS IMPROVEMENT CLAUSES ACT, 1847.

- Sec. 125—Licences may be granted for Slaughter-houses and Knackers' Yards.
- Sec. 126—New Slaughter-houses not to be erected without a Licence.
- Sec. 127—Existing Slaughter-houses or Knackers' Yards to be registered.
- Sec. 128—Bye-laws for regulation of above.
- Sec. 129—Justices may suspend or revoke Licence.
- Sec. 130—Penalty for Slaughtering during suspension.
- Sec. 131—Officer may enter, inspect and destroy carcasses unfit for food.
- Sec. 169 (3)—Nothing to affect powers, etc., conferred by any Local Act passed prior to 1848.
- Sec. 170—Notice to be affixed on Slaughter-house: "Licensed Slaughter-house," or "Registered Slaughter-houses."

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS AMENDMENT ACT, 1890.

- Sec. 29—Licences to be in force for specified term not less than twelve months.
- Sec. 30—Notice of change of occupation of Slaughter-house.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

Sec. 25—Penalty on building house without Drains.

Sec. 155—Power to regulate line of buildings.

Sec. 157—Power to make Bye-laws respecting New Buildings, etc.

Sec. 160—Incorporation of provisions of Towns Improvement Clauses Act, 1847, viz. :—

Sec. 64—Name and numbering of streets and houses.

Sec. 75—Ruinous or dangerous buildings to be taken down or secured by Owners, etc.

Sec. 76—Levy of expenses by distress.

Sec. 77—If Owner cannot be found or distress made, Authority may take the house or ground.

Sec. 78—Power of sale and accounting for proceeds.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (BUILDING IN STREETS) ACT, 1888.

Sec. 3—Buildings not to be brought forward without the written consent of Authority.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS AMENDMENT ACT, 1890.

Sec. 23—Power to make Bye-laws :—

Water-closets with sufficient water for flushing.

The Structure of Floors, Hearths, Staircases, and height of Rooms.

The Paving of Yards and Open Spaces.

New Streets Secondary Access.

4. Chemical Analyses are carried out either at the Laboratory of the County Medical Officer, or by arrangement with the Analyst at the Great Western Works, Swindon.

Bacteriological examinations in connection with infectious diseases are arranged by the several medical practitioners in the District for their own cases, except when these are sent at once to the Isolation Hospital.

HIGHWORTH RURAL DISTRICT.

TABLE 1.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1919 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.	Number.	Rate.	Of Non-residents registered in the District.	Of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
								Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.		Number.	Rate.
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.
1914	15,141	326	320	21.5	15.4	40	11	13	40.7	207	13.6
1915	15,397	332	330	21.4	14.2	10	3	20	60.2	213	13.8
1916	14,052	297	298	19.4	15.8	10	...	8	26.7	186	13.2
1917	15,208 (Estimat'd)	265	265	17.3	17.1	63	13	27	101.8	234	17.1
1918	15,230	247	247	16.2	23.6	117	26	27	109.3	231	16.9
1919	13,224	276	274	18.9	17.4	58	20	26	94.8	193	14.5

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ... 49,923

At Census of 1911.

Total population at all ages ... 14,052
 Number of inhabited houses... 3,710
 Average number of persons per house ... 3.8

HIGHWORTH RURAL DISTRICT.

TABLE III.—Causes of Death during the Year 1919.

CAUSES OF DEATH. (Civilians only).					Males.	Females.
All Causes	...	...	...	...	107	86
Enteric Fever	..	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	1	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	4	6
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	3	5
Tuberculous Meningitis	..	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	9	8
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	19	9
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	5	11
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	...	...	8	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	1	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	2	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	...	...	1	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	2
Congenital Debility, &c.	...	...	...	...	10	5
Violence, apart from Suicide	...	...	...	...	6	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	35	30
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...
Special Causes (included above)—Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	..	...	...	...	16	7
Total Illegitimate	...	..	...	...	1	2
TOTAL BIRTHS	...	...	...	...	143	136
Legitimate...	...	...	...	...	132	122
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	11	14
POPULATION FOR BIRTH-RATE	...	...	...	...	13,775	
" " DEATH-RATE	...	...	...	...	13,224	

Highworth Rural District.

REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health on the Need of Houses in the District.

This Report gives a summary of the details required by the Housing Commissioner, and includes that portion of the Medical Officer's Report for 1919 which refers to Housing, as advised in a Memorandum of the Ministry of Health, dated January, 1920.

To show the requirements of the District and the means suggested for their satisfaction, the scheme adopted by the Rural District Council has been given in full.

Housing.

The simplest method of showing the distribution of houses in the District is by tabulation according to the different parishes.

(I.) General housing conditions :—

(1) The total number of houses is 3,714, of which 3,238 may be considered as being for the working classes. Four new houses were erected during 1919 under this category in connection with Racing Stables at Wanborough, and schemes are being carried out in such parishes as require them.

(2) Population. The estimated civilian population from the sugar rations was 13,224. The latest returns show an increase, but it is impossible to estimate exact figures for each parish, for the date at which the figure stated was given.

(3) (a) The estimated shortage of houses is given in Section II. in the Form of Survey of Housing Needs; and (b) in Section VI. the number of houses, proposed in the New Scheme, is given for each parish.

(II.) There is no overcrowding, as known in Urban Districts, but, in many instances, several families live in one house, using parlours as bed-rooms, on account of the lack of separate dwellings. At first sight, this seems a contradiction, as, from the rationing returns, there is an apparently smaller population. But this may be accounted for by the large number of young people married during the War, who have no residences of their own, but continue to live with parents or other relatives, etc. This evil should be greatly mitigated during the next twelve months, on the partial completion of the New Housing Schemes.

(III.) (1) The general standard of housing is fair for a rural district. But many houses are old, with small cubic capacity.

The defects found are shown in the annexed Table, which is compiled from the inspections of the Sanitary Inspector. They involve 207 houses, in 104 of which the defects have been remedied, the remaining 103 to be dealt with in 1920.

(2) Closing Orders are made in the cases of unfit houses, and such orders lie in abeyance until the houses become void. This matter cannot be taken up rigorously until new houses are erected.

(3) Difficulties in remedying unfitness have arisen chiefly through the general shortage of labour and materials.

(4) As regards water supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal, these matters have been dealt with under the "Sanitary circumstances of the District."

HOUSING NEEDS.

Section I—Prevailing conditions affecting shortage of Houses.

1. Staple industries.

PARISHES.		INDUSTRIES.	
Bishopstone	Agriculture.
Blunsdon St. Andrew	Agriculture and Employees of G.W. Railway Works, Swindon.
Castle Eaton	Agriculture.
Chisledon	Agriculture and G.W.R. Employees.
Hannington	Agriculture.
Highworth	Agriculture, G.W.R. Employees and a Mat Factory.
Hinton Parva	Agriculture.
Inglesham	Do.
Liddington	Do.
Rodbourne Cheney	Agriculture and G.W.R. Employees.
South Marston	Do. do.
Stanton Fitzwarren	Agriculture
Stratton St. Margaret,	Agriculture and G.W.R. Employees.
Wanborough	Agriculture, G.W.R. Employees and Racing Stables.
Wroughton	Do. do. do.

2. Anticipated industrial developments ... Nil.
3. Anticipated reduction in number of Employees, Nil.

POPULATION.

4. Pre-war population, estimated 1914 ... 15,141
5. Average annual increase before the War... Stationary
6. Estimated present population (estimated for food rations in 1919) ... 13,224
7. Anticipated increase or decrease of working-class population due to industrial changes Nil

EXISTING HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

8.	No. of dwelling-houses in the district	...	3,735
9.	No. of working-class houses, see question 15		3,238
10.	Average number of working-class houses built annually for 5 years before the war		8
11.	Number of working-class houses built between Jan. 1st, 1915, and Dec. 31st, 1918	... ..	Nil
12.	Number of empty buildings which might be (a) made suitable, by repairs and alterations for the working classes; or (b) converted into flats for the working-classes	... ..	Nil Nil

OVER-CROWDING.

13.	Tenements with more than two persons per Room	... ..	Nil
14.	Number of houses intended for one family only which are now occupied (without having been specially adapted) by two or more families.	Estimated	100

RENTS.

15. Particulars of prevailing rents of the various types of working-class houses in the District :—See attached Schedule No. 1 and Schedule No. 1 (a).

HOUSING NEEDS.

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Hinton Parva	Agriculture.
Inglesham	Do.
Liddington	Do.
Rodbourne Cheney	Agriculture and G.W.R. Employees.
South Marston	...	do.	do.
Stanton Fitzwarren	Agriculture
Stratton St. Margaret,	Agriculture and G.W.R. Employees.
Wanborough	Agriculture, G.W.R. Employees and Racing Stables.
Wroughton	...	Do.	do. do.

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RENTS.

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Schedule No. 1. Form of Housing Needs. Rents. Query 15.

NAME OF PARISH.	Living Room, Scullery, 2 Bed- rooms.	Living Room, Scullery, 2 Bed- rooms.	Parlour, Living Room, Scullery, 2 Bedrooms.	Parlour, Living Room, Scullery, 3 Bedrooms.	Parlour, Living Room, Scullery, 4 Bedrooms.	Tenements in Block Buildings.	Other Working Class Dwellings 1 Bedroom.	
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	
Bishopstone ...	40	...	4	56	6	...	4	110
Blunsdon St. Andrew	18	9	3	170	...	...	8	208
Castle Eaton ...	24	24	...	...	5	...	...	53
Chisledon ...	85	20	80	80	13	...	...	278
Hannington ...	20	13	...	15	...	...	...	48
Highworth ...	200	80	36	75	36	...	36	463
Hinton Parva ...	27	4	...	17	2	...	2	52
Inglesham ...	8	...	2	13	1	...	...	24
Liddington ..	39	8	10	20	...	...	10	87
Rodbourne ...	11	10	98	254	...	...	4	377
South Marston ..	16	...	8	59	..	...	...	83
Stanton Fitzwarren...	6	.	6	19	...	...	..	31
Stratton St. Margaret	85	26	215	385	...	...	11	722
Wanborough ...	24	16	38	90	12	...	2	182
Wroughton ..	65	43	30	370	5	...	7	520
	668	253	530	1623	80	...	64	3238

Schedule No. 1 (a).

Rents of Working-class Houses.

Bishopstone.

(a)	20 houses	2/- per wk.	(e)	2 houses	5/- per wk.
	20 "	3/- "		4 "	5/6 "
(b)	—	—	(f)	—	—
(c)	4 "	2/- "	(g)	4 "	1/- "
(d)	44 "	3/- "			
	5 "	3/6 "			
	6 "	4/- "			
	1 "	4/6 "			
					Total 110

Blunsdon St. Andrew.

(a)	18 houses	1/6 per wk.	(d)	9 houses	4/- per wk.
(b)	3 "	1/6 "		6 "	4/6 "
	6 "	2/- "		14 "	5/- "
(c)	3 "	2/- "		1 "	5/6 "
(d)	30 "	2/- "	(g)	8 "	1/- "
	26 "	2/6 "			
	48 "	3/- "			
	36 "	3/6 "			
					Total 208

Castle Eaton.

(a)	24 houses	2/- per wk.	(e)	1 houses	5/- per wk.
(b)	5 "	2/- "		3 "	5/6 "
	19 "	3/- "			
(c)	1 "	4/- "			
					Total 53

Hinton Parva.

(a)	3 houses	1/-	per wk.	(e)	1 houses	4/-	per wk.
	12	"	1/6	"	(g)	1	" 6d.
	12	"	3/-	"	1	"	9d.
(b)	4	"	3/-	"	—		
(d)	17	"	3/-	"	Total 52		
(e)	1	"	3/-	"	—		

Inglesham.

(a)	1 houses	6d.	per wk.	(d)	2 houses	3/6	per wk.
	2	"	1/9	"	(e)	1	" 3/6
	5	"	3/-	"	—		
(c)	2	"	3/-	"	Total 24		
(d)	11	"	3/-	"	—		

Liddington.

(a)	6 houses	1/6	per wk.	(d)	4 houses	4/6	per wk.
	4	"	1/9	"	2	"	5/-
	10	"	2/.	"	2	"	6/-
	8	"	2/6	"	(g)	1	" 9d.
	11	"	3/-	"	4	"	1/.
(b)	8	"	3/-	"	5	"	1/6
(c)	10	"	3/-	"	—		
(d)	2	"	3/-	"	Total 87		
	7	"	3/6	"	—		
	3	"	4/-	"	—		

Rodbourne Cheney.

(a)	11 houses	2/-	per wk.	(d)	75 houses	5/-	per wk.
(b)	2	"	2/-	"	39	"	5/6
	4	"	2/3	"	38	"	6/-
	4	"	2/6	"	9	"	6/6
(c)	7	"	2/6	"	(g)	1	" 1/-
	8	"	2/9	"	2	"	1/6
	47	"	3/-	"	1	"	2/-
	21	"	3/6	"	—		
	15	"	4/-	"	Total 377		
(d)	22	"	4/-	"	—		
	71	"	4/6	"	—		

South Marston.

(a)	4 houses	1/-	per wk.	(d)	4 houses	3/6	per wk.
	8	"	1/9	"	9	"	4/-
	1	"	2/-	"	2	"	4/6
	1	"	2/3	"	6	"	5/-
	1	"	2/6	"	1	"	6/6
	1	"	3/-	"			
(c)	8	"	3/-	"	Total 83		
(d)	37	"	3/-	"	————		

Stanton Fitzwarren.

(a)	6 houses	1/-	per wk.	(d)	1 houses	3/6	per wk.
(c)	6	"	1/-	"	1	"	5/-
(d)	5	"	1/6	"	————		
	7	"	2/-	"	Total 31		
	5	"	2/6	"	————		

Stratton St. Margaret.

(a)	4 houses	2/-	per wk.	(d)	13 houses	4/9	per wk.
	9	"	2/6	"	35	"	5/6
	1	"	2/9	"	63	"	6/-
	71	"	3/-	"	20	"	5/3
(b)	26	"	3/-	"	2	"	6/3
(c)	45	"	3/-	"	2	"	6/6
	9	"	3/3	"	(g)	1	1/-
	71	"	3/6	"	2	"	1/6
	8	"	3/9	"	5	"	1/6
	82	"	4/-	"	3	"	2/-
(d)	3	"	4/-	"	————		
	21	"	4/3	"	Total 722		
	135	"	4/6	"	————		
	91	"	5/-	"	————		

Wanborough.

(a)	2 houses	1/-	per wk.	(d)	10 houses	3/6	per wk.		
	1	"	1/3	"	3	"	4/3	"	
	9	"	1/6	"	7	"	4/-	"	
	3	"	1/9	"	1	"	4/6	"	
	9	"	2/-	"	27	"	5/-	"	
(b)	16	"	2/-	"	1	"	5/6	"	
(c)	28	"	2/-	"	(e)	3	"	5/6	"
	4	"	2/3	"	9	"	6/-	"	
	6	"	2/6	"	(g)	1	"	6d.	"
(d)	8	"	2/6	"	1	"	1/-	"	
	25	"	3/-	"	Total 182				
	6	"	2/9	"	Total 182				
	2	"	3/3	"	Total 182				

Wroughton.

(a)	1 houses	1/3	per wk.	(d)	1 houses	4/9	per wk.		
	3	"	1/6	"	53	"	5/-	"	
	16	"	1/9	"	23	"	4/3	"	
	27	"	2/-	"	63	"	3/6	"	
	7	"	2/3	"	4	"	5/6	"	
	11	"	2/6	"	20	"	6/-	"	
(b)	15	"	2/6	"	9	"	6/6	"	
	21	"	2/9	"	(e)	5	"	6/6	"
	7	"	3/-	"	(g)	1	"	6d.	"
(c)	30	"	3/-	"	2	"	1/-	"	
(d)	86	"	3/-	"	3	"	1/3	"	
	4	"	3/3	"	Total 520				
	7	"	3/9	"	Total 520				
	44	"	4/-	"	Total 520				
	56	"	4/6	"	Total 520				

Section II.—ESTIMATE OF HOUSING NEEDS.

I. Working-class houses required during the next three years to—

(a.) Meet the unsatisfied demand for houses (taking account of growth of population, overcrowding, &c.)

(b.) Re-house persons to be displaced by the clearance of unhealthy areas.

(c.) Replace other dwellings which are unfit for human habitation and cannot be made fit.

(d.) Replace obstructive or other buildings now inhabited and not included under heading (e) which should be demolished.

(e.) Replace other houses which, although they cannot at present be regarded as unfit for human habitation, fall definitely below a reasonable standard.

(f.) Meet anticipated deficiencies, *e.g.* arising from new industrial development. See Schedule No. 2, attached.

SCHEDULE No. 2.—FORM OF SURVEY OF HOUSING NEEDS.

SECTION II. ESTIMATE OF HOUSING NEEDS.

QUERY 1.

NAME OF PARISH.	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	
Bishopstone ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Blunsdon St. Andrew ...	...	...	5	...	15	...	20
Castle Eaton ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chisledon ...	10	...	5	...	5	...	20
Hannington ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Highworth ...	10	...	10	...	10	...	30
Hinton Parva ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Inglesham ...	...	...	...	...	4	...	4
Liddington ...	2	...	2	...	2	...	6
Rodbourne ...	20	...	5	...	10	...	35
South Marston ...	3	...	...	...	3	...	6
Stanton Fitzwarren ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stratton St. Margaret ...	30	...	12	...	10	...	52
Wanborough ...	5	...	3	...	2	16	26
Wroughton ...	10	...	10	...	10	...	30
TOTAL	90	...	52	...	71	16	229

DEDUCT—

2. (a.) Working-class houses which it is anticipated will be set free during the next three years as the result of any probable decrease in the population.

Nil.

- (b.) Working-class houses likely to be built during the next three years by persons other than the Local Authority.

16.

Details of figures given in reply to question 2 (b)—

Public Utility Societies	...	...	...	Nil
Housing Trusts	...	...	...	Nil
Industrial Undertakings or Business Firms	...	...	...	Nil
Private persons—one, at Wanborough.				16 houses.

These houses are proposed to be erected in connection with a Racing Establishment.

Section III.—Areas which are being, or may have to be, dealt with as unhealthy, under Part I. or Part II. of the Act of 1890.—Nil.

Section IV.—Insanitary Houses (other than houses in unhealthy areas of which particulars are given in Section III.)

PREVAILING CONDITIONS—

1. How many inhabited houses are there in the district which are not, and cannot be made fit for human habitation?

2. Number of persons inhabiting these houses?

3. How many houses are already subject to—

(a) Closing Orders?

(b) Demolition Orders?

4. How many houses are seriously defective but can be made habitable?

See attached Schedule No. 3.

SCHEDULE No. 3.—FORM OF SURVEY OF HOUSING NEEDS.

SECTION IV.—PREVAILING CONDITIONS.

NAME OF PARISH.	(1)	(2)	(3)		(4)
			(a)	(b)	
Bishopstone	1	3	...	...	2
Blunsdon St. Andrew	5	15	...	...	12
Castle Eaton	...	...	...	...	...
Chisledon	5	15	...	...	23
Hannington	...	...	...	...	...
Highworth	10	30	1	...	41
Hinton Parva	1	3	1	...	6
Inglesham	...	...	...	...	2
Liddington	2	6	...	...	6
Rodbourne Cheney	5	15	...	...	46
South Marston	...	...	...	...	...
Stanton Fitzwarren	...	...	...	...	...
Stratton St. Margaret	12	36	3	...	6
Wanborough	3	15	...	...	4
Wroughton	10	30	...	...	75
	54	168*	5	...	223

* Average 3 per house.

PROPOSED ACTION—

5. What immediate action is contemplated by the Local Authority with regard to—

(a.) Houses which are not and cannot be made fit for human habitation?

Closing Orders are made in the worst cases and such orders lie in abeyance until the homes become void, when such Orders will be proceeded with. This matter cannot be taken up rigorously until houses are erected.

(b.) Houses which are seriously defective but can be made habitable?

Notices are served on the owners, but work is proceeding slowly owing to the shortage of labour and materials.

6. Within what time is it contemplated that conditions will be such as to warrant the demolition of the houses which are not and cannot be made fit for human habitation?

Impossible to estimate.

Section V.—A Map of the District showing areas to be dealt with under the several headings has not been printed, as, this being a Rural District, there are no *considerable* areas to which the directions for such a map apply. The unfit, &c. houses are scattered all over the District and will be dealt with as indicated in Direction 3.

Section VI.—Scheme of the Highworth Rural District Council for the provision of New Houses under Section I. of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.

- I. Approximate number of new houses to be provided—
 - (a.) Houses with Living Room, Scullery and two Bedrooms.
 - (b.) Living Room, Scullery and three Bedrooms.
 - (c.) Parlour, Living Room, Scullery and two Bedrooms.
 - (d.) Parlour, Living Room, Scullery and three Bedrooms.
 - (e.) Parlour, Living Room, Scullery and four Bedrooms.
 - (f.) Block Dwellings (Number :—).

See Schedule No. 4.

SCHEDULE No. 4.—FORM OF SURVEY OF HOUSING NEEDS.

SECTION VI. SCHEME OF COUNCIL FOR NEW HOUSES.

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES TO BE PROVIDED.

Bishopstone	...	...	...	...	...
Blunsdon St. Andrew	...	...	...	...	20
Castle Eaton	...	...	...	...	...
Chisledon	...	...	...	...	20
Hannington	...	...	...	...	...
Highworth	...	...	...	...	30
Hinton Parva	...	...	...	...	...
Inglesham	...	...	...	...	4
Liddington	...	...	...	...	6
Rodbourne Cheney	...	...	...	...	35
South Marston	...	...	...	...	6
Stanton Fitzwarren	...	...	...	...	...
Stratton St. Margaret	...	...	...	...	52
Wanborough	...	...	...	...	10
Wroughton	...	...	...	...	30

213

Nearly all these houses will be of the types (d) in Query No. 1
(Section VI). A few possibly of type (b).

Total number of houses	...	...	...	213
2. Approximate number of existing empty houses to be acquired	...	...	...	Nil
3. Approximate acreage of land to be acquired.				36 acres
4. Average number of houses per acre	...			6
5. Approximate localities in which land is to be acquired	...	...	See Schedule No. 4	
6. Time within which it is proposed that the Scheme (or if the Scheme is to be carried out by instalments, each part of the Scheme) is to be carried into effect:—				
<p>The whole of the Scheme is at present under consideration and sites are being purchased. It is hoped that the Scheme will be completed by the Government time limit, but this will depend upon circumstances arising between now and that date.</p>				
7. Particulars of any measure necessary, as part of Scheme, for the preservation of existing erections of architectural, historic or artistic interest, or for the preservation of the natural amenities of the locality.				Nil
8. Any other provisions (including provisions for joint action with any other Local Authority)	...			Nil
9. Is it anticipated that the Scheme may subsequently require to be amended?	...	...		No.

The above Scheme was adopted by the Rural District Council, at a Meeting of the Council, held on the 26th November, 1919.