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Contributors

Herefordshire Combined Districts.

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HOUSING SECTION.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

BROMYARD, DORE, HEREFORD, LEDBURY,
LEOMINSTER,

AND

WEOBLEY RURAL DISTRICTS,

AND FOR THE

BROMYARD URBAN DISTRICT.

1919.

Issued 20th August, 1920.


HEREFORD :

Printed by The Hereford Times Ltd., Maylord Street,



WOODMANTON COTTAGE, SARNESFIELD (after alteration)

See page 102.



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HEREFORDSHIRE COMBINED DISTRICT.

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Inspectors under Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 :

J. Woodyatt, Bromyard. Bromyard Rural District. Tel. 15

T. J. Prosser, Newton, Vowchurch, Hereford. Dore Rural District.

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*T. Cawsey, Glanynant House, Newtown, Ledbury. Ledbury Rural District.

*D. W. Cave, Luston, Leominster. Leominster Rural District.

Evan Lewis, Church House, Weobley. Weobley Rural District.

* San. Inspector's Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ending December 31st, 1919.

August, 1920.

HOUSING SECTION.

In compliance with the suggestion of the Ministry of Health, the section on Housing of the Annual Report is issued in a separate volume. For convenience of future reference the paging follows consecutively that of the report already issued.

As far as possible the information asked for by the Ministry of Health is given in the form suggested by the Ministry.

The population of the six districts is 47,171, and the total number of houses is 11,699. It is of interest to record that in 1871 there were 12,987 houses. The number of working class dwellings in 1919 was 9,683. Of this number about one-half have only two bedrooms and about one-third have parlours.

During the years 1901—1914 there were erected 515 houses. None were erected during the war period. These houses are well built and show a good deal of thoughtful care on the part of the landowners and others who have built them. Plans of some of them were reproduced in my annual reports (1902, p. 145 ; 1903, p. 17 ; 1910, p. 20, a concrete cottage ; 1910, p. 22 ; 1912, p. 19 ; 1913, p. 28).

Although, with a few exceptions, there were no building by-laws in force in any of the districts, they would have complied with by-laws had there been any.

In no part of the districts is there any excess of working-class houses, and there is need for them in 50 per cent. of the parishes.

The schemes submitted to the Ministry of Health (p. 135) provide for the erection of 455 houses. This number is not quite equal to that reported (478) in the survey as being seriously defective.

There is no overcrowding of houses on space. In 222 houses there was overcrowding, that is to say more than two persons per room, and 94 houses were occupied by two families.

At the housing survey in 1919 it was found that 2,565 working-class houses needed repair, or about 26 per cent. of the total number of this type of dwelling. About five per cent. were seriously defective.

For many years I have been reporting as regards every district that while there is quite an appreciable number of good houses suited to the wants of the labouring classes there are many others which are old and are bordering between habitable and uninhabitable. They are only kept fit by constant attention, and as there were practically no repairs carried out during the war period a large number have become beyond repair.

The defects which have usually been found are :—

Defective roofs, walls, ceilings or floors.

Dampness. No damp course or eaves gutters.

Windows not made to open and window openings too small.

No proper food store.

Dirty walls and ceilings.

Dilapidated privies.

Untrapped drains.

Inadequate water supplies.

REPAIR OF HOUSES.

The scarcity and increased cost of labour and of building materials have added to the difficulties previously experienced in securing the repair of cottages. In the case of sub-let houses it is often difficult to ascertain which landlord is responsible for keeping the dwelling in all respects fit for human habitation. As an illustration, the attention of the agent of the over-landlord of two cottages situated four miles from Hereford was drawn to their condition in May, 1919. Since that date he has been written to by the Medical Officer of Health four times and by the Sanitary Inspector four times. The Medical Officer of Health has visited the property three and the Sanitary Inspector nine times, and interviews have been held with the agent and under tenant. Every effort has been made to get the houses made habitable without having resort to compulsion, but at the time of writing (July, 1920) the only result of the action of the District Council

is a communication from the agent stating that he has come to an understanding with the under-tenant as to which repairs should be carried out by the respective landlords, and that he has given an order to a builder to carry out certain structural repairs.

It was apparently with the object of overcoming the difficulty above described that Sec. 29 was included in the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919. This section requires the person who receives the rent of a working-class dwelling to inform the tenant in writing who is the person directly responsible for keeping the house in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

In order to make it as easy as possible for property owners and agents to carry out this section, a printed slip, the size of a rent book, in the following form, has been drawn up and can be obtained from the Medical Officer of Health :—

HEREFORD SANITARY DISTRICTS.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, &c., ACT, 1919,

SECTION 29.

“In the case of houses intended or used for occupation by the working classes, the name and address of the medical officer of health for the district and of the landlord or other person who is directly responsible for keeping the house in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, shall be inscribed in every rent book or, where a rent book is not used, shall be delivered in writing to the tenant at the commencement of the tenancy and before any rent is demanded or collected ; and, if any person demands or collects any rent in contravention of the provisions of this section, he shall in respect of each offence be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding forty shillings.”

The Medical Officer of Health of the district is :—

Dr. HERBERT JONES,
5, St. Ethelbert Street,
Hereford.

The person responsible for keeping the house reasonably fit for human habitation is :

Name

Address

As so often happens in Acts of Parliament, no one is made responsible for ensuring the carrying out of this section, though presumably it is the duty of the Police to do so. In reply to an enquiry from me, the Ministry of Health stated that—

“although Section 29 does not in terms impose on the
“local authority an obligation to secure that its provisions
“are complied with, it seems to the Minister that enquiries
“should be made on behalf of local authorities for the
“purpose of verifying that the provisions of the Section
“are being observed in their district.”

In connection with the repair of cottages, it may be pointed out that while there are very many property owners who realise that it is economical to keep their cottages in repair and to spend on them a given percentage of the rentals, there are many others who look upon rents received as they would dividends in a Joint Stock Company, from which no deductions need be made. An allowance for repairs is made from income tax of one-sixth of the annual value of cottages, and except in quite newly built houses this amount should be spent by a prudent owner. Old property requires considerably more.

Sometimes cases of hardship appear to arise when an owner is called upon by the District Council to carry out repairs. The rents from the property may not be very much and may be the sole income of the owner, and it is difficult to decide justly between the necessity of the landlord and the comfort and well-being of the tenant. In arriving at a decision, an important factor to take into consideration is whether the owner has or has not spent in repairs over a series of years at least 15 per cent. of the rental. If he has not, it would only seem right that he should carry out the requirements of the Council. If he has spent that amount, it is not very probable that it will be necessary to call on him to spend any more.

It is not an easy matter to decide precisely what repairs should be enforced, having in mind the interests of the owner and of the tenant. Some assistance has been given in this direction in the “Manual” on unfit houses and unhealthy areas issued by the Ministry of Health (page 10). There is there indicated the standard of fitness which should be regarded as the minimum in connection with existing houses. It is not suggested that the

full and universal enforcement of the standard is immediately practicable at the present time, nor that a house which is deficient in one or more of the matters mentioned would necessarily be in a state to justify the making of a closing order. Obviously the seriousness of any particular defect may be much greater if it is accompanied by others.

A fit house should be :—

- (1) free from serious dampness ;
- (2) satisfactorily lighted and ventilated ;
- (3) properly drained and provided with adequate sanitary conveniences, and with a sink and suitable arrangements for disposing of slop water ; and
- (4) in good general repair ;

and should have—

- (5) a satisfactory water supply ;
- (6) adequate washing accommodation ;
- (7) adequate facilities for preparing and cooking food ; and
- (8) a well-ventilated store for food.

An important amendment to the law relating to the repair of working-class dwellings is contained in Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919, which provides for repairs being carried out by the Local Authority, who may decide that the cost entailed shall be paid in monthly or annual instalments within a period of not more than thirty years, with interest of not more than five per cent. The instalments and interest may be recovered either from the owner or the occupier. If from the occupier he may deduct the amount from the rent paid by him.

NEW HOUSES.

The schemes of the Councils for the provision of new houses will be found tabulated on page 135.

With regard to the number of houses to the acre, there has been a very general concensus of opinion among the members of the District Councils that each house should be upon a quarter-acre plot. This will not increase the total cost to an appreciable

extent, as the average price of the sites is about £100, with extremes of about £50 and £150. Moreover, it is reasonable to expect that a higher rental will be obtained for a house on a quarter-acre plot than on one of half that extent.

There is more difference of opinion when the accommodation to be provided is considered. I consider that it should include a parlour, kitchen, wash-house, scullery, bath, and three bedrooms. I have had the opportunity of discussing at meetings of the Women's Institutes and similar organizations the desirability of providing a parlour and a bath, and the opinion was unanimously expressed in favour of both. The advocates of a parlour urge that as a room in which can be placed personal possessions such as books, ornaments, pictures, etc., it tends to increase the self-respect of the tenant, that it can be used by the elder school children, an important point in these days of scholarship study, and that it can be used in time of need as a sick room. With regard to the bath, I was informed that it is desirable, even though no water is laid on and cold water has to be carried from a pump or hot water from a boiler, provided the bath has a waste-pipe. In the opinion of the country house-wife the emptying of the bath with ease is apparently of more importance than the filling of it.

The increased and increasing cost of building will, it is feared, necessitate the cutting out of some of the above essentials, though I consider it would be better to effect economies in other directions. One of these might well be the erection of more houses than at first contemplated in certain parishes, instead of scattering them in twos and fours over several parishes and thus increasing the cost of erection.

When considering the number of bedrooms to be provided, it is desirable that the needs of old-age pensioners should not be ignored. There are at the present time in many parishes houses occupied by these old people which are far too large for their requirements, and if vacated for a smaller dwelling would relieve the pressing need of the parish.

NEW HOUSES ERECTED.

RURAL DISTRICTS	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915 to 1919
Bromyard ...	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	3	0	0	1	6	9	2	0
Dore ...	2	1	1	3	2	1	5	3	6	2	6	5	1	1	0
Hereford ...	1	4	18	8	8	13	6	6	7	9	5	11	9	17	0
Ledbury ...	14	20	7	7	16	17	24	15	19	8	19	10	17	9	0
Leominster ...	2	2	2	3	3	3	6	3	6	11	0	10	5	0	0
Weobley ...	6	7	5	1	2	4	2	3	4	8	9	4	4	2	0
Six Districts ...	28	36	34	24	33	40	45	33	42	38	40	46	45	31	0

SUBSIDISED HOUSES.

There are in course of erection four houses which will qualify for the Government subsidy.

The Government grant varies in amount in proportion to the size of the house. The number of bedrooms must not exceed four, and the total floor space must not be more than 1,400 square feet. A grant of £160 is given where there is a minimum of 920 square feet, and a living room, parlour and three or four bedrooms. For a house with a living room and three bedrooms, and at least 780 feet of floor space, £140 is granted, and for one with a living-room and two bedrooms and not less than 700 feet of floor space, the grant is £130. These grants have each been increased by £100 with respect to houses begun to be built after April 1st, 1920. The regulations of the Ministry of Health provide that "no house to which a sufficient water supply is available shall be approved unless a bath and w.c. are provided. Where no drainage is available an earth closet must be provided." The rooms must be at least 8 feet high. As a rule, the material to be employed in construction is to be brick or stone, but any other form of construction that has been approved by the Ministry will be permitted.

An Army hut merely constructed and erected after the usual manner of such buildings will not qualify for a grant. But a great deal of the material in a hut may be utilised. The building must be on brick or concrete foundations. A wooden or felt roof is not permissible. It must be of tiles, slate or asbestos. The ceilings and inside walls must be of plaster or asbestos or similar material. The building must be generally of a more permanent character than that usually associated with Army huts.

In order to obtain a grant, duplicate plans of the proposed building and of the site showing the lay-out, roads and sewers must be submitted to the Local Authority, and if brick or stone is to be employed in the construction, an undertaking must be given that the standard of construction will be in accordance with the specification supplied by the Ministry of Health. If the plans, etc., are found to be in order, a certificate (A) is given by the Local Authority to the effect that on the completion of the building in accordance with the Ministry's regulations, the person to whom the certificate is addressed will be eligible for a grant. On the satisfactory completion of the work, a certificate (B) is given by the Local Authority, and on this certificate payment is made by the Ministry.

CLOSING OF HOUSES.

It is desirable that the position of the Medical Officer of Health and of the District Councils should be made clear with regard to the closing of uninhabitable houses.

Section 30 of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, enacts that it shall be the duty of the Medical Officer of Health of every district to represent to the Local Authority of that district any dwelling house which appears to him to be in a state so dangerous as to be unfit for human habitation.

Section 17 (2) of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909, provides that if on the representation of the Medical Officer of Health, or of any other officer of the Authority or other information given, any dwelling house appears to the Local Authority to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, it shall be their duty to make an Order prohibiting the use of the dwelling house for human habitation until in their judgment the house is rendered fit for that purpose.

Sub-Section 6 of the same Section requires the Local Authority to determine any Closing Order made by them if they are satisfied that the dwelling house in respect of which the Order has been made has been rendered fit for human habitation.

There is thus placed upon the Medical Officer of Health a statutory duty to bring to the notice of the District Council any dwelling which he considers is unfit for human habitation.

At the present time, when there is so great a shortage of houses the question as to whether a Closing Order shall be made is one of policy to be decided by the Council concerned and in accordance with the particular circumstances of the case.

HOUSING SURVEY.

Section I. of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919, lays a definite obligation upon a Local Authority to provide for the housing needs of their district.

On August 25th, 1919, the Ministry of Health requested Local Authorities to make a survey of their districts with a view of ascertaining what were the needs, and Forms for recording the results of the survey were furnished by the Ministry.

The survey was required to be completed by October 31st, a period far too short to accomplish the task correctly and satisfactorily with the sanitary Staff at the disposal of the District Councils. Fortunately, the importance of the survey was fully realised by all the six Rural Councils, and I was authorised to obtain assistance for the Inspectors of Nuisances. This assistance as a rule was paid for at the rate of sixpence for each house recorded. The result is that we now have a detailed record, parish by parish, of every house in the combined district—a number approaching 12,000. The particulars recorded include :—

Name of owner.

Name and occupation of occupier.

Estimated rental.

Number of bedrooms, &c.

Number of occupants.

Whether overcrowded.

Whether occupied by more than one family.

Whether needing repair.

Whether seriously defective.

Details of these records will be found on pages 106, 110, 112, 119, 123 and 127.

This survey will be of the greatest value, and will enable systematic housing inspections to be made. From the information derived from them the Inspectors can be furnished with lists of houses which in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health should be inspected, as required by the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.

In connection with the Housing Survey, and with the keeping of the consequent records, I must refer to the greatly increased labour attached to them, owing to so few houses in country districts having any distinctive name or number by which to identify them. As a rule they are known only by the name of the occupier, and this is obviously a more or less transitory designation.

The remedy appears to lie in a system of registration of houses by parishes with a distinguishing number for each. This number might be usefully employed for other than housing record purposes such as birth, marriage and death registration and as a correct postal address,

PRESERVATION OF HALF-TIMBERED COTTAGES.

There are many half-timbered cottages in various parts of the county which are being allowed to fall into decay, though still inhabited. The accommodation in them is not equal to that which is considered at the present day necessary, but they are usually in a good garden, and are provided with a well. They add to the picturesqueness of the countryside, and every effort should be made to convert them into more habitable dwellings. In the case of the smaller cottages of this type, the best thing to do is to take out the bedroom floor, and so make the building of one floor only, and then build additional rooms either on one or two floors, as circumstances allow.

Some old uninhabitable cottages in Breinton parish have been reconstructed and made habitable by the owner, Mr. George Marshall, and without destroying their distinctive style. A cottage has also been similarly altered in Sarnesfield, and for the accompanying details I am indebted to Mr. W. E. H. Clarke, Hereford, the Architect who carried out the alterations for the owner, the Rev. W. Marshall.

WOODMANTON COTTAGE, SARNESFIELD.*

BEFORE ALTERATIONS.

This cottage consisted of two living rooms downstairs and two bedrooms upstairs. As usual, the staircase started from the living room, thereby reducing the size of same, and arrived in the bedroom over, which not only made this bedroom very small, but also made it a passage room to the other bedrooms. There was consequently only one private bedroom in the house. Owing to the staircase starting from the living room, the bedrooms could not be properly ventilated, as all foul air would rise up the staircase. The ceilings of the bedrooms were only 6ft. from the floor, and the rooms were consequently very stuffy.

There was an out-house at the end of the building, with furnace and baking oven, but its position made it useless for the purposes of a scullery.

The house was so small, and so badly planned, and so short of bedroom accommodation that, for a long time, no one could be found who would occupy it.

ALTERATIONS.

A lean-to porch was provided on the North of the house, and the staircase was provided from this porch. A window in this porch enables the bedrooms to be ventilated by means of the staircase. The living room door also leads from this porch. The living room was cleared of all obstructions.

* See Frontispiece.

A new wing at the back was erected, providing scullery, store and coal-house, with large bedroom over same. The horizontal ceiling of bedrooms was removed, and the slopes of the roof were plastered, thereby opening the roof to the ridge and giving much more space in the bedrooms. The cost of the work was £466, and an uninhabitable cottage was converted into a spacious and comfortable cottage, with porch, parlour, living room, larder, scullery, pantry, coal-house, bread oven and wash-house on ground floor, and with three good private bedrooms on the first floor, two of which are provided with fireplaces.

APPEARANCE.

This cottage had a very pleasant appearance, and showed the mark of good craftsmanship, and every attempt has been made to preserve the old style. It is very important to those of the present generation and to those who follow to preserve examples of good building of the past. Such buildings not only help to make the countryside beautiful and refreshing, but they also serve to show us how by the thoughtful use of the past traditions, adapted to the new requirements of each successive age, we can make healthy and pleasant homes.

BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT.

I. *General Housing Conditions (for details in parishes see page 106) :—*

- (1) Total number of houses—1,748.
 Working class houses—1,488.
 Working class houses erected during 1919, or in course of erection—Nil.
- (2) Population—6,806.
 Number of parishes—32.
- (3) Extent of shortage or excess of houses :—
 In no parish is there any excess.
 In the following parishes there is shortage :—

Cradley.	Much Cowarne.
Edvin Loach.	Stoke Lacy.
Evesbatch.	Tedstone Delamere.
Felton.	Upper Sapey.
Grendon Bishop.	

Measures taken or contemplated to meet shortage :—

The scheme adopted on October 30th, 1919, provides for the erection of 26 houses within two years.

II. *Overcrowding :—*

- (1) Extent—
 Number of houses occupied by two families—20.
 " " " overcrowded—24.
- (2) Causes.—Chiefly lack of houses.
- (3) Measures taken or contemplated to deal with overcrowding :—
 Erection of new houses.
- (4) Number of cases of overcrowding dealt with in 1919—Nil.

III. *Fitness of Houses :—*

- (1) Thirty-five houses have been erected since 1900, none since 1914.

In October, 1919, there were 275 houses needing repair. There are many houses on the borderland of habitable and uninhabitable, and they require to be constantly repaired to keep them habitable.

General character of the defects :—

Defective roofs, walls, ceilings, or floors.
Dampness. No damp course or eaves gutters.
Windows not made to open. Small window openings.
No proper place to store food.
Dirty walls and ceilings.
Dilapidated privies.
Untrapped drains.
Inadequate water supply.

(2) Action taken as regards unfit houses under

- (a) Public Health Acts—Nil.
- (b) Housing Acts.—Five houses were reported to the Council as defective, and the defects were remedied by the owners.

(3) Difficulties in remedying unfitness :—

Scarcity of labour and materials.
Increased cost of repairs.

In the case of sub-let houses, difficulty in ascertaining who is responsible for keeping the house fit for habitation.

(4) Water supply is principally from wells. Two samples of water were sent for analytical examination.

Closet accommodation is principally of the privy or pail type.

During 1919, 21 were repaired, two privies were converted to earth closets, and six to pail closets.

House refuse is disposed of by the householder.

IV. *Unhealthy Areas.*—None.V. *By-laws with respect to common lodging houses were adopted in 1876. No other by-laws are in force in the district.***NEW HOUSES.**

The Bromyard Rural Council appointed their Surveyor, Mr. R. O. Smith, to prepare plans, etc.

Sites have been approved at Felton for two houses, Much Cowarne for 13, Stoke Lacy for four, and Tedstone Delamere for four. The parlour type of house was approved by the Council.

BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT.

	POPULATION.			INHABITED HOUSES.				WORKING CLASS HOUSES.							Semi- defec- tive.	
								1919.								
	1871.	1901.	1911.	1871.	1901.	1911.	1919.	Total.	Bedrooms.			Parlour.	Over- crowd.	Two Families		Needs repair.
									2	3	4					
Acton Beauchamp	—	218	168	—	44	43	35	25	14	9	2	5	3	—	—	1
Avenbury ...	395	334	335	78	68	76	70	61	31	21	6	20	—	—	—	1
Bredenbury	60	119	90	8	21	24	21	14	6	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brockhampton	—	108	132	—	26	29	25	19	12	7	—	3	—	—	—	—
Collington ...	128	114	120	26	24	26	25	20	16	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cowarne, Little	213	151	160	43	36	36	37	37	18	12	7	17	—	1	6	2
" Much	575	487	439	114	96	107	107	94	36	43	12	33	1	4	14	8
Cradley	1853	1194	1135	421	278	281	271	241	157	43	27	76	3	4	21	15
Edvin Loach	—	37	27	—	7	5	5	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" Ralph	155	110	79	29	20	19	19	7	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	1
Evesbatch	96	53	55	17	10	13	8	6	4	2	—	2	—	—	2	—
Felton	127	69	56	23	14	15	18	13	10	3	—	2	3	—	—	—
Froome, Bishops	814	707	720	194	161	173	145	127	55	60	12	46	3	1	61	5
Grendon Bishop	198	128	135	36	27	30	25	25	16	7	1	4	2	—	1	7
Hampton Charles	61	79	82	16	16	20	15	15	6	6	3	6	—	—	—	3
Linton	605	470	468	112	89	93	86	64	31	25	8	29	1	—	4	5
Moreton Jeffries	47	40	60	9	9	12	9	6	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norton	570	426	374	130	98	100	104	89	59	28	2	24	4	4	3	4
Ocle Pychard	319	295	307	58	66	70	68	58	31	14	12	21	—	—	3	3
Pencombe and Grendon (1)	394	—	—	74	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warren	28	300	280	4	58	63	51	43	23	10	10	18	—	1	1	1
Saltmarsh	30	3	6	7	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sapey, Upper	383	286	279	82	62	65	57	43	33	9	1	6	1	1	5	—
Stanford Bishop	237	173	189	49	38	39	37	29	18	9	2	8	1	—	14	3
Stoke Lacy	346	340	318	75	76	74	69	68	36	17	15	31	1	3	4	4
Tedstone Delamere	235	180	189	45	39	38	32	20	11	8	1	5	—	—	1	—
" Wafer	64	79	64	16	18	17	16	16	4	11	—	1	—	—	1	—
Thornbury ...	241	210	168	49	44	42	42	37	21	10	5	11	—	1	5	5
Ullingswick	323	281	251	68	60	54	60	53	25	10	18	33	—	—	3	2
Wacton	137	111	121	27	23	26	25	19	11	8	—	—	1	—	—	1
Whitbourne	856	665	624	187	156	162	152	143	94	39	8	27	—	—	31	7
Winslow	473	372	412	96	84	93	93	78	35	30	11	29	—	—	2	1
Wolverlow	126	105	88	23	21	18	20	15	6	8	1	3	—	—	3	3
	10,089	8,244	7,931	2,116	1,790	1,864	1,748	1,488	830	464	164	460	24	20	189	86

Other Houses, 1 Bedroom, etc., 30.

BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT.

107

HOUSING.				1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
No. of houses inspected ...	...	...	...	328	153	10	18	3	8	5
No. considered to be uninhabitable				16	13	0	0	1	0	0
No. in which Closing Orders were asked for	...	...	...	16	13	1	0	1	0	0
No. of Closing Orders made	...			14	13	1	0	1	0	0
No. in which defects were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	2	0	0	0	2	8	5
No. made habitable after Closing Orders had been made	...			3	0	1	0	0	0	0

General character of defects—Dampness.

No eaves gutters. No damp course.
 Defective roofs, walls and ceilings.
 Windows not to open. Dirty walls and ceilings. Dilapidated privies.
 Untrapped drains. Untrapped areas round houses. Badly constructed and unprotected wells.

No. of houses voluntarily closed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
----------------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Excluding uninhabitable houses.

No. reported to Council as defective	303	149	1	2	3	8	5
--------------------------------------	-----	-----	---	---	---	---	---

No. of houses the owners of which were asked to remedy defects	...	183	130	1	2	3	8	5
--	-----	-----	-----	---	---	---	---	---

No. in which defects were remedied

in	...	...	...	1913...	29					
"	"	"	"	1914...	81	21					
"	"	"	"	1915...	6	73	0				
"	"	"	"	1916...	15	21	0	2			
"	"	"	"	1917...	28	9	1	0	2		
"	"	"	"	1918...	13	10	0	1	0	8	
"	"	"	"	1919...	5	6	0	0	1	0	5

DORE RURAL DISTRICT.

I. *General Housing Conditions (for details in parishes see page 110):—*

- (1) Total number of houses—1,404.
 Working class houses—1,154.
 Working class houses erected during 1919, or in course
 of erection—Nil.

- (2) Population—5,998.
 Number of parishes—27.

- (3) Extent of shortage or excess of houses :—

In no parish is there any excess.

In the following parishes there is shortage :—

Abbeydore.	Longtown.
Ewyas Harold.	Madley.
Kentchurch.	Newtown.
Kilpeck.	Peterchurch.
Kingstone.	St. Margarets.

Measures taken or contemplated to meet shortage :—

The scheme adopted on November 3rd, 1919, provides
 for the erection of 36 houses within two years.

II. *Overcrowding :—*

- (1) Extent—

Number of houses occupied by two families—7.

" " " overcrowded—20.

- (2) Causes.—Chiefly lack of houses.

- (3) Measures taken or contemplated to deal with overcrowding :—

Erection of new houses.

- (4) Number of cases of overcrowding dealt with in 1919—Nil.

III. *Fitness of Houses :—*

- (1) Thirty-nine houses have been erected since 1900, none since 1914.

In October, 1919, there were 354 houses needing repair. There are many houses on the borderland of habitable and uninhabitable, and they require to be constantly repaired to keep them habitable.

General character of the defects :—

Defective roofs, walls, ceilings, or floors.
Dampness. No damp course or eaves gutters.
Windows not made to open. Small window openings.
No proper place to store food.
Dirty walls and ceilings.
Dilapidated privies.
Untrapped drains.
Inadequate water supply.

(2) Action taken as regards unfit houses under

(a) Public Health Acts—Nil.

(b) Housing Acts.—Eighteen houses were reported to the Council as defective, and the defects were remedied by the owners.

(3) Difficulties in remedying unfitness :—

Scarcity of labour and materials.

Increased cost of repairs.

In the case of sub-let houses, difficulty in ascertaining who is responsible for keeping the house fit for habitation.

(4) Water supply is principally from wells. One sample of water was sent for analytical examination.

Closet accommodation is principally of the privy or pail type. During 1919, four were repaired.

House refuse is disposed of by the householder.

IV. *Unhealthy Areas.*—None.

V. *There are no by-laws in force in the district.*

NEW HOUSES.

The Dore Rural Council appointed Messrs. Bettington and Son, of Hereford, as Architects.

Sites have been approved at Abbeydore for two houses, Kilpeck for two, Kingstone for four, Madley for ten, Peterchurch for six, and Vowchurch for two.

DORE RURAL DISTRICT.

	POPULATION.			INHABITED HOUSES.				WORKING CLASS HOUSES.							1919.	
								Total.	Bedrooms.			Parlour.	Over-crowded.	Two Families.	Needs repair.	Seriously defective.
	1871.	1901.	1911.	1871.	1901.	1911.	1919.		2	3	4					
Abbeydore ...	533	456	470	90	78	78	63	33	16	15	—	2	—	—	6	3
Bacton ...	122	148	108	28	25	24	26	13	3	8	—	—	—	—	1	—
Crasswall ...	345	225	225	76	57	55	54	14	8	6	—	2	—	—	12	2
Dulas ...	75	79	72	13	13	14	17	17	7	4	6	12	—	—	7	1
Ewyas Harold	548	476	471	119	113	115	112	113	49	46	18	64	—	2	8	12
Kentchurch	381	319	307	67	64	65	67	63	24	21	18	50	—	1	4	2
Kenderchurch	70	69	56	14	12	12	11	10	8	—	2	5	—	—	4	2
Kilpeck ...	240	197	177	51	47	45	46	32	24	8	—	12	—	—	14	1
Kingstone ...	488	347	346	108	90	90	88	90	57	19	14	32	5	—	2	3
Lancilloe ...	88	66	52	14	12	11	8	7	5	2	—	2	—	—	1	7
Llanvynoe	258	187	201	54	46	44	36	5	3	2	—	—	—	—	9	3
Longtown ...	858	558	556	191	149	146	129	131	41	76	12	44	—	—	38	—
Madley ...	911	685	723	205	161	169	151	142	70	39	33	91	1	—	16	1
Michaelchurch	457	299	253	85	76	68	66	18	8	9	—	—	—	—	14	—
Newton ...	248	111	186	49	43	44	38	17	11	4	2	5	—	—	12	—
Orcop ...	637	461	396	147	109	98	103	124	79	23	22	49	1	—	16	26
Peterchurch	665	590	565	153	136	140	124	119	54	55	10	43	2	1	10	4
Rowlestone...	149	119	103	32	23	23	22	17	10	6	1	8	—	—	7	2
St. Devereux	241	171	174	50	46	44	37	33	24	8	1	13	—	1	17	1
St. Margarets	339	213	198	74	60	58	49	33	21	8	1	2	2	—	18	2
Thrupton ...	68	67	69	13	13	13	13	9	6	—	3	3	—	—	1	—
Treville ...	170	150	104	32	28	26	11	7	5	1	1	2	—	1	—	1
Tyberton ...	157	151	137	33	28	27	19	18	9	9	—	2	—	—	5	—
Turnastone	51	58	63	11	10	11	12	5	3	2	—	1	—	—	3	—
Vowchurch	342	280	277	75	68	69	62	46	24	20	—	3	—	—	17	5
Walterstone	144	124	127	37	33	31	26	23	14	7	—	6	1	—	6	5
Wormbridge	110	83	74	19	15	15	14	15	8	5	2	7	1	—	8	1
	8,695	6,689	6,490	1,840	1,555	1,535	1,404	1,154	591	403	148	460	20	7	256	98

Other Houses, 1 Bedroom, etc., 12.

DORE RURAL DISTRICT.

III

HOUSING.				1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
No. of houses inspected ...	...	...	...	96	200	11	57	18	59	40
No. considered to be uninhabitable				2	8	0	3	2	3	22
No. in which Closing Orders were asked for	...	...	...	10	8	0	0	0	0	0
No. of Closing Orders made	...			9	7	0	0	0	0	0
No. in which defects were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	16	40	2	0	1	14	18
No. made habitable after Closing Orders had been made	...			0	0	0	0	0	0	0

General character of defects—Dampness.

No eaves gutters. No damp course.

Defective roofs, walls and ceilings.

Windows not to open. Dirty walls

and ceilings. Dilapidated privies.

Untrapped drains.

No. of houses voluntarily closed	0	0	0	2	2	3	0
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Excluding uninhabitable houses.

No. reported to Council as defective	82	155	10	87	42	30	18
--------------------------------------	----	-----	----	----	----	----	----

No. of houses the owners of which were asked to remedy defects	...	82	155	10	87	38	30	18
--	-----	----	-----	----	----	----	----	----

No. in which defects were remedied

in	...	...	...	1913...	16					
"	"	"	"	1914...	46	40				
"	"	"	"	1915...	0	1	2			
"	"	"	"	1916...	4	7	2	31		
"	"	"	"	1917...	3	4	3	13	11	
"	"	"	"	1918...	4	2	0	0	0	4
"	"	"	"	1919...	0	0	0	0	0	18

HEREFORD RURAL DISTRICT.

	POPULATION.			INHABITED HOUSES.		
	1871.	1901.	1911.	1871.	1901.	1911.
Aconbury	144	117	134	35	31	11
Allensmore	603	480	480	147	118	11
Bartestree	98	265	278	14	18	
Birch, Little	291	225	239	71	55	
" Much	572	396	410	123	102	11
Breinton	445	417	447	90	88	11
Bullingham, Lower	331	520	458	57	56	
Burghill and Tillington	1036	871	995	205	193	22
Boulstone	55	40	43	13	12	
Callow	116	78	87	28	22	
Cleghonger	505	415	444	100	102	10
Credenhill	225	223	272	48	54	
Dewchurch, Little	348	237	233	73	56	10
" Much	615	548	539	123	122	11
Dewsall	45	47	39	8	9	
Dinedor	283	225	231	57	50	5
Dinmore	10	27	25	4	3	
Dormington	121	95	93	20	22	1
Eaton Bishop	470	286	326	96	74	8
Fownhope	1113	787	737	240	189	188
Grafton	—	139	119	—	31	22
Hampton Bishop	230	343	365	55	69	77
Haywood	190	144	155	32	30	33
Holmer and Shelwick	1905	549	515	395	112	111
Holme Lacy	304	305	263	68	65	66
Kenchester	103	121	115	24	25	22
Lugwardine	790	709	656	159	174	168
Marden	988	818	768	215	187	199
Mordiford	608	443	444	151	112	111
Moreton-on-Lugg	85	77	79	12	18	11
Pipe and Lyde	241	188	238	49	45	44
Preston Wynne	172	144	156	39	32	33
Stoke Edith	315	140	162	69	36	38
Stretton Sugwas	272	311	325	54	77	88
Sutton St. N.	260			55		
St. M.	131	330	394	28	73	83
Wellington	651	615	641	156	147	140
Westhide	164	148	147	37	34	38
Weston Beggard	296	259	244	69	59	58
Withington... ..	784	757	797	179	175	182
	15,915	12,839	13,093	3,398	2,877	2,993

Other Houses

1919.									
WORKING CLASS HOUSES.									
1919.	Total.	Bedrooms.			Parlour.	Over-crowded	Two Families	Needs repair.	Seriously defective.
		2	3	4					
30	26	13	10	3	8	1	2	12	—
30	98	55	27	12	38	1	—	21	11
18	12	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
58	54	32	14	7	23	—	—	8	9
02	77	38	30	7	20	2	—	24	4
02	75	44	22	7	36	1	2	16	2
50	34	20	8	1	4	2	—	5	1
27	176	92	69	11	78	2	6	63	12
8	6	2	2	2	3	—	—	1	—
22	20	15	5	—	1	1	—	4	3
07	89	52	31	6	41	—	1	36	4
56	41	19	21	1	11	—	6	2	—
54	36	27	5	4	9	4	—	21	4
95	62	38	23	1	7	2	—	18	4
11	12	10	2	—	—	1	—	7	—
54	37	34	2	1	5	4	—	4	5
4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22	16	7	7	2	5	—	1	11	—
30	71	42	20	9	44	—	1	22	5
86	146	88	33	16	50	—	5	60	13
27	17	10	5	1	2	—	—	5	6
74	54	23	21	6	25	—	2	25	1
37	30	7	21	1	3	1	—	4	1
15	81	35	37	8	40	1	5	23	1
54	55	37	15	1	12	—	2	23	—
21	16	6	8	2	7	—	2	7	—
77	143	97	26	18	55	3	—	18	—
03	180	88	46	36	86	4	1	21	2
83	119	63	35	7	40	3	4	56	12
8	12	1	11	—	7	—	—	—	—
50	41	13	23	—	23	2	—	12	2
67	28	17	9	2	6	1	1	12	2
9	35	16	15	3	20	—	—	5	—
1	63	37	20	6	23	3	1	29	4
0	64	27	19	15	35	1	1	2	—
1	117	71	28	7	34	5	—	56	4
0	32	18	10	—	7	1	—	22	2
8	50	41	5	2	4	1	2	29	6
9	172	82	71	17	66	8	—	14	1
0	2,399	1,329	757	222	878	55	45	698	121

bedroom, etc., 91.

HEREFORD RURAL DISTRICT.

I. *General Housing Conditions (for details in parishes see page 112):—*

(1) Total number of houses—3,000.

Working class houses—2,399.

Working class houses erected during 1919, or in course of erection—Nil.

(2) Population—12,021.

Number of parishes—39.

(3) Extent of shortage or excess of houses :—

In no parish is there any excess.

In the following parishes there is shortage :—

Allensmore.	Hampton Bishop.
Bartestree.	Haywood.
Little Birch.	Holmer.
Much Birch.	Holme Lacy.
Breinton.	Kenchester.
Lower Bullingham.	Lugwardine.
Burghill.	Marden.
Clehonger.	Mordiford.
Credenhill.	Preston Wynne.
Little Dewchurch.	Stretton Sugwas
Much Dewchurch.	Sutton.
Dinedor.	Wellington.
Eaton Bishop.	Westhide.
Fownhope.	Weston Beggard.
Grafton.	Withington.

Measures taken or contemplated to meet shortage :—

The scheme adopted on November 15th, 1919, provides for the erection of 200 houses before July, 1922.

II. *Overcrowding :—*

(1) Extent—

Number of houses occupied by two families—45.

" " " overcrowded—55.

(2) Causes.—Chiefly lack of houses.

(3) Measures taken or contemplated to deal with overcrowding :—

Erection of new houses.

(4) Number of cases of overcrowding dealt with in 1919—4.

III. *Fitness of Houses* :—

- (1) One Hundred and Twenty-two houses have been erected since 1900, none since 1914.

In October, 1919, there were 819 houses needing repair. There are many old houses requiring constant attention to keep them habitable.

General character of the defects :—

Defective roofs, walls, ceilings, or floors.
Dampness. No damp course or eaves gutters.
Windows not made to open. Small window openings.
No proper place to store food.
Dirty walls and ceilings.
Dilapidated privies.
Untrapped drains.
Inadequate water supplies.

- (2) Action taken as regards unfit houses under

(a) Public Health Acts—Nil.

(b) Housing Acts.—Forty-seven houses were reported to the Council as defective, and the defects were remedied by the owners in eight instances.

- (3) Difficulties in remedying unfitness :—

Scarcity of labour and materials.

Increased cost of repairs.

In the case of sub-let houses, difficulty in ascertaining who is responsible for keeping the house fit for habitation.

- (4) Water supply is principally from wells. There is a piped supply in Fownhope, Much Birch and Stoke Edith. Twenty-three samples of water were sent for analytical examination.

Closet accommodation is principally of the privy or pail type. Three privy closets were converted to pail closets in 1919.

House refuse is disposed of by the householder.

IV. *Unhealthy Areas*.—None.

- V. *Building by-laws are in force. By-laws have been adopted with respect to hop and fruit pickers and dwellers in tents, vans and sheds.*

NEW HOUSES.

The Hereford Council appointed Mr. S. W. Bridges as a whole-time official as Architect to the Council.

Sites have been approved in the following parishes :—Allensmore, Breinton, Burghill, Credenhill, Fownhope, Hampton Bishop, Haywood, Holmer, Holme Lacy, Lugwardine, Marden, Mordiford, Much Birch, Much Dewchurch, Preston Wynne, Stretton Sugwas, Westhide, Weston Beggard, Wellington, Withington.

HOUSING.				1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
No. of houses inspected ...	...	...	...	136	106	31	3	3	3	65
No. considered to be uninhabitable				2	1	1	0	1	1	10
No. in which Closing Orders were asked for ...	...	...	...	8	0	1	0	2	0	4
No. of Closing Orders made ...				8	0	0	0	2	0	4
No. in which defects were remedied without the making of Closing Orders ...	...	...	...	67	24	5	3	2	1	7
No. made habitable after Closing Orders had been made ...				0	0	0	0	2	0	0

General character of defects—Dampness.

No eaves gutters. No damp course.

Defective roofs, walls and ceilings.

Windows not to open. Dirty walls and ceilings. Dilapidated privies.

Untrapped drains.

No. of houses voluntarily closed	1	0	1	0	2	0	9
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Excluding uninhabitable houses.

No. reported to Council as defective	100	68	15	3	3	3	47
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No. of houses the owners of which were asked to remedy defects	100	68	15	3	3	3	47
--	-----	----	----	---	---	---	----

No. in which defects were remedied											
in	...	...	...	1913...	67					
"	"	"	"	1914...	23	13					
"	"	"	"	1915...	3	33	5				
"	"	"	"	1916...	0	0	0	3			
"	"	"	"	1917...	0	1	0	0	2		
"	"	"	"	1918...	0	0	0	0	0	3	
"	"	"	"	1919...	7	21	10	0	1	0	8

LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

I. *General Housing Conditions (for details in parishes see page 119):—*

(1) Total number of houses—2,022.

Working class houses—1,602.

Working class houses erected during 1919, or in course of erection—Nil.

(2) Population—8,731.

Number of parishes—22.

(3) Extent of shortage or excess of houses :—

In no parish is there any excess.

In the following parishes there is shortage :—

Ashperton.	Little Marcle.
Aylton.	Much Marcle.
Bosbury.	Munsley.
Canon Frome.	Pixley.
Castle Frome.	Putley.
Coddington.	Stretton Grandison.
Colwall.	Tarrington.
Eastnor.	Wellington Heath.
Eggleton.	Woolhope.
Ledbury Rural.	Yarkhill.

Measures taken or contemplated to meet shortage :—

The scheme adopted on November 18th, 1919, provides for the erection of 108 houses within three years.

II. *Overcrowding :—*

(1) Extent—

Number of houses occupied by two families—8.

„ „ „ overcrowded—54.

(2) Causes—chiefly lack of houses.

(3) Measures taken or contemplated to deal with overcrowding :—

Erection of new houses.

(4) Number of cases of overcrowding dealt with in 1919—2.

III. *Fitness of Houses* :—

- (1) Since 1900 there have been erected 202 houses. None since 1914.

In October, 1919, there were 445 houses needing repair. There are many houses requiring constant repair to keep them habitable.

General character of the defects :—

Defective roofs, walls, ceilings, or floors.

Dampness. No damp course or eaves gutters.

Windows not made to open. Small window openings.

No proper place to store food.

Dirty walls and ceilings.

Dilapidated privies.

Untrapped drains.

Inadequate water supply.

- (2) Action taken as regards unfit houses under

(a) Public Health Acts—defects remedied in twenty instances.

(b) Housing Acts.—One Closing Order made.

- (3) Difficulties in remedying unfitness :—

Scarcity of labour and materials.

Increased cost of repairs.

In the case of sub-let houses, difficulty in ascertaining who is responsible for keeping the house fit for habitation.

- (4) Water supply for the most part from wells. There are piped supplies in Colwall, Eastnor and Tarrington.

Closet accommodation is principally of the privy, pit or pail type. In 1919 there were converted to pail closets 10 privies, and two were converted to water-closets.

House refuse is disposed of by the householder.

IV. *Unhealthy Areas*.—None.

- V. *By-laws are in force in Colwall parish with respect to new buildings and with respect to the removal of refuse and the cleansing of privies.*

NEW HOUSES.

The Ledbury Rural Council appointed their Surveyor, Mr. R. G. Gurney, to carry out the necessary work. The Council has purchased a concrete block-making machine, and has control of two quarries. The Council owns motor and steam haulage plant. The schemes approved by the Ministry of Health permit houses to be erected by direct labour. Four houses are now (July, 1920) being erected of concrete by direct labour in Bosbury.

Sites have been approved in nearly every parish in the Rural district.

LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

	POPULATION.				INHABITED HOUSES.				WORKING CLASS HOUSES.								1919.
	1871.	1901.	1911.	1871.	1901.	1911.	1919.	Total.	Bedrooms.			Parlour.	Over-crowded.	Two Families.	Needs repair.	Seriously defective.	
									2	3	4						
Ashperton ...	492	363	344	99	81	88	80	65	35	28	2	10	4	—	21	2	2
Aylton ...	112	79	95	20	18	18	19	13	10	3	—	1	1	—	2	—	—
Bosbury ...	1005	872	852	231	210	208	216	178	124	47	4	15	5	—	9	4	4
Canon Froome	108	120	121	18	20	26	24	19	9	9	1	4	—	—	—	—	1
Castle "	177	192	183	38	37	40	42	38	19	18	1	5	3	—	7	3	3
Coddington...	180	144	133	34	33	32	29	25	10	14	1	3	—	—	4	2	2
Colwall ...	1349	1892	2010	293	402	452	440	323	154	132	25	146	7	4	83	19	19
Donnington	89	112	103	16	20	22	26	17	8	9	—	9	—	—	1	1	1
Eastnor ...	410	491	392	94	105	101	93	81	41	37	3	21	—	—	—	—	—
Eggleton ...	135	113	122	29	30	33	22	20	17	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Ledbury ...	—	827	744	—	166	169	139	96	52	34	5	19	2	—	30	4	4
Marcle, Little	159	168	176	27	34	37	30	24	7	16	1	2	2	—	10	1	1
" Much	867	654	705	191	156	167	174	142	88	50	3	21	6	—	35	27	27
Mathon ...	—	387	428	—	91	103	78	63	25	33	5	20	4	—	10	1	1
Munsley ...	186	196	182	36	41	43	34	32	8	9	1	5	1	—	5	—	—
Pixley ...	96	179	183	18	37	42	35	31	19	9	2	7	1	—	8	1	1
Putley ...	192	266	270	40	54	52	53	37	24	13	—	—	1	—	3	—	—
Stretton Grandison	129	88	116	25	23	25	28	23	14	9	—	2	2	—	6	—	—
Tarrington ...	541	476	472	114	111	117	108	88	58	28	—	12	2	1	22	14	14
Wellington Heath...	—	374	396	—	94	98	91	81	62	17	2	14	6	2	28	2	2
Woolhope ...	769	626	584	173	139	137	145	110	70	30	5	16	2	—	37	17	17
Yarkhill ...	472	449	448	100	102	103	116	96	54	36	6	19	4	1	16	8	8
	7,468	9,068	9,059	1,596	2,004	2,113	2,022	1,602	908	584	67	352	54	8	338	107	107

Other Houses, 1 Bedroom, etc., 43.

HOUSING.				1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
No. of houses inspected	...			393	196	90	33	2	24	53
No. considered to be uninhabitable				8	1	1	1	4	3	1
No. in which Closing Orders were asked for	...	...	...	9	1	0	1	0	0	1
No. of Closing Orders made	...			9	1	0	1	0	0	1
No. in which defects were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	113	96	41	0	0	9	16
No. made habitable after Closing Orders had been made	...			1	0	0	0	0	0	0

General character of defects—Dampness.

No eaves gutters. No damp course.

Defective roofs, walls and ceilings.

Windows not to open. Dirty walls

and ceilings. Dilapidated privies.

Untrapped drains

No. of houses voluntarily closed	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
----------------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Excluding uninhabitable houses.

No. reported to Council as defective	177	126	44	20	3	3	2
No. of houses the owners of which were asked to remedy defects	177	126	44	20	24	24	31
No. in which defects were remedied in	...	...	...	1913...	113		
"	"	"	"	1914...	44	12	
"	"	"	"	1915...	10	99	41
"	"	"	"	1916...	0	2	2 1
"	"	"	"	1917...	0	4	3 2 20
"	"	"	"	1918...	8	9	0 6 3 3
"	"	"	"	1919...	2	0	0 2 0 0 16

LEOMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT.

I. *General Housing Conditions (for details in parishes see page 123:—*

(1) Total number of houses—2,005.

Working class houses—1,665.

Working class houses erected during 1919, or in course of erection—Nil.

(2) Population—7,596.

Number of parishes—26.

(3) Extent of shortage or excess of houses :—

In no parish is there any excess.

In the following parishes there is shortage :—

Bodenham.	Lucton.
Brimfield.	Luston.
Kimbolton.	Monkland.
Kingsland.	Orleton.
Little Hereford.	Stoke Prior.

Measures taken or contemplated to meet shortage :—

The scheme adopted on October 31st, 1919, provides for the erection of 25 houses within three years.

II. *Overcrowding :—*

(1) Extent—

Number of houses occupied by two families—3.

„ „ „ overcrowded—34.

(2) Causes.—Chiefly lack of houses.

(3) Measures taken or contemplated to deal with overcrowding :—

Erection of new houses.

(4) Number of cases of overcrowding dealt with in 1919—8.

III. *Fitness of Houses :—*

(1) Since 1900 there have been erected fifty-six houses. None have been erected since 1914.

In October, 1919, there were 392 houses needing repair. There are many houses requiring constant repair to keep them habitable.

General character of the defects :—

Defective roofs, walls, ceilings, or floors.

Dampness. No damp course or eaves gutters.

Windows not made to open. Small window openings.

No proper place to store food.

Dirty walls and ceilings.

Dilapidated privies.

Untrapped drains.

Inadequate water supply.

- (2) Action taken as regards unfit houses under
- (a) Public Health Acts—defects remedied in seventy-three instances.
 - (b) Housing Acts.—One case in which defects were remedied without making a Closing Order.
- (3) Difficulties in remedying unfitness :—
- Scarcity of labour and materials.
 - Increased cost of repairs.
- In the case of sub-let houses, difficulty in ascertaining who is responsible for keeping the house fit for habitation.
- (4) Water supply for the most part from wells. There are piped supplies in Hope and part of Eye. At over 600 houses there is no water on the premises ; in 250 instances it has to be carried a distance over 100 yards.
- Closet accommodation is principally of the privy, pit or pail type. In 1919 there were converted to pail closets 26 privies.
- House refuse is disposed of by the householder.

IV. *Unhealthy Areas.*—None.

V. *The only by-laws in force are with respect to hop and fruit pickers.*

NEW HOUSES.

The Leominster Rural Council have appointed as Architects Messrs. Bettington and Son, Hereford. Sites have been approved in the parishes of Bodenham, Brimfield, Kingsland, Luston and Little Hereford. The Council approved the parlour type of house.

LEOMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT.

1919.																	
WORKING CLASS HOUSES.																	
INHABITED HOUSES.																	
POPULATION.																	
1871. 1901. 1911.																	
1871. 1901. 1911. 1919.																	
Total.																	
Bedrooms.																	
2 3 4																	
Parlour.																	
Over-crowded.																	
Two Families																	
Needs repair.																	
Seriously defective.																	
Ashton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bodenham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Brimfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croft	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Docklow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eye ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eyton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ford	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hatfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hope	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hampton Wafer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Humber	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kimbolton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kingsland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laysters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Little Hereford	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Luton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Luston	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Middleton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Monkland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Moreton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Newhampton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Newton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orleton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puddleston	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stoke Prior	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Richards Castle	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yarpole	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	9,823	7,911	7,915	2,113	1,885	1,928	2,005	1,665	820	489	208	579	34	3	340	52	52

Other Houses, 1 Bedroom, etc., 148.

HOUSING.				1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
No. of houses inspected	...	...	...	293	259	38	32	11	48	63
No. considered to be uninhabitable	...	...	...	0	9	0	4	1	0	4
No. in which Closing Orders were asked for	...	...	...	0	9	0	4	1	0	0
No. of Closing Orders made	...	...	...	0	9	0	3	0	0	0
No. in which defects were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	15	25	14	0	0	0	1
No. made habitable after Closing Orders had been made	...	...	...	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
General character of defects—Dampness. No eaves gutters. No damp course. Defective roofs, walls and ceilings. Windows not to open. Dirty walls and ceilings. Dilapidated privies. Untrapped drains.										

No. of houses voluntarily closed	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
----------------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Excluding uninhabitable houses.

No. reported to Council as defective	141	132	27	17	11	35	51
--------------------------------------	-----	-----	----	----	----	----	----

No. of houses the owners of which were asked to remedy defects	...	141	132	27	17	11	35	51
--	-----	-----	-----	----	----	----	----	----

No. in which defects were remedied

in	...	...	...	1913...	15					
"	"	"	"	1914...	75	25				
"	"	"	"	1915...	4	29	14			
"	"	"	"	1916...	10	19	5	0		
"	"	"	"	1917...	0	0	0	0	0	
"	"	"	"	1918...	37	9	8	14	8	5
"	"	"	"	1919...	0	50	0	3	3	9

WEOBLEY RURAL DISTRICT.

I. *General Housing Conditions (for details in parishes see page 127):—*

(1) Total number of houses—1,520.

Working class houses—1,378.

Working class houses erected during 1919, or in course of erection—Nil.

(2) Population—6,019.

Number of parishes—26.

(3) Extent of shortage or excess of houses :—

In no parish is there any excess.

In the following parishes there is shortage :—

Almeley.	Kinnersley.
Bishopstone.	Mansel Gammage.
Blakemere.	Mansel Lacy.
Brinsop.	Moccas.
Byford.	Monnington.
Bridge Sollers.	Norton Canon.
Brobury.	Preston-on-Wye.
Canon Pyon.	Staunton-on-Wye.
Dilwyn.	Weobley.
Eardisland.	Yazor.
King's Pyon.	

Measures taken or contemplated to meet shortage :—

The scheme adopted on March 8th, 1920, provides for the erection of 60 houses, twenty to be erected as early as practicable and forty within three years.

II. *Overcrowding :—*

(1) Extent—

Number of houses occupied by two families—11.

„ „ „ overcrowded—35.

(2) Causes.—Chiefly lack of houses.

(3) Measures taken or contemplated to deal with overcrowding :—

Erection of new houses.

(4) Number of cases of overcrowding dealt with in 1919—Nil.

III. *Fitness of Houses* :—

- (1) Sixty-one houses have been erected since 1900, none since 1914.

In October, 1919, there were 220 houses needing repair. There are many old houses requiring constant attention to keep them habitable.

General character of the defects :—

Defective roofs, walls, ceilings, or floors.

Dampness. No damp course or eaves gutters.

Windows not made to open. Small window openings.

No proper place to store food.

Dirty walls and ceilings.

Dilapidated privies.

Untrapped drains.

Inadequate water supplies.

- (2) Action taken as regards unfit houses under

(a) Public Health Acts—Nil.

(b) Housing Acts.—

- (3) Difficulties in remedying unfitness :—

Scarcity of labour and materials.

Increased cost of repairs.

In the case of sub-let houses, difficulty in ascertaining who is responsible for keeping the house fit for habitation.

- (4) Water supply is principally from wells. There is a piped supply to a limited extent in Letton and Staunton-on-Wye.

Closet accommodation is principally of the privy or pail type. Two privy closets were converted to pail closets in 1919.

House refuse is disposed of by the householder.

IV. *Unhealthy Areas*.—None.

- V. *No building by-laws are in force. By-laws have been adopted with respect to hop and fruit pickers and dwellers in tents, vans and sheds, and with respect to common lodging houses.*

NEW HOUSES.

The Weobley Rural Council appointed Messrs. Bettington and Son, of Hereford, as Architects.

WEOBLEY RURAL DISTRICT.

	POPULATION.			INHABITED HOUSES.				WORKING CLASS HOUSES.							1919.		
	1871.	1901.	1911.	1871.	1901.	1911.	1919.	Total.	Bedrooms.			Parlour.	Over-crowded.	Two Families.		Needs repair.	Seriously defective.
									2	3	4						
Almeley	675	500	476	139	126	127	119	100	52	31	15	43	1	—	—	4	2
Birley	180	211	193	36	43	43	36	35	23	7	5	11	—	—	—	6	—
Bishopstone	231	181	165	57	48	45	39	38	13	17	4	18	—	—	—	9	—
Blakemere	186	154	104	43	32	29	25	22	16	4	2	5	1	—	—	5	—
Brinsop	152	132	135	30	24	28	27	11	6	4	—	—	2	—	—	1	—
Byford	270	168	148	52	41	38	32	24	9	14	1	9	—	1	—	2	—
Bridge Sollers	48	55	47	11	12	13	14	10	5	3	2	5	—	—	—	3	—
Brobury	74	55	54	16	11	12	11	33	13	16	4	16	—	—	—	7	—
Canon Pyon	770	568	575	176	142	143	135	129	75	31	19	43	3	1	—	23	—
Dilwyn	1099	958	956	235	234	229	175	160	84	42	30	57	5	2	—	28	—
Eardisland	886	470	508	199	122	128	159	147	64	51	32	83	5	2	—	23	—
Kings Pyon	471	439	385	103	96	87	92	85	43	32	8	27	3	—	—	14	—
Kinnersley	356	246	242	68	60	58	57	50	20	22	8	33	1	—	—	6	—
Letton	241	158	146	51	39	38	40	37	21	11	3	10	2	—	—	5	—
Mansel Gammage	164	96	116	29	26	24	22	19	5	14	—	10	1	1	—	1	—
" Lacy	263	193	201	67	47	49	44	46	23	18	5	20	1	—	—	9	—
Moccas	216	171	197	42	39	37	37	35	20	10	4	13	2	—	—	8	—
Monnington	102	83	75	21	18	17	16	14	9	5	—	5	—	—	—	2	—
Norton Canon	317	251	245	71	65	63	60	53	24	18	11	29	1	—	—	8	—
Preston-on-Wye	284	203	185	62	52	48	47	54	18	21	15	33	—	—	—	5	—
Staunton-on-Wye	637	520	457	145	134	125	112	19	12	7	—	11	6	1	—	2	—
Sarnesfield	114	92	117	26	19	23	24	90	44	23	7	23	—	—	—	25	1
Stretford	41	34	35	9	7	7	7	4	3	1	—	2	—	—	—	3	—
Weobley	932	753	702	171	162	157	142	123	46	52	25	76	—	3	—	10	1
Wormsley	87	81	57	18	17	15	11	8	5	2	1	3	1	—	—	2	—
Yazor	235	179	178	47	38	40	37	32	15	15	2	12	—	—	—	5	—
	9,031	6,951	6,699	1,924	1,654	1,623	1,520	1,378	668	471	203	597	35	11	216	4	

Other Houses, 1 Bedroom, etc., 36.

HOUSING.				1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
No. of houses inspected	...	...	...	177	64	2	0	1	0	1
No. considered to be uninhabitable				3	3	0	0	0	0	0
No. in which Closing Orders were asked for	...	...	...	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
No. of Closing Orders made			...	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
No. in which defects were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	58	16	2	0	1	0	1
No. made habitable after Closing Orders had been made			...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

General character of defects—Dampness.

No eaves gutters. No damp course.

Defective roofs, walls and ceilings.

Windows not to open. Dirty walls

and ceilings. Dilapidated privies.

Untrapped drains.

No. of houses voluntarily closed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Excluding uninhabitable houses.

No. reported to Council as defective	151	58	2	0	0	0	0
--------------------------------------	-----	----	---	---	---	---	---

No. of houses the owners of which were asked to remedy defects	...	151	58	2	0	0	0	0
--	-----	-----	----	---	---	---	---	---

No. in which defects were remedied

in	...	...	...	1913...	58					
"	"	"	"	1914...	27	16				
"	"	"	"	1915...	39	2	2			
"	"	"	"	1916...	0	0	0	0		
"	"	"	"	1917...	0	0	0	0	0	
"	"	"	"	1918...	0	0	0	0	0	0
"	"	"	"	1919...	0	0	0	0	0	1

BROMYARD URBAN DISTRICT.

I. *General Housing Conditions.*

- (1) Total number of houses—432.

Working class houses—310.

Working class houses erected during 1919, or in course of erection—Nil.

- (2) Population—1,598.

- (3) Extent of shortage or excess of houses :—

There are many houses that would not be occupied if better were available. There is a shortage of at least 60 houses.

Measures taken or contemplated to meet shortage :—

The scheme adopted on October 29th, 1919, provides for the erection of 12 houses within one year.

II. *Overcrowding* :—

- (1) Extent—

Number of houses occupied by two families—4.

" " " overcrowded—43.

- (2) Causes.—Lack of houses.

- (3) Measures taken or contemplated to deal with overcrowding :—

Erection of new houses.

- (4) Number of cases of overcrowding dealt with in 1919—Nil.

III. *Fitness of Houses* :—

- (1) There are many well-built brick houses in the town, but there are some 50 or 60 which require constant repair to keep them habitable.

In October, 1919, there were reported 72 houses as needing repair. Eight houses occupied by 21 persons are not and cannot be made fit for habitation.

General character of the defects :—

Defective roofs, walls, ceilings, or floors.

Dampness. No damp course or eaves gutters.

Windows not made to open and window openings too small.

No proper place to store food.

Dirty walls and ceilings.

Dilapidated privies.

Untrapped drains.

- (2) Action taken as regards unfit houses under
- (a) Public Health Acts—Nil.
 - (b) Housing Acts.—The owners of 19 houses were asked to remedy defects and complied in ten instances.
- (3) Difficulties in remedying unfitness :—
- Scarcity of labour and materials.
 - Increased cost of repairs.
- (4) Water supply. There is a piped supply to most houses. Closet accommodation. About 250 houses have water-closets, about 100 privies and the remainder pail closets. A portion of the town is sewerred.

House refuse is removed weekly at the cost of the public.

IV. *Unhealthy Areas :—*

The Medical Officer of Health is considering the question of representing as an unhealthy area the district bounded on the East by Milvern Lane, the West by Ballhurst Farm, and the South by Sheep Street. About 30 houses are involved.

- V. *By-laws are in force in the town with respect to the cleansing of footways and pavements; the removal of house refuse; the cleansing of earth-closets, privies and ashpits; nuisances; slaughter-houses; common lodging-houses, and new streets and buildings.*

Industries—Agriculture and Fruit Pulping.

Rentals of working class houses—2/6 to 4/6 weekly.

A scheme for the provision of 12 houses under Section 1 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919, was adopted by the Urban Council on 29th October, 1919. A revised scheme for 40 houses was adopted on 26th March, 1920.

The Council appointed their Surveyor, Mr. T. Barrs, to prepare plans, &c. A site for 12 houses has been approved.

At the survey made in October, 1919, there were recorded 131 working class houses with only two bedrooms, 157 with only three, and 18 with four. There were 151 houses with parlours. There were 43 houses (occupied by 255 persons), which were over-crowded. There were no empty habitable houses.

BROMYARD URBAN DISTRICT.

131

HOUSING.				1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
No. of houses inspected	...	...	...	25	35	7	2	1	1	310
No. considered to be uninhabitable				3	1	0	1	0	1	8
No. in which Closing Orders were asked for	...	...	...	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
No. of Closing Orders made	...			3	1	0	0	0	0	0
No. in which defects were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	0	0	0	3	1	0	0
No. made habitable after Closing Orders had been made	...			1	1	0	0	0	0	0

General character of defects—Dampness

No eaves gutters. No damp course.

Defective roofs, walls and ceilings.

Windows not to open. Dirty walls

and ceilings. Dilapidated privies.

Untrapped drains.

No. of houses voluntarily closed	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
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Excluding uninhabitable houses.

No. reported to Council as defective	24	35	3	1	1	0	12
--------------------------------------	----	----	---	---	---	---	----

No. of houses the owners of which were asked to remedy defects	24	30	3	8	1	0	19
--	----	----	---	---	---	---	----

No. in which defects were remedied in	...	...	...	1913...	0					
"	"	"	"	1914...	8	6				
"	"	"	"	1915...	1	4	3			
"	"	"	"	1916...	2	0	0	1		
"	"	"	"	1917...	0	0	0	0	1	
"	"	"	"	1918...	0	0	0	0	0	0
"	"	"	"	1919...	0	0	0	0	0	10

No. of occupied houses in 1919	417
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No. of w.c.'s attached	249
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No. of pail closets attached	64
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No. of privies attached	80
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Housing, Town Planning &c., Act, 1919.

FORM OF SURVEY OF HOUSING NEEDS. SECTION I.—PREVAILING CONDITIONS AFFECTING SHORTAGE OF HOUSES.

RURAL DISTRICT	Bromyard.	Dore.	Hereford.	Ledbury.	Leominster.	Weobley.
1. Staple Industries	Agriculture	Agriculture	Agriculture Munitions	Agriculture	Agriculture	Agriculture
2. Anticipated Industrial development	None.	None.	Munitions	Quarrying, Jam, Cheese making.	None.	None.
3. Anticipated decrease of employed persons	Yes.	None.	None.	—	None.	None.
4. Population, 1914	7504	6410	13704	9056	7915	6624
5. Average annual increase, 1909—1913	Decrease.	Decrease.	33	10	0	Decrease.
6. Present Population	6796	5515	11649	7958	6457	5738
7. Anticipated increase or decrease due to Industrial changes	Decrease.	0	0	100	0	0
EXISTING HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.						
8. Number	1864	1535	2953	2077	1927	1626
9. No. of types in 15 below	1775	1235	2353	1592	1590	1378
10. Average yearly No. of working class houses built, 1909—1913	4	3	10	13	5	5
11. No. built, 1915—1918	0	0	0	0	0	0
12. No. of empty buildings which might be— (a) made suitable by repairs or alterations for housing working classes (b) converted into flats	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
OVERCROWDING—						
13. Tenements with more than two occupants per room— No. of Tenements No. of Occupiers	24 196	20 130	55 384	54 416	34 238	35 282
14. No. of houses intended for one family, now occupied by two or more	20	7	45	8	3	11
15. PREVAILING RENTS— (a) With Living-room, Scullery and two Bedrooms (b) With Living-room, Scullery and three Bedrooms (c) With Parlour, Living-room, Scullery and two Bedrooms (d) With Parlour, Living-room, Scullery and three Bedrooms (e) With Parlour, Living-room, Scullery and four Bedrooms (f) Tenements in block dwellings (g) Other working-class dwellings	2/- 2/6 3/- 3/6 4/-	2/- 2/6 2/- 2/6 3/-	2/6 3/- 3/- 3/6 4/-	2/6 3/- 3/- 3/6 5/-	2/- 2/6 3/- 3/6 5/-	2/- 3/- 3/- 3/6 5/-

SECTION II.—ESTIMATE OF HOUSING NEEDS.

	Bromyard.	Dore.	Hereford.	Ledbury.	Leominster.	Weobley.
	No. of Houses.	No. of Houses.	No. of Houses.	No. of Houses.	No. of Houses.	No. of Houses.
1. Working Class Houses required during the next 3 years to						
(a) meet the unsatisfied demands for houses (taking account of growth of population, overcrowding, &c.) ...	0	20	80	20	0	60
(b) re-house persons to be displaced by the clearance of unhealthy areas ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
(c) re-place other dwellings which are unfit for human habitations and cannot be made fit ...	18	16	25	6	5	0
(d) re-place obstructive or other buildings now inhabited and not included under heading (c) which should be demolished ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
(e) re-place other houses which, although they cannot at present be regarded as unfit for human habitation, fall definitely below a reasonable standard ...	8	0	35	62	20	0
(f) meet anticipated deficiencies, e.g., arising from new industrial development ...	0	0	60	20	0	0
	26	36	200	108	25	60
2. Deduct—						
(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 ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) working-class houses likely to be built during the next three years by persons other than the local authority...	0	0	0	0	0	0
NET ESTIMATE OF HOUSES REQUIRED ...	26	36	200	108	25	14

SECTION IV.—INSANITARY HOUSES (OTHER THAN HOUSES IN UNHEALTHY AREAS OF WHICH PARTICULARS ARE GIVEN IN SECTION III).

PREVAILING CONDITIONS.	Bromyard.	Dore.	Hereford.	Ledbury.	Leominster.	Weobley.
(1) How many inhabited houses are there in the district which are not and cannot be made fit for human habitation	0	0	1	6	0	0
(2) Number of persons inhabiting these houses ...	0	0	2	35	0	0
(3) How many houses are already subject to—						
(a) Closing Orders ...	0	0	0	0	0	3
(b) Demolition Orders ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
(4) How many houses are seriously defective but can be made habitable ...	47	30	73	61	5	16
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 ...	Action under Housing Acts.	Proceedings under Housing Acts where necessary	Proceedings under Housing Acts where necessary	Proceedings under Housing Acts when other houses are available.	Proceedings under Housing Regulations where necessary	Not Applicable
(b) Houses which are seriously defective but can be made habitable ...	Action under Housing Acts	Proceedings under Housing Acts where necessary	Proceedings under Housing Acts where necessary.	Repairing notices are being served and will be enforced	Proceedings under Housing Acts.	Are being dealt with under Housing Acts.
(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 ...	One year.	Three years.		One year.	18 months.	

SECTION VI.—SCHEME OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILS FOR THE PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES UNDER SECTION I. OF THE HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING &c. ACT, 1919.

The Scheme should include any proposals which have already been submitted for approval as assisted Schemes.

	Bromyard.	Dore.	Hereford.	Ledbury.	Leominster.	Weobley.
1. Approximate number of new houses to be provided under (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g). See Sec. I, 15, above ...	26	36	200	108	25	60
2. Approximate number of existing houses to be acquired and (i) made suitable for housing the working classes ...	1	0	10	0	15	0
(ii) converted into flats for the working classes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Approximate number of families to be housed under (i) and (ii) ...	1	0	10	0	15	0
3. Approximate acreage of land to be acquired ...	7	8	50	20	4	15
4. Average number of houses per acre ...	4	4	4	6	8	4
5. Approximate localities in which land is to be acquired ...	See below.	See below.	See below.	See below.	See below.	See below.
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 ...	Two years.	1922.	July, 1922.	Three years.	Three years.	20 as Early as practicable, 40 within 3 years.
7. Particulars of any measure necessary, as part of the scheme, for the preservation of existing erections of architectural, historic or artistic interest, or for the preservation of the natural amenities of the locality ...	None.	None.	None.	None.	None.	None.
8. Any other provisions (including provisions for joint action with any other local authority) ...	None.	None.	None.	None.	None.	None.
9. Is it anticipated that the scheme may subsequently be required to be amended ...	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	None.
If so, any relevant considerations should be stated ...	0	Number and type of houses and Localities	Number and type of houses and Localities	Only to the extent of increasing the No. of houses if required	Number and type of houses and Localities.	—
The above scheme was adopted by the Council at a meeting of the Council held on the ...	30 Oct., 1919.	3 Nov., 1919.	15 Nov., 1919.	18 Nov., 1919.	31 Oct., 1919.	8 March, 1920.

BROMYARD.—Much Cowarne, Felton, Stoke Lacy.
DORE.—Abbeydore, Ewias Harold, Kentchurch, St. Margarets.

HEREFORD.—Allensmore, Breinton, Birch, Much, Burghill, Callow, Dewsal, Dewchurch, Much, Dewchurch, Little, Pownhope, Hampton Bishop, Haywood, Holme Lacy, Holmer, Lugwardine, Marden, Mordiford, Preston Wynne, Stretton Sugwas, Sutton, Wellington, Westhide, Weston Beggard, Withington.
LEDGBURY.—Ashperton, Aylton, Bosbury, Canon Froome, Coddington, Colwall, Eastnor, Eggleton, Ledbury, Marcle, Little, Marcle, Much, Munsley, Pixley, Putley, Stretton Grandison, Tarrington, Wellington Heath, Woolhope, Yarkhill.

LEOMINSTER.—Kingsland, Brimfield, Luston, Little Hereford.
WEOBLEY.—Canon Pyon, Dilwyn, Eardisland, Monington-on-Wye, Preston-on-Wye, Weobley, Yazor, Almeley Bishopstone, Blakemere, Kinnersley, Norton Canon, Staunton-on-Wye.

