

# Stanton Water Tower

## Introduction

Until the 1930s, most Nottinghamshire villages south of the River Trent were supplied from Nottingham's reservoirs and water mains. However, from a point beyond Plumtree railway station the ground levels rise considerably. To ensure an a reliable water supply to the Wolds villages it became necessary to erect a water tower (opposite Stanton Parish Church) and construct an associated pumping station near Plumtree railway station to pump sufficient water to the storage tank at the top of the tower.

## Construction



The Water Committee which was formed to oversee the project were justifiably proud of their one and only water tower. It had been constructed to the design of the Water Engineer and embodied all the latest ideas. For example, there was an indicator at the base of the tower showing the quantity of water in the tank.

The tower structure weighed 700 tons and was capable of bearing 360 tons of water, giving a total weight of 1060 tons. The height of the tower to the transmitter house floor was 78½ feet above ground level and to the top of the flag staff was 97½ feet.

It was built of reinforced concrete and had a capacity of over 80,000 gallons. Its diameter was 33½ feet and the depth of the water was 15 feet when the tank was full. The pump house and water tower were constructed by Mr John Cawley, contractor of Nottingham.

A spiral structure of 115 steps lead to the summit through a shaft in the centre of the tanks. In order to ensure a firm foundation, a borehole was sunk to the depth of 90 feet where an excellent foundation was located.

It was planned to hide the tower from the road by planting a shrubbery parallel to the road, followed by a row of 20 beech trees. A circle of 21 poplar trees were planted around the perimeter of the tower itself. The plan also shows an orchard of 55 apple trees beyond the tower, the whole site being surrounded with a wrought iron fence.

## Pumping Station

The level in the water tower tank was transmitted electrically to the pumping station at Normanton.

The booster pumps were electrically driven and had a capacity of 6,000 gallons an hour and; they worked automatically to come into action at pre-determined water levels.

One of the interesting points about the Normanton pumping station was that there was no possibility of a burst should the valve be closed when the motor is set in action. The machinery simply rotated in the water and churned it about vigorously. The whole of the equipment was duplicated and contained in a remarkably small building.

## Opening

The opening of Stanton Water Tower was reported in the Nottingham Guardian dated 26th June 1923 as follows:

**Nottingham's First Tower Opened:** with an inscribed gold key presented to him by the Nottingham Water Engineer, Mr F. W. Davies, Alderman A. R. Atkey chairman of the water committee, yesterday formally opened the handsome water tower erected at Stanton on the Wolds for the provision of a supply to the high-lying villages of Stanton, Keyworth and Normanton on the Wolds.

Prior to performing this ceremony in the presence of members of the committee and officials, Alderman Atkey formally unlocked the door of the booster pumping station at Normanton on the Wolds which is associated with the tower.



Alderman A. R. Atkey, chairman of the Water Committee, unlocks the door of the pumping station.



A fine view from here!

Mr F. W. Davies, the City Water Engineer, explaining the scheme to members of the Water Committee from the top of the tower.

Alderman Atkey, who is holding his hat, is standing to the right of Mr Davies.

## Demolition



The water tower stood for 52 years being finally demolished in 1985 leaving a surrounding circle of Poplar trees as its memorial.

This image kindly reproduced from the Martin Danielson collection.

The site of the water tower (near the bend in Browns Lane) is readily visible from the air by the circle of poplar trees that were planted to surround it (circled below):



And a close-up view:



## Update...

The council has recently received two new photos showing the demolition of the water tower. These were provided by Richard Butler and taken by his father, the late Roy Butler, a Stanton resident of long standing.



(I'm not sure I would have left my car there!)