

HAGLEY SEWAGE WORKS

Prior to 1904 in Hagley there was no piped sewage disposal or treatment and people had to make their own arrangements.

The 1838 Tithe map shows the site of the sewage works as 'Boggy Meadow' (aptly named) and clearly shows a track from Kidderminster Road leading through Boggy Meadow to meet Brake Lane (Sweetpool Lane and the footpath across the railway line). The meadow was then owned by John Bate Cardale and farmed by Amelia Sparry of Spout Farm.

Disposal Works were first constructed on a site (north of the track) in 1904: 'these consisted of a detritus and screening chamber, duplicate covered septic tanks, duplicate bacteria beds and an under drained area over which the effluent percolated before discharge to the Gallows Brook.'

The works were enlarged in 1927 by adding 'a second detritus and screening chamber, an upward flow sedimentation tank, storm water tanks and an additional bacteria bed'.

In 1957-59 the 1904 works were demolished and the 1927 works were decommissioned to make way for the works as shown on the plan.

The works were constructed to treat 145,000 gallons per day based on a water consumption of 40 gallons per head per day (which seems a lot to us) and catered for an estimated future population of 4,200. The works were built with space for considerable enlargement.

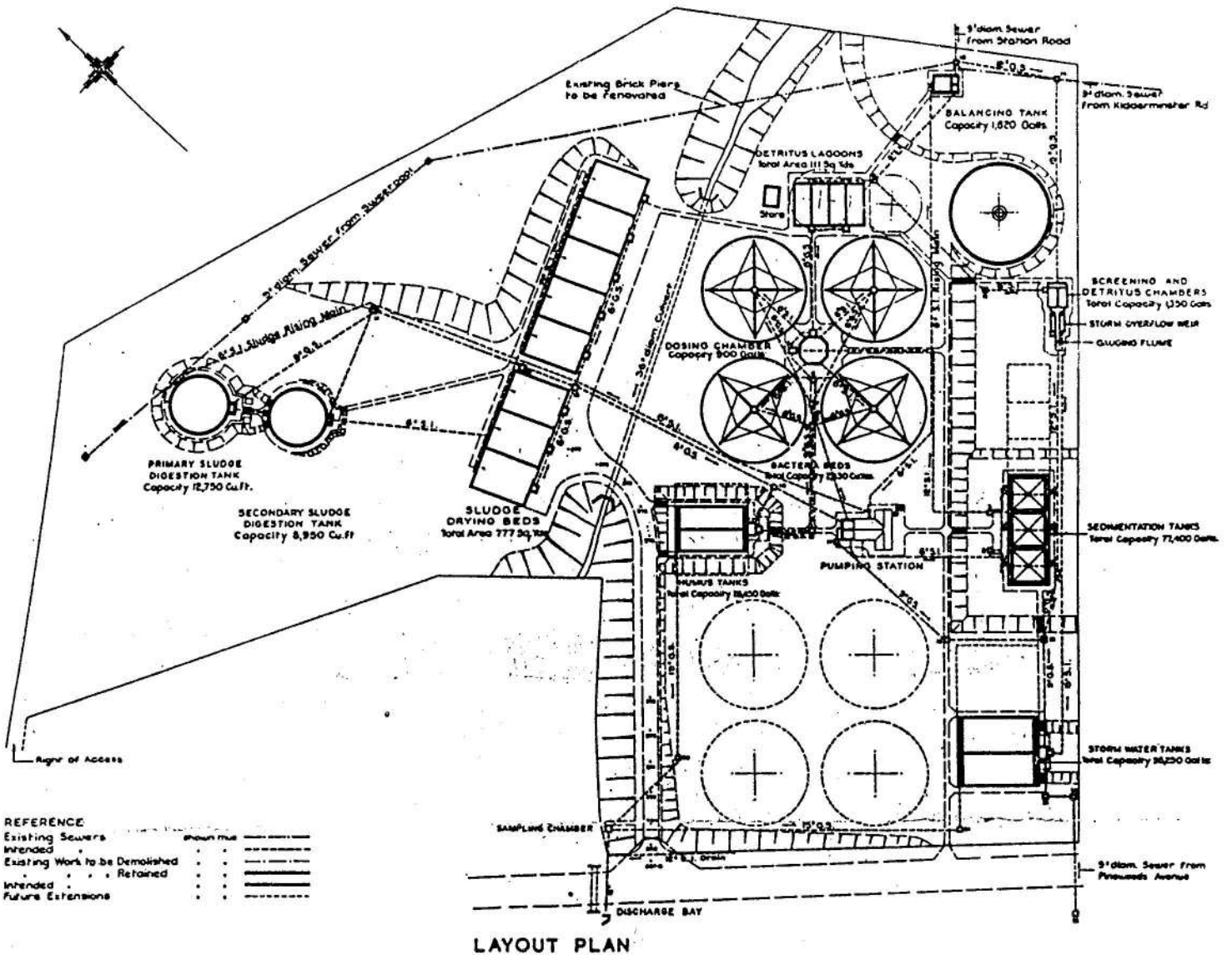
Sewage gravitates from four areas, Sweetpool Lane, Station Road, Kidderminster Road and a new sewer put in from Pinewoods. Obviously each of these pipes has smaller pipes flowing into it.

The Contractors, George Law Ltd., of Kidderminster, started the project in October 1957 for a contract price of £66,125 which was increased by £5,450 to build the sewer to Pinewoods. The latter may have been increased because they hit very hard rock (more of this later!). It was completed on time. The new works were put into partial operation on 8th April and opened on 19th November 1959.

In 1999 a new project was started to concentrate all of the sewage treatment in a new, state of the art, works at Roundhill, Stourbridge. Thus Severn Trent have a main centre with self-operating pumping stations instead of having separate satellite sewage works. Operating costs are reduced because fewer personnel are needed.



Two of the four bacteria beds



The Contractors, Tricon of Worcester, started the project on the 14th June 1999 for a contract price of £1.4 million. The cost of drilling under the railway was about £18,000. The man in charge of that drilling was a 74 year old Canadian. Even the modern drilling equipment (arbour drill) was blunted by the extremely hard rock on the sewage works side of the railway so there they had to excavate instead. The work was finished in March 2000 on time. The site agent, Mark Fothergill, has given help and co-operation to enable us to record the work as it progressed.

Two pipes were buried at an average depth of 1.5 metres (between 1m and 5m depth according to the terrain) for the 5,200 metres (3.23 miles) between the site and Roundhill. The pipes were heat fused by a special system which has been strenuously tested by an independent firm. The larger, 355mm (14 inch) inside diameter pipe carries the effluent and the smaller 250mm (10 inch) inside diameter pipe brings back the treated water to discharge into the Gallows Brook, thus maintaining the river system in its present condition. Because of the hilly ground there are six air vents on the high ground and five washout chambers in the valleys. The air vents are automatically operated and the washout chambers manually operated.

A new pumping station has been built on the site. This contains the main well (8m deep) and an overflow well (3m deep) containing three pumps. Two pumps work alternately with one on standby. There are provisions for storm water in a holding tank (10m long and 6m wide), overflow weir facilities have been made from this into an overflow chamber to discharge into the brook. An odour control system has been put in by a company called C.S.O. (let's hope this works!).

There is a control panel to operate the system, which will be monitored at Roundhill. The effluent is measured at Hagley and Roundhill to ensure there are no stoppages or leaks. Hagley is now an unmanned site with occasional checks.

The Contractors were responsible for demolishing the old works and clearing the site in the year **2000**.



Pumping Station and Sedimentation Beds



*New pipe line from Palmers Hill
looking back to old sewage works*