

## THE UNDERCLIFF WATERWORKS

EXTRACT from an Indenture dated 14.8.1847 in Folkestone Library and copy of the attached plan.

This Indenture dated 14.8.1847 between Rev. Rawdon Griffith Greene of Sandgate and Benjamin Harman of Sandgate Builder... R.G. Greene the owner in feu of freehold land and premises called the Undercliff Estate... there are springs rising in the upper portion of the land of the said R.G. Greene the water from which is collected by and flows through drains constructed by the said R.G. Greene and ultimately flows into the brick drain marked A on the said Plan which drain runs under land of the said R.G. Greene demised to James Foster Esq. and at the mouth of the said drain marked on the said Plan with the letter B the stream of water formerly all passed off the land of the said R.G. Greene flowing into the adjoining land in a southerly direction and whereas a few years since \* the said Edward Thompson with the permission of the said R.G. Greene constructed a tank on the land of the said R.G. Greene which tank is marked C on the said Plan and by means of an underground drain laid down by the said Edward Thompson running from B to C conducted part of the water flowing through the aforementioned brick drain into the said tank thence by means of iron pipes also laid down by the said Edward Thompson under the land of the said R.G. Greene and under the occupation road through part of the same and the highway as shown in the said Plan carried the water collected in the said tank down to the said land and premises of the said Edward Thompson for the use of himself or his tenants or occupiers of his houses...

\* Note. This Indenture refers to an earlier agreement dated May, 1845 with Edward Thompson in which Thompson was to lay an underground drain from B to C and iron pipes from C down the Undercliff and along the High Street, and which contained powers to permit others to use Thompson's pipes.

The mouth of pipe A, junction B and tank C were all still there in 1968. Tank C is in the bank on the north side of the Undercliff carriage way due north of No. 21, the Crescent. (Grid Ref. TR 2032 3526). Junction B lies about 20m west inside gate to the road below south side of houses and to the south of that road.

Peto had a major contract on the building of the South Eastern Railway in 1844 and was considered as second only to Brassey as one of the greatest of railway contractors. His father's firm, Grissell & Peto, built many important buildings in London including the Nelson Column in 1843.

Rammell 1849 pages 18 & 19 mention the Undercliff Water Works.

Boy Hill,  
Encombe,  
Sandgate.

A. TODD.  
September, 1980.

The original reservoir of the former Sandgate Water Undertaking at Cliff Road, Hythe, showing decorative obelisk and access manhole.

# Sandgate Reservoir Going After More Than 100 Years

## The Site To Be Sold

WATER ceased to flow on Friday last week into the original reservoir of Sandgate Water Undertaking, in use continuously since about 1855. The reservoir adjoins Cliff Road, Seabrook, Hythe.

Five years earlier, in 1850, Folkestone Waterworks Company had completed laying their trunk main from Cherry Garden to Folkestone Town Hall, thence along Sandgate Road, as far as the Fleur-de-lis Inn at the junction with Military Road.

### TWO SPRINGS

Sandgate Urban District Council, however, wished to have an independent municipally controlled water supply to their area, and succeeded in acquiring two springs known as the Upper and Lower Honeywood Springs.

These issue from the ragstone escarpment of the "Hythe Beds" of Lower Greensand at Seabrook, at distances of approximately 650 yards and 250 yards west of the Fountain Hotel.

No sooner had the springs been acquired than the South Eastern Railway obtained powers to construct their branch line from Sandling Junction to Sandgate, and chose an alignment passing immediately south of both spring heads.

A short length of tunnel, lined with brick, was constructed at each spring to receive the water, the roofs being a few feet below the level of the permanent way and only just clear of its north side.

A small covered reservoir was built to receive the water from the upper spring. Its floor level was at about 70ft. above sea level, and its south end was decorated by an obelisk with a memorial tablet long since illegible.

### FILLED EACH NIGHT

The reservoir filled up each night and water gravitated from it down a 6in. pipeline to Seabrook Road, thence along the Esplanade furnishing supplies to the houses adjoining that road.

Owing to the low level of the reservoir, however, only houses near the sea could be supplied. This arrangement continued for about 60 years.

In December, 1901, an agreement was concluded by which Folkestone Waterworks Company furnished a supply from their main to Shorncliffe Lodge, residence of Sir Edward Sassoon, M.P. for the Hythe Parliamentary Borough, and to other houses at Undercliff.

In June, 1902, a supplementary agreement was concluded by which water from the

reservoir received the water from both the upper and lower springs, amounting, in a normal summer, to 40,000 gallons per day.

There were twin pumping sets, each consisting of a three-throw reciprocating pump by Tangye, driven through a flat leather belt by a Ruston pump starting oil engine. Either set could deliver 8,000 gallons per hour to a reservoir of 135,000 gallons capacity, 220ft. above sea level, which was built at the southern edge of Shorncliffe Camp above Encombe. This reservoir was high enough

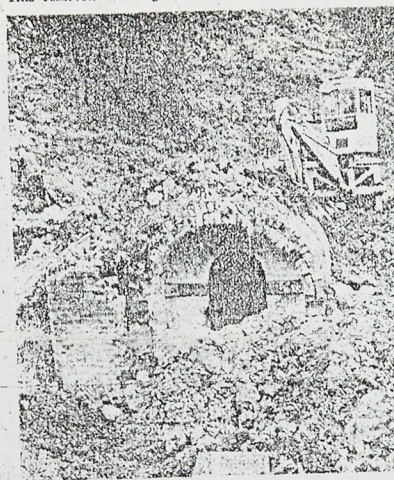
Hythe, in which area they are situated.

The Kent Water Act made the Company responsible for maintaining communication pipes which run from the mains to the boundaries of private premises.

The Company adopted the policy of renewing any pipes found to be of sufficient strength, and have now renewed the greater part of the communication pipes in the Sandgate area. This has made a significant reduction in the consumption of water.

Two modern centrifugal pumps, which run unattended, have replaced the Tangye pumps, and they now deliver the water westward into the mains taken over from Hythe Corporation and balanced from Saltwood reservoir.

A pipe has been laid to bring



All that remained last Tuesday of the house containing the gauging weir at the Upper Honeywood Springs of the former Sandgate Water Undertaking. The man on the left is repairing the manhole giving access to the tunnel into which the springs issue. These will remain in use.

ough to supply the whole of Sandgate as then existing. Unfortunately, many of the communication pipes from the mains to the houses were of insufficient strength to withstand the increased pressure of water from the high-level reservoir and bursts were frequent.

In 1934 the Kent Reservoirs Order transferred to Folkestone Corporation nearly all the area of the former Sandgate W.D.C. together with the

### ACROSS THE FLOOR

The original reservoir ceased to be used for balancing 50 years ago, when the Sandgate Pumping Station came into use, but since that time water has been flowing across the floor of the low-level reservoir.

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Folkestone Herald 22.2.64

FEBRUARY 23 1964

HERALD

ORKS.



# Now-Today!

The Corporation, to prevent pollution, quickly acquired land in the vicinity of the springs by compulsory purchase. They also electrified the pumping plant.

The Kent Water Act transferred to Folkestone and District Water Company, as from April, 1956, the Sandgate Water Undertaking, together with Hythe Corporation Water Undertaking.

In November, 1958, however, a serious landslide took place in the lands of Encombe, and the middle of the high-level reservoir subsided, causing cracks to open in the floor and walls.

The reservoir could not be used until extensively repaired, and there remained the fact that the site was unstable and that further subsidence might take place.

The reservoir was, therefore, taken out of supply, and since that time the Sandgate area has received water entirely from Folkestone through the 6in. main which was completed in 1850.

An automatic valve on Sandgate Hill regulates the pressure so as to keep it at about its former figure.

The Sandgate area is now supplied entirely from Polkston, and Sandgate sources of supply are now used entirely for

Recent investigations have shown that the water feeding the Upper and Lower Honeywood Springs comes generally from the north, and that more than half the area bought for protective purposes by Polkstone Corporation in 1934 can safely be used for building development.

Small areas around the springs are being kept for protective purposes, but the remainder of this land, including the site of the original reservoir, is being sold, and building has already started at the eastern end adjoining Naildown Road.

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COKESTONE. HYTHE, SANDGATE, AND CHERITON HERAL

SANDGATE'S NEW WATERWORKS