

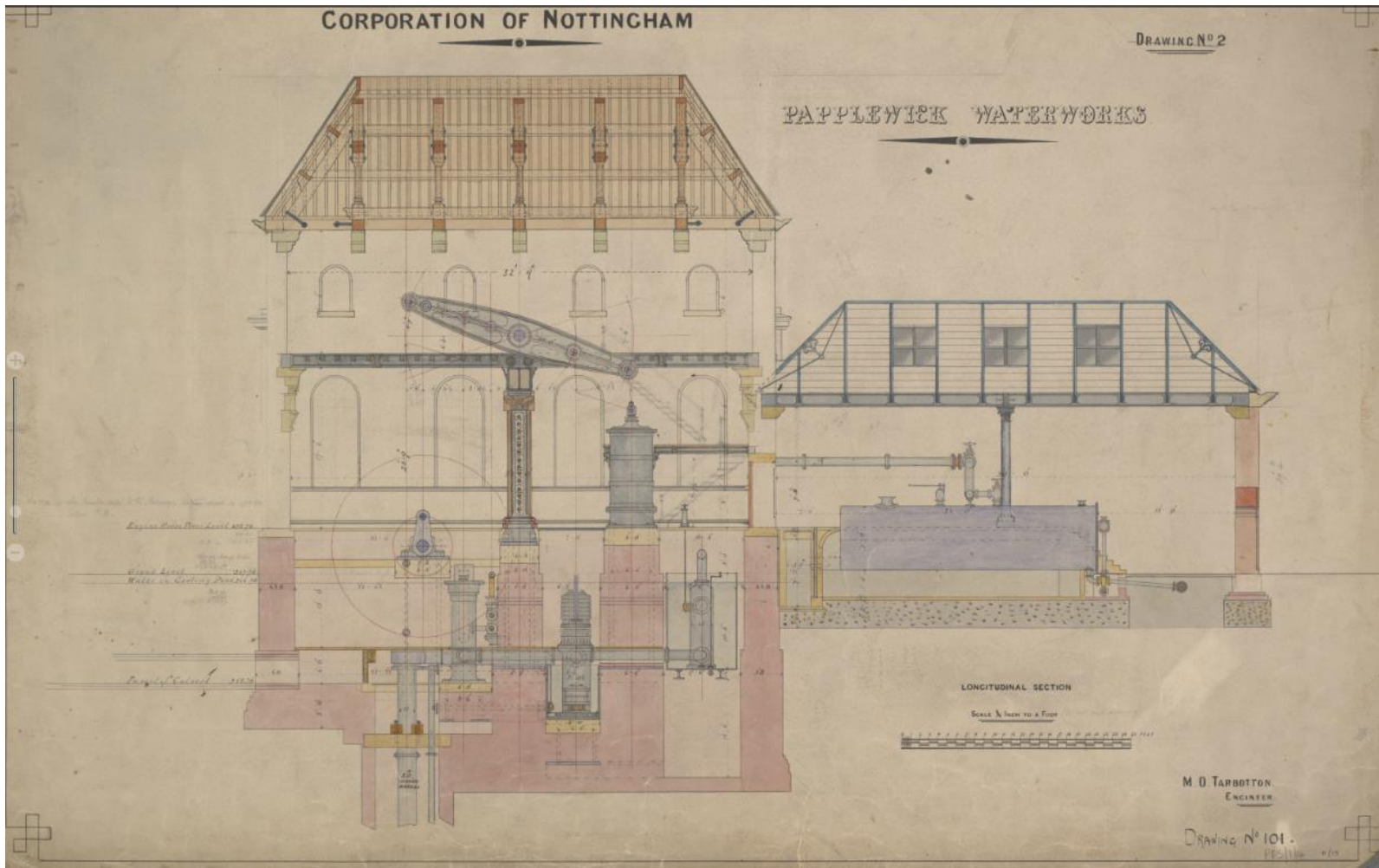
Papplewick Pumping Station

This year sees the 10th anniversary of the re-opening of the only surviving working Victorian pumping station in the Midlands, Papplewick Pumping Station.

In 1879, a reservoir was built near to the Nottinghamshire village of Papplewick to store water from Bestwood Waterworks to cope with demand from the rapidly-expanding population of Nottingham. In 1884, the construction of Papplewick Pumping Station on land near the reservoir was completed. It was designed by Marriott Ogle Tarbotton, former Borough Surveyor and Engineer for Nottingham. The station was driven by two beam engines made by James Watt and Co. which pumped 1.5 million gallons of water per engine per year, to approximately 200,000 people and businesses.

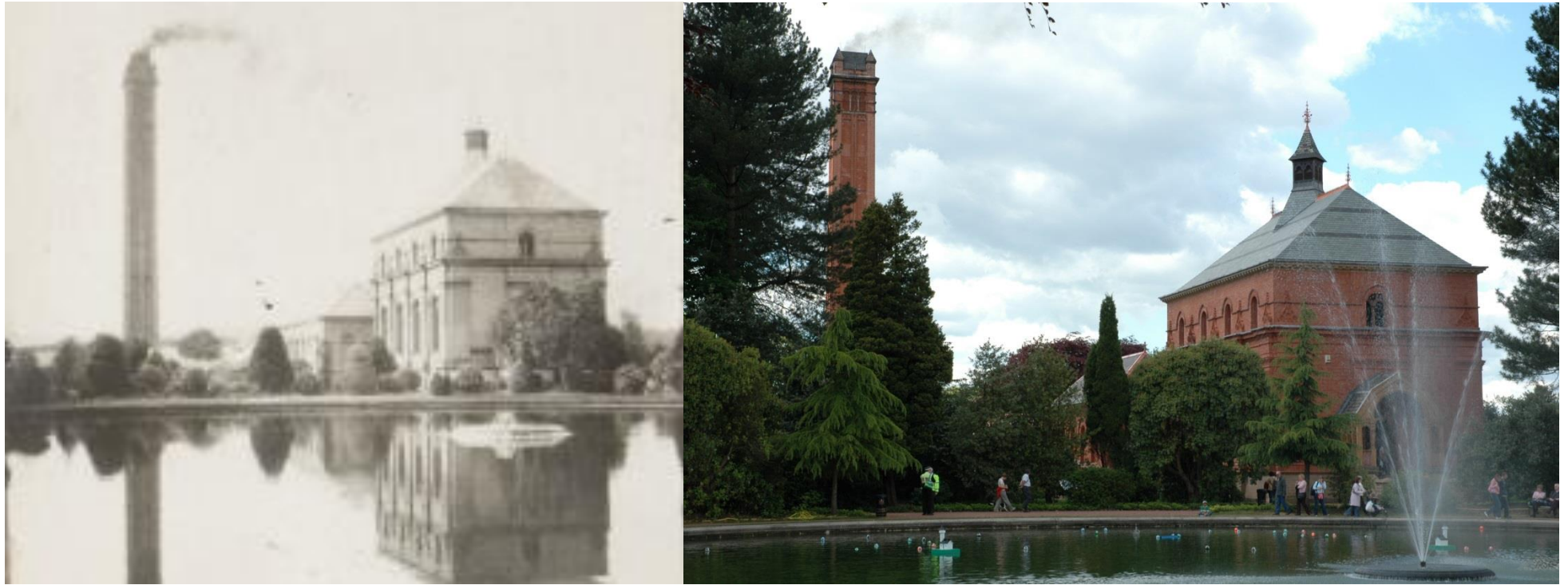
Each beam engine cost about £5,500, including installation, which was a significant portion of the whole construction cost of about £55,000 (equivalent to £4.5 million today). The pumping station required over 5 tons of coal a day to run.

Business archives held at the University of Nottingham include the local heritage of lace-making and textiles, as well as an excellent collection of water and drainage related records, many of which were deposited by Severn Trent Water Authority. The papers held in the Water-Related Collections include minutes, files, maps, plans, blueprints, and photographs relating to rivers, drainage, hydrology, water supply and sewerage. More information about all of our collections, as well as resources explaining how to understand and use historical records can be found on the website of Manuscripts and Special Collections: www.nottingham.ac.uk/mss.



Longitudinal section of Papplewick Pumping Station engine house and boiler house showing beam engines, drawn by M.O. Tarbotton, Engineer, for Nottingham Corporation, c.1883

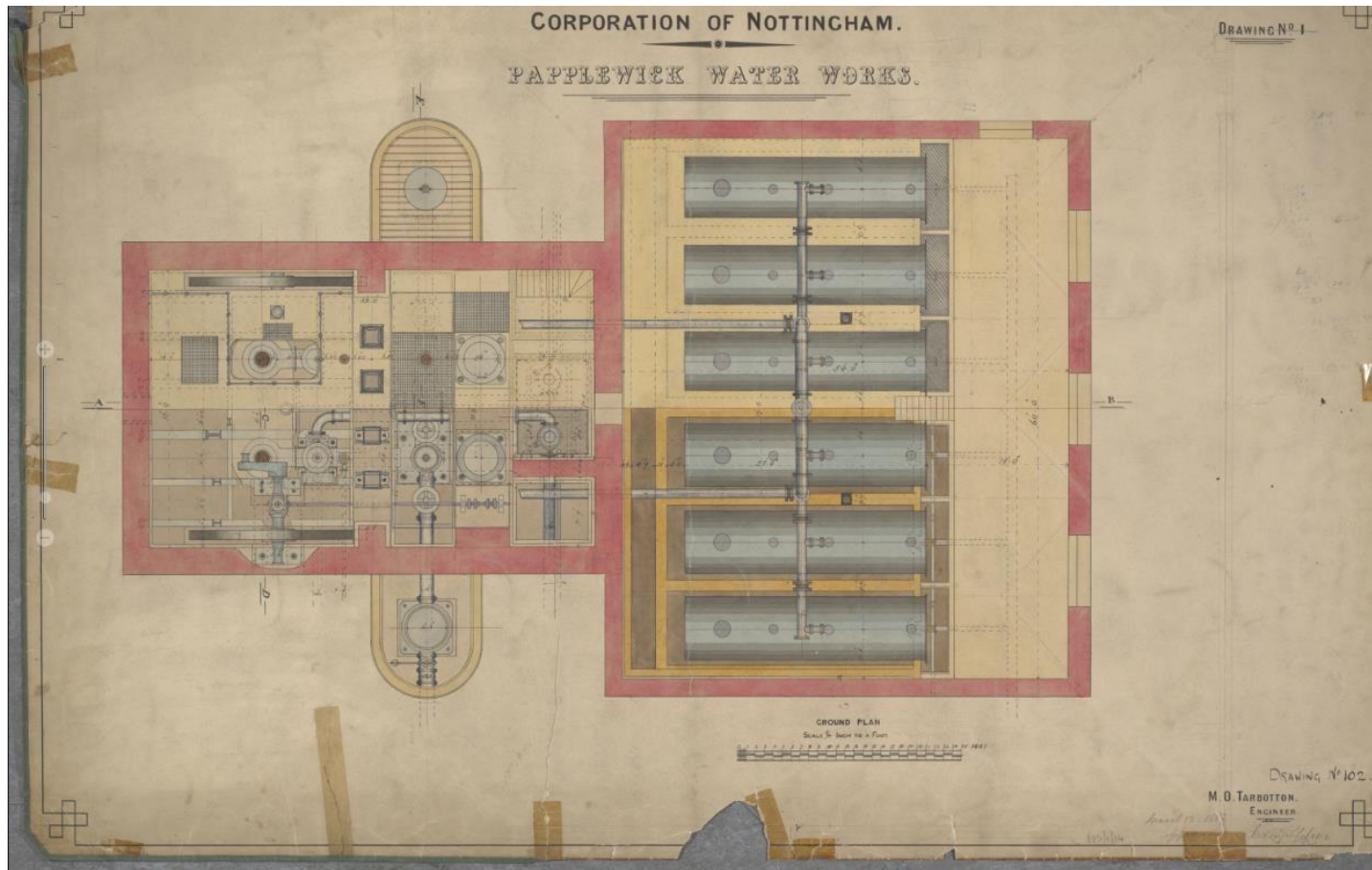
Despite the many technological advancements since 1884, Papplewick Pumping Station's steam driven Watt engines remained in service until 1969, when they were replaced by electric pumps to reduce costs. The pumping station closed in 1973 and was replaced by a completely new electric pump house. (Ref: PPS/1/4)



Photographs of the exterior of the Engine House across the cooling pond, Papplewick Pumping Station; early 20th century (left) and 2004 (right)

Photographs taken from more or less the same angle, almost a century apart, clearly showing the Gothic Revival style of architecture. The image on the left showing the pumping station in operation (Ref: R/HR/1/8/1) is from an album of photographs in the water collections. The photo on the right was taken after the restoration works were complete and the site had re-opened

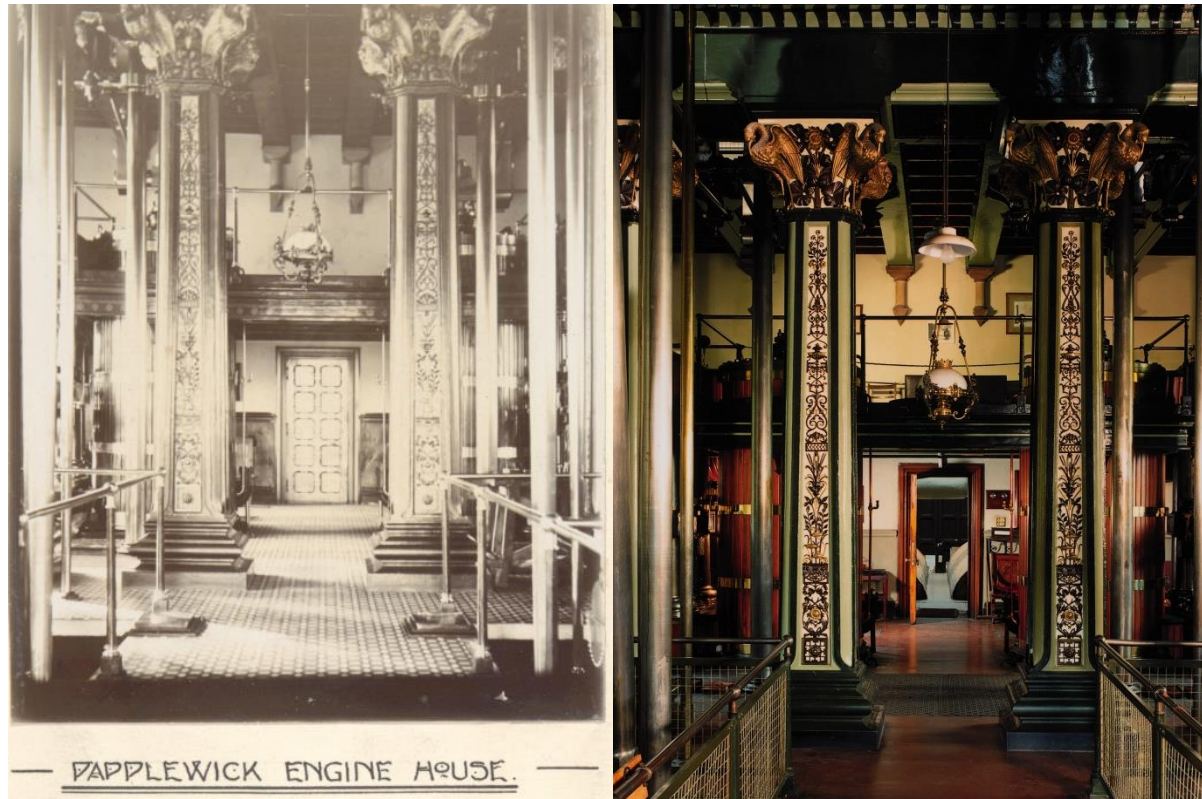
(© Nick McCann, Papplewick Pumping Station Trust).



Ground plan of the water works; 12 Mar. 1883

The records relating to collection of Papplewick Pumping Station are mostly plans of buildings and apparatus including floor plans; elevations of the engine and boiler house; details of windows, doors and roofs; and diagrams of engines, pumping equipment, pipes, and the cooling pond. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the plans predate 1920 and, like this one, were created during the original construction of the pumping station. Later plans mainly concern repairs, with a small number of photographs from the 1980s and 1990s.

(Ref: PPS/1/14)



Photographs of the interior of the Engine House, Papplewick Pumping Station; early 20th and 21st centuries

Construction costs came in slightly under budget, and these photos show the lavish decorations the surplus was spent on. A charitable trust was established in 1974 to halt the physical deterioration of the Pumping Station after its closure. The museum opened in 1976, volunteers having completed much of the work. A £1.6million Heritage Lottery Fund grant for restoration and refurbishment ran from 2002 until 2005, when the Pumping Station was re-opened by the Duke of Gloucester. The beautifully ornate Engine House is now available as a wedding venue.

(Left Ref: R/HR/1/8/1; right © Martine Hamilton-Knight, Papplewick Pumping Station Trust)



Photographs of workmen laying and testing pipes for Papplewick Pumping Station; 1912

Dressed in formal-looking waistcoats and not a hard-hat in sight! These two images of men working on the water pipes are taken from an album of over 350 photographs entitled 'Nottingham Waterworks. Photos of Work in Progress'. They span 1890-1935 and depict the installation or construction of pipelines, buildings, reservoirs and equipment; the completed works; and damage to the infrastructure.

(Ref: R/HR/1/8/1)