

Power Stations

For urban dwellers venturing out after sunset in the late 19th century, navigating main roads by the glow of electric street lighting was a common, if not universal, experience. Lighting was the first major public use of electricity, but the newly formed electricity companies faced a problem. Responding to fluctuating demand was difficult, and in order to provide enough power for lighting after dark, they had to over-generate in daytime when demand was lower. They strongly encouraged businesses and transport (e.g. trams) to embrace electrification as a way to solve their oversupply issues. The first large power stations were built in the 1880s, irrevocably changing the landscape. Interest in what is now called industrial archaeology followed a generation later, with the first efforts made by the Sheffield Trades Technical Societies at the University of Sheffield.

The original records featured here are held in Manuscripts & Special Collections, along with other records of early utility companies. To find out more about our business collections or to access our collections, please contact us.

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Aerial photograph of the view from the north east of North Wilford Power Station, the River Trent and St Wilfred's Church, Nottingham; May 1951. This is now the site of the Riverside Retail Park.

Ref: RE/DOP/H38/28

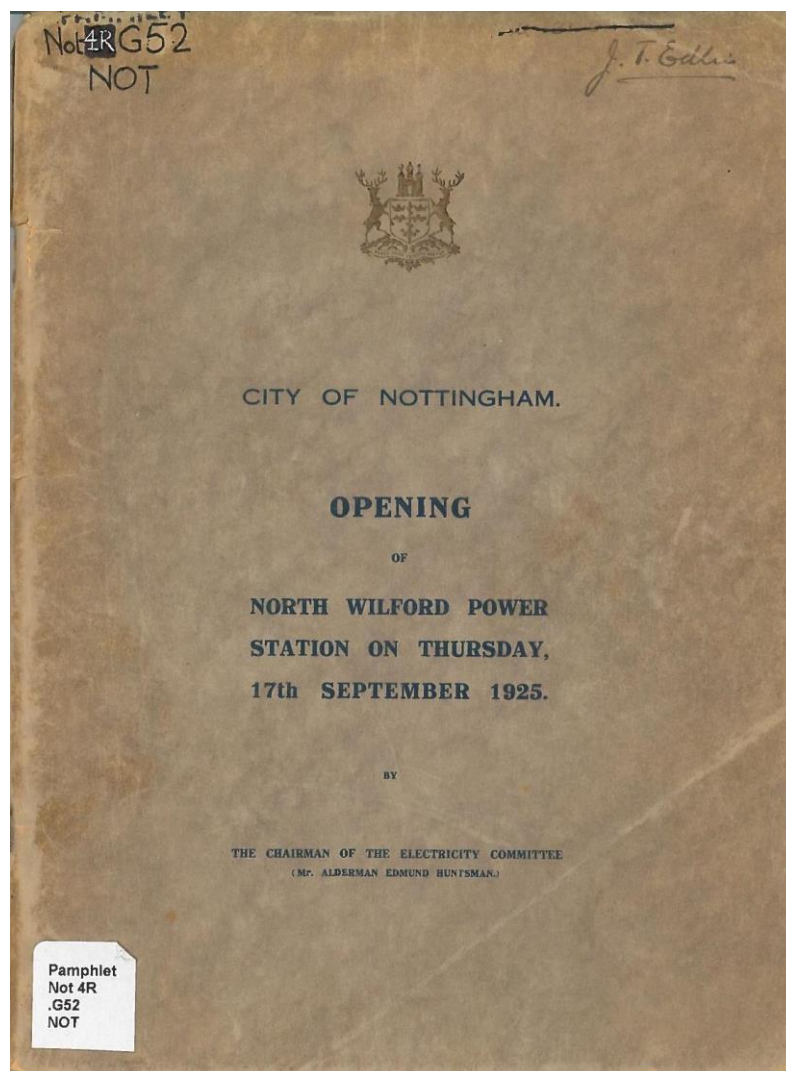


Like other electricity generating stations, Leicester power station has a purely functional appearance; 1962

Ref: MS 627/1/2/150

Pamphlet produced to mark the opening of North Wilford Power Station by the Chairman of the Electricity Committee Mr Alderman Edmund Huntsman; 1925. Construction of the power station was delayed by the outbreak of WWI but was eventually opened in 1925. It closed in 1981. The pamphlet describes the history of the construction and features photos of the committee and the plant itself. The back pages list the contractors employed on the project.

Ref: East Midlands Collection Pamphlet Not 4R.G52 NOT



CONTRACTORS AND SUB-CONTRACTORS.

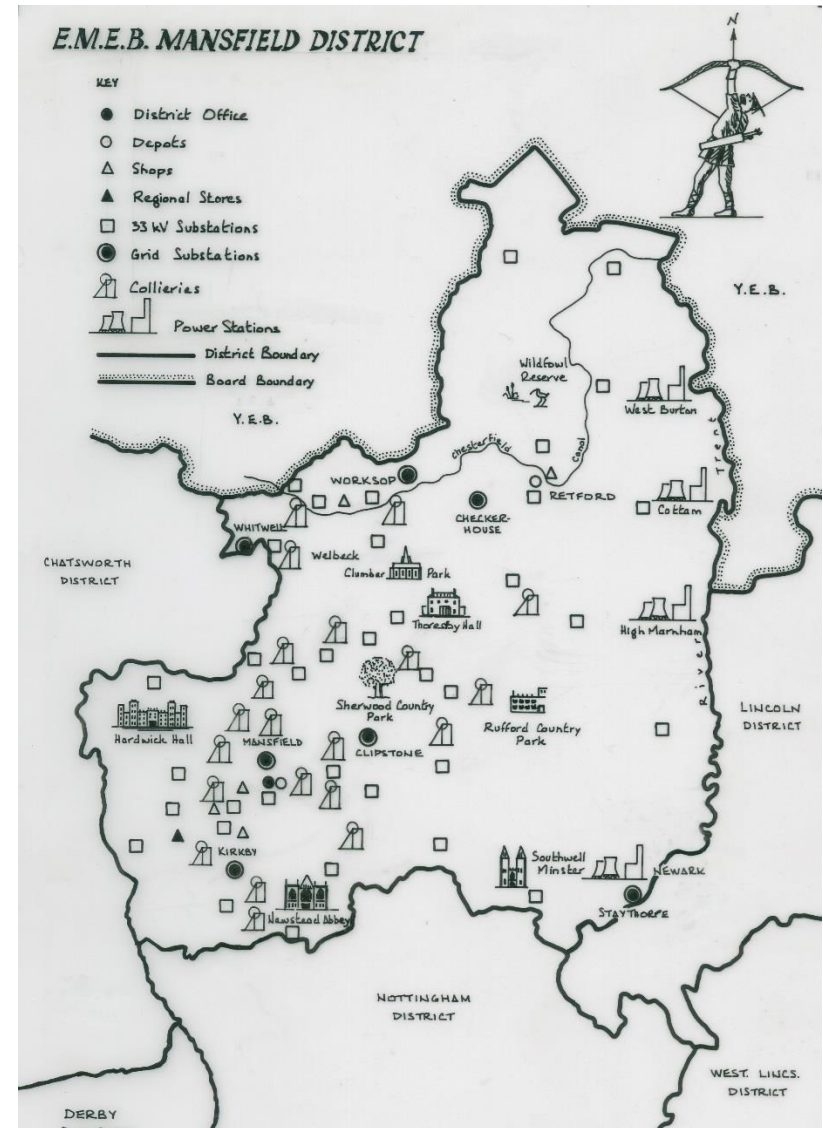
CONTRACTS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE CONSULTING ENGINEERS.

ENGINEERING.

ACCUMULATORS -	- Pritchett & Gold and E.P.S. Co., Ltd.
ASH CONVEYORS	- Underfeed Stoker Co., Ltd.
BOILERS -	- Stirling Boiler Co., Ltd.
Stokers -	- Underfeed Stoker Co., Ltd.
Fans -	- Davidson & Co., Ltd.
CENTRIFUGAL PUMPS	- W. H. Allen, Sons & Co., Ltd.
COAL CONVEYORS	- W. J. Jenkins & Co., Ltd.
CRANE (75 tons)	- Stothert & Pitt, Ltd.
Hand Cranes	- Herbert Morris, Ltd.
CRANE (25 tons)	- S. H. Heywood & Co., Ltd.
ECONOMISERS AND CHIMNEYS -	- Babcock & Wilcox, Ltd.
FEED PUMPS -	- G. and J. Weir, Ltd.
FLUE DUST PLANT	- British Vacuum Cleaner Co., Ltd.
LABORATORY EQUIPMENT	Baird & Tatlock (London) Ltd.

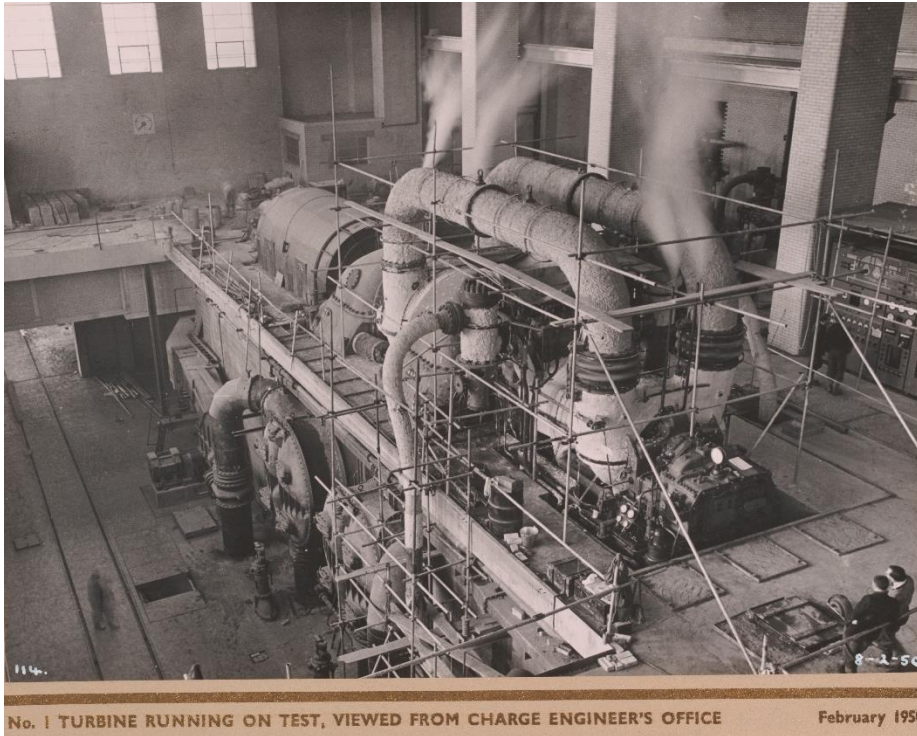
This electricity generating station at Derby (left) was built in 1924, right in the centre of the city, overlooking the River Derwent on one side, and the Cathedral on the other. This kind of location was common in the early period of power station building. The tower and adjacent buildings in the centre of the photograph mark the site of the old silk mill. The photo dates from the 1960s.

Ref: MS 627/1/2/147



Plan of the Mansfield District of the East Midlands Electricity Board showing substations, power stations, district offices and other infrastructure.

Ref: BEE 4/5

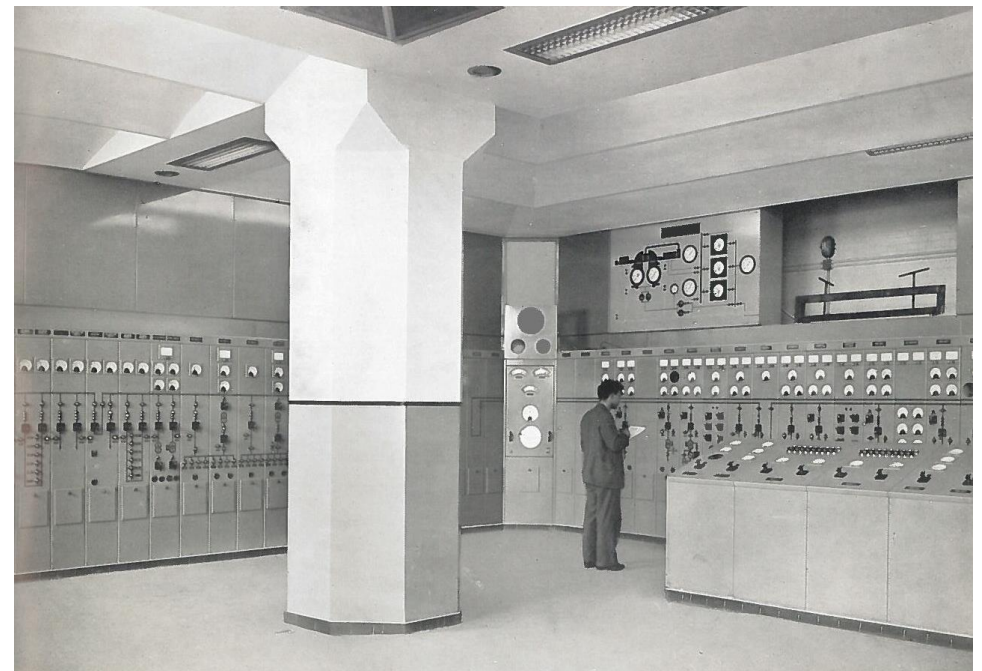


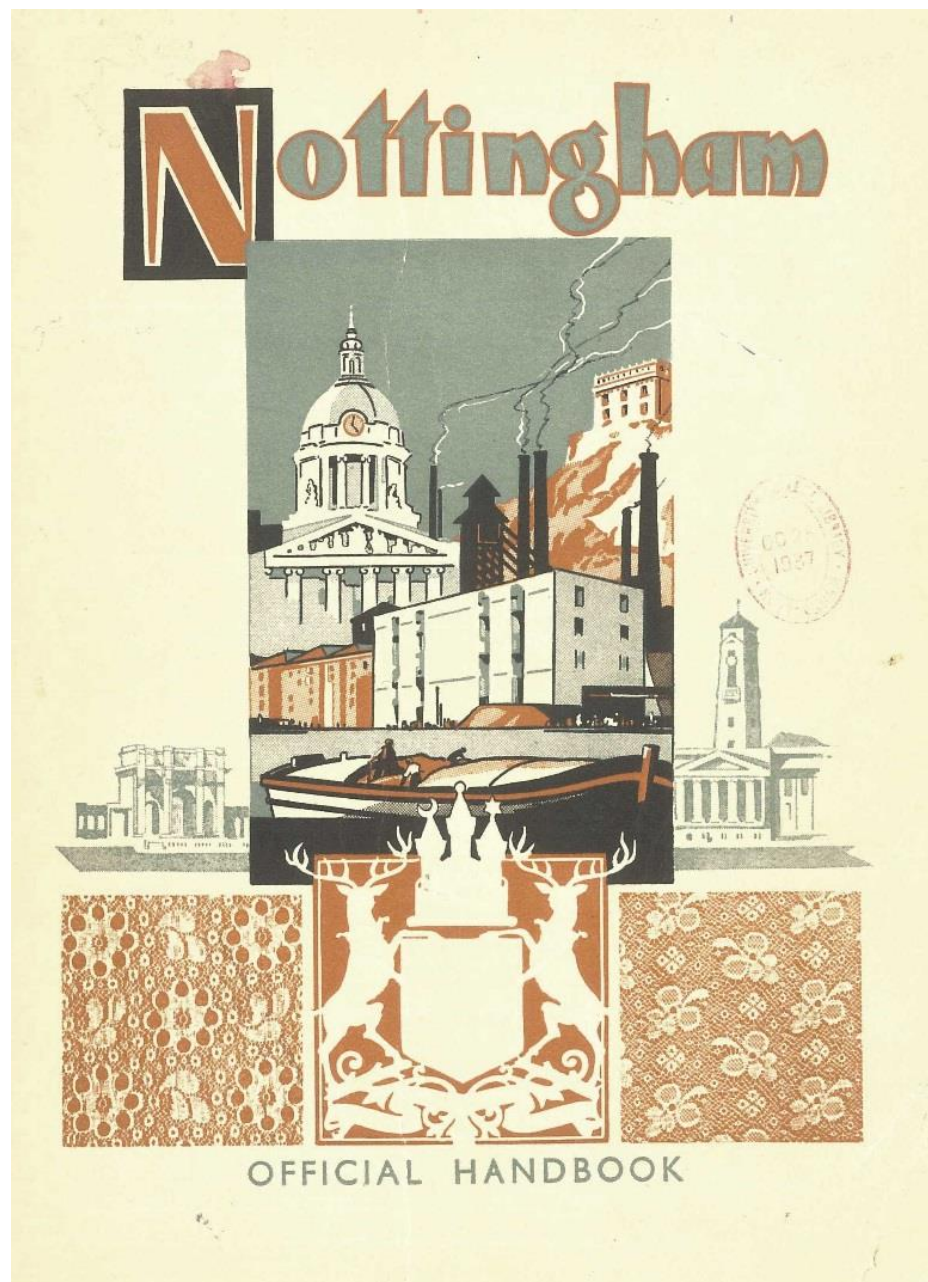
Staythorpe 'A' was a coal fired power station built 1946-1950 on the side of the River Trent between Southwell and Newark. It closed in 1983 and was later demolished. This image is from an album commemorating the opening of the power station. It includes photos of the site and the interior of the power station; 1950.

Ref: MS 835

Control room photo from a commemorative booklet produced to mark the opening of Staythorpe 'A' power station. And so the 1960s futuristic sci-fi aesthetic was born; 1950s.

Ref: East Midlands Collection os.Pamph Not 421.G52 STA





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Companies were quick to embrace the arrival of electricity. This company was founded in about the 1870s and initially worked with lightening conductor installation and electric bells, such as in collieries. By the 1930s they had expanded into commercial electrical installation and were advertising in the Official Nottingham Handbook; 1937.

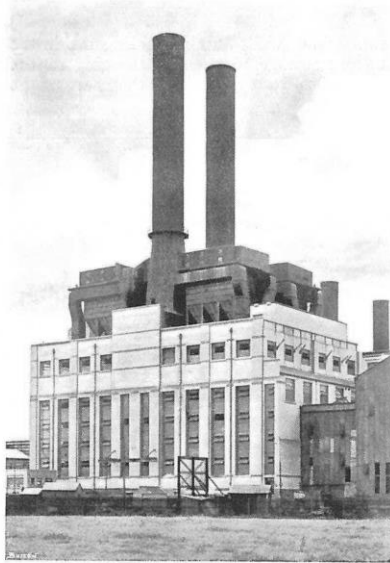
Ref: East Midlands Collection Not 3.D34 NOT



Public Utility Services



The charge to factories varies, according to consumption, from 1s. 6d. to 9d. per thousand gallons, meter rent being charged in addition. The charge for dwelling houses is based on gross rating values, and varies from 8½ per cent for houses of £20 gross rating value, to 4½ per cent for houses of £101 and upwards, less a reduction of approximately 15 per cent. Baths and water closets are charged extra, according to the gross rating values of the houses supplied. The maximum pressure in the mains is about eighty pounds per square inch. The total length of cast iron supply mains within the area is about 759 miles. Water is supplied by the Corporation practically at cost price.



North Wilford Power Station

ELECTRICITY

The City of Nottingham, as an industrial centre, and as a place of residence, is very fortunate in many things, but it is particularly fortunate in its electricity supply. The City of Nottingham Electricity Department is wholly responsible for the generation, distribution and administration of electrical energy in Nottingham and a large surrounding area. It is probably one of the most modern and progressive supply undertakings in the country, and its consumers exceed 101,000. A modern super-generating station, with a capacity of 88,500 kw. and ample provision for extension, ensures cheap and abundant supplies of electricity for all purposes.

Whilst this super-generating station (one of the selected stations under the Government Scheme) is located on the north bank of the Trent well away from the centre of the city, the entire administration is efficiently carried out from centrally situated offices in Talbot Street.

Up-to-date electricity showrooms have been established in the new Exchange Buildings—the very heart of the city—where every possible assistance is accorded to consumers and prospective consumers. The cost of electricity in Nottingham is cheap, and the facilities offered by the Electricity Department to its consumers are numerous. Rates of charge are as follows:

FOR BULK SUPPLIES. Specially low tariffs levied on a maximum demand basis are available, particulars of which may be obtained on application.

FOR LIGHTING PURPOSES. A flat rate of 4½d. per Board of Trade Unit. Maximum Demand Method: (a) For the first 200 hours per kw. of maximum demand per half year, 7d. per Board of Trade Unit; (b) For supplies exceeding the first 200 hours per kw. of maximum demand per half year, 2d. per Board of Trade Unit. (For charging purposes the March and June quarters, and September and December quarters, constitute half-years.)

SHOP-WINDOW LIGHTING (after normal closing hours): 2d. per Board of Trade Unit.

FOR POWER PURPOSES: 1d. per Board of Trade Unit.

FOR HEATING AND COOKING PURPOSES: 1d. per Board of Trade Unit.

DOMESTIC TARIFF. This rate of charge applies only to private residential property, and is virtually a two-part tariff. It consists of: (a) For property having a net rateable value not exceeding £60 per annum, an annual fixed charge of 15 per cent of the net rateable value of the premises payable quarterly, subject to a minimum payment of 10/- per quarter. For property having a net rateable value exceeding £60, 15 per cent of the first £60 per annum payable quarterly, and 10 per cent of the remainder; and (b) One half-penny per Board of Trade Unit for electricity consumed for all purposes, subject to a minimum payment of 5/- per quarter.

At the Department's showrooms in Exchange Buildings, Smithy Row, all the most up-to-date domestic electrical appliances are on view and may be purchased for cash, or if desired, on



Public Utility Services



hire-purchase over periods of one, two, or three years. Electric cookers complete with 30 feet of wiring, and electric water-heaters, with 40 feet of wiring, all switchgear, and free maintenance, may be obtained on simple hire at nominal quarterly rentals. Cookery demonstrations are given each afternoon at 3.15 (Saturdays excepted), and a cordial invitation is extended to all. Information upon any electrical matter may be had upon application.

GAS



This page on public electricity supplies in the Official Nottingham Guide boasts of the modern and progressive electricity supply to the whole city and surrounding areas. Separate tariffs existed for business and domestic customers, and householders were invited to demonstrations of all the latest domestic electrical appliances available for purchase; 1937.

Ref: East Midlands Collection Not 3.D34 NOT