

# The pumping engines at the Leominster Waterworks

These had been removed from the building long before the Waterworks Museum became involved.

## The original pumping engines

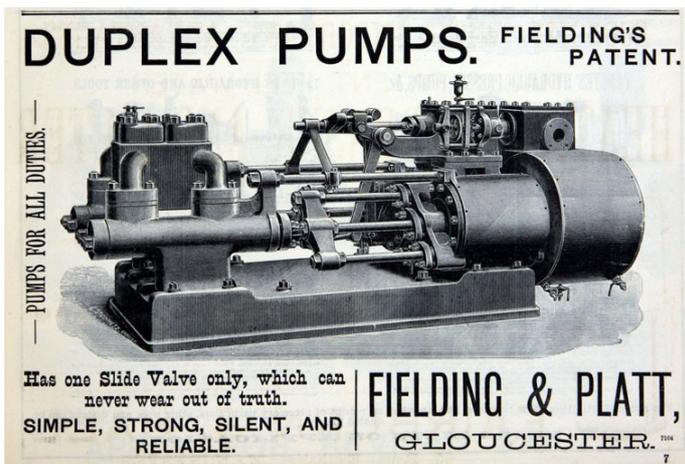
An article in the Hereford Journal, 10<sup>th</sup> August 1867, reported that the Town Council had received 15 tender submissions for contract no2 - to supply two horizontal high-pressure steam engines, with boilers and pumps.

They recommended 3 tenders as fully meeting the requirements of the Board from which the Works Committee selected the lowest tender, that of the Worcester Engine Works Company for £1,080. No description of the engine has been identified to date, other than that the engine was of 12hp capacity.

“At the pumping station they had Cornish boilers in duplicate and a horizontal engine of 12hp also in duplicate, with three throw pumps.”

Worcester Engine Works Company was a railway engineering company set up in 1864/65. It built railway locomotives for many British & European companies but in the spring of 1872 the company went onto liquidation when press reports stated that few, if any, of the contracts it secured had proved to be profitable.

A financial crisis in 1866 had seen UK stock markets crash and this may account for this company diversifying to sell pumping engines. No record has been identified to suggest that this was a major market for Worcester Engine Works.



## The replacement pumping engines

Press cuttings dated 5<sup>th</sup> August 1899, report the Town Council accepting a tender by Fielding & Platt of Gloucester to supply a duplicate set of compound and condensing duplex pumping engines of the Worthington type guaranteed to pump 25,000 gallons an hour for the price of £1,425. This was predicted to result in a saving in pumping costs of £133/year.

Another part of the scheme installed a new 200,000 gallon supply reservoir, an iron tank to hold 25,000 gallons to supply high level districts and a 7" rising main, which was to become the main pipeline for the centre of the town. This gave over two days' supply at maximum demand and delivered a far more reliable supply to the higher district around Bargates. The Town Council was advised by John Parker, who was Hereford's City Surveyor and Water Engineer.

*In the same year, 1899, the market town of Ledbury was receiving its first pumped water supply. The pumping station at Massington also used a pumping engine supplied Fielding & Platt but one powered by oil, not steam.*

