



# No.1 Reservoir

## Overview

Heritage Category:

Listed Building

Grade:

II

List Entry Number:

1423571

Date first listed:

02-Apr-2015

Location Description:

Hewlett's Reservoir, Harp Hill, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucester, GL52 6PP

## Map



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## Location

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

**Location Description:**

Hewlett's Reservoir, Harp Hill, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucester, GL52 6PP

**County:**

Gloucestershire

**District:**

Cheltenham (District Authority)

**Parish:**

Charlton Kings

**National Grid Reference:**

SO9735322180

## Summary

An underground reservoir with a capacity of 413,000 gallons, built in 1824 for the Cheltenham Water Works Company to designs by James Walker (1781–1862), civil engineer of Limehouse.

## Reasons for Designation

No. 1 Reservoir at Hewlett's Reservoir, an underground reservoir built in 1824, is listed at Grade II, for the following principal reasons: \* Technological interest: the reservoir is the earliest surviving example of an underground reservoir so far identified, and was designed by James Walker (1781-1862), one of the most distinguished civil engineers of the C19; \* Architectural interest: the chambers are constructed largely in stone rather than the more common brick, and the reservoir has a good above-ground portal with sweeping flanks; \* Intactness: the reservoir remains largely unaltered since its completion; \* Group value: as an important component in this early reservoir complex, forming part of a good group of buildings, which also includes No.2 Reservoir, the gates, piers and boundary walls, and the pavilion, all listed at Grade II.

## History

Cheltenham, and its suburb Charlton Kings, were expanding rapidly in the early years of the C19, and by the 1820s, the water supply was becoming inadequate. The response was the setting up of the Cheltenham Water Works Company, by Act of Parliament, in 1824. The company purchased a five-acre site set high on a hillside in Charlton Kings, off Hewlett's Road (now Harp Hill), on which to build its new works. The site, which would collect water from the Northfield Springs on the surrounding hillsides, was selected as it was sufficiently high to allow the water supply to be fed to the town by gravity, rather than requiring pumping. The first underground reservoir on the site, with a capacity of 413,000 gallons, built in stone and designed by James Walker of Limehouse, was built in 1824, along with a custodian's house, and supplied with a showy entrance with gates and gatepiers incorporating the Company's crest. Water was carried through two miles of cast-iron pipes from the reservoir to the High Street in Cheltenham. The site was enlarged following a further Act of Parliament, and a second underground reservoir was added in 1839, also designed by James Walker; this brick-built reservoir was much larger than the first, with a capacity of 2 million gallons. Despite this, issues continued with the inconsistency of supply during the summer months, and in 1847, Henry Dangerfield, the County Surveyor, designed a new, open brick reservoir which covered three acres at Hewlett's, holding 9 million gallons, which were drawn from more reliable springs further afield. Expansion of the complex, which was provided with a consistent boundary wall enclosing the entire site, was completed in 1857, with a still larger, fourth, open reservoir, this one with lobed brick walls.

No. 1 Reservoir, the first to be constructed on the site, was for much of its working life used to store spring water from the surrounding hills even after the site began to store water from other sources, specifically for use in brewing, as it was prized for its purity.

The Hewlett's Reservoir site remains in use, now storing water extracted from the River Severn at the Mythe Pumping Station at Tewkesbury, though No.1 reservoir is now redundant. A concrete cover on piers was added to No.3 reservoir in 1966, after it was found that the pre-treated water it held was deteriorating in the open. No.4 reservoir was abandoned in 1965, and demolished in the 1990s. The custodian's house was altered and extended in the later C20.

## Details

An underground reservoir with a capacity of 413,000 gallons, built in 1824 for the Cheltenham Water Works Company to designs by James Walker (1781–1862), civil engineer of Limehouse.

**MATERIALS** Reservoir built in limestone, with brick roofing. Portal is in rubble stone with limestone ashlar dressings, and wrought-iron railings.

**DESCRIPTION** The reservoir is entirely contained underground, but is entered by an above-ground portal, built into the higher

ground to the rear. The portal is circa 2.5m high, and consists of an entrance bay with square top, central entrance doorway with a flat limestone lintel over, and limestone ashlar quoins. The portal is flanked by curving ashlar walls which sweep downwards and forward to meet the ground; these walls are topped by spear-headed railings, which continue to either side.

The underground reservoir measures 25.6m square overall, and the internal height is 4.3m; its capacity was 413,000 gallons (1.878 Ml). The structure consists of four parallel rectangular chambers with walls of limestone masonry, inverted-arched masonry floors, and brick jack-arched roofs. Four arched openings in the stonework of each of the internal walls allow water to flow between the chambers.

## Sources

### Books and journals

O'Connor, David A., Harvey, Ian , *Troubled Waters: The Great Cheltenham Water Controversy*, (2007)

## Legal

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

End of official listing

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# No.2 Reservoir

## Overview

Heritage Category:

Listed Building

Grade:

II

List Entry Number:

1423572

Date first listed:

02-Apr-2015

Location Description:

Hewlett's Reservoir, Harp Hill, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucester, GL52 6PP

## Map



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## Location

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**Location Description:**

Hewlett's Reservoir, Harp Hill, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucester, GL52 6PP

**County:**

Gloucestershire

**District:**

Cheltenham (District Authority)

**Parish:**

Charlton Kings

**National Grid Reference:**

SO9740322165

## Summary

An underground reservoir with a capacity of 2 million gallons, built in 1839 for the Cheltenham Water Works Company to designs by James Walker (1781–1862), civil engineer of Limehouse.

## Reasons for Designation

No. 2 Reservoir at Hewlett's Reservoir, an underground reservoir built in 1839, is listed at Grade II, for the following principal reasons: \* Technological interest: the reservoir is, after Reservoir No.1 on the same site, one of the earliest surviving examples of an underground reservoir so far identified, and was designed by James Walker (1781-1862), one of the most distinguished civil engineers of the C19; \* Intactness: the reservoir remains largely unaltered since its completion; \* Group value: as an important component in this early reservoir complex, forming part of a good group of buildings, which also includes No.1 Reservoir, the gates, piers and boundary walls, and the pavilion, all listed at Grade II.

## History

Cheltenham, and its suburb Charlton Kings, were expanding rapidly in the early years of the C19, and by the 1820s, the water supply was becoming inadequate. The response was the setting up of the Cheltenham Water Works Company, by Act of Parliament, in 1824. The company purchased a five-acre site set high on a hillside in Charlton Kings, off Hewlett's Road (now Harp Hill), on which to build its new works. The site, which would collect water from the Northfield Springs on the surrounding hillsides, was selected as it was sufficiently high to allow the water supply to be fed to the town by gravity, rather than requiring pumping. The first underground reservoir on the site, with a capacity of 413,000 gallons, built in stone and designed by James Walker of Limehouse, was built in 1824, along with a custodian's house, and supplied with a showy entrance with gates and gatepiers incorporating the Company's crest. Water was carried through two miles of cast-iron pipes from the reservoir to the High Street in Cheltenham. The site was enlarged following a further Act of Parliament, and a second underground reservoir was added in 1839, also designed by James Walker; this brick-built reservoir was much larger than the first, with a capacity of 2 million gallons. Despite this, issues continued with the inconsistency of supply during the summer months, and in 1847, Henry Dangerfield, the County Surveyor, designed a new, open brick reservoir which covered three acres at Hewlett's, holding 9 million gallons, which were drawn from more reliable springs further afield. Expansion of the complex, which was provided with a consistent boundary wall enclosing the entire site, was completed in 1857, with a still larger, fourth, open reservoir, this one with lobed brick walls.

The Hewlett's Reservoir site remains in use, now storing water extracted from the River Severn at the Mythe Pumping Station at Tewkesbury, though No.1 reservoir is now redundant. A concrete cover on piers was added to No.3 reservoir in 1966, after it was found that the pre-treated water it held was deteriorating in the open. No.4 reservoir was abandoned in 1965, and demolished in the 1990s. The custodian's house was altered and extended in the later C20.

## Details

An underground reservoir with a capacity of 2 million gallons, built in 1839 for the Cheltenham Water Works Company to designs by James Walker (1781–1862), civil engineer of Limehouse.

**MATERIALS** Reservoir built in red brick made from the clay excavated on the site. Brick access chamber.

**DESCRIPTION** The reservoir is entirely contained underground, entered by brick-built access chamber on the surface.

The underground reservoir measures 53.6m x 49.4m, and the internal height is 6m; its capacity is 2 million gallons (9.092 MI). The structure consists of seven parallel rectangular chambers with walls of brick, shallow, inverted-arched brick floors, and brick barrel-vaulted roofs. Seven arched openings in the brickwork of each of the internal walls allow water to flow between the chambers.

## Sources

### Books and journals

O'Connor, David A., Harvey, Ian , Troubled Waters: The Great Cheltenham Water Controversy, (2007)

## Legal

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

End of official listing

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# Pavilion at Hewlett's Reservoir

## Overview

Heritage Category:

Listed Building

Grade:

II

List Entry Number:

1104324

Date first listed:

14-Dec-1983

Date of most recent amendment:

02-Apr-2015

Statutory Address:

Pavilion, Hewlett's Reservoir, Harp Hill, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham

## Map

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## Location

Statutory Address:

Pavilion, Hewlett's Reservoir, Harp Hill, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County:

Gloucestershire

District:

Cheltenham (District Authority)

**Parish:**

Charlton Kings

**National Grid Reference:**

SO9733022287

## Summary

A pavilion, possibly originally a valve house, constructed around the 1870s, as part of the Hewlett's Reservoir complex.

## Reasons for Designation

The pavilion at Hewlett's Reservoir, a probable former valve house dating from circa 1870, is listed at Grade II, for the following principal reasons:

\* Architectural interest: the building is an ornamental pavilion with picturesque detailing, which belies its functional purpose and instead gives the appearance of a country house garden building; \* Group value: the pavilion forms part of a good group of buildings at this, the earliest surviving complex of covered reservoirs, which includes Reservoirs 1 and 2, and the gates, piers and boundary walls, all listed at Grade II.

## History

Cheltenham, and its suburb Charlton Kings, were expanding rapidly in the early years of the C19, and by the 1820s, the water supply was becoming inadequate. The response was the setting up of the Cheltenham Water Works Company, by Act of Parliament, in 1824. The company purchased a five-acre site set high on a hillside in Charlton Kings, off Hewlett's Road (now Harp Hill), on which to build its new works. The site, which would collect water from the Northfield Springs on the surrounding hillsides, was selected as it was sufficiently high to allow the water supply to be fed to the town by gravity, rather than requiring pumping. The first underground reservoir on the site, with a capacity of 413,000 gallons, built in stone and designed by James Walker of Limehouse, was built in 1824, along with a custodian's house, and supplied with a showy entrance with gates and gatepiers incorporating the Company's crest. Water was carried through two miles of cast-iron pipes from the reservoir to the High Street in Cheltenham. The site was enlarged following a further Act of Parliament, and a second underground reservoir was added in 1839, also designed by James Walker; this brick-built reservoir was much larger than the first, with a capacity of 2 million gallons. Despite this, issues continued with the inconsistency of supply during the summer months, and in 1847, Henry Dangerfield, the County Surveyor, designed a new, open brick reservoir which covered three acres at Hewlett's, holding 9 million gallons, which were drawn from more reliable springs further afield. Expansion of the complex, which was provided with a consistent boundary wall enclosing the entire site, was completed in 1857, with a still larger, fourth, open reservoir, this one with lobed brick walls.

The pavilion was added to the site in the mid-C19, probably as a valve-house, though it no longer contains any plant. It provided one of the principal decorative elements of the reservoir complex.

The Hewlett's Reservoir site remains in use, now storing water extracted from the River Severn at the Mythe Pumping Station at Tewkesbury though No.1 reservoir is now redundant. A concrete cover on piers was added to No.3 reservoir in 1966, after it was found that the pre-treated water it held was deteriorating in the open. No.4 reservoir was abandoned in 1965, and demolished in the 1990s. The custodian's house was altered and extended in the later C20.

## Details

A pavilion, possibly originally a valve house, constructed around the 1870s, as part of the Hewlett's Reservoir complex.

**MATERIALS** Red brick with vermiculated stone quoins and plinth, fishscale slate roof and iron verandah.

PLAN Octagonal on plan, single cell.

EXTERIOR The single-storey, octagonal building has a doorway to one wall and pointed windows (replaced in uPVC) to each of the other walls. The pointed-arched door is ledged and braced, with decorative strap hinges. The roof extends on all sides as a verandah, supported on colonnettes, with ornamental decoration to the eaves. The apex carries a cast-iron weathervane.

INTERIOR The building is a single cell, with plastered walls, moulded cornice and timber floorboards. The ceiling is clad in timber.

## Legacy

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Legacy System number:

474691

Legacy System:

LBS

## Sources

### Books and journals

O'Connor, David A., Harvey, Ian , Troubled Waters: The Great Cheltenham Water Controversy, (2007)

## Legal

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

End of official listing

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# Gates, gatepiers and boundary walls at Hewlett's Reservoir

## Overview

Heritage Category:

Listed Building

Grade:

II

List Entry Number:

1104330

Date first listed:

14-Dec-1983

Date of most recent amendment:

02-Apr-2015

Statutory Address:

Gates, gatepiers and boundary walls, Hewlett's Reservoir, Harp Hill, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham

## Map

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## Location

Statutory Address:

Gates, gatepiers and boundary walls, Hewlett's Reservoir, Harp Hill, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

**County:**

Gloucestershire

**District:**

Cheltenham (District Authority)

**Parish:**

Charlton Kings

**National Grid Reference:**

SO9742722222

## Summary

Gatepiers with gates, dating from 1824, and flanking boundary walls, 1824 and 1850s, to the Hewlett's Reservoir complex.

## Reasons for Designation

The gates and piers, built in 1824, and the boundary walls (1824 and circa 1850) at Hewlett's Reservoir, are listed at Grade II, for the following principal reasons:

\* Architectural interest: the gates and piers are elaborate, well-designed and survive well, and the brick boundary walls are well made and neatly bonded; their appearance belies their functional purpose and instead helps give the complex the appearance of a country house garden;

\* Group value: the structures form part of a good group of buildings at this, the earliest surviving complex of covered reservoirs, which includes Reservoirs 1 and 2, and the pavilion, all listed at Grade II.

## History

Cheltenham, and its suburb Charlton Kings, were expanding rapidly in the early years of the C19, and by the 1820s, the water supply was becoming inadequate. The response was the setting up of the Cheltenham Water Works Company, by Act of Parliament, in 1824. The company purchased a five-acre site set high on a hillside in Charlton Kings, off Hewlett's Road (now Harp Hill), on which to build its new works. The site, which would collect water from the Northfield Springs on the surrounding hillsides, was selected as it was sufficiently high to allow the water supply to be fed to the town by gravity, rather than requiring pumping. The first underground reservoir on the site, with a capacity of 413,000 gallons, built in stone and designed by James Walker of Limehouse, was built in 1824, along with a custodian's house, and supplied with a showy entrance with gates and gatepiers incorporating the Company's crest. Water was carried through two miles of cast-iron pipes from the reservoir to the High Street in Cheltenham. The site was enlarged following a further Act of Parliament, and a second underground reservoir was added in 1839, also designed by James Walker; this brick-built reservoir was much larger than the first, with a capacity of 2 million gallons. Despite this, issues continued with the inconsistency of supply during the summer months, and in 1847, Henry Dangerfield, the County Surveyor, designed a new, open brick reservoir which covered three acres at Hewlett's, holding 9 million gallons, which were drawn from more reliable springs further afield. Expansion of the complex, which was provided with a consistent boundary wall enclosing the entire site, was completed in 1857, with a still larger, fourth, open reservoir, this one with lobed brick walls.

The Hewlett's Reservoir site remains in use, now storing water extracted from the River Severn at the Mythe Pumping Station at Tewkesbury though No.1 reservoir is now redundant. A concrete cover on piers was added to No.3 reservoir in 1966, after it was found that the pre-treated water it held was deteriorating in the open. No.4 reservoir was abandoned in 1965, and demolished in the 1990s. The custodian's house was altered and extended in the later C20.

## Details

Gatepiers with gates, dating from 1824, and flanking boundary walls, 1824 and 1850s, to the Hewlett's Reservoir complex.

**MATERIALS** Cast-iron gates; limestone piers; red brick boundary walls.

**DESCRIPTION** Tudor Revival-style, square section, ashlar GATE PIERS, circa 2m high, with crested, pyramidal capping and inset, traceried panels with cusping to each face. Between them are heavy, cast-iron GATES with pyramidal heads to the rails. The brick flanking WALLS, are about 2m high; to the left of the main gateway is a side gate, with a Tudor-arched head, chamfered edges, and ledged door with strap hinges. The left wall extends about 1.5m before returning northwards for circa 220m, and then turning eastwards for another circa 300m. From the main gates, the right-hand wall extends approximately 50m to the corner of the site where it rounds the corner and continues for a further circa 50m. Beyond this, the boundary continues as a low wall with railings above, their plain circular profile curved outwards at the top. Toward the north-eastern corner of the site, the wall resumes its full height. Beyond the secondary entrance, a small section of the wall has been removed, but then continues northwards, stepping downwards to accommodate the slope of the site. The brick is laid in an irregular header and stretcher bond. To the interior, the walls include a high brick plinth, and have regularly-spaced brick buttresses with offsets and coped tops.

## Legacy

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Legacy System number:

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Legacy System:

LBS

## Sources

### Books and journals

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## Legal

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End of official listing

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