or it. After a difficult passing of an act when the Matlock Bath Council made certain objections, the bill was agreed; it also included £2,000 for the creation of council offices and other minor matters. The deal was finalised on 1 July 1898 when the company was wound up. (Bryan p.60.1) (Mullins)

Late in 1890, steps were taken to increase the supply when a contractor from Pendleton, Lancashire was employed to make a boring which took eight months to reach water at a depth of 207 ft (63m). The water rose in the bore to a depth of 38 ft (11.6m) from surface at 800 ft ASL (244m). Pumps were installed and turned on, on 24 July 1901. By November of that year, the Wolds spring was running out, one wonders if the two are connected geologically? (Bryan p.62&187/8)

By 1929 the situation was a little more rational. The various sources were as follows:

Matlock Bridge and Bank (Matlock Urban District Council)

The main supply was from springs intercepted by a trench 10ft (3m) long at Palethorpe Farm, Matlock Moor - 250 yds (80m) southwest of Matlock Moor Farm at an altitude of 840 ft (256m) ASL, and from a spring at The Wolds - 350 yds (168m) northeast of The Wolds and 870 ft. (265m) ASL. Three wells and a bore 700 yds (640m) southeast of the farm were held as a reserve, the yields being 200,000 gallons per day (909,000 litres) from the springs and 15,000 gallons per day (68,200 litres) from the bore hole. This latter supply runs by gravity to a reservoir at The Wolds. (Stephens p.56, 30)

There was also a bore 900 yds (823m) south east of Cuckoo Stone House at an altitude of 800 ft (244m). (Stephens p.103)

Matlock Bath

This village obtained its water from springs on Cromford Moor. The consumption of the thermal spring water within the village had given rise to “Derbyshire Neck” see Chapter 1. By using the Cromford Moor springs this problem was solved forever.

The Cromford Moor spring at 402 ft (122.5m) ASL produced 91,500 gallons per day (416,000 litres/day) with a hardness of 1.4ph. The lower parts of the village were fed by gravity from Birch Wood Spring, Railway End, Cromford, keeping a 4 in (100 mm) main at full bore. (Stephens p.47, 57)

The Willow Well 1400 yds (1,280m) west by north of High Peak Junction, Cromford at 530 ft (161.5m) ASL supplied 40,000 gallons per day (181,800 litres/day) to parts of Matlock Bath. (Stephens p.48)

Although partly dealt with in Chapter 4, given below are details of the three main “thermal” springs in the village:

New Bath Hotel - supplies a plunge pool, outside swimming pool and ornamental ponds.

Royal Hotel (now gone) had its own supply and also fed the Pump Room in the Pavilion, the pump is now located in the Information Centre in the same building. The water can be heard running under the grotto on the car park off Temple Road and also feeds a waterfall and ornamental pond at the bottom of Temple Road.

Thermal Swimming Baths, now the Aquarium, has its own supply from Wragg Sough. (Stephens p.72)

These do not conform to the rules for describing thermal waters but they do provide the lime deposits much exploited but no longer for petrifaction and tufa.

Riber, Starkholmes, Hearthstone and High Leas

They all relied on local springs, Riber Castle from a well in its own grounds. It lies 3200 yds (2.9 km) north west of the Castle and the well is approximately 80 ft (24m) deep and the water was raised by a wind pump discharging into a tank. (Stephens p.103) The tradition that Riber Castle was abandoned due to a lack of water is not true.

Originally Starkholmes took its supply from a roadside spring at approximately 550 ft (168m) ASL. Those who fetched their water by hand, and it was customarily the women, knew of its value. A