

# GLIAS

Company No. 5664689 England  
Charity No. 1113162

President:  
Vice-President:

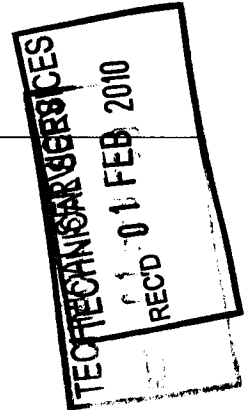
John H. Boyes FSA  
Dr. Denis Smith

Greater

London Industrial Archaeology Society

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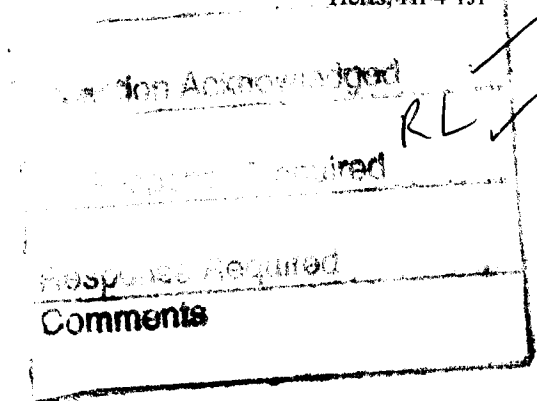
30<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Borough Planner  
Wandsworth Borough Council  
Town Hall  
London, SW18 2PU

For the attention of Mr Tony McDonald

Dear Sirs,

**Battersea Waterworks Pumping Station**  
**Planning Application Reference No 2009/3578**



I am writing on behalf of the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society to object to the application for consent to demolish the Grade II listed Battersea Waterworks pumping station building in Cringle Street.

This building is of considerable technical interest and has historical and archaeological significance which we believe merits its retention. This range of engine houses was built in phases between 1839 and 1855 by the Southwark Water Company, after 1845 the Southwark & Vauxhall Water Company, to house a series of steam pumping engines. The first engine on site was an old Boulton & Watt rotative beam engine brought from Bankside, evidence of which can be seen in the surviving wall of its engine house, which was rebuilt in 1855 to house two later engines.

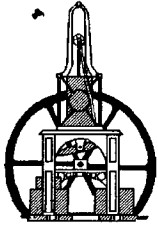
The second engine was the first Cornish beam engine to be purpose-built for waterworks use. The Cornish beam engine was more efficient than the engines then in general use in London waterworks. Thomas Wicksteed adapted the engine for waterworks use, pumping against a high head, installing a second-hand engine at Old Ford in 1837-8. The Battersea engine was supplied new in 1840 by Harvey's of Hayle, Cornwall. Harvey's later established a London base nearby. The engine house still contains evidence of that engine.

The range was extended to the east in 1846 to house another Cornish beam engine, made by the Perren Foundry in 1842 for the Vauxhall Water Company and subsequently moved to Battersea following the takeover of the Vauxhall Water Company by the Southwark. Its 'bob-wall', which supported the engine's beam, mirroring mining practice, is still *in situ*. Later Cornish beam engines as used in waterworks had beams supported by a cast-iron entablature.

Thus, the Battersea pumping station building is probably the only surviving one where this transitional arrangement between mine pumping engine and waterworks pumping engine can be fully appreciated.

The eastern-most engine house, also built in 1846, housed the largest single-cylinder beam engine ever built, the 112-inch engine, by Harvey's. The 1855 engine house at the west end of the range house two more Harvey beam engines.

All these engine houses display features which tell us much about the engines which were installed there, at a time when waterworks pumping was being revolutionised by the move to the use of the Cornish beam engine. There is no substitute to



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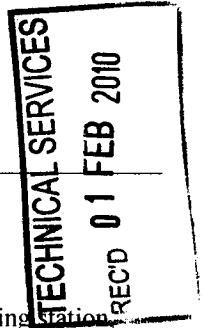
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having the engine houses themselves to study when trying to understand the history and archaeology. This pumping station, being at the forefront of technology in its day, should therefore be kept for later generations to study and enjoy.

We therefore urge you to reject this application for its demolition.

Yours faithfully,

Tim R Smith

For and on behalf of GLIAS

Copy to Brian James-Strong, GLIAS Secretary