

Barford (Warwickshire) Hydroelectric Power Stations

Located about GR SP27216110

John Brace
May 2022



The 'Barford Electric Supply Company' was formed in 1915 to supply electricity to the village of Barford which lies on the River Avon about 4 km. SW of Warwick. The company opened a hydroelectric power station alongside the old mill dam in February 1915. In 1916 the supply was extended to Sherbourne.

In 1923/24 the Barford Company was taken over by the grandly named 'Warwick and South Midland Electricity Supply Corporation' of which I have no further information.

In 1921, and probably from the commencement of operations, the supply was 210 volts. The generating capacity is unknown but was probably in the tens of kW.

It is not known when the power station closed but a new hydro electric station opened on the same site in 2014. No details are available of the new plant.

Appendix 1

An Extract from:

[BARFORD HERITAGE](#)

Barford Mill starts generating electricity 1914

1914 Barford, the envy of London and New York!

Kirsty Healey

“The lamps are going out all over Europe, we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime”, [Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Grey](#) made this remark on August 3rd 1914, a few days after the war had started on July 28th.

But in Barford people had different ideas, and work had already started to use the ancient corn mill to produce hydroelectricity. Electricity production started in November 2014**

In February 1915, the Courier reported;

Barford Light Supply; Barford now has a system of light supply and a company has been formed to control it. All the cables have been laid underground. Eleven new cast iron standards with ornamental tops and concave reflectors have been fixed in suitable places. These lamps give 100 candle power and the effect is to give **Barford a brilliant appearance which London would now no doubt much like to possess.** There is now electricity in the Church, Chapels, Ryland Mansion, Memorial Hall and the principal houses of the village. An exhibition was given at the Ryland Hall showing the value of electricity for cooking.

**100 years on: the mill weir has again been used to produce hydro electricity.
New Hydro power plant July 2014**

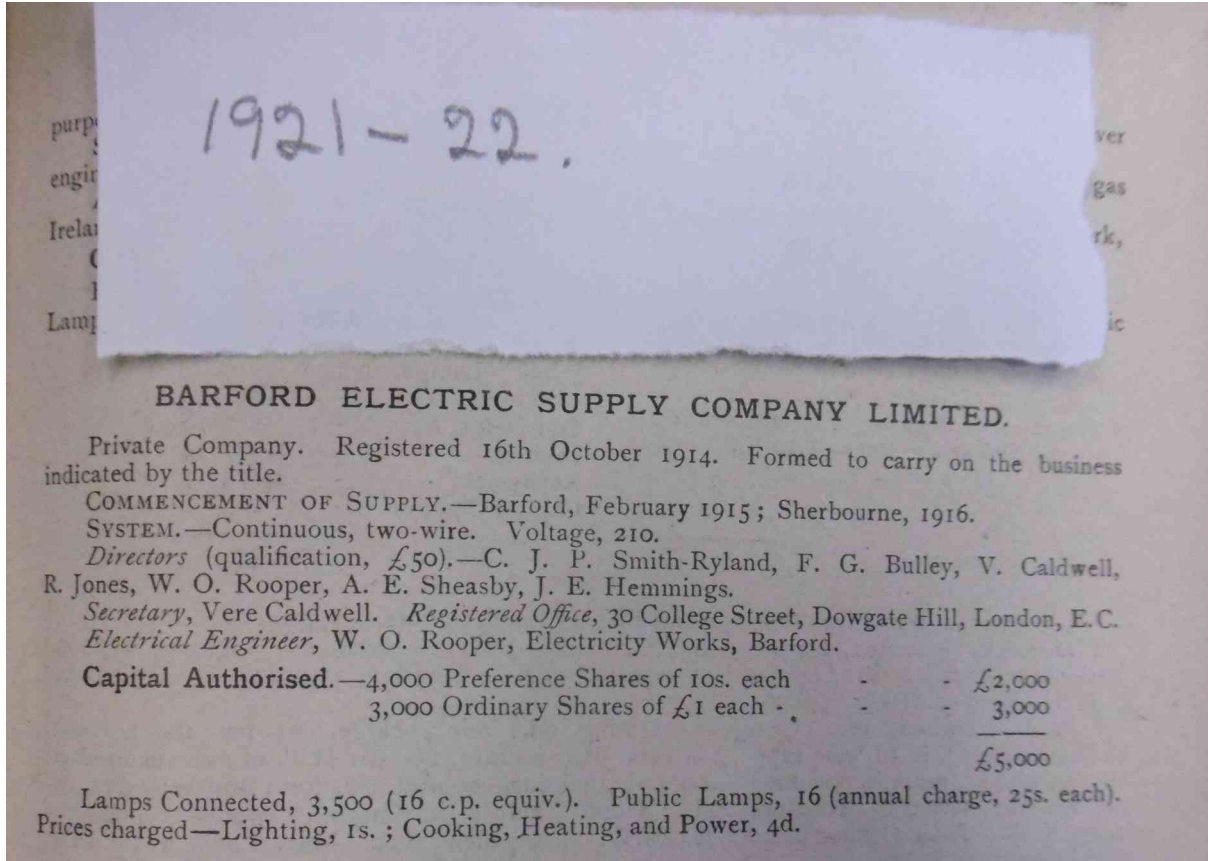
During the construction, a section of the old waterwheel, an old millstone, for grinding corn and the original electricity supply cable were unearthed

*** Note. Some confusion here – first power was in February 1915.*

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Appendix 2

An extract from 'The Manual of Electrical Undertakings --- etc.' 1921/1922'.



Appendix 3

An extract from 'The Manual of Electrical Undertakings --- etc.' 1924/1925'.

ELECTRIC SUPPLY AND TRACTION. 893

**WARWICKSHIRE AND SOUTH MIDLAND ELECTRICITY
SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED.**

Registered 19th December 1923. Formed to acquire a controlling share and debenture interest in the Barford Electric Supply Co. Ltd. (*which see*), to extend the hydro-electric power station of that Company and the area of supply, &c.

Under agreement dated 31st December 1923, the Barford Company undertakes to create and issue £10,000 7 % First Mortgage Debentures, and the Warwickshire, &c., Corporation agrees to subscribe at par "for at least £4,000 thereof." The Barford Company also grants the Corporation a twelve months' "sole option" to subscribe for its unissued Share Capital. Under a further agreement, dated 31st December 1923, the Barford Company is granted a "sole option" to subscribe for the Preference Shares and Debenture Capital of the Corporation, on a commission basis. Under a further agreement, also dated 31st December 1923, W. Thompson "as Trustee for and on behalf of certain holders of Preference and Ordinary Shares and Debentures" of the Barford Company, sells to the Corporation a controlling interest in the Barford Company, the price payable for the 10s. Preference Shares and the £1 Ordinary Shares being 12s. 6d. and 22s. 6d. respectively, and par value for the Debentures. The controlling interest thus to be acquired is stated to comprise 875 fully paid Ordinary Shares, 1,750 fully paid Preference Shares, and £5,000 fully paid Debentures.

Directors (qualification, 100 shares; remuneration (except Managing Director), £100 each per annum; Chairman, £150).—E. Bennett Calvert, LL.B.(Cams.) (*Chairman*), Walter Thompson (*Vice-Chairman*), Wilfrid Burton, W. H. Mann, and Emerton C. Buik.

Registered Offices, County Chambers, Corporation Street, Birmingham. *Solicitor*, Ormonde May. *Auditors*, Joseph Stones & Co.

In January 1924, the 12,000 Preference Shares and the £12,000 First Mortgage Debentures were offered for sale by the Barford Electric Supply Co. Ltd., the former at par and the latter at £98 per cent. The Debentures constitute a first fixed charge upon the whole of the assets of the associated undertakings, including the £10,000 First Mortgage Debentures of the Barford Company "to be acquired out of the proceeds of this offer."

In December 1924 an offer of an indefinite number of Preference Shares, Ordinary Shares, and Debentures, was distributed on behalf of the Electricity Finance and Distribution Corporation Ltd., the Preference £1 Shares being offered at par, the Ordinary 1s. Share at 10s. each, and the Debentures at £98 %.

The Issued Capital at the time of this "offer for sale" stood as below; but "The Electricity Finance and Distribution Corporation Ltd. has agreed to acquire the whole of the unissued and unallotted Preference and Ordinary Shares available at the date of this offer, subject to a brokerage of 10 %."

Capital Authorised.	Issued.
12,000 8 % Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each -	£12,000 £10,819 0 0
10,000 Ordinary Shares of 1s. each -	500 290 5 0
	£12,500 £11,109 5 0

Debentures Authorised and Issued.—7 % First Mortgage, £12,000.

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