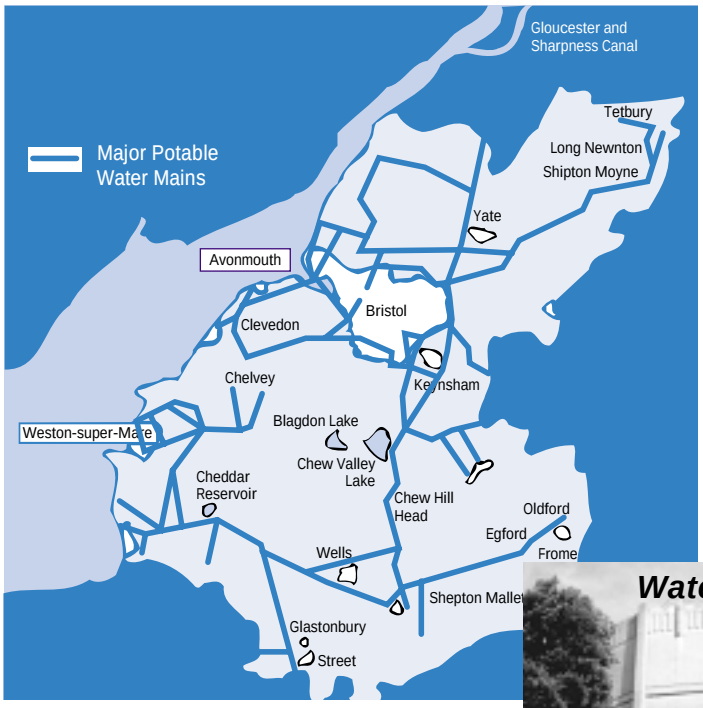
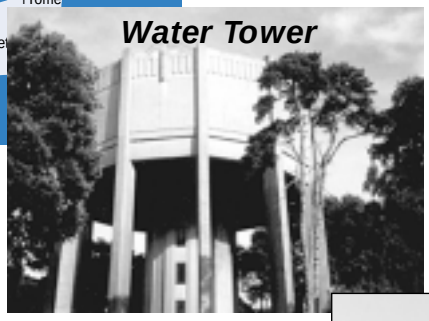
# DISTRIBUTION

*Once water has been treated it has to be pumped to homes, businesses and schools, through a network of pipes. Bristol Water has over 6,300 km of pipes, about 15 times the size of London Underground! These pipes vary in size from 50mm to 1200mm in diameter, big enough for an adult to crawl through. These pipes can be made of materials like iron, plastic and even cement.*

*After being cleaned at the treatment works, water goes to underground storage tanks (service reservoirs). These tanks ensure everyone has water available 24 hours a day, especially at breakfast and dinner time when most water is used. In fact, it's these tanks that regulate how much water is treated. As the water level in the tank drops, ball valves - similar to those found in a toilet cistern only much bigger - open, filling the tank up again.*

*We have over 140 of these tanks, one of them can hold 115 million litres when full. These tanks are normally built on ground higher than the area they supply. Water is very heavy and expensive to pump, so where possible, Bristol Water use gravity to distribute water. Where this is not possible we build water towers to raise the water higher. We use many pumps - we have over 160 pumping stations - to move water around our supply area.*



**Water Tower**

*The whole process is monitored by computers. Information is transmitted to our main control room from treatment works and pumping stations, 24 hours a day. The system monitors everything from the level of a reservoir, to the chlorine level at a particular treatment works. If a problem occurs a member of staff will be sent out to rectify the fault (pictured below: District Inspector with essential equipment).*

**Control Room**

**Looking for a leak!**

1. *2-way radio*
2. *Blue paint for marking pavements.*
3. *Metal detector.*
4. *Equipment for measuring water pressure.*
5. *High visibility jackets.*
6. *Tannoy for announcements.*
7. *Meter for measuring flushed water.*
8. *Torch and safety helmet.*
9. *Rock salt used to combat icy conditions.*
10. *Pipe tracing equipment.*
11. *Different sizes of plastic water pipes.*
12. *Full flow hosepipe used for flushing.*
13. *Sounder for locating burst mains.*
14. *Small pump and hoses.*
15. *Standpipes for connecting to hydrants.*
16. *Split collars used to repair pipes.*
17. *Valve keys used to turn off water mains.*