

MSQP TIMESWITCH WITH THORN 30W 50X
IGNITOR - CONTROL GEAR

THIS BOARD CAME FROM THE WARDEN-CONTROLLED SHELTERED HOUSING SCHEME AT ARTHUR-HIND CLOSE WHERE UP UNTIL RECENTLY MOST OF THE LIGHTS WERE ON PART-NIGHT, GOING OFF AT MIDNIGHT AND BACK ON AT 05.30 TO 06.00 UNTIL DAWN.

(INCIDENTALLY, ARTHUR HIND CLOSE STILL HAS NUMEROUS MERCURY'S, 125W'S IN GAMMA 5'S, IN VERY GOOD CONDITION).

A FEW YEARS AGO THE SERVICE BURNED OUT IN THIS COLUMN AND THE ACTUAL WOODEN BOARD WAS REPLACED ALONG WITH THE CUTOUT & SERVICE CABLE, THOUGH THE ORIGINAL GEAR AND THE MSQP TIMESWITCH WERE RETAINED. THE ORIGINAL BOARD WAS BURNED AT THE BOTTOM AND THE COLUMN SHOWED SIGNS OF BLACKENING/FIRE FROM THIS.

WE SAVE THE WOODEN BOARDS FROM OLD COLUMNS THAT ARE IN GOOD CONDITION, FOR CASES LIKE THIS WHERE THE BOARDS HAVE TO BE REPLACED.

THE SERVICE CABLE IS A 4mm SPLIT-CONCENTRIC (THE SAME AS THE OUT-GOING CABLE ON THE BACK BOARD FROM THE STURGESSE-SCHOOL FOOTPATH).

THE WHITE LUCY MCO40 CUTOUT WAS THE STANDARD SERVICE CUTOUT FOR STREET LIGHTS FOR YEARS IN DERBY UP TILL THE MID/LATE 90'S WHEN THE GREY ~~GEORGINLEY~~ TYPE STARTED TO BE USED.

THE CONTROL GEAR IS UNUSUAL (THE BALLAST). THESE WERE THE FIRST THORN IGNITOR-BALLASTS, APPEARING AROUND 1976. THESE BALLASTS APPEARED IN WITH-GEAR BETA 5'S UNTIL 1977. THE IGNITORS THEMSELVES HAVE NOT CHANGED.

THE VENNER MSQP TIMESWITCH IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE SMALLER VENNER MODELS, HAVING A MUCH LARGER DIAL AND LONGER SWITCH-MECHANISM. THESE WERE ALSO AVAILABLE IN A WHITE PLASTIC CASE (LIKE A BIG VERSION OF THE VENERETTE CASE). UNFORTUNATELY THE GLASS IS MISSING FROM THE CASE IN THIS ONE AND THE DIAL-CENTRE-NUT IS A NEW, REPLACEMENT, ONE. THE DIAL WAS ORIGINALLY HELD ON WITH A TWIST OF COPPER-WIRE, THE ORIGINAL NUT, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN BRASS, WAS MISSING. OTHERWISE THE CLOCK ITSELF IS IN VERY GOOD CLEAN CONDITION.