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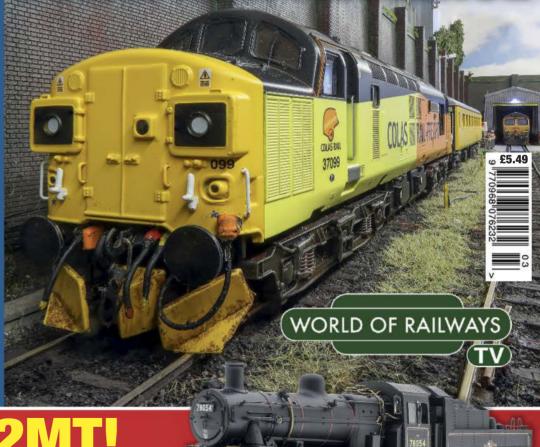


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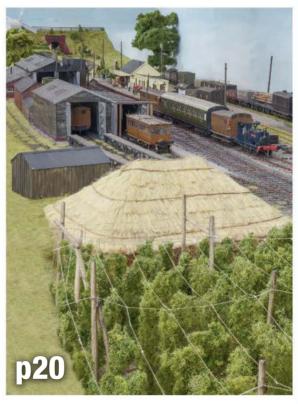


INSPIRING LAYOUTS

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TRACTION

North West Freightliners, steel terminals, York at night in 1971, plus much more!



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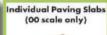


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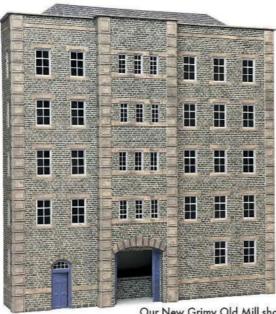
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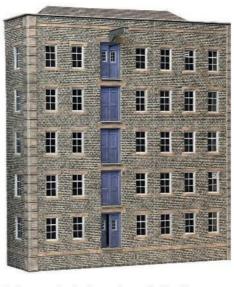
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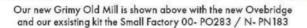
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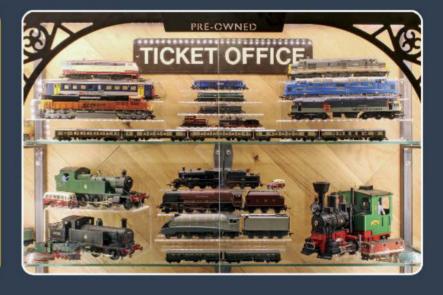
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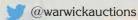
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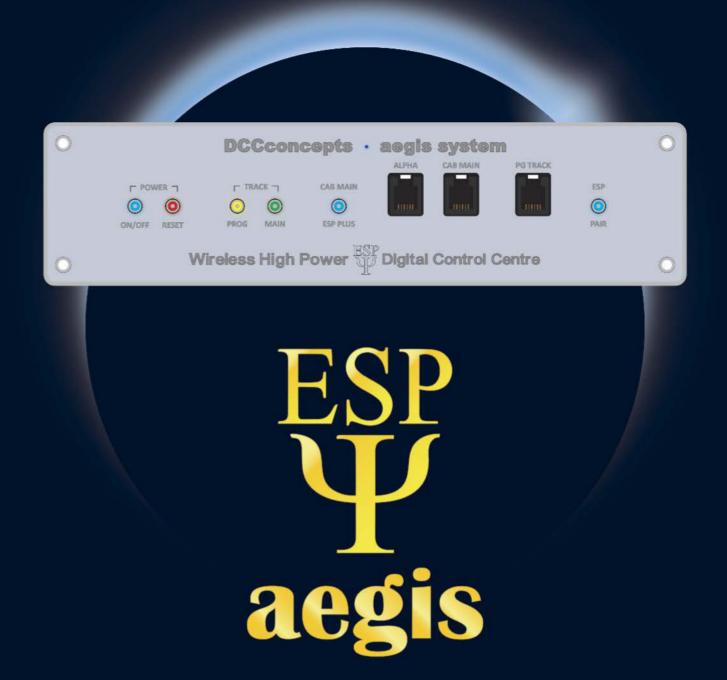
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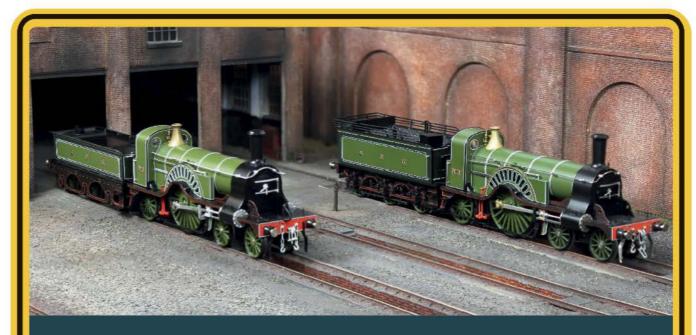
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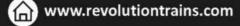
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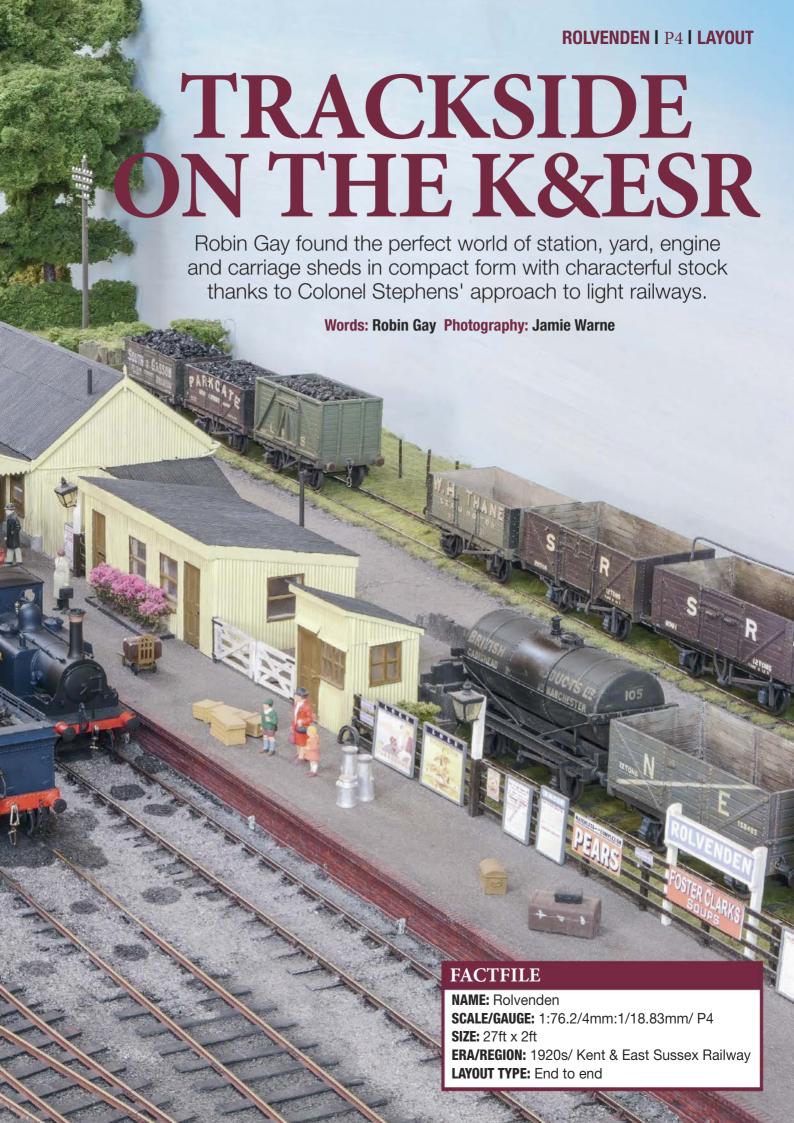


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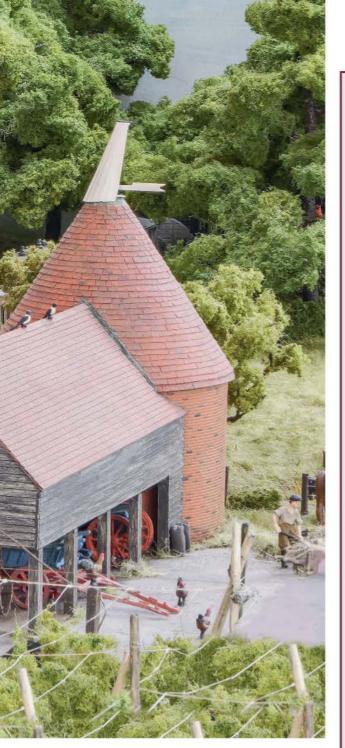




ike many of us, in my younger years, I was always trying to plan the ultimate layout. I would doodle trackplans on bits of paper, and they all looked good until I started to factor scale into the drawings. Every time, it turned out far too big for me to squeeze into the space I had available. I had to be more realistic with my ambitions and started to focus my attention more closely on branch lines. Few, however, had the sort of infrastructure and variety I was looking for, and those that did still worked out to be too large. Discovering light railways really got my imagination going. I could finally squeeze a complete station, yard and engine shed together with a motley collection of old and small locomotives into a small space, and still achieve the variety I was looking for.

I made the decision in the early -'70s to convert from OO to P4 standards. I had observed P4 models in the model press and at exhibitions, appreciated





how they looked and operated, and I just knew this was the way I wanted to model railways. Moving to P4 involved building my own track to 18.83mm using ply and rivet sleepers. I also had to build stock using three-point suspension. Though all extra work, using gauges to aid construction, I consider this well worth the effort.

My woodworking skills were acceptable to start with but have continued to improve further, and as modellers we really develop a whole host of skills in our hobby. For me, it has mainly been the hands-on practical things, making models in brass, white metal and plastic, soldering, gluing, painting, spraying, wiring and carpentry, etc. Though it has been a challenge, it has been very enjoyable and satisfying to develop these new skills. There are, however, two skills that I consider I'm still yet to master - hand lining and painting a backscene.

Fiddle yards

The fiddle yards at both ends of the layout use the Chris Pendlenton cassette stock box system. This method first came to my attention in an article by the author in the model press back in the 1980s, from which I followed the design to make my own stock boxes and cassettes. By storing the different trains and locomotives on these cassettes, you can turn full trains, rearrange them, plug in different cassettes, and change stock as you will, while minimising physical handling of the stock itself. The racking system itself doubles up as a robust storage box. At the end of operation, all the stock is secured in the cassettes using foam blocks and the lid is closed, enabling safe storage and transportation to and from exhibitions. My larger stock boxes are designed to hold as many as 50 wagons, and I use a smaller version for storing up to six locomotives.



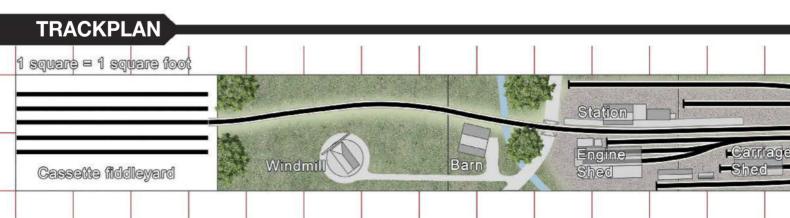
The cassette system allows for trains to be removed and stacked in the vertical bookcase-style storage.



Between the scenic section and cassette storage sits a train turntable allowing complete trains to be turned.

LAYOUT I P4 I ROLVENDEN





Construction beginnings

Rolvenden is a prototypical station on the Kent & East Sussex Railway (K&ESR) and still exists in a muchmodified preserved form to this day. The basic layout design of 'Rolvenden' is taken from Leslie Derbyshire's drawings that were first published, to my knowledge, in the book *Railways of Arcadia*. As a young man in the early 1950s, Les took measurements and photos of many of the buildings and locations along the railway, later used to produce a series of light railway plans and drawings in the Model Railway News. I have based my layout on Les Derbyshire's drawings and trackplan, building the track to P4 standards. I've intentionally left out two sidings that were only used to store scrap locomotives and stock in later years. I don't believe these sidings existed in my period, but ultimately decided there wasn't sufficient room to include them anyway. Baseboards have been limited to 60cm wide to be easily carried through the house and domestic doors. They are made from 6mm plywood, sandwiched using blocks of wood. I find this construction method to be light, strong, and flexible. All the boards have been built to the same dimensions, 100cm x 60cm x 7.5cm.

'Rolvenden' was planned from the start to be portable so I could take it to exhibitions. It presently consists of eight baseboards with folding legs; these all screw together using 6mm Allen head screws. The total length of the layout when erected is 820cm x 60cm. I originally built 'Rolvenden' in my basement and, for many years, I would keep it assembled there, available to operate and just play with as I carried on adding details and making stock. It has developed to the point that I no longer have the room at home to put the whole layout up.

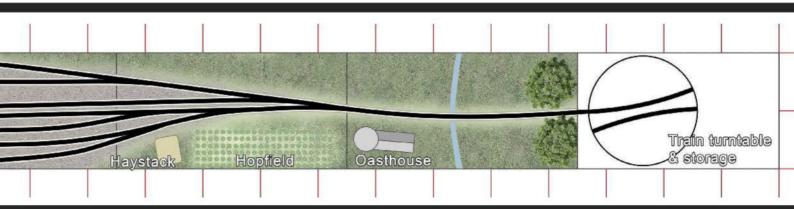




The layout was designed so that it could be operated by a single person and originally had an automatic turntable at one end to facilitate this. However, I soon found while exhibiting that I really needed two people to operate the layout with the turntable a limiting factor, particularly when it came to running longer trains. I now bypass the turntable and have built a second fiddle yard and stock box area.

Rolling stock

Most of the locomotives and rolling stock are either kit or scratch-built. I have used a wide variety of media, including white metal, etched brass/nickel silver and plastic. I have modelled the prototype locomotives



LAYOUT I P4 I ROLVENDEN



Closing the gates

A feature of the K&ESR was the relaxed way the railway worked, and to represent this, it was important to me to have the level crossing gates operational. Often the case when a train approached Rolvenden, there was only the station agent manning the station. He/she would control the ground frame, as well as handling passengers and goods. As a train approached Rolvenden, the gates would be closed to the line and the signal on stop, the fireman would get out and open the gates, allowing the agent to pull the signal off and the train to proceed into the station, often blocking the road while exchanging passengers and goods, and servicing the locomotive. I designed and built my own gate operating mechanism, using a Walkman cassette motor driving through two lots of belt drive reductions, then a 30 to 1 Romford gear, then on to other gears and clutches. It is a little complicated, but it works well and is very satisfying to operate. I have built the windmill with working sails, also driven by an old Walkman cassette player, driving through two belt/ wheel reductions, then a shaft up through the middle, five degrees off vertical. The final drive goes through a Romford 30 to 1 worm wheel, giving the sails a speed of around 15rpm. Running off a 1.5 volt AA battery, I find one cell will last for 2-3 days at an exhibition.

The R.Y. Pickering steam railcar No.6 makes a rare appearance on a service.

and stock that ran on the railway in my period of the early 1920s. All the locomotives and rolling stock have been built with compensated suspension, which I find not only keeps all the P4 wheels on the track, but greatly aides power pick-up. Control is DC and utilises 0.3mm phosphor bronze wire wiper pick-ups on all wheels. I find the reliability and slow running of this combination to be so good that people often ask me if I'm using DCC and stay-alive components. All my locomotives use Mashima can motors, with either Exactoscale gearboxes, or High Level ones in my more recent builds, which I find to be excellent.

The great thing with light railways was that I could use my main line wagon stock. The majority of wagons that ran on the K&ESR were exchanged daily from the main line companies, with photos showing that they often travelled from far and wide.



The open countryside between the station, windmill and tunnel is formed from layers of corrugated cardboard that have been cut to profile and then glued down with PVA to form the hill. This is then covered with two or three layers of J-cloth glued on top of this again with PVA to form a strong base to add the scenic textures.

Scenic touches

Most of the buildings on the layout are scratch-built copies of the originals, with all the railway buildings constructed using Les Derbyshire's drawings, as well as other plans, maps and many photographs for reference.

My building methods have changed over the years as my own skills have developed. For instance, my early buildings, including the station, were built mainly using a balsa wood shell covered with Eastwell Ironwork corrugated iron sheet. The later buildings, however, were constructed using a Plastikard shell and the same corrugated iron sheeting or weather-boarded using 3mm x 0.25mm styrene strip. In addition to the railway buildings, I have scratch-built an oast house, again using Plastikard, and have a windmill that has been assembled using the old Airfix post mill, typical of many that were still in Kent at the time.

The scenery on 'Rolvenden' is typical of Kent and relatively simple from a modelling perspective. There is a rising incline from the station towards the tunnel



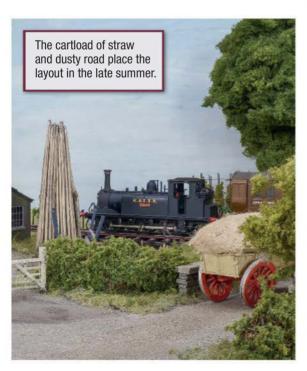
LAYOUT I P4 I ROLVENDEN

of around 1 in 50, with a similar rising incline in the opposite direction. Both can catch me out at times during operation, especially during a big shunt with a long train, when smaller locomotives can slip to a halt. The profile of the land is built up by gluing successive layers or corrugated cardboard on top of each other, each slightly smaller than the last to build up the profile of a small hill or cutting. I glue it all down with PVA and rest weights on it, usually overnight, until dry. Following this, I make up a mixture of a cheap Polyfilla using water and PVA and apply this to smooth over all the joints. When dry, I cover the whole lot using cheap kitchen cloths (J Cloth type) and PVA. I find about three layers dry out to give a good firm base to add grass, bushes, and small trees. I plant larger trees into a deep hole right through the corrugated cardboard or into the plywood to provide suitable support, applying plenty of hot glue and quickly planting the tree before the glue has cooled.

To create scenic breaks between the layout and fiddle yard, I have placed a tunnel at one end and a small wood at the other, overhanging the track to help disguise the trains as they disappear. The tunnel was scratch-built using Plastikard and Wills brick sheet. It is based on the tunnel at St. Michael's (between Rolvenden and Headcorn), but in reality, was about 2.5 miles away from Rolvenden station.

Operating 'Rolvenden'

The layout was designed from the start to be DC, with DCC remaining a dark art to me art present. Since the '80s, I used a hand-held Pentroller, but as these have started to fail in recent years, I am now using an All Components HH5/00 hand-held feedback controller. I find this unit gives me excellent smooth slow speed control and enough oomph to double head or bank trains up the inclines when I need to. All the points and signals are operational and worked by Hoffman point motors.









ROLVENDEN I P4 I LAYOUT



About the modeller

Name: Robin Gay

How many years modelling: 60

Favourite era/region: Light Railways of Britain **Favourite locomotive:** Small Manning Wardle Tanks

I have lived in Bristol my whole life and have been involved in railway modelling since a young boy. The modelling bug well and truly bit having requested a Tri-ang Blue Pullman set one Christmas, I also inherited my older brother's Hornby trains around the same time. My favourite pastime would be to go to the trackside and watch the trains go by, later leading to a 20-year career on the railways as a track chargeman. I am proud to have been a founder member of the Bristol BS4 P4 group, who I continue to meet with to this day, and they are often found supporting me with my layouts on the exhibition circuit.

There have been many modellers who have inspired me over the years, Peter Denney's Buckingham Central, for instance, and like most modellers of my age group, I followed the many exploits of lain Rice and his light railways, his articles, and books. At the time I was planning 'Rolvenden', a book was published called *Landscape Modelling* by Barry Norman. Though I did not have the space to fully model the landscape as Barry did, this book has always remained a great inspiration and my go-to book throughout the building; published in 1986 and still available today.

At exhibitions, I use a flip card sequence to guide the operators through the various train movements while also informing the viewer as to what's going on. While many trains and movements are representative of the original K&ESR timetable, to keep things interesting, I run many more trains in a sequence than would have really run on even the busiest day on the railway. Several of the trains run as mixed passenger and goods, shunting, and picking up wagons along the route. One of the peculiarities of the railway was to save time, the train would often shunt the sidings complete with the carriages, and passengers still on board. Naturally I also replicate this as part of the operation of my model.

Final thoughts

My personal tip for any modeller would be not to spend too much time planning and thinking about your project, but to get on and try out your ideas. Some will work well and as you imagined; others may fail. But I have found that it is only when you give something a go that you really develop your ideas and skill set. Don't set your standards too high, but do your best and be proud of what you achieved. Share it with others through interested friends, other modellers, the model press and exhibitions. This is where the true satisfaction comes, from in my experience.

I have several locomotives and rolling stock still to build for 'Rolvenden', including *Hecate* and some 4-wheeled coaches to represent the hop pickers' trains. I have also recently finished building a layout of the Wantage terminus of the Wantage Tramway, which is now being exhibited. I continue to be interested in light railways, with several prototypes catching my eye. So, between exhibiting the two layouts and working my way through the unbuilt kit pile, there's plenty to keep me busy for many years to come.



COMMUNITY

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Change is inevitable. Things evolve and we need to adapt, and this doesn't just apply to our jobs or how we interact with the younger generation, it extends to our hobbies, too.

Two of the layouts featured in this issue are great examples, both being second versions of the originals. Our first, 'Oakhurst Town', was completely rebuilt to become more lightweight and exhibition-friendly, while 'Brunswick Yard' switched gauges to improve operation.

Starting again can be a scary prospect, especially if you have invested a lot of hours and money into the creation of your layout, but as these layouts prove, change can be a really positive thing.

Technology is moving forward, too, and it's an exciting time in the model railway world as manufacturers push the boundaries on quality for ready-to-run models, plus sound and live steam features become more accessible. We caught up with Hornby and Rapido Trains recently, and both have some exciting new developments on the horizon.

Speaking of Hornby, quite a lot has changed over the past 12 months for the modelmaker, and we spoke to the new team behind the scenes, plus feature Hornby's 2024 announcements – see page 136 – in this issue. Needless to say, there's plenty to look forward to in the months to come. However, the announcements this year are a somewhat subdued affair, with the team very much getting its ducks in a row to build for the future.

Finally, on the subject of change, you will notice that BRM March features Traction magazine inside its pages, which will become a regular feature moving forward. Great news for not only diesel fans but those who also crave more information about the real railways that we base so many of our models on. But don't worry, although change is great, you can still expect the same fantastic layouts, the latest new product reviews, and a helpful dose of modelling advice inside every issue.

Happy Modelling Debbie Wood

WEEKEND PLANS...

Model Rail Scotland

Scotland's big show of the year returns in 2024 to the Scotlish Event Campus in Glasgow. The three-day event showcases a range of layouts, trade and societies to satisfy all different types of railway modellers.

DATE: February 23-25, 2024

Chesham Model Railway Club Exhibition

This one-day event will be hosted at White Hill Centre, White Hill, Chesham, Bucks HP5 1AG, and will showcase several layouts, trade stands and demonstrations, plus activities for the kids. Entry costs from £3 and doors open at 10am.

DATE: Sunday, March 3, 2024

The London Festival of Railway Modelling

BRM's London exhibition is back for 2024 and will take place across the weekend of March 16/17th. Hosted at the iconic Alexandra Palace, visitors can expect around 40 fantastic layouts, more than 80 traders, and numerous clubs and societies in attendance.

DATE: March 16-17, 2024

Ashford Festival of Railway Modelling 2024

A weekend event in Ashford Town Centre featuring a model railway exhibition with over 40 layouts, traders and society stands, plus Tracks Across the Spectrum – a special display of models created by and for people with autism and an Exhibition on 140 years of the Maidstone to Ashford line. DATE: April 6-7, 2024

'Alexandra Sidings' will be on show.

The Festival of British Railway Modelling

Once again to be held at the Doncaster Racecourse, visitors can expect 30 fantastic layouts in N, 00, EM, 0, S7, P4, 009, and more, catering to all tastes. And that's not all, there will be an abundance of leading retailers, plus specialist manufacturers and traders showcasing harder-to-find products.

DATE: February 10-11, 2024

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Hi BRM, I enjoyed the DVD 10 Fantastic Layouts, free with the January issue. Splendid, as is the magazine, of course. Feel free to include more N-gauge.

Keith Bingham

BRM says: Great news that you enjoyed the DVD, I'm sure we will be doing more in the future. Or, if you subscribe, you'll have the latest episode of WoRTV delivered directly to your inbox every month!



A SAD

It is my sad duty to inform you of the death of one of our members at The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, David Elliott.

Although we all knew that David was not well, and that time was against him, this news nevertheless comes as a body blow to all those who knew him. We will, in due course, pay proper tribute to David and his wonderful engineering achievements.

I am sure you will join me and my fellow Trustees in wishing David's immediate family well at this difficult time.

Steve Davies MBE - Chairman

QUIRKY POLL

The festive poll asks which unusual locomotive modellers would like to see appear RTR in the future.

Run over Christmas on RMweb every year, it's a popularity contest for some of the more unusual potential model locomotive subjects. Voters are asked to select only those models they would actually buy, which is of interest to the manufacturers. In fact, one item on the poll list has already been announced!

The team of Robert Carroll, Chris Knowles-Thomas, John Lewis, Jeff Lynn, Brian MacDermott, Nick Stanbury and Ian Taylor listed 25 really interesting models that wouldn't normally feature in traditional wish lists, and here is how they ranked in popularity.

For more information about the poll and the voting details, head to RMweb by visiting www.RMweb.co.uk

Quirky Poll 2023 Ranking

- 1. Aveling & Porter Loco
- 2. Ivor The Engine
- 3. LNER Y10 Double-ended Sentinel
- 4. Bulleid Shunter No.11001
- 5. Furness Railway A5 0-4-0
- 6. K&ESR Railcar Set No.3
- 7. GER Nielsen Y5
- 8. BR Nos.15097-15099 (Originally LNER Simplex Z6 Class, later Y11)
- 9. Trevithick's Loco
- 10. Locomotion
- 11. GWR Dean 4-4-0ST No.13
- 12. NER Aerolite
- 13. Wantage Tramway No.6
- 14. Snowdon Mountain Railway
- 15. Southwold Railway
- 16. MR USA Mogul
- 17. LMS Motor Car Van
- 18. Rye & Camber Tramway
- 19. Ryde Pier Tramway
- 20. Head Wrightson 0-4-0 VBT
- 21. Wessington Railway
- 22. Beckton Gas Works No.1
- 23. NER Class S2 with Stumpf Uniflow Cylinders
- 24. Beckton Gas Works No.25
- 25. South Metropolitan Gas Works St Orion

CHARITY LOCO

Accurascale revealed plans to raise £10,000 for the Samaritans with a very special exclusive model of the forthcoming Class 66 no 66415 in Freightliner orange livery with black striping.

Named You Are Never Alone at Ipswich Station in November 2019, the real 66 415 was named through a collaborative effort between Freightliner, Greater Anglia and Samaritans to pay tribute and to raise awareness of the invaluable work the Samaritans do to help prevent suicide across the UK and Republic of Ireland.

The nameplate was unveiled by train drivers Steve Read and Dave Bray and Branch Director of the Samaritans, Ipswich & East Suffolk, Judy Wright. The locomotive is plying its trade across the UK today, proudly carrying its nameplate in the distinctive Wyoming-inspired Orange Freightliner livery.

Following on from the great success of its first charity fundraising model for Prostate Cancer UK, Accurascale has decided to work with its customers once again, this time focusing on mental health.

The model 66415 is currently in production and will arrive with the rest of the first production run of the Class 66 locomotives in the first quarter of 2024. It will come complete with presentation packaging and be offered in both DC/DCC Ready and DCC Sound Fitted formats priced at £169.99 and £259.99, respectively.

The locomotive will be available to order exclusively via the Accurascale website, and with production already underway, stock is strictly limited.



COMMUNITY

Inspirational modelling with RMweb





Wm. Pepper's Kerr Stuart Victory gets a heavy coal train moving toward the BR exchange sidings at Blacker Lane opencast Disposal Point. RMweb user: Ruston

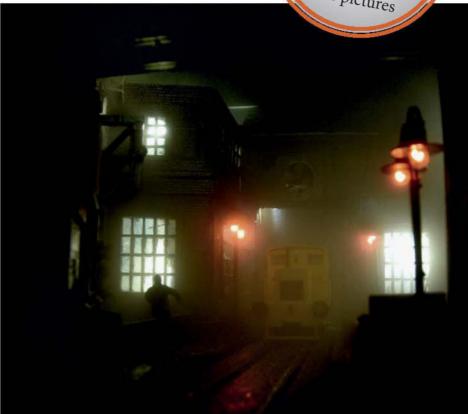


Another view of Nesta, this time having exited the short tunnel and now out in the open. RMweb user: thialdines

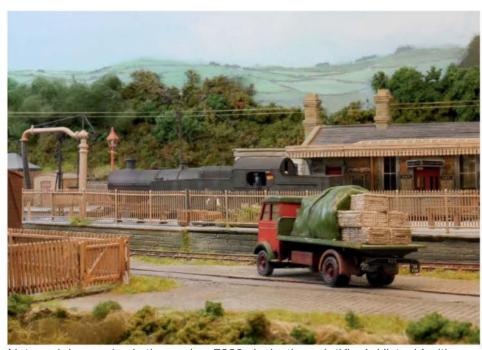


Three 50s share space with Sulzer Type 2s at High Peak Junction. RMweb user: TT100 Diesels

Get involved and visit rmweb.co.uk/ topic/156891-showus-yours-realisticmodelling/and post your pictures



It's 1988, and with the engineering works at Spon Lane heading for inevitable closure, management has taken the bizarre decision to overhaul and repaint their stalwart Ruston 48 into high-vis yellow. RMweb user: Ben B



Not much happening in the yard as 7233 clanks through 'King's Hintock' with a slow goods. RMweb user: Barry Ten

TRENDING ON SOCIAL



Layouts revealed for the 2024 London Festival of Railway Modelling...



Two big announcements from Rapido today great news for N fans!



Locomotion Models reveals new Class 41 HSDT!



Fantastic 'Hills of the North' will be exhibiting at Doncaster



VIDEO: Hornby's Big Four locos on test!

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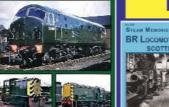
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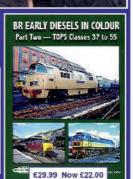


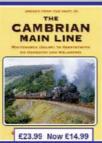












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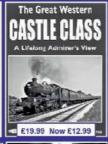
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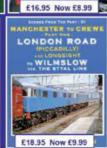
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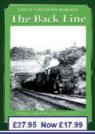


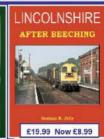


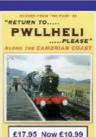






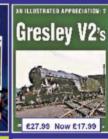










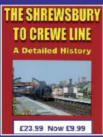


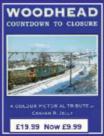


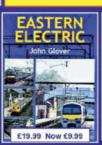




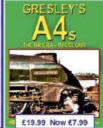


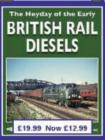














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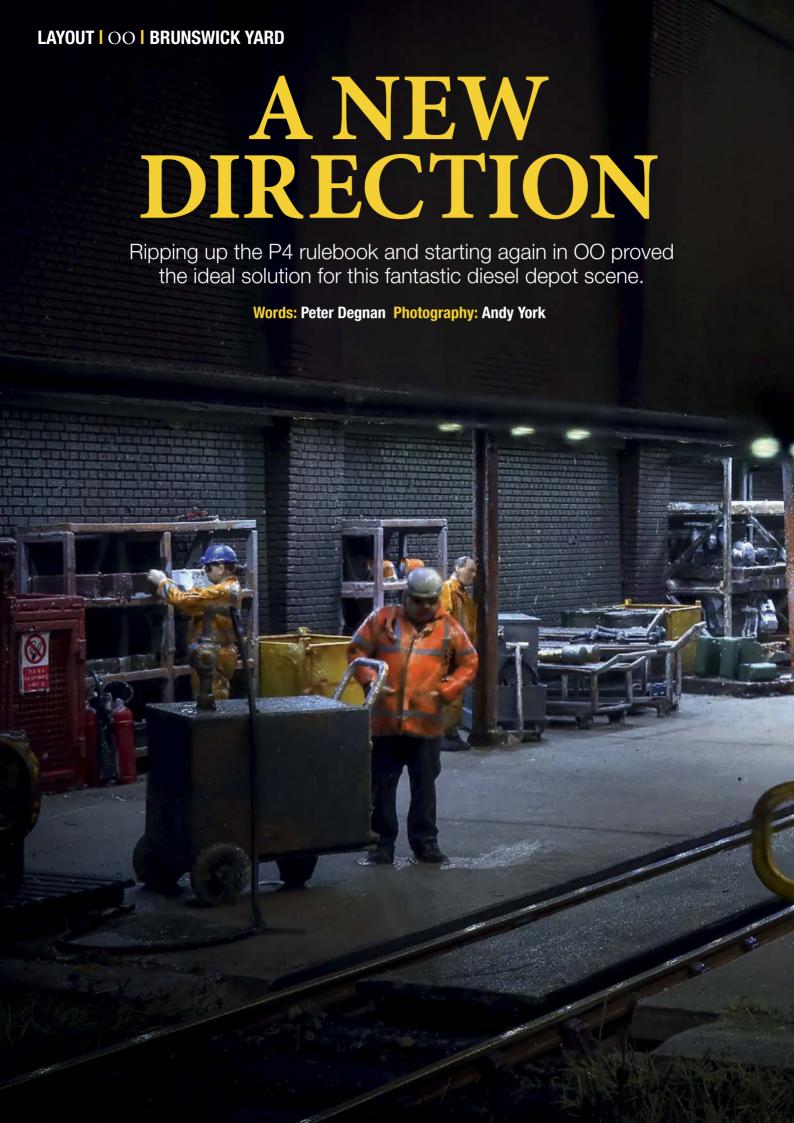






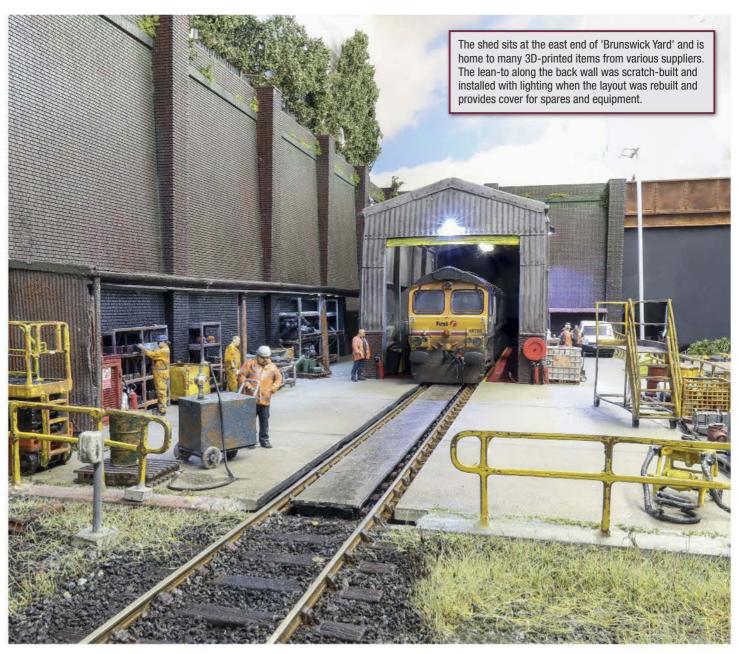


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LAYOUT I OO I BRUNSWICK YARD



he idea for 'Brunswick Yard' was developed in our old group meeting rooms above The Brunswick pub in Derby, hence the name.

The layout design and location is fictitious and the concept is a main line (off scene) feeding a wagon repair works (off scene opposite end), with stabling sidings for wagons/coaches awaiting repair or post-repair. It also has a light maintenance shed for stabling and maintaining locomotives.

'Brunswick Yard' could be described as "the layout that was built twice" as it was originally constructed and displayed as a P4 layout. The layout became a major frustration, however, as it would run fine for a few days, then, a few days later, nothing would stay on the track. I could not get to the bottom of why this inconsistency was happening and spent many hours trying to get to the root cause of the problems. I think P4 looks great and would never talk it down, but it was becoming apparent to me that, if I was to start enjoying running trains reliably, something would need to change.



BRUNSWICK YARD I OO I LAYOUT





LAYOUT I OO I BRUNSWICK YARD



A Hornby Class 08 (08417) shunts test coach Mentor into siding No 4 at the front of the layout. The leaning shunter from ModelU, and the ground cover detailing help to add realism to the scene. Layering the ground cover with various grades and types of materials, including horsehair bushes, eliminates the uniformity that you see on some layouts.



The excellent Caroline inspection saloon, produced by Revolution Trains, gets ready to move off. I modified the lighting by using black tape to cover the LED above the driver so that he is not lit as per prototype and also toned down the coach lighting by placing frosted draughting tape layers over the other coach lights. It helps to tone down the interior lighting.

In August 2022, I decided to set myself the challenge of re-laying the track in OO gauge and converting all the stock back to OO.

Mark II

The target was to have this done by December 31st, 2022. Having ripped up all of the track, ballast and hand-built points, it was soon starting to take shape, but I must admit to some "what am I doing?" thoughts now and again. I also completely ripped up and re-laid the shed area and took the opportunity to change a few things. The track was re-laid on 2mm scale ballast, weathered and re-wired using Peco code 75 bullhead track and the excellent British Finescale B7 Finetrax kits were used to build the four points. I feel it is worth taking the time to get the track work to look right (especially if using OO gauge track), as it is probably the most important feature of the layout. Various layers of weathering to the track sides, sleepers and ballast were applied to alleviate the uniform appearance.

The layout is built on four 3ft x 1ft sections (two scenic and two fiddle yard boards), utilising the excellent Tim Horn Baseboards products. All buildings, apart from the main shed (which has been modified), have been scratch-built. The scenery has been added based on observed cameos seen around the network. The back wall was laser-cut to my design by Clockwork Ideas and I painted and weathered it. The detailing of the layout has been achieved mainly using items supplied by West Hill Wagon Works, 3D Printing Corner, Scale Model Scenery and others. The layout main lighting is achieved using LED strips under the front canopy facing onto the layout. Other lights on the layout are also LEDs and are controlled via dimmer switches.

By January 3rd, 2023, the work was completed and trains were running once again. I also added the leanto shed at the back wall and added lights inside and outside the shed, in the yard and in the lean-to.

At home, the layout scenic area sits on two Ikea drawer units in my workshop. This provides a great operating height and loads of storage space. When exhibiting, the layout stands on four sets of trestletype legs. These legs were salvaged from Phil Eames' original "Calcutta Sidings" layout and do the job well.

TRACKPLAN 1 square = 1 square foot Compound Fiddleyard 1 Tolffrom main line

BRUNSWICK YARD I OO I LAYOUT



Servicing-shed-	Fiddleyard 2 To/from wagon repair shop	

LAYOUT I OO I BRUNSWICK YARD







About the modeller

Name: Peter Degnan

Age: 66

Years Modelling: Always had layouts as a kid but returned to the hobby

seriously in 1998

Name of first layout: 'Loch Fyne'

Favourite era: I enjoy today's railways, particularly Network Rail stock, but still have a soft spot for 1968-'72, my spotting days around my

native Glasgow

Favourite Loco: Probably Class 37

I was a Chartered Engineer and worked in the aviation industry for 45 years before deciding to retire early in 2017. I currently live in Derby and regularly pass the Railway Technical Centre, glancing in to see what is in the sidings. This is probably why I have a liking for Network Rail stock. I have been interested in railways for as long as I can remember. Glasgow is my home city, and I spent lots of time during my teens visiting the likes of Eastfield, Pomadie and Corkerhill sheds just after the demise of steam. I particularly enjoy historical research of railways and spend hours poring over old maps.

Modelling highlights

Apart from the challenges I had with P4, I would say the hard-standing area around the shed was the most challenging part of the layout to get to look right. Getting it flat enough to put the long shed on necessitated using thick Plastikard, shaped and weathered to look effective. I particularly enjoyed detailing the shed area and the trackside items. Looking at the real railway, I observed the quantity of ground details that exist and, thankfully, 3D printing has brought a lot of these items to the marketplace.

I think one thing I learned was that if at first something doesn't work, change it. I love a challenge like anyone else but, when it becomes stressful, it is time to be decisive. I don't think I would do things differently as I learned a lot building the layout in P4, but converting it to OO also gave me the opportunity to change other things I was not happy with.

LAYOUT I OO I BRUNSWICK YARD





The back scene wall of 'Brunswick Yard' was an idea I had and produced as laser-cut panels by Clockwork Ideas. It required sealing, painting, weathering and foliage added before I was happy with it. The buildings are scratch-built using Plastikard and details such as security cameras, extractors and piping, etc. They were then painted and weathered following examples on prototype pictures of similar buildings.

Modern Diesel

The layout is DCC-controlled using an ESU Powercab system. A good proportion of the locomotives are also sound-fitted. The ground signals are from Absolute Aspects and the points are operated by an ESU accessory decoder linked to the Tortoise point motors, controlled from the handset using macros.

The stock running on 'Brunswick Yard' is all from the diesel era. There is a wide variety of locomotives and liveries to run on the layout, with a predominance of Network Rail and DRS. All the stock is RTR but has been detailed on the buffer beams with pipes and couplings, etc., plus some weathering to add realism.

I have tried just about every type of coupling over the years, but have settled on screw links for locomotives and instanters for wagons, with a magnetic loop on the bottom in order to ease the coupling process. Coaches have Hunt couplings where they couple-up to each other.

BRUNSWICK YARD I OO I LAYOUT

A number of Colas locomotives feature on the layout, including 37099, seen here with a test train coach destined for the wagon works for some light maintenance while in the 'Brunswick Yard' area. Bufferbeam detailing finishes off a locomotive, and I always endeavour to do this before running, either using the pack provided if it looks good or by adding my own versions.



There are numerous DRS locomotives that visit 'Brunswick Yard', including 57304. I try to weather locomotives at least to some extent, and it is something I am still learning. I find that subtlety is required when weathering and a good prototype picture helps point out wear points and areas where grime gets trapped.



The twin pairing of Bachmann Class 20s returns to Brunswick Yard at the end of the day, passing the Network Rail compound at the west end of the layout. The consisting feature on the ESU Powercab handset makes the running of coupled-up locomotives simple.

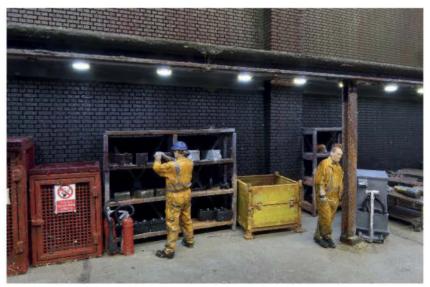
At exhibition

The layout is ideally operated by three personnel, one out front and one in each fiddle yard. I intend to create a running sequence, but at the moment the running plan is fluid. It is a fictitious location in a wide time period (2010 - present), so I can run it how I like.

As for the future, I am still enjoying detailing and operating 'Brunswick Yard' and working on the stock, detailing and weathering. I have started researching the possibilities of a layout based in the West of Scotland in the 1968-'72 timeframe, somewhere in the Glasgow/Renfrewshire region, so we will see where that goes...

As part of the "DEFine Modellers" group, I am fortunate to be friends with some excellent modellers and they have been very supportive of me and the development of 'Brunswick Yard'.

The next outing for 'Brunswick Yard' is at Model Rail Scotland on February 23-25th, 2024.



ModelU 3D-printed figures have been a revelation in bringing a layout to life in my opinion. These samples depict one of the engineering personnel checking up on spare batteries held on the storage shelves in the lean-to shed, while his mate lets him get on with it.



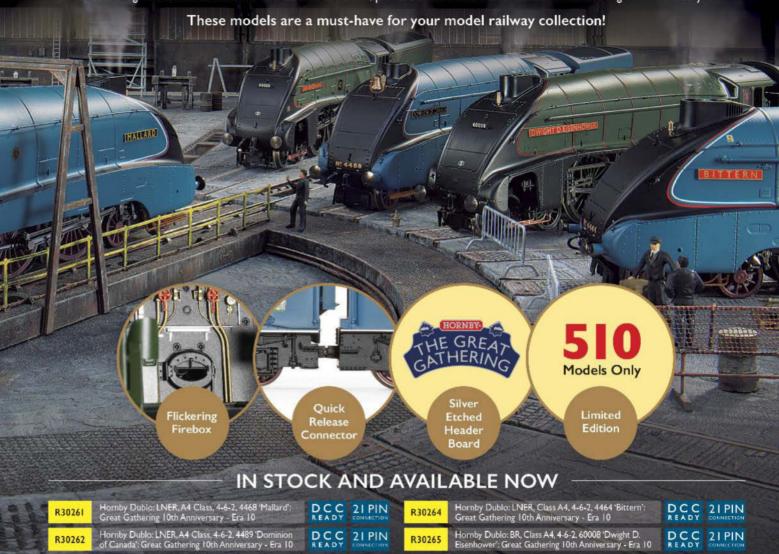


RAILWAY Museum.

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In July 2013 at the National Railway Museum, York, the last surviving members of the Class A4 gathered in celebration of 'Mallard' achieving the World Speed Record for Steam locomotives which occurred on 3rd July 1938. Four of the A4s were UK based while two, 'Dwight D. Eisenhower' and 'Dominion of Canada' had been shipped over from the North American continent.

In celebration of 'The Great Gathering', a limited edition run of just 510 Hornby Dublo models of each of the six A4s are being produced as seen in July 2013. Presented in specially commissioned 'Great Gathering' packaging, each exclusive model will include a 'Hornby Great Gathering' headboard as fitted for the 2013 celebrations, plus a Limited Edition certificate commemorating the anniversary.



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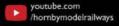


Hornby Dublo: BR, Class A4, 4-6-2, 60009 Union of South Africa': Great Gathering 10th Anniversary - Era 10





DCC 21 PIN



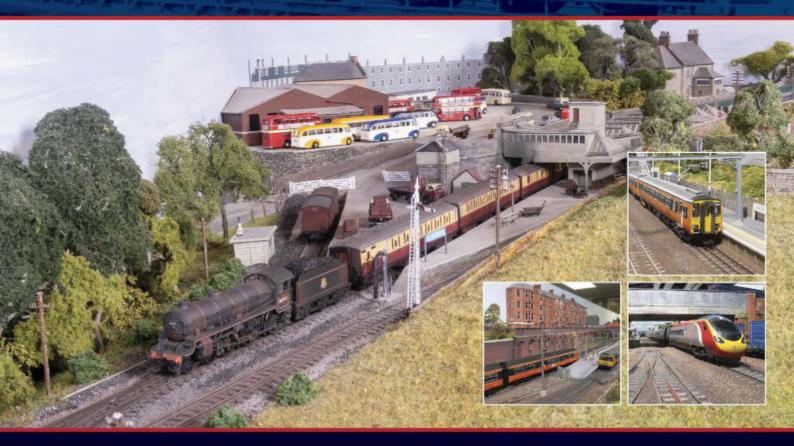


Hornby Dublo: BR. Class A4, 4-6-2, 60007 'Sir Nigel Gresley': Great Gathering 10th Anniversary - Era 10



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Getting Practical with...



Pin Vices

If you use micro drills, the fine ones measured in fractions of a millimetre, it's essential to be able to hold them properly. A pin vice is the correct tool; simply insert the drill bit in the front, with as little sticking out as you can get away with, and drill away. The less wobble, or chance to flex you allow the drill bit, the greater chance it will survive the work. You'll need a selection to cater for thinner and fatter drill shanks. Single-ended versions tend to grip very small sizes better than double-ended versions. To protect the palm of your hand when drilling, fit a large drawing pin in the end.



Ask Phil

Why do my N gauge wagons run poorly?

There could be a lot of reasons, but the first thing that struck me, when presented with these models, is that they are both very oily. One has even picked up some sand on the wheel treads, held on by the lubricant!

A good clean with white spirit should help. The plastic chassis should be self-lubricating, so there's no need to oil. If you really insist, stick to a very tiny drop of light oil safe for plastics. Peco Power Lube isn't a bad option. but to be honest, you shouldn't need it.

New on the workbench

Precision Plastic Glue

Putting just the right amount of glue in exactly the place you want is the key to neat plastic kit building. We all remember Airfix Spitfires assembled with tube glue splurging out from the joints!

Deluxe Materials Precision Plastic Glue includes, tucked in the back under the sticker, a very fine nozzle that screws into the front of the bottle and allows minute quantities to be applied. The container shape should encourage glue in the nozzle to run back into the bottle, but in my experience, a length of .45mm wire poked down it regularly really helps keep it clear.









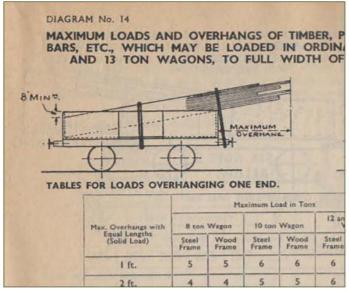




Tony Wright

How to load a wagon

Railway wagons weren't for decoration, they only paid their way if travelling loaded. On a model, loaded wagons look more interesting than empties, and doing something about this is a nice guick project. Phil Parker explains.



Exactly how a wagon should be loaded is laid out in official instruction books. My guide is from 1964, the nattily titled Instructions & diagrams for loading and securing long, projecting and otherwise exceptional loads, also procedure regarding acceptance and conveyance of out-of-gauge and otherwise exceptional loads.



The first step is to carefully cut the planks from 1mm thick obeche sheet. Each is 72mm long, so they overhang the wagon slightly, but not quite enough to require a runner wagon on the end to stop them from whacking the adjacent vehicle when in a train.



Each plank is carefully sanded to reduce the visible grain but otherwise left alone. I'm assuming these are new planks so won't have weathered. The pile is glued together with PVA and left to dry under a weight so the load is nice and flat.



Using linen thread, slightly thicker than normal thread and a colour more like rope, the planks are tied down at the end where they stick over the wagon side, fixed with a dot of superglue, which has the benefit of adding a bit of colour to the thread, too.







Modelling Spring Trees



TREES ALWAYS make a useful addition to a model railway. They can help soften the harsh divisions between foreground and background, camouflage entrances to storage yards, and generally add a bit of colour and variety to the scene. The real things come in all shapes and sizes, as do the means to model them. These

range from fully finished creations to making your own from scratch.

For those who would like something a little more personal than the out of the box offerings, but do not know how to begin, the 'Spring Realistic Tree Kit' from WWScenics provides a good way to start.

A basic guide can be found on the back of the pack, with more detailed instructions on its website (https://www. wwscenics.com/).

WHAT YOU NEED

Slaters

20 thou Plastikard

WWScenics

Fine white flock powder, Spring Realistic Tree kit, Tree and Foliage spray

Medium viscosity superglue, grey primer, assorted acrylic paints, 0.6mm dia. brass wire, fine grade Milliput, modeller's knife, wire cutters, assorted fine drills, large cardboard box, large plastic mixing bowl, plastic food boxes with snap-tight lids, tweezers, forceps, expanded polystyrene block offcuts

SPRING REALISTIC TREE KIT



The box contains the basic items to make a selection of springtime trees:

- Plastic Tree Trunks (eight in total)
- Light & Dark Green scatter material for the leaves
- Red and pink scatter material for the blossom

What is Sea Foam?

Going by the official name of Teloxsys Aristata, Sea Foam is an annual plant found mostly in the temperate zones of Central Asia. Growing to about 35cm in height, its everlasting properties and fine, delicate form make it a popular choice in all fields of model making and flower arranging. Seeds are available, although it seems that cultivation does take a bit of effort. But, if you are feeling adventurous and prepared to wait, you could grow your own!



The tree trunks in the pack are made from shiny injection moulded plastic, and since I wanted to paint them later, they were given a guick wash in soapy water to remove any remaining mould release.



As per the instructions on the pack, the rather artificial-looking side branches were removed as close to the trunk as possible with a pair of wire cutters and then cleaned up with a sharp craft knife.



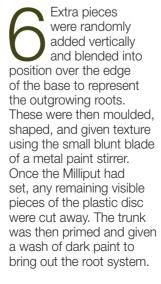
The trunks in the kit are probably too tall (scale 30ft) for all but the largest trees, so each one was cut down to differing heights. This also gave a flat base to the trunk, which would be useful for fixing in place on the layout later. A small clearance hole was drilled in the base, and a piece of .6mm brass rod inserted with about 50mm left protruding. The rod makes it easier to secure the finished trees into the landscape, and also gives you something useful to hold onto.



Not all trees have trunks emerging cleanly straight from the ground. Often, they will have roots spreading from the base. To model this, I first added a 20mm diameter disc of Plastikard to the base.



Some fine grade Milliput was mixed and rolled into lengths approximately of 4mm in diameter. A couple were wrapped around the base of the tree and smoothed out to about 10mm up the trunk and halfway across the Plastikard base.







Adding the Sea Foam branches. These come in the form of large clumps in the kit. The first thing to do was gently tease them apart, spread them out and cut off different sizes, either with a sharp knife or wire cutters, to get a variety of branch lengths and density.



top and worked down. I drilled a small hole just big enough to take the selected Sea Foam piece. You will need a selection of drill sizes for the different thicknesses of Sea Foam. I drilled all the way through the trunk so I could set the 'branch' to the desired length.

The Sea Foam was pushed in and glued into place using the medium-thickness superglue. Any pieces protruding through the trunk were cut off once set. Gradually, larger pieces were added as I worked down the tree until it had as many branches as I wanted.





The next phase was to add the foliage. The basic process is to coat the tree with some form of adhesive, and then scatter the leaf and blossom material over it until you get the effect and coverage you are happy with. I decided to use WWScenics own brand of solvent-based adhesive, which comes in an aerosol spray can.



It was pretty obvious that the Sea Foam was not the same colour as the gaudy shiny green trunk, so I spray-painted the tree with grey primer to get a bit of consistency of colour. I also gave the trunks a couple of washes of browns and dark grevs to give in a bit of texture. This is where that extra bit of brass wire at the bottom of the tree starts to come in handy. You can use it to stick into a polystyrene block, or hold it at a distance with forceps so you don't get covered in paint as well.

This is the stage where things can get messy if you are not careful. To contain the overspray, I made a simple enclosure from a spare cardboard box. I also made sure all the windows were open as it can smell quite a bit! I stuck the tree rod into a piece of polystyrene



and fixed this to the bottom of the box with Blu-Tak, and gave the tree a good coating of adhesive from the top and sides.



I first scattered the dark green foliage over the tree from the top and sides, holding the tree by the brass rod over a large plastic mixing bowl (the same one I washed the original plastic trees in). Most scatter will end up in the bowl rather than stuck to the tree, but this way it can be contained, recovered and re-used. You can also use a tea tray or baking sheet, but I found the bowl easier to handle.



I repeated the processes a couple of times until I was happy with the coverage, then did the same for the light green to represent new leaf shoots and the coloured flocks for the blossom, trying to be sparing and not overdo the coverage. The kit contains pink and red blossom, but I also bought some fine white scatter material as that seems to be the commonest colour for tree blossom where I live!



No two trees are alike, so I tried to vary each one as much as possible by cutting them to different heights, and using different quantities of Sea Foam and combinations of flock. Even after I had used the trunks supplied in the kit, there was still plenty of Sea Foam and scatter material left to start experimenting. A free-standing piece of Sea Foam made a fairly realistic slender-trunked tree. I used the trunk offcuts to form the basis of pollarded trees such as ornamental cherries, which are often in full blossom before any foliage appears. The artificiallooking plastic branches cut off the trunks early on were turned into small flowering shrubs and bushes.

CONCLUSION

If you have not made your own trees before, and are unsure about what you need, or what to do, these starter kits are a good way to begin. They provide enough variety of items to learn and practise on while producing some very effective-looking trees for your layout. Once you have mastered the basic principles and techniques, it is a relatively simple task to produce a wide range of tree shapes, sizes and foliage variations with just a few simple tools and materials.







ONE OF the great joys of our hobby is how, in making our own little model worlds, we learn so much about the full-size one around us. To make

a convincing scene in miniature, the best thing to do is to study the real thing, and how many of us have found ourselves staring at a river or a pavement thinking 'How would I make a model of that?'. Bringing our observations of the real world into the scenes we make really adds a sense of life, and in this article, I will be sharing some of the super-detailing tips I used to animate an urban street scene on my N gauge layout.

The contemporary urban landscape is dominated by roads and traffic, but what actually makes a convincing

street scene? Once you have painted a road surface, added the surrounding buildings, and some pavements and road markings, it can sometimes still feel a little flat, so what else can be added to create a real sense of place? In N gauge, it is possible to model larger stretches of road, and this allows for discrete scenes to be created that bring it all to life. Street furniture, road signs, people crossing the road even, these are more than details, they are cameos of how real people would go about their daily lives if your model were full-size. Creating these scenes is often the last stage of making a model railway, and using off-the-shelf products, here are my top tips for super-detailing a street scene to bring an extra sense of realism that really captures the feel of the modern world.

WHAT YOU NEED

Faller

Bus Shelter (272543)

Gaugemaster

Kestrel litter bins (GMKD80)

Humbrol

Enamel (various colours)

N-Scenic

Railings

P&D Marsh

N Gauge Street lamps, N Gauge Traffic lights

Peco

N Gauge Post Box

PlazaJapan

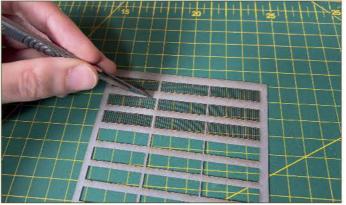
Tomytec Car Collection cars and bus Figures – Tomytec

Scale Model Scenery

N Gauge Garden Fencing, N Gauge Road Markings, N Gauge Grit/Salt Bin

Other

Sharp knife, tweezers, V block, paint brushes, superglue, Tacky Glue



The basics of my street scene took quite a long while to come together, having made the road surfaces and pavements out of mounting board, with Scale Model Scenery vinyl road markings added and suitably weathered. The first purchase I made was of a sheet of lasercut railings from N-Scenic. These are just the type found near crossing points on busy roads. Cutting them free, the natural colour of the paper meant they didn't need painting.



Using a dab of superglue applied with a cocktail stick, I placed the railings on either side of a crossing point I had already laid out using the Scale Model Scenery road markings. I then added a pair of P&D Marsh traffic lights with a small scrap of Plastikard painted yellow to represent the push buttons on either side of the crossing. Another P&D Marsh item, dual carriageway street lamps, were also painted and added.



Scale Model Scenery also produces an excellent laser-cut kit of garden fencing, and I wanted to use this at the rear of the scene next to an apartment building. The parts of the kit are quite fine, so care needed to be taken when cutting them out, but the colour and material again meant no painting was required.



The fencing slats come in long sections with a separate piece for the timber support frame. To stick these together, I used a small amount of tacky glue and a cocktail stick. Adding the fence next to the building and holding it in place with a pair of tweezers until it set, this created a warmer feel than either a brick wall or metal palisade fence.



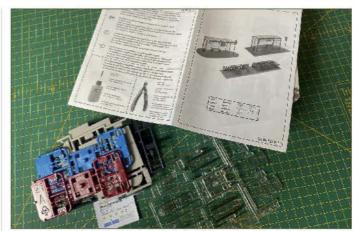
The scene I had created was based on a real location, and in the photographs I had used as my inspiration, there was a large plastic grit bin on the central reservation. Lo and behold, Scale Model Scenery makes these, and a quick coat of paint to dull down the yellow 3D print was applied.



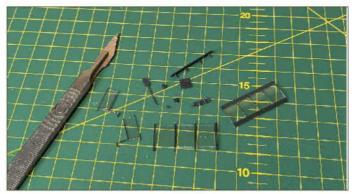
With the grit bin in place, I added a one-way sign printed on my home printer and glued to a thin styrene tube. Road signs can be tricky in N due to their size, but also sometimes the choice of what is commercially available isn't right for the scene. It is a fairly simple job to scale and print out road sign graphics at home, however.



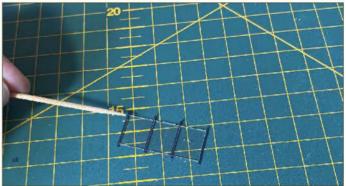
Gaugemaster produces a number of useful items of street furniture under its Kestrel range, including a covered square litter bin of the type seen all over Britain's towns and cities. Although produced in a black plastic, this was very shiny, so I painted the bin with a coat of matt black Humbrol enamel.



I wanted the focal point of my street scene to be a bus stop. This was an opportunity to really add a sense of life. Faller produces a lovely twin set of modern bus shelters that also come with cycle racks. For this scene, I only needed one of the bus shelters, but I found a use for the other one elsewhere on the layout as a covered cycle rack.



Removing the parts from the sprues was a little difficult as the plastic is quite brittle, but being prepainted meant not needing to do a lot of complex masking around the edges of the clear parts. For the bus shelter I chose to use, Faller has modelled two types of seating, the shelter itself, and a freestanding bus stop.



Gluing the parts together was also a little tricky due to their size, but also in trying to keep any glue marks off the clear parts. Applying a tiny bead of UHU glue with a cocktail stick worked well for this. Using a V-block to ensure a right angle, I glued the first two walls of the bus shelter together, once dried, I moved onto the next side.



The two shelters in the kit are different, one which is fully enclosed, and another with an open front and stepped back sides. This one felt the more 'British' to me, and carefully gluing the curved roof piece on, I left this for the glue to set before turning it right-side up.



Both the bus stop sign and the bucket seating were given a coat of paint, and then the sticky-backed paper signs were added. There is a very small plastic frame that is made to hold a city map, which was carefully added using a scalpel, the same approach was used to add the green circular bus route sign. The signs are in German, but the printing is unreadable.



Placing the bus shelter, bucket seating, bus stop and litter bin in place in front of the timber fence, I realised this was possibly a job to have been completed earlier when the basic scene was under construction, as leaning over the layout with a pair of tweezers to place a tiny bus stop was a little challenging.



The people I added waiting for the bus come from the Tomytec range of Japanese figures. At 1:150th scale, they are almost exactly British N gauge but offer a much wider choice than is available from British manufacturers. Hard to come by over here, they can be ordered from PlazaJapan.



Another figure walking along the road away from the pedestrian crossing was added, as was a Peco post box, another street light, and a handmade street sign made from square styrene strip and a printed label.



Finally, vehicles were added. For these, I used Japanese Tomytec models again, this time from the Car Collection range. The cars had a spot of yellow paint added to create the rear number plate, while the bus had a printed destination sign placed over the original Japanese text. While Oxford Diecast produces a good range of British lorries and vans, its range of modern cars is a little limited at present, and so the Tomytec range comes in very handy to supplement this.

CONCLUSION

What I found by super-detailing this scene was that it was the small things that had the biggest impact. Using commercially available items such as the grit box, railings, and bus shelter, I was able to transform a neat but rather lifeless street scene into a much more realistic and lively place. While it can be expensive to pay for postage from Japan at present, sourcing the Tomytec figures and vehicles was definitely worthwhile as they added a real sense of character to my layout. I can almost hear the sound of traffic and the beeping of the pedestrian crossing now, capturing the urban feel I had intended.





KW Trams: M250 Morris Fire Tender

If soldering: Variable temperature soldering iron, flux, low-melt solder.

Other: Superglue, abrasive sticks, small pliers, wire cutters, tweezers. craft knife, scraper.



Building a whitemetal fire engine



FIRE ENGINES aren't always massive bright red monsters. Many large factories used to employ smaller, but still red, appliances to tackle fires, or at least keep them under control until the local brigade could arrive with serious equipment. Not just factories either; Hellingly Hospital, a large, remote site, was just one that

maintained a local service, like many others, made up of employees with extra training.

Several manufacturers offered modest appliances to special order. Land Rover was probably the most popular in the UK, but Volkswagen also entered the market, contracting out the actual conversions to the British firm Branbridge.

Prototypes like this make for interesting and unusual models. Even if you aren't modelling a large site, a single example is certainly eye-catching as part of a display, or you could load one on the back of a Lowmac to transport it to site. If you are exhibiting a layout, be prepared for that wagon to be the one the crowd wants to photograph!

This 7mm scale model is unusual, in that it's made of whitemetal. Years ago, you couldn't open a model railway mag without finding a whitemetal kit-build, but I bet many newer modellers have never worked with the stuff before. Don't be scared, in many ways it's just like a plastic kit, but the material is heavy (useful for wagon loads) and soft.

Choosing your first metal kit can be tricky. I've opted for this example, partly because of the prototype, but mostly due to the incredible quality of the castings. This isn't always the case; I once opened up a kit for a diesel on a trade stand, and there were holes in the sides because not enough metal had been poured in the mould. There certainly wasn't a queue for that kit! Examine any potential purchase carefully and you'll be fine.

Anyway, there are a few simple tricks and techniques to dealing with whitemetal, which I hope I've covered here. Just remember, this is a lead alloy, so for health reasons, wash your hands after your modelling session, and don't lick any of the parts as you put them together.

PROTOTYPE HISTORY

Described by Morris Motors as a speedy little firefighting vehicle of particular value to large private institutions and small communities, UD 2682 was first registered in March 1929, to its manufacturers, where it spent its life at the Cowley factory.

A demonstrator, it's one of only six built. In 1931, two were sold to the City of Oxford Fire Service, two to Worthing Town Council, and the final one to HRH Maharajah Rana Bahadur, being exported to his palace in India.

The fire engine worked through the Second World War, before being replaced by a more modern Morris Minor fire engine, an example of which can be seen at the National Motor Museum in Gaydon.

Sold to a member of staff who stripped off all the fire accessories, turning the vehicle into a twoseater car, this ensured it survived long enough to be rescued from an Oxfordshire scrapyard and eventually restored to the state seen in the photo.

UD2682 was sold by Bonhams Auctioneers in September 2023 for £12,190, which suggests it will now have a life on the classic car show circuit, and also gives even modern image modellers an excuse to include it on a layout.



IMAGE CREDIT: Bonhams

SOLDER, OR GLUE?

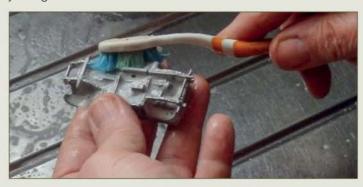
My preferred method of sticking a whitemetal kit together is to use a soldering iron. Low temperature soldering can look like a scary prospect, but with a little practise, it is a faster, and since the solder can be used as a filler, easier option than glue.

First, let's dispel a myth. While whitemetal melts at low temperatures, around 170°, the solder melts at around 80°, so if you set the temperature of your soldering iron to 80ish, the solder will flow, and the castings will be fine. OK, tiny ones can be tricky, but I glue those on.

Tools required are a variable temperature soldering iron, flux (I like Powerflow from the DIY plumbing aisle) and some low-melt solder, which I buy from Langley Models. Some 100° from C&L models is also handy for attaching brass pieces.

Don't learn on your best kit, there is plenty of horrible stuff out there. You can even buy spare castings from Langley at shows, which make excellent test pieces.

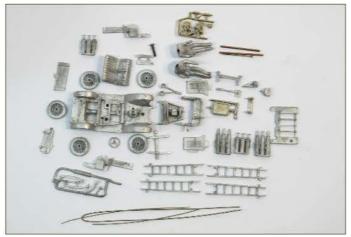
The technique is simple, slap plenty of flux on the joint, then pick up some solder and smear it on. After a few attempts, you'll get a feel for the materials.





Then, at the end of the session, take a model and give it a good scrub in the sink with some cream cleaner, followed by a long rise with cold water.

But if all this doesn't appeal, what about glue? Superglue works best. Get gel and liquid versions. I've models built three decades ago with superglue that are still perfectly solid, so don't worry about things falling apart. And even I get the glue out for fitting the small parts. Basically, use what you like – it's your model.



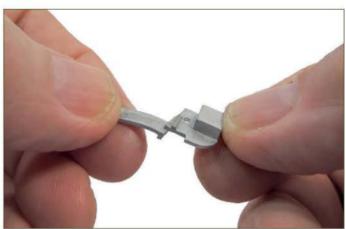
The whitemetal castings in this kit are superb. Those wires around the wheel hubs are an absolute masterpiece of the caster's art. Some of the parts are pre-plated too, with what the instructions say is genuine gold. I'm not convinced, but it's certainly nice and shiny.



Despite my enthusiasm, there is a little work to do on the castings. Along the edges of the mudguards, there is a tiny line where the two halves of the mould met up. You can sand this away, but a three-sided scraper will remove it and leave a nice clean surface.



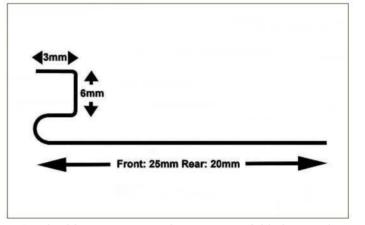
Inside the engine bay, and in a couple of other spots, there is a little flash, not uncommon for kits. Just like you would with a plastic kit, a sharp knife will easily trim this away.



Castings can distort, or be bent during transit, or through clumsy handling, but normally some gentle finger pressure will persuade the soft material back into shape. Do this slowly, or you might snap the part.



Assembly is simply a case of looking at the exploded diagram, and slotting each part in turn into place. I found a couple of photos taken of a finished model that helped with locating things, and this shot of the finished chassis should make matters even clearer.



Ladder supports are bent up out of thin brass wire. The instructions provide a diagram, but it appears to be a little too large. The above images show the dimensions of the supports I made up, which will hopefully be of use.

INTERMEDIATE



The supports slot into the model using some holes at the front, and little indentations at the back. Care is needed to make sure they are all the same height compared to each other, and the ladders hang something like in the right place compared to the photos.



Ready for primer, most of the components are assembled, but not all as this makes painting easier. If you have soldered the model, this is the time for a really good scrub at the sink. Even if you've glued the model together, a wash isn't a bad idea to remove finger grease.



Disaster! In my enthusiasm to get the model painted, I dried it using a hair dryer. Things got a little too hot, and some of the soldered joints failed. Back to the soldering iron, then another clean up before another coat of primer. Mistakes do happen, but luckily this one hasn't affected the model.



Strictly speaking, if the model isn't to be handled much, you can skip the primer as the paint will stick. However, the grey colour shows up any niggly faults, and they are a lot easier to attend to before the paint goes on. Grey primer dulls the red down a little, while white will make it pop; the choice is yours.



It's quite snug in the cabin for a couple of firemen. Fortunately, being made of soft metal, they can be manipulated to fit on the seat. Mind you, filing the heels off their feet helps a lot, too.



The firemen's helmets, bell and small extinguishers are plated, which is lovely, but far too shiny for a model to my eyes. A light coat of satin varnish sorts this out, still leaving a little shine. Job complete.



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Vestieran abandoned wagon

Before I get my weathering materials out, I research the subject, acquiring suitable reference material. I then study the pictures and make a list of all the weathering steps based on colour, technique and resources. I then adjust the order to take account of precedence. I find that by doing this, I need to think less during the actual weathering process, am faster when the airbrush is out so I can maximise use of my time and less likely to miss any steps out.



THESE PRESSURE flow (Presflo) wagons were popular for carrying cement by rail and, like most wagons, are great subjects to weather. I decided to be a little

different and to depict a wagon that has been sidelined for some reason and, therefore, has a look of disuse and neglect. There are plenty of suitable pictures of these wagons online that make the process of weathering them easier. It is also a common model available in all of the most popular scales.

All the paints used for this project are acrylic, which is my preferred choice these days. It is also essential to use acrylic if you are going to use chipping fluid, as the technique will not work with any other paint type. I used an airbrush for the project and would recommend this for most modelling subjects. It gives a durable finish, which is much more resistant to handling.

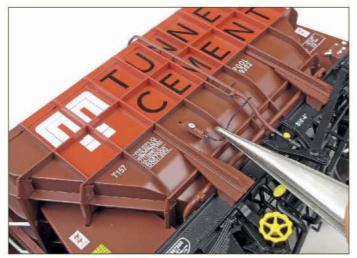
The wagon I have used is O gauge and any dimensions I give relate to this scale, but you can adjust this to suit. The weathering technique shown here is applicable to all scales.

WHAT YOU NEED

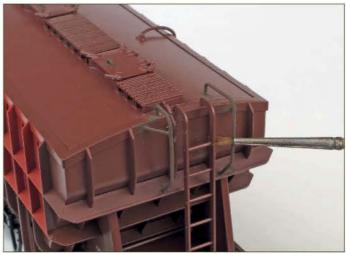
Ellis Clark Trains

E3002B Presflo cement wagon

Acrylic paints; red, brown, green, white, black, yellow, gunmetal, matt varnish, chipping fluid, acrylic thinners, PVA glue, light grey chalk or black and white mixed together, modelling filler, craft knife, small paint brushes (soft and bristle), cocktail sticks, rag



Use a knife to gently cut off the flexible part of the vacuum pipes on the buffer beams. Use a 1mm drill to hollow out the pipe end. Use a knife to remove the gauge on the side of the wagon and fill in the hole with filler.



The next step is to paint the handrails red/ brown to match the rest of the body. Paint over signage you don't want, such as the overhead power flashes and then spray the wheels and the axles black.



Take Some matt acrylic varnish and add a small amount of off-white acrylic. Now spray this over the entire model to tone down the paintwork and make it appear faded. Recoat if necessary.



When the first layer has dried, reload the airbrush with chipping fluid and spray this on the body. Don't worry about masking, as overspray onto other areas is not a problem.



Make a light grey colour to depict cement and spray this onto the body sides. Concentrate on the lower body sides and the chassis.



Repeat with a dark grey acrylic paint. When dry, take a damp cloth wrapped around a cocktail stick and rub some of the cement and grey away to leave a patchy look. Be sure to uncover the lettering.



Reload the airbrush with a rust colour and spray this on the chassis, adding more to the wheels than other areas. This needs to be subtle as the rust is a thin veneer formed by standing out of use for a short period, not deep-seated corrosion.



The British climate is damp and any wagon standing out of use is going to be affected by algae. Depict this by spraying a bright green. Concentrate more on the chassis, particularly in recesses.



Mix some PVA glue with water and paint this on areas where cement has accumulated. Grate some light grey chalk and add this to the damp areas. When dry, use a soft brush to remove excess.



Use yellow/green acrylic paint to add lichen and algae to spots on the wagon. Applying with a cocktail stick will allow you to add small amounts and stop you from overdoing it.

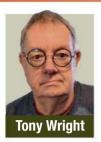


Paint the buffer shanks with Gunmetal using a brush. I prefer the faded look of gunmetal to silver on weathered stock as the latter is too shiny.



Using a stiff bristle brush, stipple a little rust on the wheel rims using the dry-brush technique. Repeat using an off-white, concentrating on the wheel rims, springs and axle boxes. Job complete.

Second-hand restorations



FOLLOWING ON from my secondhand restorations article last month. here we conclude the current series with the final two projects.

All were bought cheaply from Elaine of Elaine's Trains in OO and all were in need of some TLC. Not only are my finished models cheap, they've also required some personal

modelling; modelling not requiring much in the way of skill or experience.

I hope these 'guinea pigs' have provided an incentive for folks to seek out bargains and do a bit of modelling for themselves, creating something unique; something of their very own. I accept that not all will have access to a wide variety of spare parts, but these very rapidly build up as experience is gained.

So, when you are next at a show or model shop, have a browse in the second-hand 'bin' and see where inspiration takes you, and make sure you share your latest projects with us at

brm@warnersgroup.co.uk

Hornby Private Owner Wagon

Paid: 50p





I soon removed all the original couplings (snipping them off with Xurons) and installed a spare set of Hornby's own wagon wheels.



Replacement couplings were to be proper threelinks (Smiths), so I cut slots in the headstocks using a razor saw (the wheels being removed for this process).



The three-links were held in place with superglue (there is no need for these to be sprung - neither is there any need for sprung buffers, especially as they'll be more expensive than the wagon itself!).



Assuming this wagon had previously carried coal, I painted the floor with matt black enamel. And then, with the paint still wet, sprinkled powdered real coal inside.



Private Owner wagons were only ever shiny when they were brand new, so this one was weathered using a mixture of matt brown/black/grey enamels, a sable, thinners and a cotton bud.



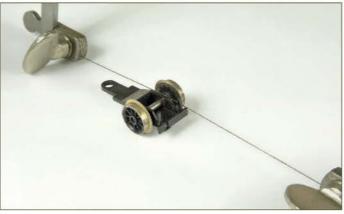
For those who wish to retain the ability to couple with tension-locks yet have 'proper' couplings at the same time, a simple wire 'goalpost' secured to the headstock will suffice.

Lima 45XX

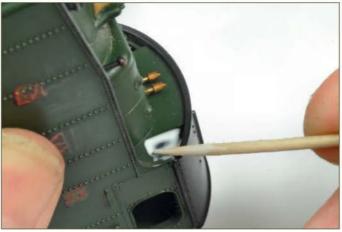
Paid: £20



There was some minor damage present, including a missing buffer (were the two rear lamps moulded on at source?). Replacement buffers and a cast metal vacuum pipe came from my spares box (I've yet to repair those little cracks). At least the previous owner had added real coal.



Though the driving wheels had see-through spoked wheels, the pony wheels on this Lima model were hideous. Despite much effort using finger and thumb pressure, these nasty wheels refused to shift off their axles. No matter, the piercing saw soon sorted this out.



The difference between the original pony wheels and the replacements (Romford/Markits 12mm) was remarkable. The spectacles were glazed using Deluxe's 'Glue 'n' Glaze', applied on the end of a cocktail stick.



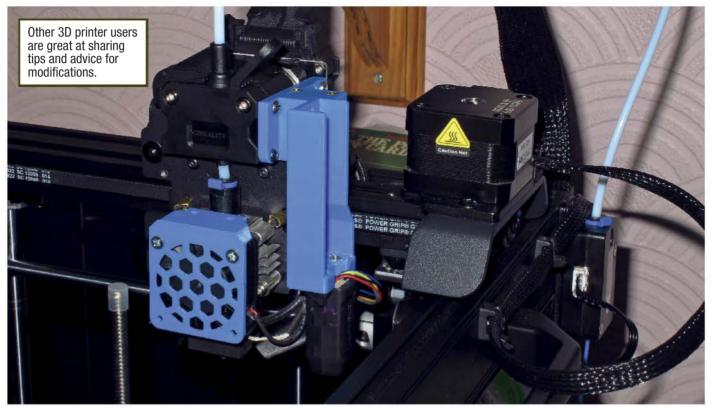
Replacement etched brass numberplates make a huge difference to realism. I find the easiest way of securing such plates is by the aforementioned 'Glue 'n' Glaze', just a smear being all that's needed.



Complete and ready for service, with a lamp added to signify its use on a Class B stopping passenger train. I'm told by those in the know that GWR small prairies never had copper-clad chimneys, so a lick of black paint is required. One final job (once I acquire them) will be to add the buffer beam numbers.

Diary with a 3D printer: Modding





3D printers are like cars from earlier generations in that they are ripe for upgrading and modifying; 'souped up' is/was the common expression. Sometimes, only small changes are needed, but big changes can be made, too. Some changes are to improve print speed or quality, some are more to improve the ergonomics of the printer or just to make your 3D printer life easier. Of course, many new parts for the printer can be printed using the printer itself!

My first consideration was to reduce the weight of the print head ('hot end'). This needs to accelerate and decelerate quickly and, like all moving objects, it is governed by Newton's laws of motion and so keeping its mass to a minimum is vital. The Ender 5 S1 has a large metal grill that covers the print head and weighs about 50 grams. Removing two small screws was all it took to remove this and save weight. This leaves the print head exposed, so a new lightweight cover is desirable.

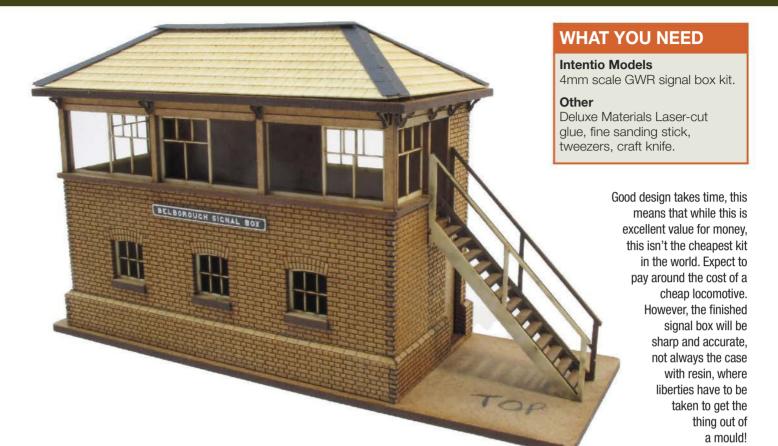
As usual, the Internet comes to our aid as many users are incredibly generous in sharing their solutions to issues and upgrades. I found the Printables site to be very useful. Simply search using your printer's name. You can then look through individual 3D models or collections of upgrades. I found a new hot end cover that I printed out in ABS and installed. So, this saves weight, keeps me from burning myself and prevents objects interfering with the cooling fan. This simple upgrade improves print quality for little effort.

One issue I had with this printer was to correct the automatic bed levelling by moving the probe to a zero Y offset position from the printhead. I found that this issue had already been tackled and I was able to download a new probe mount to print out. Watch out for revised designs ('remixes') that build on prior work. Search through all the collections looking for the best solutions. This takes time, but is worth the effort. I found a third-generation remix that improved on two previous designs to give me a mount that was stronger and

had more mounting holes for improved rigidity. I bought a longer 20cm probe lead and some more M3 bolts to be able to install the upgrade and solve the problem.

Other upgrades that you can readily find to print out are mounts for holding lights, cameras and units with Kilpper or Marlin installations, such as the Creality Sonic Pad. You can often find direct replacement 3D printer parts, too, which saves you having to go back to the manufacturer.

Other worthwhile modifications are upgrading the print head nozzle to improve extrusion rates, better cooling of the nozzle area to reduce part distortion, quieter and/or more efficient fans and moving to linear rails for greater accuracy, although these often involve buying and installing a significant number of parts and constitute quite major surgery. Only proceed with these upgrades if you are confident that you can complete the upgrade and have carried out comprehensive research. There is no shortage of resources online and a large community of helpful fellow 3D



Building a GWR signal box



AS OUR models become more and more realistic, the pressure is on manufacturers producing all the accessories to up their game to match. The worry is, will a kit as good as modern rolling stock be difficult to put together?

Looking at the GWR signal box, which is the subject of this article, one option would

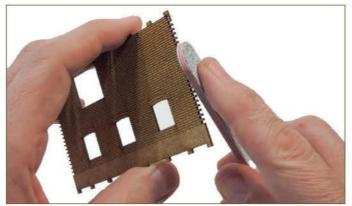
be to 3D print the thing as a single lump, leaving the modeller to break out the paints and finish it off. The print will occupy a printer for quite a long while, resulting in a significant bill if the manufacturer is producing the model commercially.

Our kit, produced by Intentio Models, uses the latest laser-cutting technology and could be said to 'fall together'. The cutting is amazing, and even though I know a little about the subject, how the top edges of the brickwork around the bottom of the box is curved is a mystery to me.

If this is your first kit, you need to be confident you'll end up with a finished model to be proud of, and if you look at the first step of this build, you can see just how much of the signal box can be assembled without glue. Doing this means confidence can be built, before the point of no return when glue becomes involved.



The first job is to put the model together without adhesive, what we call a 'dry run'. This allows me to understand how the designer's mind works and work out a plan of attack. As it is, everything slots together perfectly and I realise that there is an inner box under the floor, which the lower windows fit into, something easy to miss that would be impossible to rectify later.



Laser-cutting leaves mild burn marks on the edges of the pieces. While not a problem, at the castellated corners, the dark patches will show through the paint and so I gently sand the material to remove the worst traces.



I'm trying out new Deluxe Materials Laser-cut kit glue for this project. It's very runny, but small amounts can be applied neatly with the long precision applicator. Run a bead of glue inside the joint, and let it find its way inside. It grabs quickly, and sticks well.



Model stairs can be fiddly and tricky. I fit a couple of treads and pop the sides into the holes in the box side and baseplate - the stairs are off-centre, so it's important it's the right way up. The rest of the steps are wiggled into place using tweezers, and dots of glue.



The kit design allows for windows to be prototypically slid open, which is a nice touch. However, to do this, they will need to be painted and glazed first, so the panes can overlap each other.



Roof material is provided as three sheets of cleverly etched slates, which have to be cut to fit the hipped roof. Neat corner joints are nice if you can achieve them, but the self-adhesive ridge tiles will cover up a multitude of sins.



Ready for paint. Keeping the model as a series of sub-assemblies should make producing a neat job easier, something for a future issue. We also need to look at an interior with levers, instruments and somewhere for the signalman to sit.

The "Black Five"

Finescale "O" Gauge

Head to ellisclarktrains.com for more information





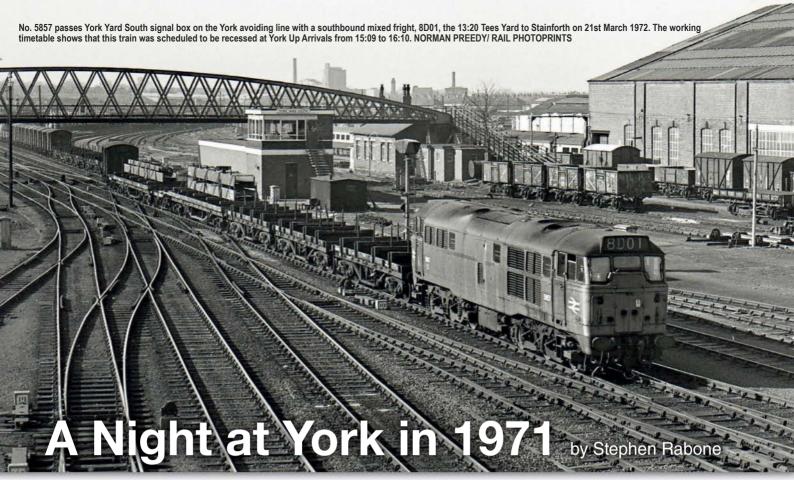


A CELEBRATION OF CLASSIC DIESELS & ELECTRICS

NORTH WEST FREIGHTLINERS



- STEEL TERMINALS
- BRISTOL BATH ROAD
- YORK AT NIGHT 1971



egular readers of TRACTION may remember reading my articles about watching railway operations during the night at Carlisle (TRA 201 and 202), Stafford (TRA 259) and Newcastle (TRA 270). My introduction to the joys of night time train watching came about by accident in early 1971 when I was returning home to Keighley for the weekend from a placement in a school in Greenock. Because of ticket restrictions, I couldn't use my intended route home via Edinburgh and York so I ended up on the platforms of Carlisle station on a cold February night. As I recounted in my first article I found the experience fascinating and wondered if there was anywhere closer to Leeds, where I was at a teacher training college, that could be equally interesting.

The obvious location was York but the problem was that much freight traffic avoided the station and used the freight avoiding lines which, at night, could not be seen from the station platforms. However, I had noticed that just south of the station was Holgate Road bridge and the street lights illuminated the tracks under the bridge. There was also a bank under the bridge where I had noticed some enthusiasts watching trains during the daytime. On one of my daytime visits I went to check out how to access this path and stored the thought away for a future date.

Then in late June 1971 tragedy struck

at my college when three of the students in my year were killed in a road accident. Friday the 2nd July was the day of the funerals but, as I really didn't want to be around so many upset fellow students, I decided a night watching trains would give me something else to think about.

I arrived at York on a Liverpool to Newcastle train just before eight o'clock on Thursday 1st July. I stayed on the station until just after nine o'clock when it began to get dark and I could no longer see trains on the freight avoiding lines well enough to read the loco numbers with binoculars. I walked to Holgate Bridge and found the spot near it where I could observe the night's activities. I stayed there until just after four o'clock



	Loco	Headco	de and train details	Depot	WTTTime	Notes
19:45-	5683	8P25	17:40 Tees-Whitemoor	31B	19:34 YYS	
20:45	5173	8M30	17:10 Tees-Bescot	55Λ	18:57 stn	Dringhouses attaches wagons
	6783	2J63	Scarborough-Sheffield	41A		11-1
	1103	1L29	16:20 King's Cross-York	52A	19:55	Seen Light Engine at 06:30
	143	8M04	18:18 COY South Bank-Stanton Gate	82A	20:15 YUA	Loco seen later on 8E05
	1992	4E86	11:50 Aberdeen-King's Cross	52A	19:32 stn	Freightliner
	5812	0J03	Southbound Light Engine	41Λ		
	270	(1N49)	15:30 Norwich-Newcastle	52A	20:07/13	
	5859	6N31	17:46 Scunthorpe-Eastgate	41Λ	19:25 YYS	Cement in Presflos. Loco seen later on 3E11
	392	8G07	Southbound mineral	55B		To Healey Mills? Loco seen later on 8L76
	5657	8E57	17:42 Skipton-Greatham South Works	55Λ	20:16 YYS	Lime. Loco seen later as 0L40
	9003	1N27	18:00 King's Cross-Newcastle	34G	Pass 20:24	5
	64	4S88	13:15 Cardiff-Edinburgh	D16	21:08 YYS	Freightliner 20 vehicles
	1792	6G33	Northbound tankers	51L		The state of the s
	135	1E18	15:50 Bristol-Newcastle	D16	20:35/41	
	6715	6N64	18:20 Hull-Tyne	55C	20:46 stn	Calls Dringhouses
20:45-	1880	6Dxx	Southbound tankers	41Λ		To Doncaster Division
21:00	6835	8N89	Rotherham Road-Tees hoppers	41Λ	20:02 YYS	Loco change Skelton, Later as 0J05 and 8F.78
	6718	1L89	19:45 Hull-York	41A	20:53	
	153	1E27	17:10 Edinburgh-Leeds	52A	20:42/46	
	1000000	Digitalities	to Holgate Bridge.			
21:15-	1516	1N29	18:20 King's Cross-Newcastle	55B	21:18/28	Loco seen later Light Engine at 04:30
22:15	276	(6864)	14:25 King's Cross-Millerhill	55B	21:25 YYS	Fish vans. Dringhouses attaches wagons
	1518	4M58	19:15 Follingsby-Willesden	55B	19:58 stn	Freightliner
	6948	3L24	19:47 Wakefield Kirkgate-York	55C		Parcels
	154	67.37	Northbound bogie bolsters	82A		
	8302+8303		Light Engine	55B	2222	5
	193	4M82	19:27 Follingsby-Trafford Park	55A	21:32 stn	Freightliner, 20 vehicles
	141	1V50	19:30 Newcastle-Bristol	82A	21:20/35	Mail and passenger
	6835	0J05	Southbound Light Engine	41A	21.20/33	To Wath Exchange for 8E78
	6895	6J60	20:43 Tees-Tinsley	511.	22:06 stn	Calls Dringhouses. loco returned with 8N77
		8J13	18:35 Tees-Tinsley	55B	21:27 YUA	Loco change York Up Arrivals
	1510	1M41	21:50 York-Manchester Vic. &	34G	21:50	Loco returned with 1E24 (from Crewe)
	1310	11/141	Aberystwyth mail/passenger	340	21.50	Loco retained with 1224 (from Crewe)
	287	(6L60)	20:04 Tyneside CFD-Healey Mills	D08	22:12 stn	Calls Dringhouses. Loco LE about 01:30
- 3	6915	6N39	18:14 Hunslet East (Shellmex)-Teesport	55C	19:27 YYS	Bogie tankers. Loco later worked 6Z03
	170	8N01	18:50 Scunthorpe-Tyne	52A	21:29 YYS	Loco later seen 01:15 LE then worked 6E61
	259	(6V52)	19:15 COY Wilton-Severn Beach	55B	22:03 YYS	Loco later on 6E67
	1796	6E43	13:48 Haydock-Teesport bogie tankers	511.	18:40 YYS	
	- CARCEROS	7L81	20:00 Tyne-Healey Mills	55B	22:45 YYS	Loco change at York Yard South
	1504	1A40	20:20 Newcastle-King's Cross	34G	22:00/15	Mail and passenger
22:15-	6899	7L61	20:55 Tyne-Healey Mills	52A	22:19 stn	Returned with 7N70
23:15	154	0M78	Northbound Light Engine for 6M78	82A		Later worked 6M78
	1838	6E55	16:55 Bromsgrove to Port Clarence	D05	21:49 YYS	Oil empties
	1104	3816	20:35 Bradford Forster SqEdinburgh	52A	22:39/23:30	On empties
	283		13:50 Aberdeen-King's Cross fish	55B		Max speed 60mph. Exam. at York Clifton.
		(4E47)			22:03 stn	
	13	1E46	17:35 Cardiff-York	55A	22:50	Loco worked 5F02 later
	1705	1S58	19:50 King's Cross-Edinburgh	55A	22:56/ 23:05	w
	12	3V20	18:30 Brian Mills Depot-Bristol	55A	22:32/50	Parcels
	1761	1860	19:55 King's X-Aberdeen/Fort William	34G	23:08/18	N . 14. 20 1. 1
	189	4M61	21:04 Follingsby-Dudley FL	55A	22:54 stn	Freightliner. 20 vehicles
	240	(1L58)	23:08 York-Leeds	52A	23:08	
23:15-	280	(3S38)	13:32 London Liverpool St-Edinburgh	52A	23:19/33	Parcels
00:15	3076		Southbound trip freight	55B		Approximation of
	13	5F02	Northbound ECS	55A		ECML special traffic headcode
	1000000000		Cauthhamad feelaht	D16		
	121	6Z	Southbound freight	DIO		

in the morning when it began to get light and then walked back to the station where I remained until my return to Leeds on a York to Blackpool DMU at 07:30.

I would obviously have missed a few trains during the short periods I was out of sight of the railway but during the twelve hour period I was in York I noted about 180 train movements, almost all being loco hauled with just a handful of diesel multiple unit workings.

Detailed notes

Fortunately, I kept quite detailed notes of what I saw, including the direction of travel, the type of freight, mail or parcels train and, for passenger trains, the departure and destination stations. Most importantly of all, for the purposes of this article, was that I noted down the four character head codes where these were displayed. This has enabled me to discover exactly what most of the trains were using the relevant working timetables (WTT) for summer 1971. In addition to this source, some members of the Freightmaster Forum have provided extra information about freight and mail train workings.

I've listed what passed through York in those twelve hours in the accompanying tables. Rather than describe them in chronological order, which would be rather tedious given the number involved, I will look at the different categories of train services: passenger, mail and parcels trains, Freightliner trains and, the most numerous, general freight traffic. I'll also consider the importance of the small marshalling yard just south of Holgate Junction at Dringhouses.

The tables show all my observations in the order seen and also include details of which locomotives were seen more than once. Headcode details are shown in the majority of cases, although the head codes of trains headed by the earlier English Electric Type 4s (which didn't have head code boxes) are shown in brackets. It is likely that I missed some trains during the time I was walking from the station to Holgate. One of these was probably 6O31 the 12:15 Uddingston-Northfleet cement which was due to pass at 20:25. Certain trains shown in the WTT also don't feature in my notes, possibly because my view was blocked by other passing trains or because they didn't actually run.

Passenger and Class 1 trains

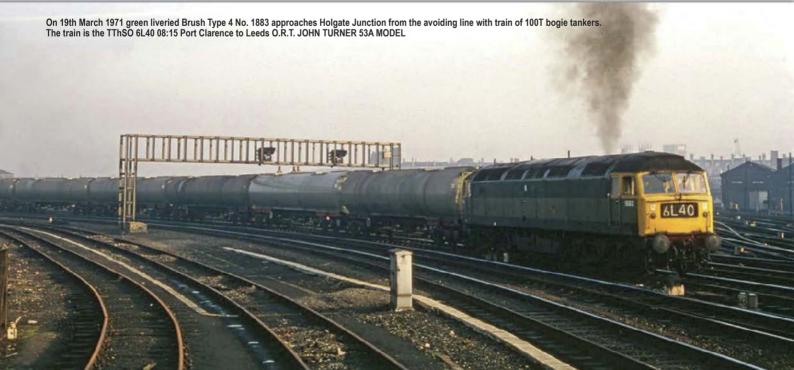
In the evening there were a number of services of particular interest. The first was 2J63, a summer only Scarborough to Sheffield train, behind No. 6783 which passed through York just before eight o'clock. The second was one of those curious relics from steam days, the 15:30 Norwich to Newcastle with No. 270 in charge. Another EE Type 3, Tinsley's No. 6718, brought in the 19:45 Hull to York, which was one of the handful of passenger trains run chiefly to convey mail and parcels traffic, which the normal DMUs could not cope with. Later on, the 23:08 Leeds to York with No. 240 was also a mixed parcels, mail and passenger service.

It's very easy to look at the past on the railway through rose tinted spectacles but comparing East Coast Main Line (ECML) expresses in 1971 with those in 2023 reveals a stark difference.

Between 20:00 and 22:00 there were just



On 21st March 1972 and, still carrying its D prefix, No. D292 passes under Holgate Bridge and takes the avoiding line with a northbound freight. NORMAN PREEDY/ RAIL PHOTOPRINTS



23:15- 180 00:15- 6942 350 6895 6948 74 1971 1976 77 9005 1100 1881 00:15- 30 01:15 351 257 1973 3315 154 5224 1502 1990 164 1999 156 5544 1763 01:15- 6898 02:15 170 5657 6915 170 30 6942 287 1541 6731 47 6899 190 1539 14 169 1571 02:15- 46	42 00 95 48 71 76 05 00 81 17 73 15 4 24 02 90 4	4C64 91.73 4S84 8N77 3M17 4E32 4E60 1S66 3M06 4S83 6E65 3E05 6E66 (4S82) 4S85 6M78 1A45 1S70 3S15 1A47	21:30 Follingsby-Stratford Southbound engineers 20:50 Sheffield-Glasgow 23:55 Dringhouses-Tees 20:00 Brian Mills Depot-Blackpool N. TThO 20:12 Kings Norton to Tyne CFD 20:11 Edimburgh-Stratford 20:20 King's Cross-Edinburgh 00:10 York- Nottingham Light Engine (Gateshead-Doncaster Works) 19:27 Stratford-Glasgow 18:08 Millerhill-King's Cross Goods 22:00 Nottingham PCD-Brian Mills Depot 17:43 Menai Bridge Junction -York 18:55 King's Cross-Aberdeen 20:20 Stratford-Edinburgh Northbound trip freight 20:50 Tyne-Washwood Heath Northbound Light Engine for 8741	55B 51L 55A 55C 52A 64B 55B	23:39 stn 23:47 stn 00:01 YYS 23:44/00:01 23:53 stn 00:05/19 00:10 23:38 stn 00:40/01:20 00:50 YYS 22:39 stn 00:23 stn	Freightliner Later worked northbound Light Engine Freightliner Seen earlier on 6J60 Parcels. Loco arrived with 3L24 Car train. Crew change signal Y164 Freightliner Mail and passenger Parcels En route for unclassified repair Freightliner Parcels. Loco worked 4L08 later. Loco change Cattle. Loco later seen on 87.07 Freightliner
350 6895 6948 74 1971 1976 77 9005 1100 1881 00:15- 30 01:15 351 257 1973 3315 154 5224 1502 1990 164 1999 156 5544 1763 01:15- 6898 02:15 170 5657 6915 170 30 6942 287 1541 6731 47 6899 190 154 169 1571	0 95 48 71 76 05 00 81 1 7 73 15 4 24 02 90 4	4S84 8N77 3M17 4E32 4E60 1S66 3M06 4S83 6E65 3E05 6E66 (4S82) 4S85 6M78 1A45 1S70 3S15	20:50 Sheffield-Glasgow 23:55 Dringhouses-Tees 20:00 Brian Mills Depot-Blackpool N. TThO 20:12 Kings Norton to Tyne CFD 20:11 Edinburgh-Stratford 20:20 King's Cross-Edinburgh 00:10 York- Nottingham Light Engine (Gateshead-Doncaster Works) 19:27 Stratford-Glasgow 18:08 Millerhill-King's Cross Goods 22:00 Nottingham PCD-Brian Mills Depot 17:43 Menai Bridge Junction -York 18:55 King's Cross-Aberdeen 20:20 Stratford-Edinburgh Northbound trip freight 20:50 Tyne-Washwood Heath	52A 51L 41A D16 64B D16 52A 55B 51L 55A 55C 52A 64B 55B	23:47 stn 00:01 YYS 23:44/00:01 23:53 stn 00:08 stn 00:05/19 00:10 23:38 stn 00:14 stn 00:40/01:20 00:50 YYS 22:39 stn	Freightliner Seen carlier on 6J60 Parcels. Loco arrived with 3L24 Car train. Crew change signal Y164 Freightliner Mail and passenger Parcels En route for unclassified repair Freightliner Parcels. Loco worked 4L08 later. Loco change Cattle. Loco later seen on 8Z07 Freightliner
6895 6948 74 1971 1976 77 9005 1100 1881 00:15- 01:15 351 257 1973 3315 154 5224 1502 1990 164 1999 156 5544 1763 01:15- 6898 02:15 170 5657 6915 170 30 6942 287 1541 6731 47 6899 190 1539 14 169 1571	95 48 71 76 05 00 81 1 7 73 15 4 24 02 90 4	8N77 3M17 4E32 4E60 1S66 3M06 4S83 6E65 3E05 6E66 (4S82) 4S85 6M78 1A45 1S70 3S15	23:55 Dringhouses-Tees 20:00 Brian Mills Depot-Blackpool N. TThO 20:12 Kings Norton to Tyne CFD 20:11 Edimburgh-Stratford 20:20 King's Cross-Edinburgh 00:10 York- Nottingham Light Engine (Gateshead-Doncaster Works) 19:27 Stratford-Glasgow 18:08 Millerhill-King's Cross Goods 22:00 Nottingham PCD-Brian Mills Depot 17:43 Menai Bridge Junction -York 18:55 King's Cross-Aberdeen 20:20 Stratford-Edinburgh Northbound trip freight 20:50 Tyne-Washwood Heath	51L 41A D16 64B D16 52A 55B 51L 55A 55C 52A 64B 55B	00:01 YYS 23:44/00:01 23:53 stn 00:08 stn 00:05/19 00:10 23:38 stn 00:14 stn 00:40/01:20 00:50 YYS 22:39 stn	Seen earlier on 6J60 Parcels. Loco arrived with 3L24 Car train. Crew change signal Y164 Freightliner Mail and passenger Parcels En route for unclassified repair Freightliner Parcels. Loco worked 4L08 later. Loco change Cattle. Loco later seen on 8Z07 Freightliner
6948 74 1971 1976 77 9005 1100 1881 00:15- 01:15 351 257 1973 3315 154 5224 1502 1990 164 1999 156 5544 1763 01:15- 6898 02:15 170 5657 6915 170 30 6942 287 1541 6731 47 6899 190 1539 14 169 1571	48 71 76 05 00 81 1 7 73 15 4 24 02 90 4 99 6	3M17 4E32 4E60 1S66 3M06 4S83 6E65 3E05 6E66 (4S82) 4S85 6M78 1A45 1S70 3S15	20:00 Brian Mills Depot-Blackpool N. TThO 20:12 Kings Norton to Tyne CFD 20:11 Edinburgh-Stratford 20:20 King's Cross-Edinburgh 00:10 York- Nottingham Light Engine (Gateshead-Doncaster Works) 19:27 Stratford-Glasgow 18:08 Millerhill-King's Cross Goods 22:00 Nottingham PCD-Brian Mills Depot 17:43 Menai Bridge Junction -York 18:55 King's Cross-Aberdeen 20:20 Stratford-Edinburgh Northbound trip freight 20:50 Tyne-Washwood Heath	41A D16 64B 64B D16 52A 55B 51L 55A 55C 52A 64B 55B	23:44/00:01 23:53 stn 00:08 stn 00:05/19 00:10 23:38 stn 00:14 stn 00:40/01:20 00:50 YYS 22:39 stn	Parcels. Loco arrived with 3L24 Car train. Crew change signal Y164 Freightliner Mail and passenger Parcels En route for unclassified repair Freightliner Parcels. Loco worked 4L08 later. Loco change Cattle. Loco later seen on 87.07 Freightliner
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1971 1976 77 9005 1100 1881 00:15- 01:15 351 257 1973 3315 154 5224 1502 1990 164 1999 156 5544 1763 01:15- 6898 02:15 170 5657 6915 170 30 6942 287 1541 6731 47 6899 190 1539 14 169 1571	71 76 05 00 81 1 7 73 15 4 24 02 90 4 99 6	4F60 1S66 3M06 4S83 6E65 3E05 6F66 (4S82) 4S85 6M78 1A45 1S70 3S15	20:11 Edinburgh-Stratford 20:20 King's Cross-Edinburgh 00:10 York- Nottingham Light Engine (Gateshead-Doncaster Works) 19:27 Stratford-Glasgow 18:08 Millerhill-King's Cross Goods 22:00 Nottingham PCD-Brian Mills Depot 17:43 Menai Bridge Junction -York 18:55 King's Cross-Aberdeen 20:20 Stratford-Edinburgh Northbound trip freight 20:50 Tyne-Washwood Heath	64B 64B D16 52A 55B 51L 55A 55C 52A 64B 55B	00:08 stn 00:05/19 00:10 23:38 stn 00:14 stn 00:40/01:20 00:50 YYS 22:39 stn	Freightliner Mail and passenger Parcels En route for unclassified repair Freightliner Parcels. Loco worked 4L08 later. Loco change Cattle. Loco later seen on 87.07 Freightliner
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1502 1990 164 1999 156 5544 1763 01:15- 6898 02:15 170 30 6942 287 1541 6731 47 6899 190 1539 14 169 1571	02 90 4 99 6	1A45 1S70 3S15		D16	(2002)	Worked 87.41 with 5544
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164 1999 156 5544 1763 01:15- 6898 02:15 170 5657 6915 170 30 6942 287 1541 6731 47 6899 190 1539 14 169 1571	4 99 6	3S15	22:15 King's Cross-Aberdeen	52A	Pass 01:02	
1999 156 5544 1763 01:15- 6898 02:15 170 5657 6915 170 30 6942 287 1541 6731 47 6899 190 1539 14 169 1571	99 6		21:22 King's Cross Goods-Edinburgh	52A	00:53/01:09	Parcels
156 5544 1763 01:15- 6898 02:15 170 5657 6915 170 30 6942 287 1541 6731 47 6899 190 1539 14 169 1571	6		22:20 Newcastle-King's Cross	52A	00:45/01:00	via Leeds
5544 1763 01:15- 6898 170 5657 6915 170 30 6942 287 1541 6731 47 6899 190 1539 14 169 1571	200772	3E10	21.27 Curzon Street to York	82A	01:05	Parcels, Worked 1D64 later
1763 01:15- 02:15 170 5657 6915 170 30 6942 287 1541 6731 47 6899 190 1539 14 169 1571	44		Northbound Light Engine for 8741	41A		Worked 8741 with 5224
02:15 170 5657 6915 170 30 6942 287 1541 6731 47 6899 190 1539 14 169 1571		1E35	20:20 Edinburgh-King's Cross	34G	00:58/01:13	Mail and passenger. TPO Edinburgh to York
02:15 170 5657 6915 170 30 6942 287 1541 6731 47 6899 190 1539 14 169 1571	98	6L46	23:21 Teesport-Leeds Shell Mex Siding	51L	01:14 YYS	Bogic tankers. Loco returned with 6N33
6915 170 30 6942 287 1541 6731 47 6899 190 1539 14	0		Southbound Light Engine	52Λ		For 6E61 to Tyne
6915 170 30 6942 287 1541 6731 47 6899 190 1539 14	57	01.40	Southbound Light Engine	55A		after working 8E57
170 30 6942 287 1541 6731 47 6899 190 1539 14	25/2	6Z03	Southbound bogic tankers	55C		earlier worked north with 6N39
30 6942 287 1541 6731 47 6899 190 1539 14 169	22/83	6E61	19:40 Leicester-Tyne	52A	01:20 stn	Dringhouses attach wagons
287 1541 6731 47 6899 190 1539 14 169 1571		3L08	01.43 York-Leeds PCD	55A	01:43	Parcels, Loco had worked 3E05 to York
1541 6731 47 6899 190 1539 14 169 1571	42		Northbound Light Engine	55C		Loco had worked 9L73
6731 47 6899 190 1539 14 169 1571	7		Northb' Light Engine from Healey Mills		2222	Loco had worked 61.60 earlier
47 6899 190 1539 14 169 1571	41	3E03	21:32 Edinburgh-King's Cross Goods	55B	01:32/01:50	Parcels
47 6899 190 1539 14 169 1571	31	8L90	00:15 Tees-Dringhouses	51L	02:08 stn	Loco ran Light Engine to Doncaster for 6N66
190 1539 14 169 1571		1E38	19:25 Bristol-Newcastle	D16	02:03/28	Mail and passenger
190 1539 14 169 1571	99	7N70	00:47 Healey Mills-Tees	52A	01:18 YYS	Loco had worked 7L61
1539 14 169 1571	eur.	1E02	00:12 Manchester Vic-Newcastle	52A	01:53/01:58	Newspapers
14 169 1571		1E40	22:10 Edinburgh-King's Cross	40B	Pass 02:01	
169 1571		4V73	16:17 Edinburgh-Cardiff	55A	02:24 stn	Freightliner, 20 vehicles
1571		4M72	21:56 Edinburgh-Willesden	52A	02:14 stn	Freightliner
252521422		1572	22:30 King's Cross-Edinburgh	55B	02:10/20	Mail and passenger.
OM INC		3E06	21:54 Mayfield-Brian Mills Depot	D16	02:17/02:48	parcels
03:15 275		(01.76)	Light Engine York-Healey Mills	55B	02:02 stn	Pinters
6705	The Cale	6M65	21:27 Whitemoor-Carlisle	51L	02:21 stn	
166		1E04	00:20 Manchester Vic-York	52A	02:30	Newspapers. Loco seen earlier on 3M05
9018	W.C.	1E39	6 (V) 25 (See Fig. 1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)	34G	Pass 02:28	The mapage in the content of the same
259		(6E67)	20:00 Gloucester Barnwood-Tyne	55B	03:10 YYS	Calls Dringhouses. Loco seen earlier on 6V52
1997		4N61	22:24 Stratford-Follingsby	52A	01:34 stn	Freightliner
351	97	8Z07	Southbound freight (York-Shrewsbury?)	55C		Empty cattle wagons? Loco earlier on 6E66
	12.00		11:15 Bargoed-South Bank	D16	02:29 YYS	Coke
9009	1	1S77	23:10 King's Cross-Edinburgh	34G	Pass 02:45	
6717	1 37+8169	3E17	21:50 Preston-Brian Mills Depot	55C	02:46/03:30	Parcels. Loco returned with 8L85
1778	1 37+8169 09	1S79	23:35 King's Cross-Edinburgh	55A	Pass 02:55	2 Mary Love Lemmer Will GLOS
9010	1 37+8169 09 17		19:10 Aberdeen-King's Cross		02:45/52	
6835	1 37 8169 09 17 78	1F42	20:59 Dewsnap-Tees	41Λ	00:37 YYS	Bogie bolsters. Loco returned south with 8J14
1510	1 37+8169 09 17 78	1E42 8E78	18:28 Aberystwyth-York mail/passenger	34G	Arr. 03:14	Return working of 1M41. Loco from Crewe

two northbound expresses through York whilst today in the same time span there are six. In 1971 the last Edinburgh service left King's Cross at 16:00; in 2023 it is 20:27.

Several of the overnight passenger trains conveyed Travelling Post Office vehicles as well as seating coaches; examples of these included an Edinburgh to King's Cross, a Newcastle to King's Cross, a Newcastle to Bristol and a York to Aberystwyth, together with their return workings.

In addition there were also nine overnight ECML expresses in both directions, many of course conveying sleeping cars to and from stations further north: Newcastle, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Fort William. One of the Newcastle trains was routed via Leeds and the Durham Coast line via Hartlepool and Sunderland. A significant number of these passed York through the centre roads without stopping.

As would be expected, these services were largely in the hands of Brush Type 4s and 'Deltics'. Interestingly, two of the Brush Type 4s seen, Nos. 1704 and 1705, were very recent conversions from the small batch of locomotives fitted with Sulzer 12LVA24 power units; they had received the normal 12LDA28C power units earlier in 1971.

One final passenger train worth mentioning was the arrival of the 21:50 Inverness to York Motorail just after seven o'clock behind No. 272. This train was interesting as it reversed direction in Newcastle Central in order to have the double deck Motorail vehicles at the correct end of the train for unloading at York.

There were a few overnight empty

carriage stock workings seen running with the head codes beginning with '5F'; this code was used for East Coast main line special traffic, with odd numbers towards London and even numbers away from London. These were presumably positioning runs for summer Saturday workings.

Light engines

As could be expected there were a considerable number of light engine moves, some presumably to and from York depot. Others were clearly heading off to collect their trains from one of the yards on the avoiding lines or to and from Dringhouses yard.

One unexpected light engine working was the appearance of 'Deltic' 9005 heading south just after midnight en route from Gateshead depot to Doncaster Works. This can be explained by a note on the 'Napier Chronicles' website: "July 2nd To Doncaster Works - Unclassified repair. Exhauster support frame right hand leg broken - this was repaired. Released from Doncaster Works."

Parcels and newspaper trains

In the early 1970s there were considerable numbers of overnight parcels trains, many being run for mail order catalogue firms from the Brian Mills Depot at Sunderland and Bradford Forster Square. An Edinburgh service ran from Bradford, whilst a series of trains worked from Sunderland to and from Bristol, Liverpool Lime Street, Blackpool North, Nottingham, Manchester Mayfield and Preston. There were also long distance parcels trains from London Liverpool Street to

Edinburgh and King's Cross Goods to Edinburgh, both of which ran in both directions overnight. In addition there were a small number of short distance parcels trains that fed in and out of other services at York.

Two newspaper trains from Manchester Victoria followed each other a few minutes apart across the Pennines with one operating to Newcastle and the other terminating at York. The vans from these two services were returned to Manchester Red Bank carriage sidings during the daytime as one enormously long train.

Freightliner trains

In the years following the recommendations in the Beeching Report, British Rail built up a substantial network of container train services between the main industrial centres, running largely overnight. Those passing through York included:

- Aberdeen to King's Cross
- Edinburgh to Cardiff and Stratford
- Newcastle Follingsby to Stratford, Willesden, Trafford Park and Dudley
- · Glasgow to Sheffield and Stratford
- Stockton to Stratford.

My notes don't show any details of either the north or southbound Stockton trains but I suspect I missed them; possibly the trains were obscured by a passing train.

All but one of the Freightliner trains were routed through the station using the two middle lines (Up and Down Main) rather than the platform lines. York, of course, still had four through lines in the station. Crew changes are shown in the WTT taking place for

No. 9017 is departing York with train 1E15, the Fridays only 13:45 relief service from Edinburgh to King's Cross on 29th August 1970. In 1971 the overnight passenger services through York were made up exclusively of Mark 1 vehicles as in this photo. Signal Y107 is the signal on the gantry to the left of the locomotive and was the timing point shown in the WTT for crew changes of several southbound Freightliner trains. DAVID WHARTON



03:15-	1101	4H00	03:14 York-Hull	52Λ	03:14	Parcels
04:15	183	1E43	23:30 Edinburgh-King's Cross	52A	Pass 03:18	
	6942	5F02	Northbound ECS	55C		ECML special traffic headcode
	6894	7N68	03:20 Dringhouses-Tees	511.	03:27 YYS	
8	90xx	1E48	20:30 Aberdeen-King's Cross		Pass 03:41	
	6898	6N33	02:37 Leeds Shell Mex-Teesport	511.	03:50 YYS	Bogie tankers. Loco had worked 61.46
	6717	8L85	01:10 Tees-Healey Mills	55C	04:10 YYS	Loco had worked 3E17
	5544 5224	87.41	Southbound iron ore wagons			See main text for details
	9001	1N42	23:55 King's Cross-Newcastle	34G	03:57/04:09	
	1704	4E63	22:35 Glasgow-Sheffield	41A	04:00 stn	Freightliner.
	6835	8J14	22:15 Tyne - Tinsley	41Λ	03:23 YYS	Loco seen earlier on 8E78 and later as 0J05
	2xx	(3E50)	21:40 Edinburgh- Liverpool St.		03:48/04:03	Parcels
	Walk from	Holgate	Bridge to station			
04:30-	1534	1N00	King's Cross-Newcastle	40B	04:20/27	Stops to set out letter mail
05:30	6754	erretes:	Light Engine	31B		
	127		Northbound Light Engine	D16		Later worked 8M65
	8305+8307	8N83	04:15 Tinsley-Tees	55B	06:35 YYS	
	1879	6M37	02:37 Teesport-Haydock tankers	511.	04:32 YYS	
	144	3E07	22:50 Bristol- Brian Mills Depot	82A	04:10/04:40	Parcels
18	5571	31.07	03:34 Doncaster-York	4013	04:08	Parcels
	1516		Southbound Light Engine	55B		Worked 1N29 previous day
	5817	6Z38	Northbound bogic bolsters	40B		
	1529	6N63	20:25 King's Cross Goods-Tyne CFD	4013	04:00 stn	Dringhouses detaches wagons
	6874	6J30	02:47 Teesport-Ecclesfield tankers	51L	04:36 YUA	
	193	4E71	02:30 Trafford Park- Follingsby FL	55Λ	05:07 stn	20 vehicles. Loco earlier worked 4M82
	5601	8N40	18:45 Fletton-Stockton/Tyne CFD	34G	05:10 YYS	Bricks. Loco seen on up tankers at about 06:1
	281	(4E65)	01:55 Dudley-Follingsby	55B	05:25 stn	Freightliner, 20 vehicles
	6756		Light Engine	31B		Worked 7N66 Temple Mills to Dringhouses
	127	8M65	00:01 Tyne-Brierley Hill bogie bolsters	D16	04:10 YUA	
	1991	4E59	00:15 Willesden-Follingsby	52A	06:18 stn	Freightliner
05:30- 06:30	392	8L76	04:10 Healey Mills-Dringhouses (did this actually work further north)	55B	05:26	Loco seen earlier on 8G07 and later on 8G09
	8306 254	8K10	05:35 Dringhouses to Scarborough Light Engine	55B 55B	05:35 stn	See main text for details
	264	3E01	00:45 Edinburgh-Bradford Forster Sq.	64B	05:44/06:20	Parcels
	6731	7N66	21:00 Temple Mills-Tees	51L	05:35 stn	Dringhouses set down. Loco earlier on 8L90
	5859	3E11	Southbound parcels	40B		Train not identified
	8024		Northbound freight	55B		Trip freight see main text for details
	1508	4S42	21:00 Dagenham- Bathgate Cartics	34G	03:45 YYS	The reign see man ten in gesam
	8304+8301		Northbound ballast	55B		
	6938	8N81	00:20 Whitemoor-Tees	31B	06:10 YYS	
	6911	7S68	01:40 Whitemoor - Millerhill	51L	05:37 stn	
	5601		Southbound tankers	34G		
	1789	6G33	Southbound bogic tankers	51L		
	1513	1N01	01:15 King's Cross-Newcastle	55B	06:22/06:50	via Leeds and Hartlepool
	143	8E05	05:00 Toton-Tees	82A	06:46 YYS	Seen earlier on 8M04
	8300	8K03	05:45 Dringhouses to York Foss Island	55B	05:45 stn	Sand for Redfearne's glass works
06:30-	5550		Northbound ECS	40B		- Bunn Hall
07:30	1103		Light Engine	52A		Had worked previous day's 1L29
- Cara	156	1D64	07:00 York-Doncaster	82A	07:00	Time trottees provious day 5 1122
	272	(1E51)	21:50 Inverness-York Motorail	55B	07:08	
	392	8G09	Southbound mineral	55B		Loco earlier on 81.76
1				2017	07:20	Sainer viii Viii V

DEPOT CODES: 31B March: 34G Finsbury Park: 40B Immingham: 41A Tinsley: 51L Thornaby: 52A Gateshead: 55A Holbeck: 55B York: 55C Healey Mills: 64B Haymarket: D08 LMR Liverpool area: D16 LMR Nottingham area: 82A Bristol Bath Road

FREIGHT TIMING POINT CODES: stn - station: YYS - York Yard South: YUA - York Up Arrivals Parcels and passengers all timed at station. Passenger services are shown in bold.

some Freightliner trains in the station; southbound at signal Y107 at the southern end of the station and at signal Y164 at the northern end.

One train, the 13:15 Cardiff to Edinburgh, is shown as having a crew change at York Yard South. Notes in the WTT also give loadings for the trains, these being either 15 or 20 vehicles. Motive power was exclusively Type 4s.

Wagonload freight traffic

Despite the declining amount of freight traffic in the 1960s and early 1970s there were still significant numbers of wagon load trains to be seen through York. In the time I was by the lineside, I noted no fewer than 68 freight workings.

The WTTs show evidence of the complexity of how the railway handled this traffic with timing points for freight trains at the different yards in York. Sometimes these are just the passing times but in many cases crew or loco changes are noted. Confusingly the same symbol – an 'L' – is used for both crew and loco changes although the length of time stopped usually gives a clue as to which trains were scheduled to change locomotives.

To the south of York was Dringhouses Up yard which had been significantly modernised in the early 1960s with a hump for sorting wagons. On the opposite side of the mainline were the loops at Holgate which were used for recessing some trains, as they still are today.

Travelling along the freight avoiding lines various locations are shown in the WTT for freight trains heading north: Dringhouses Up, York Yard South, York Down Yard, York Yard North and Skelton New Sidings.

Coming south the WTT shows timing points at Skelton New Sidings, York Up Arrivals, York Yard South and Dringhouses Up. All of these locations were being used in 1971 for crew or locomotive changes or recessing trains before continuing their journey. For the tables I've used the timing point closest to to the north of Holgate Junction as noted in the WTT. Close study of the tables will reveal evidence of some of the trains which changed locomotives at the various yards

For those readers wanting to know more details of these locations I can recommend The North Eastern Railway association's book "Signalling Centres in the North East: No 1 York".

Some of the freight trains I saw cannot be identified as they were running with a headcode allocated to the trains as a special working (a Z as the letter) or a control special (in the former North Eastern Region area this was a G)

It is probably most logical to look first at trains operating between the major marshalling yards and then look separately at those trains operated for specific flows, often being company (COY) trains for one customer. At York those included tanker trains for fuel or oil companies, new cars, steel, chemicals, cement, limestone or iron ore.

Yard to yard traffic

In 1971 there was still a significant network of long distance freight trains linking the major yards. Scottish general wagon traffic was handled by services from Millerhill yard in Edinburgh to Whitemoor and King's Cross Goods. For traffic for the west of Scotland there was also a Whitemoor to Carlisle train.

The Newcastle area produced traffic from both Tyne Yard and the Central Freight Depot (CFD). Trains ran from Tyne Yard to Healey Mills, Hull, Gloucester Barnwood, Leicester, Scunthorpe, Tinsley and Washwood Heath. From the Tyneside CFD there were services to Healey Mills and King's Cross Goods.

Teesside's trains, many of them no doubt carrying steel or chemical related traffic, ran from Tees Yard to Bescot, Dringhouses, Healey Mills, Temple Mills, Tinsley, Toton and Whitemoor.

As well as handling a number of through freight trains, Dringhouses was also the starting or terminating yard for trains from Healey Mills, Hull, Kings Cross Goods, Leeds Wellington Street, Tees Yard, Tyne Yard, Washwood Heath and Whitemoor. In addition, grain traffic to and from Scottish destinations called at the yard en route from Burghead or Muir of Ord to Doncaster

Fish traffic

There was still regular fish traffic from Aberdeen to London in 1971. These were formed of the white liveried 'Blue Spot' vans. The 13:50 Aberdeen to King's Cross Goods fish train was scheduled for a maximum of 60 mph running with frequent stops for examination. The WTT shows these at Newcastle station and York Clifton (just north of the station) where traffic was also detached. The train was scheduled to arrive at King's Cross Goods just under twelve hours after leaving Aberdeen. My notes state there were fish vans in the northbound Kings's Cross Goods to Millerhill train, presumably returning to Aberdeen. The WTT shows wagons being attached at Dringhouses, no doubt those which had been detached earlier at Clifton.

Steel industry traffic

Whilst much of the steel industry's traffic from the North East will have been

dealt with on the wagonload trains, there were clearly other specific flows. A few stand out such as the Dewsnap Sidings to Tees Yard train of bogie bolsters, which would have been electrically hauled over the Woodhead line to Wath Yard. Other traffic included coke from Bargoed in South Wales to South Bank on Teesside as well as iron ore to the steelworks on Teesside from Corby or Kettering as well as imported iron ore from South Bank to Corby, Spring Vale and Stanton Gate.

My notes refer to 'mineral' trains which was how I used to note trains made up of the 16 ton coal wagons. I suspect that some of the trains I noted in this way will have been conveying coal or iron ore or running empty.

Cement and aggregates

A small number of trains in these categories were seen including empty cement wagons returning to Eastgate on the Weardale branch, and a train conveying limestone from Skipton to the Greatham south works on the Durham Coast. Finally there was a service conveying bricks from Fletton to Stockton and the Tyne CFD. One train that I believe I missed when walking from the station to Holgate Junction was the 6O31 an Uddingston to Northfleet service which was formed of air braked bogie cement wagons.

Oil and chemical traffic

In the 1970s there were significant flows of fuel, oil and chemicals out of Teesside. As well as several control specials, which cannot be identified, there were tanker trains from Teesport to Hunslet, Haydock and from Bromsgrove to Port Clarence. Another train I was able to identify was chemical traffic from ICI Wilton to Severn Beach. Many of the trains carrying chemicals and fuel ran on only a few days a week so what I saw was just a sample of the regular timetabled workings.

Car traffic

There were two trains conveying new cars, one being from Kings Norton to the Tyne CFD whilst the second was from Dagenham to Bathgate using the articulated Cartics.

Cattle traffic

Probably the most surprising working was a cattle train bringing Irish cattle to York where they were sent to farms nearby for fattening before slaughtering. Train 6E66, the 17:43 Menai Bridge Junction to York, should have started from Holyhead but, following



No. 6737 is at the head of 1H89 the 17:08 York to Hull on 5th April 1969. The return working for this was 1L89, the 19:45 from Hull to York. This was one of a small number of trains run principally for mail and parcels traffic that could not be handled by DMUs. DAVID WHARTON

On 29th August 1970 No. 8307 brings trip freight 8K09 across the Scarborough line bridge at York. 8K09 was the Rowntree's and Foss Island trip freight which visited Foss Island in the morning then tripped all day between Dringhouses and Rowntree's. This is clearly a working from Rowntree's chocolate factory to Dringhouses Yard. Note that the train is running 'wrong road' and has crossed the bridge on the Down Scarborough line and is now about to head through the station on the middle roads towards Dringhouses Yard.

DAVID WHARTON



the fire in the Britannia Bridge over the Menai Straits the previous year, Menai Bridge Junction was being used as the railhead for cattle traffic. The animals were transported from Holyhead to Menai Bridge Junction by road. Whilst 6E66 is in the WTT no corresponding return working appears. I understand that the empty wagons were returned to Menai Bridge Junction via Shrewsbury Coton Hill. I suspect that No. 351, which had arrived with 6E66, then took the previous day's empty cattle wagons back to Shrewsbury as train 8Z07.

Trip workings and local freights

During the night I recorded several trip workings behind English Electric 350hp shunters. Details in 1971 York Division Trip Notices reveal what these were. One was York Dringhouses Yard T13 pilot: as well as shunting Dringhouses Yard it also tripped to and from York Yard North and York Yard South and the station and Holgate reception lines. The second was York Yard South T15 pilot: this marshalled and broke trains up as required in the yard but also transferred traffic from Leeman Road and the sugar

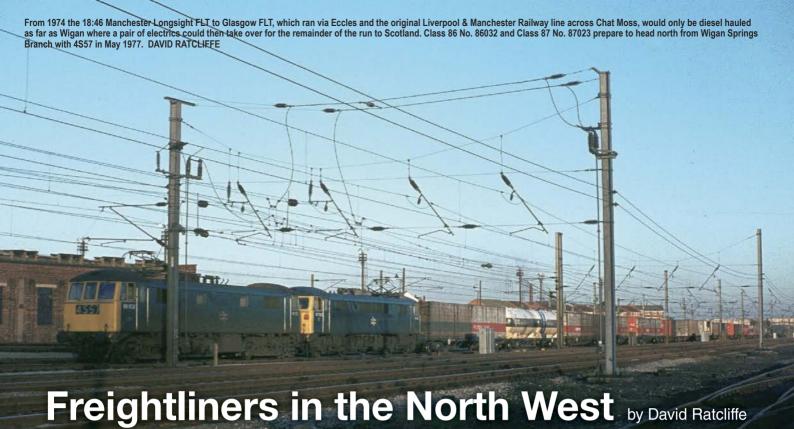
factory to and from Dringhouses.

Train 8K10 was the 05:35 Dringhouses to Scarborough trip freight. The train was to be marshalled as follows: Loco + Malton Traffic + Waverthorpe Traffic + Knapton Traffic + Scarborough Traffic. In the early 1970s York had a small allocation of English Electric Type 1s, mainly in the 8300 series and these were a regular sight on local freight trains in the York area.

The 8K03 05:45 Dringhouses to York Foss Island trip train was the first of three morning trips to Foss Island. The one shown in the tables was conveying sand for Redfearn's glassworks (on a siding at the end of the Foss Island branch). Other trip workings handled oil tanks and coal for Layerthorpe and there was also a dedicated working of vans for Rowntree's chocolate traffic.

The tables

We don't usually publish such large tables as the ones accompanying this article but we hope that it will help the reader to appreciate just how much traffic could be seen overnight at one of the main railway centres of Britain in the 1970s. Sit back, turn the lights down and allow yourself to be transported back in time to when there was a continuous stream of passenger, mail, parcels and freight trains through York.



orth West England has been an important area for Freightliner operations since their inception, with four of the first five routes linking London and Glasgow to Liverpool and Manchester. After several trial workings, and a resolution to the industrial dispute as to whether private road hauliers were to be allowed access to British Rail's new Freightliner terminals (FLTs), these container trains began operating in 1966.

The first FLTs in the north west were built by BR at Garston, on Merseyside, and at Longsight in south Manchester, and within a few months both were handling a healthy level of business with traffic comprising a wide range of commodities, including biscuits, carpets, clothing, chemicals, fire-bricks and powdered starch. As volumes continued to grow, a second Freightliner terminal was opened in Manchester during October 1969 on the site of Trafford Park steam shed, this being a somewhat larger facility than Longsight FLT and with container trains running to terminals at Holyhead, Hull, Newcastle/ Stockton, Southampton and Swansea.

Earlier in 1969 two privately owned Containerbases had also been opened in the north west by Overseas Containers Ltd. One was built on the site of the former Aintree Sorting Sidings, close to the famous race course and next to the North Mersey Branch which ran from Marsh Lane Junction to Fazakerley Junction, and was reached via the Bootle Branch from Edge Lane Junction, while the other OCL Containerbase was situated alongside Barton Dock Road, to the south of the Trafford Park industrial

estate. Rail access to this terminal was provided by a mile long extension of the Manchester Ship Canal Co. Railway's existing Barton Dock branch and, in contrast to the Aintree CB trains which were worked by BR locomotives throughout, those from Barton Dock CB were hauled by an MSC locomotive as far as Trafford Park West Sidings where they would be exchanged with British Rail.

Containerbase services

Each Containerbase initially had a single daily service, Saturdays included, running to and from Southampton Millbrook until they were switched to serve the recently opened Southampton Maritime terminal in 1972. However, due to haulage constraints between Bootle Junction and Edge Lane Junction, the Aintree to Southampton train would often be worked as two portions as far as Edge Hill Down Wapping Sidings, where they were then combined and from where an electric locomotive would usually take the train forward as far as Crewe Basford Hall yard.

In 1970 an additional Freightliner was introduced between Aintree CB and Tilbury with this train, usually formed of two five-wagon sets, running via Widnes and Warrington Central to Trafford Park West Sidings where a single five-wagon portion from Barton Dock CB would be added. However, this method of operation had ceased by 1984, when the Tilbury portions were either worked direct or added to other Freightliner services originating from either Garston FLT or Trafford Park FLT.

Traffic at both of these BR terminals had also continued to increase, as shown by the list of services timetabled to run that year (Tables 1 and 2), and the appearance of workings to Felixstowe indicated the increasing importance of deep-sea container traffic which, during the following decade, would come to dominate the rail-bourne container business.

Haulage

By the early 1980s, Class 47s and AL electrics handled the majority of Freightliner trains to be seen in the north west, although Class 40s and 'Peaks' still occasionally appeared on the workings to Holyhead and Newcastle, while a Class 25 would sometimes turn up on one of the shorter Aintree trains. All services from Trafford Park FLT, irrespective of eventual destination, also had to be diesel powered as far as Longsight until the overhead wires were finally extended to Trafford Park in the summer of 1980.

The inbound working from Stewartby, near Bedford, originated at the London Brick Co.'s sidings and conveyed bricks loaded onto special 20' flat-platform brick containers developed by London Brick. Known as the 'Fletliner' each train normally comprised 15 bogie Freightliner flats and, with each wagon carrying three containers, a train could transport about 315,000 bricks (enough to build eight average-size houses). When introduced in 1974, the train ran via Trafford Park FLT, where some of its bricks were unloaded, before it



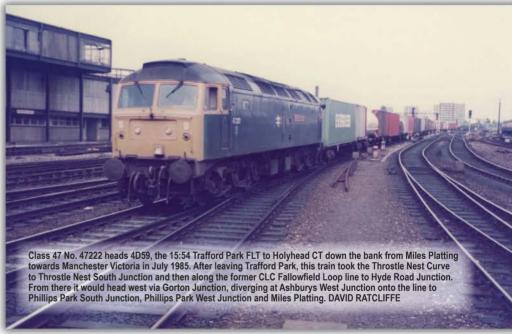
Class 25 No. 25300 had just run round 4F66, the 07.41 Garston to Aintree Containerbase Freightliner, when recorded at Edge Hill Down Wapping Sidings in July 1984. The train is formed of a five-wagon set which had arrived on Merseyside the previous evening as part of 4M74, the 13:58 from Tilbury RCT to Garston FLT. From Tilbury 4M74 also included portions for Garston FLT, as well as for Barton Dock Containerbase and Trafford Park FLT, both of which were detached at Crewe. DAVID RATCLIFFE

then continued along the former CLC line to Allerton West Junction before terminating at Garston FLT. The return working to Stewartby, which conveyed the empty flat-platform containers, was routed direct via Runcorn and Crewe with haulage provided throughout by a pair of Class 25s.

Another company Freightliner service which operated to and from the north west daily was 4E75, the daily Ford Motor Co. working, which ran between the car plant at Halewood, on Merseyside, and Parkeston Quay container terminal at Harwich. Electrically hauled between Halewood and Willesden, these trains, which comprised four or five five-wagon sets, carried automotive components such as gearboxes in Ford's own 30ft containers, which were destined for export to the Ford factories at Cologne and Saarlouis in Germany, and Genk in Belgium. The southbound train was timed to depart from Halewood at 08:22 SX, but changes within the car industry saw the traffic decline and, like the 'Fletliner', the Ford Freightliners ceased to run during the mid 1980s.

Rationalisation

In 1986 Aintree CB closed to rail traffic while services were withdrawn from Longsight FLT the following year. Then in March 1991, Sealink's Holyhead container terminal ceased to use rail,



although some of its traffic was diverted to the Cawoods terminal at Ellesmere Port Docks. The Cawoods terminal had opened in 1986, principally to handle containerised coal trains from South Wales and Lynemouth, but from 1990 it also began to receive one or two Freightliner trains each day from Crewe Basford Hall. This number increased to three following the closure of the Holyhead container terminal but it would prove to be short-lived for, in the summer

of 1992, the Cawoods terminal closed, with all its traffic diverted to Liverpool Seaforth Docks.

Privatisation

The hiving off of Freightliner from the BR Railfreight Distribution sub-sector in 1995 was a precursor to its privatisation the following year, with the company then commissioning Brush Traction to rebuild a dozen of the ageing Class 47 locomotives that it had inherited with reconditioned General Motors 645







Former Class 47 No. 47231, rebuilt as Class 57 No. 57010 and named 'Freightliner Crusader', heads through Manchester Deansgate with 4029, the 12.47 SO Trafford Park to Southampton MCT on 30th September 2000. DAVID RATCLIFFE

power units, new alternators and cab interiors.

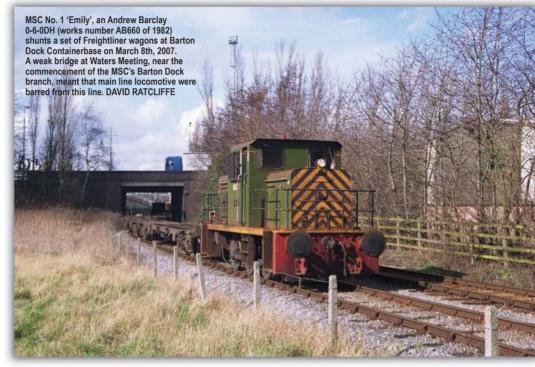
The first of these 'new' locomotives. designated Class 57, was unveiled in summer 1998 together with a striking new green and yellow livery, while the company signed new contracts with several of the major shipping companies which saw a significant increase in traffic between the ports of Felixstowe and Southampton and its inland container terminals. Freightliner traffic also benefited from the introduction of several new wagon types during the 1990s, such as the Tiphook 'pocket' wagon and the British Rail designed 'Lowliner', both of which were intended to carry the increasingly popular 9ft 6in hicube containers within the restrictive British loading gauge,

In 1999 the first of Freightliner's Class 66 locomotives entered service and with business now outstripping the capacity of its Trafford Park terminal a new mini-terminal was opened within the confines of Crewe Basford Hall Yard. That same year Freightliner also began operating from the recently opened O'Connor Group freight depot at Ditton, on the outskirts of Widnes, while in 2001 extra services were also introduced at Barton Dock Containerbase. Now operated by Roadways Container Logistics, this saw the Barton Dock terminal gain two additional trains running from Southampton, one of which would be rescheduled to operate from Felixstowe in 2006.

The introduction of these extra trains saw the Manchester Ship Canal Co. replace its 4wDH Sentinels, first with a pair of Andrew Barclay 0-6-0DH locomotives and then a succession of ex-BR Class 08s, which were leased from RT Rail and the Hunslet Engine Co. The severe economic downturn of 2009 led to deep cuts in Freightliner services with the company withdrawing from Barton Dock the following year. However, some container traffic did resume along the MSC branch in 2011 when GBRf introduced a daily train from Barking. Unfortunately this service was not a great success, ceasing after only a few months before a new GBRf working, now running to Felixstowe,

(RIGHT) In 1995 Freightliner received an allocation of ten Class 90s and No. 90150 is seen heading the 10:38 Crewe Basford Hall to Trafford Park at Manchester Oxford Road station on 30th April 1997. On this occasion the train included a portion from Tilbury for Barton Dock which was conveying several Russian Railway containers, all carrying uranium ore concentrate destined for the BNFL Springfield Works outside Preston. DAVID RATCLIFFE







was introduced in October 2011.
However, when that service was diverted to the Trafford Park Euro Terminal, itself built on part of Trafford Park West Sidings, the Barton Dock branch finally closed at the end of December 2012.

Today, despite strong competition for container traffic from DB, DRS, and GBRf, Freightliner still operates five trains most weekdays from Garston as well as a couple from Ditton, while in Manchester the Trafford Park FLT continues to despatch seven or eight trains a day.

(RIGHT) Three of the MSC Co.'s locomotives, Hudswell Clarke 0-6-0DM No. D6 and 4wDH Sentinels Nos. DH23 and DH26, prepare to leave 'The Base' with the afternoon Barton Dock to Southampton Freightliner on May 2nd, 1992. The pair of Sentinels would often need the assistance of another locomotive on this heavy train for the steep climb from Park Road up to the bridge over the Bridgewater Canal at Waters Meeting just before they reached Trafford Park West Sidings; this location was more generally known to the MSC crews as Bridgewater Sidings. DAVID RATCLIFFE



Table 1 - Freightliner departures from Merseyside January 1984

From Garston FLT

4K53 MX 00.19 to Crewe BH

4A54 MX 00.50 to Stewartby

4E91 MX 02.19 to Tilbury

4F05 MX 04.03 to Edge Hill Down Wapping

4F51 MX 06.00 to Seaforth

4F66 MX 07.41 to Aintree

4E75 MX 07.26 to Parkeston

4K58 SX 17.34 to Crewe BH

4E65 SX 18.16 to Stratford

4K54 SX 20.00 to Crewe BH

4K56 SX 20.40 to Crewe BH

4E71 SX 22.30 to Felixstowe Creek

Notes.

4F66 comprised a portion for Aintree off 4M74, the
 13.58 from Tilbury RCT to Garston FLT.

2. 4K56 comprised wagons for Glasgow FLT.

From Aintree CB

4F55 SO 10.39/SX 12.26 to Edge Hill Down Wapping 4O95 SO 12.15/SX 14.54 to Southampton Maritime 4F56 SX 19.03 to Garston

Notes.

 On Saturdays 4F55 went forwarded from Edge Hill Down Wapping as 4E76, the 13.37 SO to Tilbury.

On Mondays to Fridays 4F55 comprised wagons to be added to the 4O95 service to Southampton.

3. 4F56 comprised a portion to be added to 4E91 for Tilbury.

From Scaforth

4F67 SX 17.40 to Garston

Table 2 - Freightliner departures from Manchester January 1984

From Trafford Park FLT

4K55 MX 01.00 to Crewe BH

4E71 MX 02.04 to Stockton

4D59 SX 15.54 to Holyhead

4O65 SX 19.53 to Southampton Millbrook

4E83 SX 20.30 to Felixstowe North

4E82 SX 22.06 to Ipswich Yard

Note

4E82 included portions for Parkeston and Tilbury.

From Barton Dock CB

4094 SO 15.54 to Southampton Maritime 4067 SX 21.29 to Southampton Maritime

Notes:

Timings of 4094 and 4067 from Trafford Park West Sidings. These trains might also include a portion from Barton Dock for Tilbury which would be detached at Trafford Park West Sidings and forwarded by 4E82.

From Longsight FLT

4S57 SX 18.46 to Glasgow 4E67 SX 21.53 to Stratford



After the clean up and all repairs had been completed, Colwich Junction showed no signs of the disaster. 86208 City of Chester brings an up Liverpool to Euston InterCity train through Colwich. The locomotive is on the crossing that was the collision point where a similar train hit the northbound Manchester service almost head on at a combined speed of around 100mph. The lines to Stoke and Manchester curve off to the right in this photograph. MRS MARY BOOCOCK

Do you believe in miracles?

One of the duties of a senior engineer in the railway regions in the 1980s included attending and helping at major incidents and accidents on the running railway. On 19th September 1986, Colin Boocock's dinner at home was disturbed by an urgent telephone call from Control, a call that had interesting consequences. He explains:

By the time I reached Colwich and parked my car, all I knew was that two InterCity trains had collided at speed, there was widespread destruction on the junction site, and a heavy road crane had been called to assist due to the large area of debris. A Liverpool Lime Street to London Euston train headed by a Class 86/2 electric locomotive had met a northbound Euston to Manchester Class 86/4 hauled train on the flat crossing where the southbound West Coast Main Line and northbound Manchester lines crossed.

When I arrived on site, a fleet of buses and coaches was already leaving with grim-faced train passengers on board. Over 800 people in total had been on board the two trains.

I walked into the accident site alongside the railway chaplain who had arrived at about the same time. I did not envy his task which I guessed would include consoling injured and traumatised passengers being released as recovery got under way.

About two hours earlier, the first person to see that something was wrong was the signalman in the nearby signalbox. Colwich was a junction designed to allow trains to pass through in all directions without severe speed restrictions, except that Manchester bound trains were subject to a 50mph limit moving from the outside track of the four track section and negotiating the turnouts to reach the Manchester bound track. The signalling was arranged to facilitate this. On the northbound fast line, drivers of trains turning off towards Stoke-on-Trent and Manchester would first see a flashing green aspect warning of the junction ahead. This would be followed by a flashing double yellow, then double yellow and yellow aspects before the junction. The driver would then see a red signal (signal CH23) sited before the crossing ahead to ensure his speed was under control to match the 50mph limit through the junction. However, this signal would not turn to green if a southbound train was signalled

to cross the northbound train's path; if the line ahead was clear, the signal would change to a clear aspect early enough to enable the driver to maintain 50mph through the junction.

The signalman had signalled the Liverpool to Euston train through the junction, and then accepted the northbound Manchester train, expecting it to approach at the correct speed and be ready to stop at the red signal protecting the crossing. He saw the Manchester train approach, at about the usual speed, but he became alarmed when it appeared to make no effort to stop at the red signal, only braking very late with the effect that the locomotive passed the signal at danger and was still moving slowly as it reached and blocked the crossing. The train from Liverpool was approaching at about 100mph. Its driver began to brake on seeing the Manchester train blocking its path but the collision was by then unavoidable.

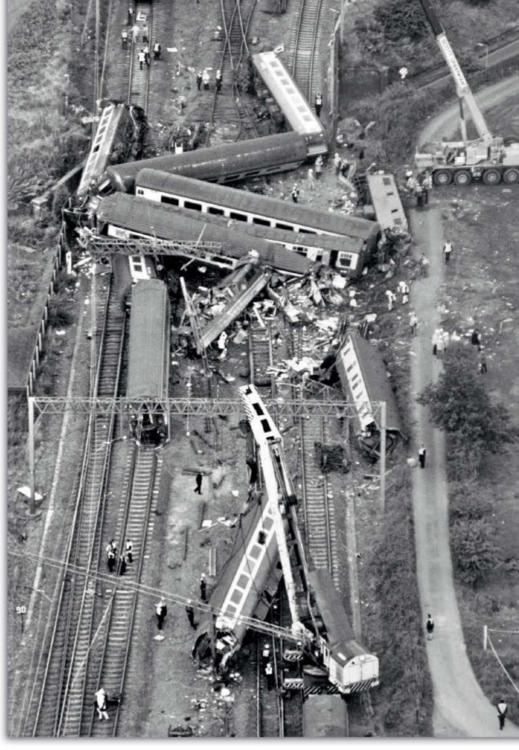
The destruction that followed was in proportion to the combined collision

speed of about 100mph. 86211 from the Liverpool train somersaulted over 86429 and landed a couple of lengths beyond the crossing facing the opposite direction. The 86/4, the leading mark 1 BG van and the first two Mark 3a coaches on the Manchester train were pushed back south, the first Mark 3a being bent and the second one embedding itself into an electrification upright. Many of the Mark 2f coaches on the Liverpool train jackknifed into a concertina formation across all tracks at Colwich.

With the exception of the leading Mark 3a, the excellent crashworthiness of modern coaching stock demonstrated its worth in this collision. Almost all the carriage bodies of both trains remained intact. Looking at the scene in front of me, I wondered how many people could have survived all this. I had expected there to have been people at risk of falling though broken windows as carriages tumbled around. As the Liverpool train had been overfull with many passengers standing in the gangway end vestibules, one could reasonably also expect some to have been thrown out from the gangway ends as the carriages jackknifed.

The driver of the southbound train was sadly killed. On the northbound locomotive, the driver and an unauthorised extra person in the cab both jumped out immediately before the crash and landed in a spot on which miraculously no debris fell. One passenger lost a foot. Apart from the inevitable sprains, cuts and bruises, nearly all passengers walked safely off the two trains! Not one was killed. Many were welcomed by the local Colwich villagers who immediately opened up their homes and the local school and church which acted as reception centres to care for people as they recovered from their terrifying experience. There were lots of individual stories but the one that truly amazes me is of a couple who had just walked away from their table in the Liverpool train's Mark 1 restaurant buffet car when a loose bogie from another derailed vehicle crashed through the buffet car's side wall and demolished their table and seats. Yet all passengers survived.

So, why did the Manchester bound train fail to stop at the red signal? Many facts were revealed at the public inquiry that was held by Her Majesty's Railway Inspector. It emerged early on that the driver of the northbound train had been approached for a cab ride by a railwayman from the Southern Region who then enjoyed the driver's hospitality. The inspector made little of this, preferring to look for technical reasons as to why the train 'slid' past



This aerial view of the scene of the Colwich crash dramatically shows how damaged coaches were spread over the full width of the four track site. The jackknifed carriages are mostly from the Liverpool to London train. The field on the right, which belonged to a convent, was ideal to receive everything lifted in order to clear the site to enable infrastructure repairs to be completed. ALAMY

the signal. The train was formed of mixed Mark 2f and 3a coaches, the former with cast iron clasp brakes set for a deceleration of 6%g and the latter with modern disc brakes set for 9%g. The signalman had said he did not hear the Mark 3a coaches' wheel slide prevention equipment operating as the train approached the red signal, but a signal technician nearby confirmed he had heard such WSP activity. My view was that normal operation of the WSP would not have reduced the train's ability to stop sufficiently to let the train slide

past the signal if the driver had acted to stop the train at the signal early enough. I still hold this view.

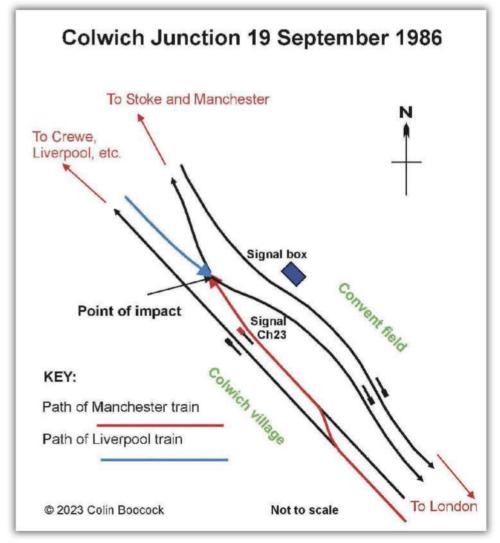
Before the inquiry meeting, the Inspector had asked for a series of trials to be made using a Class 86/4 and a formation of carriages that matched the Manchester train. One Sunday, the region had arranged a possession of the Down Stoke line at Colwich so that we could run this test train across the junction using the same driver and following the sequence of actions that he remembered having done on the accident



day. In all cases, the driver enacted the process of stopping the train at the speed and point where he said he had begun the train's stopping sequence on the day. In all cases the train stopped well short of the signal. He could not replicate the alleged behaviour of the train that he was claiming as the reason for the signal being passed at danger.

The driver admitted at the inquiry that he had expected the red signal protecting the crossing to turn to green as he approached it, "like the one at Norton Bridge." Indeed he admitted that he had been explaining to his unauthorised companion that this would happen, and he had to brake quickly to avoid passing the signal at danger when it stayed on red. In fact, there was a fundamental difference between these two recently resignalled junctions that the driver had not understood. The difference was the length of approach between the junction turnout and the crossing, which at Colwich was very long compared with the Norton Bridge arrangement, meaning that at Colwich there was plenty of room to hold a train between the ladder turnouts and the crossing using the signal in question; at Norton Bridge that was not possible, and the signal there acted as an approach control to ensure the speeds of approaching trains were not excessive. With this revelation, the inspector included in his recommendations a sensible requirement for the London Midland Region to improve its training of drivers when changes were made to the railway signalling and junction layouts.

Many people from these badly damaged carriages had miraculous escapes. This buffet car was smashed by a bogie that came through its side and destroyed seats and a table that had only just been vacated; those passengers were very fortunate indeed. ALAMY

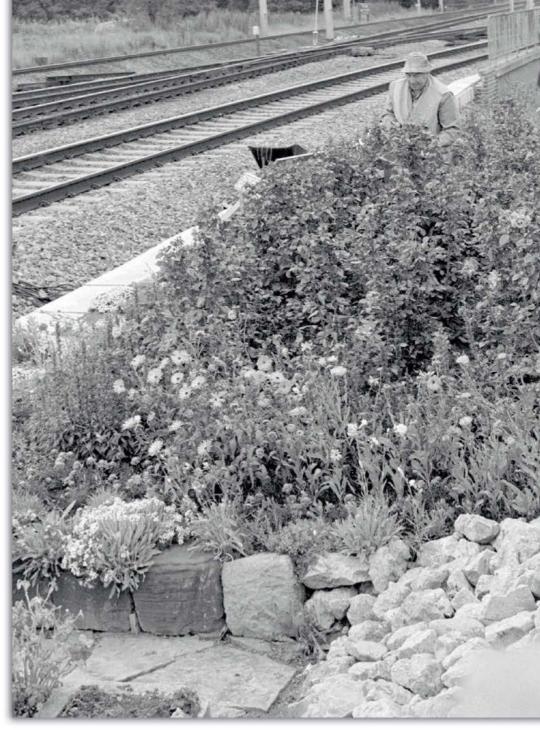


I have my own theory as to what happened to cause the Colwich crash. a theory that was not supported by the inspector. Firstly, the allegation that the mixed formation of Mark 2f and Mark 3a coaches in the Manchester train might have caused the slide past the signal had been disproved at the braking trials, and I am happy to set this allegation aside. My view is that because the driver fully expected the signal to turn to green he allowed the train's speed to stay between 40 and 50mph as the train approached the red signal. He did not take steps to stop the train if the signal failed to turn green because he fully expected it to go green. As a result, he braked far too late and could not stop the train in time to avoid blocking the crossing. I think it was as simple as that.

The Christian community's involvement in the Colwich crash extended well beyond the hospitality of the local church, St Michael & All Angels. Alongside the crash site was a wide field that formed a perfect place for the cranes to park all the damaged vehicles and other debris to help clear the lines quickly so that trains could begin to run again. The field was owned by the nearby St Mary's Abbey, a small convent community who were willing to loan the field to facilitate the clearance exercise. The railway agreed to provide a new fence to replace the one we would demolish in the clearance operation. Recovery of the damaged carriages and equipment could then continue without affecting the running railway.

As the clearance operation began, Cyril Bleasdale, the London Midland Region general manager, insisted to everybody involved that we leave absolutely no sign that there had been an accident here - not even any odd nuts and bolts that might have fallen into the track ballast. We had to deliver a clean site to the operators. The heavy road crane did churn up the field but it proved essential (areas of the field were resurfaced afterwards). All the coaches that had been strewn across the junction were lifted over into the field as a first step and this was achieved relatively quickly. Their removal for repair or to scrap merchants would take a few days, but that began within the week. Repair or replacement of trackwork, cabling, signalling and overhead electrification masts and equipment went on in parallel. Colwich Junction was reopened for West Coast Main Line traffic in just four days.

A subsequent change to the signalling arrangements at Colwich



This neat memorial flower garden was established alongside the crash site, photographed about a year after the event. A railwayman tends to the plants there. A feature of the garden is a display of two replica nameplates of 'City of Milton Keynes', the locomotive in which Driver Goode was killed by the impact. Driver Goode was the only fatality among the 820 or so people who were travelling in the two trains involved in the high speed collision. COLIN BOOCOCK

ensured that the flashing aspects on the approach signals were only activated if the route was set clear through the junction from the Down Fast to the Down Manchester and across the crossing, that is that signal CH23 would be showing a clear aspect. Under those circumstances the Colwich accident would not have happened.

The following year, a well attended memorial and thanksgiving service took place in St. Michael and All Angels church at Colwich. This was entirely appropriate in view of the

miraculous escape from fatalities for which the Colwich crash will always be remembered by those in any way involved with it. A fitting memorial was set up by BR alongside the (new) fence by the field. This was made up of a small trackside garden backed by two replica nameplates of the locomotive whose driver died, namely 'City of Milton Keynes'. This is visible from passing trains and also from the village.

Believe it or not, there are still people around who do not believe in miracles. That is something I cannot understand!



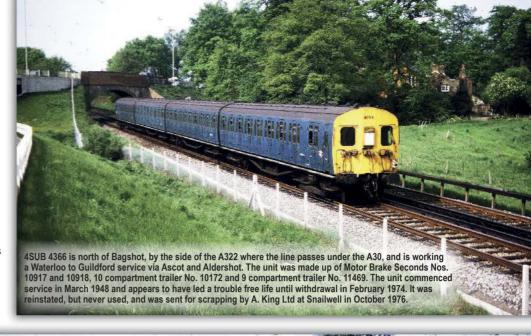
2BIL 2074 is seen north of Bagshot station by the side of the A322 where the line passes under the A30. The headcode 28 is for an Aldershot to Waterloo service via Ascot and Richmond. The unit, formed of Motor Brake Second No. 10640 and Driving Trailer Composite No. 12097, was placed in service in 1937 for the Portsmouth electrification scheme. It was slightly damaged by enemy action in 1944 but repaired and continued in service until withdrawal in 1971. The unit was scrapped at A. King Ltd.'s yard at Wymondham.



2BIL 2103 (Motor Brake Second No. 10669 and Driving Trailer Composite No. 12136) passes Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett (between Frimley Junction and Ash Vale). The unit was placed in service in November 1937 and is recorded as having been damaged twice, once in 1943 and again in November 1970 when the unit was in collision with 4SUB units 4717 and 4703 at Wimbledon Park. It was withdrawn as a result of this and sent to T. J. Thomson Ltd. at Stockton for scrapping in May 1971.

Photos by Robert Pratt with caption information by Andy Flowers and Stephen Rabone

t's relatively unusual to see photographs of Southern Region electric multiple units in the late 1960s, but fortunately some enthusiasts photographed what many others considered mundane, and not worth recording on film. On a sunny summer day in July 1969, Robert Pratt visited a number of well thought out lineside spots in the Berkshire and Surrey area, around Wokingham, photographing a mixture of third rail electric multiple units and diesel electric multiple units.



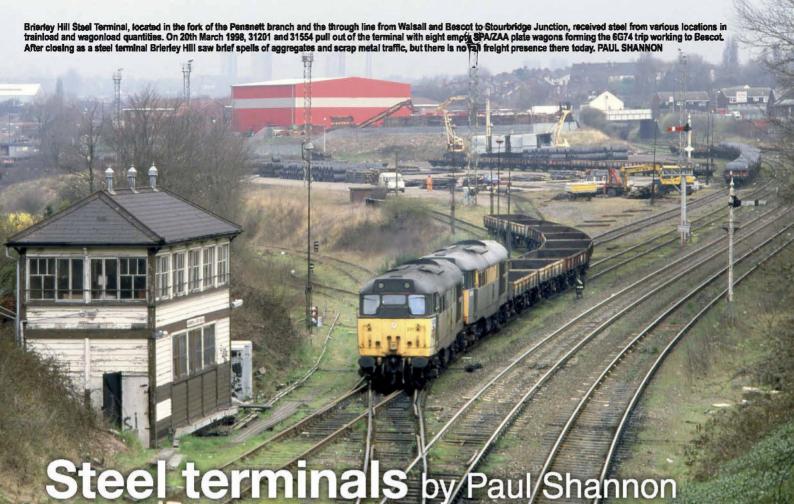
'Tadpole' Class 206 DEMU (3R) 1205 is working an eastbound service on the Redhill to Tonbridge line. The headcode 55 shows that this a Reading to Tonbridge via Redhill service. The train is approaching Wokingham and the photograph was taken from the Reading Road overbridge to the west of the town. The six 'Tadpole' units (1201-1206) were formed in 1964 and 1965 from Class 201 DEMUs and EPB EMU vehicles for use over this route and a few other lines. Unit 1205 was formed of Driving Motor Brake Second Open No. 60006, Trailer Second Open No. 60509 and Driving Trailer Second No. 77509. The 'Tadpole' nickname came about because of the use of narrow bodied Hastings Line Class 201 vehicles with a normal width EPB EMU which supposedly resembled a tadpole when viewed from above!

2BIL 2100 Motor Brake Second No. 10666 and 2HAL Driving Trailer Composite No. 12857 are seen near Gipsy Lane footbridge east of Wokingham on a Waterloo to Reading General via Richmond service (headcode 36) in July 1969. This service would have been a 4 car set as far as Ascot before being divided. Unit 2100 was delivered in 1937 but in August 1951 was involved in a serious accident at Ford. The Driving Trailer Composite No. 12133 was withdrawn later that year, whilst 10666 was repaired and, after being in store, was paired in 1955 with newly built Driving Trailer Composite No.12857. The set was withdrawn in 1970 and scrapped at J. Cashmore Ltd in Newport.

Information from this website has been used in compiling the captions: https://www.bloodandcustard.com







steel is heavy, and therefore intrinsically suited to movement by rail. Steel also lends itself to specialised terminals, usually involving heavy lifting equipment. As with rail freight in general, the trend in recent decades has been towards fewer but heavier trains serving a smaller number of locations. The significant losses of recent decades have been brought about by two main factors: firstly the closure of many steel plants in the UK and secondly the withdrawal of the wagonload freight network.

The 1970s were a decade of growth for rail-borne steel traffic, largely as a consequence of the Iron & Steel Act that was passed in 1967. This act brought the UK's 14 largest steel companies into public ownership as the **British Steel Corporation. Gradually** the number of plants making raw steel diminished and the railway picked up some high-volume flows of inter-works traffic, mainly slab and hot rolled coil, to feed those plants that no longer made their own steel. The inter-works traffic justified investment in new terminal facilities and new wagon fleets.

By the early 1980s, the plants at Shotton, Ebbw Vale, Corby, Workington and Shelton had all lost their blast furnaces and were receiving regular trainloads of semi-finished slab or coil. BR built a large fleet of bogie air-braked wagons for the main interworks flows, which generally ran in full trainloads of up to 2,000 tonnes. The wagons came in two varieties the 40ft BAA/BAB and the 50ft BBA but all had corrugated floors which helped to dissipate the heat from steel slab that had not been allowed to cool before loading. Many of these wagons were later modified with cradles to carry coil in one of three configurations 'eye to sky', 'eye to end' or 'eye to side'. The choice of configuration depended on the facilities at the receiving terminal: for example 'eye to end' coils suited unloading by gantry crane with a 'C' hook whereas 'eye to sky' coils were suited for tongs.

The railway carried a lot of other inter-works steel traffic in the late 20th century. An interesting example was the two-way flow of stainless steel between Tinsley and Sweden slab on the export leg and coil on the return journey. Today, only the slab remains on rail. Further inter-works flows were billets from Scunthorpe to Cardiff Rod Mill, pipes from Hartlepool to Leith and slabs from Port Talbot to Alphasteel near Newport. Tinplate was moved, usually in vans, from Ebbw Vale, Trostre and Velindre to various Metal Box plants such as Wisbech. Westhoughton, Worcester and Carlisle. The list could be much longer, but this gives a flavour of the variety of traffic

handled at works terminals.

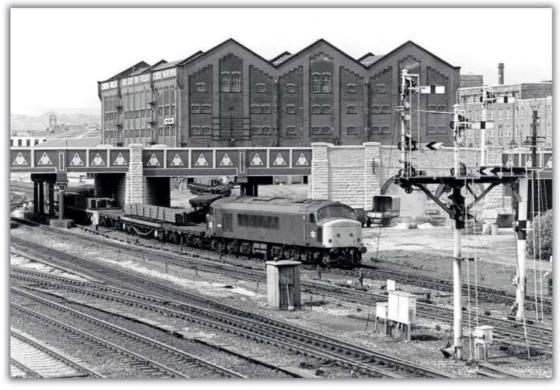
Ports have always been fertile ground for rail-borne steel. In the 1980s there were flows to and from numerous East Coast ports, including Teesport, Hull, Goole, Flixborough, Immingham, Grimsby, Boston, Kings Lynn, Felixstowe and Ipswich. Other ports that handled steel by rail at that time included Hamworthy, Newport and Swansea. By the mid-1990s, only those that could generate regular trainload volumes survived, i.e. Teesport, Immingham and Grimsby, plus limited services to Flixborough, Liverpool Seaforth and Mostyn.

However, from 1995 onwards several ports invested in better facilities for steel trains. One of the first revivals was Goole, where Loadhaul and its successor EWS picked up substantial tonnages of steel to and from mainland Europe. The port of Hull benefited from the country's first covered transhipment berth for transferring steel between a ship and railway wagons in autumn 1997, built at a cost to Associated British Ports of some £3.4 million. The new Nordic terminal at Immingham helped rail freight to achieve a threefold increase in steel tonnages through the port between 1994 and 1998. Another East Coast revival was Boston, where steel trains reappeared in 1997 after a four-year hiatus.

In South Wales, Associated British



Many BR goods depots had suitable facilities for handling wagonloads of finished steel. Where no permanent crane was available, mobile equipment could be hired in as necessary. With 25052 ticking over between duties, girders are lifted from a BDA bogie bolster wagon in Truro yard on 11th June 1980. PAUL SHANNON



Bolton yard saw a resurgence in steel traffic after the closure of Halliwell goods depot in 1981. 45051 shunts loaded and empty wagons after arriving at Bolton with the Speedlink trip from Ashburys on 29th May 1984. Spacer wagons were necessary because the steel sections were longer than the BDA bogie bolster wagons that carried them. PAUL SHANNON



The Stockton Haulage depot at Stranraer Town handled steel for export to Northern Ireland as well as other types of freight. At its height the terminal received three trains a day, although train weights were limited by the gradients on the line between Ayr and Stranraer. The Stockton Haulage gantry crane is poised for action as 47211 waits in the adjacent siding on 25th July 1985. PAUL SHANNON

The building of the A55 expressway along the North Wales Coast generated flows of steel reinforcing bars and cement to a temporary terminal at Conwy Morfa, just west of Conwy. 47366 shunts four BDA steel carriers at Conwy Morfa before returning to Llandudno Junction to form the afternoon Speedlink departure to Warrington on 8th April 1988. PAUL SHANNON







Ports opened a £2.5 million railhead at Newport Docks for steel exports and imports in early 1998, with covered accommodation for moisturesensitive steel. Hand in hand with the new facilities at ports, EWS rapidly expanded its fleet of covered wagons for carrying steel coil, first by converting existing BBA vehicles and then by ordering 310 new wagons from Thrall Car. These wagons supplemented those already operated by third parties such as VTG and British Steel.

For customers without their own rail terminal, steel could be loaded or unloaded at BR goods yards, especially those which had a crane. In the late 1970s around 75 BR yards still offered some kind of cranage facility and at many of those yards BR also provided collection and delivery by road. Table 1 gives an idea of the range of steel products that were handled at a typical goods yard in 1979.

However some goods yards were more geared to steel traffic than others. The West Midlands was a big consumer of steel and in the early 1980s the area boasted no less than six BR-operated steel

The small goods yard at Warrington Dallam received wagonloads of steel girders and wire rod in coil from Cardiff until the end of Speedlink in 1991. The traffic resumed in 1995 using the Transrail Enterprise network, but finished again in 2000. Back in Speedlink days, 08809 shunts Dallam on 10th April 1990 before taking the empty wagons on the right back to Arpley yard. PAUL SHANNON

Hamworthy Harbour near Poole was busy with flows of billet, coil and scrap metal in the 1990s and at the start of the decade BR provided the traction for shunting wagons in the loading area. On 14th August 1990 the Hamworthy duty falls to 09025, unofficially named 'Victory'. PAUL SHANNON



The goods yard on the south side of Wakefield Kirkgate station handled a number of different flows, including containerised coke from Derwenthaugh until 1985 and household refuse from Greater Manchester in 1987/88. It was then developed by Cobra as a steel distribution terminal, with deliveries from Cardiff and the North East. 37717 waits at the Cobra terminal after working the 01:00 departure from Cardiff on 17th July 1991. At that time Cobra was expanding its business and the warehouse in the background would soon provide covered accommodation for sensitive loads. Unfortunately, traffic later declined and the terminal closed in 2003. PAUL SHANNON



Located just south of Rotherham Masborough station on the 'old road' to Chesterfield, Masborough steel terminal became an important hub for traffic to the Sheffield area. One of the main flows handled at Masborough in the early 1990s was billet from Scunthorpe, carried on a variety of wagon types for off-loading by forklift truck. 08509 is carrying out the Masborough pilot duty on 20th April 1993. PAUL SHANNON



Alongside the modern handling facilities at Wolverhampton Steel Terminal were the remains of the Chillington Wharf basin, originally built in 1820 to tranship products from the Chillington Iron Company into canal boats and adapted for railway use in 1902. Steel billet awaits unloading beside the basin on 27th May 1998. PAUL SHANNON



(ABOVE) Wolverhampton was the biggest of the West Midlands steel terminals and survived the lean years of the early 1990s when many metals flows were lost. Hot rolled coil is unloaded from a BZA wagon □ converted from a BAA by the addition of a coil cradle □ at Wolverhampton on 27th May 1998. At that time Wolverhampton Steel Terminal was receiving up to eight trains a day delivering various types of semi-finished and finished steel. PAUL SHANNON

Table 1: Steel traffic handled at a BR goods yard: Cambridge Coalfields, 1979

Traffic	Origin	No. of wagons
Sheet	Shotton	35
Coil	Goole Docks	35
Plate	Hartlepool	3
Tubes	Bromford Bridge	3
Corrugated sheet	Port Talbot	2
Pipes	Barrow Hill	1
Plate	Port Talbot	1

Table 2: West Midlands steel terminals, February 1981

Terminal	Maximum lift (tonnes)		
Brierley Hill	20		
Great Bridge	25		
Kidderminster	8		
Walsall	15		
Wednesbury	20		
Wolverhampton	40		

Rail traffic from Boston Docks was suspended in 1993 but resumed in October 1997 thanks to the awarding of a Freight Facilities Grant, with up to two trains a week carrying imported coil to the West Midlands. Ex-BR shunter D3871 draws a rake of IHA steel carriers out of the loading shed on 21st July 2009. At that time the coil was destined for Washwood Heath and the haulier was Colas Rail. PAUL SHANNON





terminals \(\) Wolverhampton, Walsall Tasker Street, Wednesbury, Great Bridge, Brierley Hill and Kidderminster. Table 2 shows the lifting capacity at each location. Some deliveries to those terminals were by block train, but much of the traffic was wagonload and arrived on trip workings from Bescot Yard.

One feature that the BR terminals lacked was covered accommodation for offloading cold reduced coil or 'bright steel'. That gap was filled in 1985, when the privately-operated Round Oak Steel





The railway moved trainloads of steel bloom from Teesside to Workington Rail Mill from 1982 until 2006, when rail-making was transferred to Scunthorpe and the Workington site was shut down. A rake of BBA wagons awaits unloading in the bloom shed at Workington on 30th August 2002. PAUL SHANNON





The opening of the Nordic rail terminal at Immingham in February 1997 brought a welcome increase in rail-borne steel tonnages to and from the port. Cold reduced coil is unloaded from BIA and BXA wagons at Immingham on 7th August 2002. PAUL SHANNON

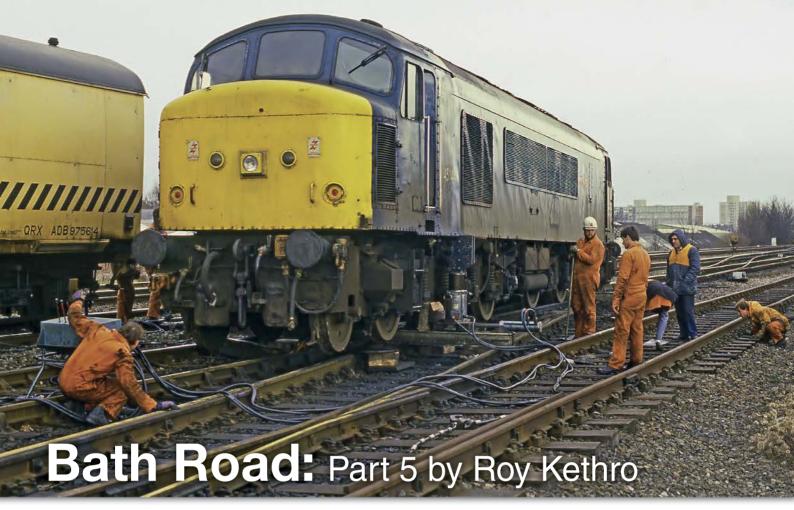
(LEFT) A visit to Newport Docks on 26th October 2000 finds 09105 shunting two coil carriers with telescopic sliding hoods □ a British Steel JSA converted in 1996 from an iron ore tippler and a railway-owned BWA converted from a BBA bogie bolster □ before working a trip to Alexandra Dock Junction yard. PAUL SHANNON

Terminal opened on the site of Round Oak Steelworks, closed three years earlier. Located just north of Brierley Hill on what was then a through freightonly line between Stourbridge Junction and Pleck Junction, Round Oak was served mainly by block trains of cold reduced coil from South Wales, but it also handled wagonload deliveries and even some Freightliner traffic.

Outside the West Midlands, the bigger steel distribution terminals included the railway-owned yards at Sheffield Freight Terminal and Rotherham Masborough as well as private terminals such as Fogartys at Blackburn, D. & F. Steels at Leeds Stourton, A.V. Dawson at Middlesbrough, P.D. Stirling at Mossend and Stockton Haulage at Stranraer. The Stranraer terminal was the beneficiary of Scotland's first Section 8 Grant for rail freight facilities in 1979.

Over time, the number of steel distribution terminals in Britain has

gradually shrunk. Of the six railwayoperated facilities in the West
Midlands, only Wolverhampton remains
active today, having benefited from
several investment schemes since the
1990s. Round Oak is also still going
strong, albeit less busy than it used
to be. The A.V. Dawson railhead at
Middlesbrough has been expanded
in recent years and receives several
trainloads of coil each week for Nissan.
Many of the other facilities are just
memories.



Roy Kethro continues his account of his railway career at Bristol Bath Road depot.

ike most major loco depots, Bristol Bath Road provided a comprehensive breakdown and recovery service round the clock. When I first arrived on the depot, in 1970, the breakdown crane was a red Cowans-Sheldon 75-ton steam model. The breakdown train itself consisted of a few motley old coaches, probably pre nationalisation types, for carrying lifting brackets, beams and jacks as well as travelling and messing facilities for the crew. An old long wheelbase 4-wheeled CCT carried wooden packing. The BDVs, or 'vans' as they were referred to, were always stabled on a siding in front of the Main Shed referred to as road two and a half with less than the usual 6 foot spacing to roads 2 and 3. The crane itself was always stabled on a siding in front of the admin block and adjacent to the depot departure road. There was sufficient open ground alongside to keep a supply of coal in the grounded body of an open wagon.

In the second half of the 1970s the 75-tonner went away to be converted to diesel-hydraulic operation and was replaced with a black 45-ton Ransomes & Rapier version. A small gang of staff

from the steam era were instrumental in operating and maintaining these types of cranes. Due to the cranes' asymmetrical layout, it was important when departing for a job to determine if it needed to arrive on site with jib leading or trailing.

By the end of that decade, one of a brand new batch of Cowans-Sheldon 76-tonne diesel hydraulic telescopic jib cranes was allocated to Bath Road. It was a very heavy machine with restrictive route availability; the civil engineers' department produced a large portfolio of beautifully hand drawn maps covering the West of England Division showing where this crane was allowed to go. It listed punitive speed restrictions over certain structures, followed by a visit from a bridge examiner following its passage. Being built on a symmetrical platform, there was no longer a need to consider jib leading or trailing when forming up.

The breakdown vans themselves were also replaced with an old Mark 1 BSK for travelling and messing, plus a converted Mark 1 van with reinforced chequer plate flooring and roller shutter doors for carrying packing, hydraulic jacks and lifting attachments.

The crane and vans were now all painted yellow.

Despite the new diesel-hydraulic crane being easier to operate at the push of the start button rather than having to keep an eye on boiler water level and steam pressure, setting up required a lot of manual handling if the relieving bogies had to be uncoupled and outriggers deployed on their 'elephants feet'. Plenty of muscle was required to assemble stacks of packing for them to sit on, limiting damage to track as far as practicable. Moderate lifts 'free-on-rail' with the crane wheels resting on the rails and no outriggers deployed was a much easier option for the gang, helped by counterweights which extended backwards. Warning klaxons alerted the driver and supervisor if centre of gravity limits were approached. I had one heart in mouth moment when the rear wheels started to rise off the rail during one of these lifts which proved a bit too heavy. In general, straightforward derailments were dealt with using the hydraulic lifting jacks or 'German gear', the crane being left behind on the depot. A new stabling point was created in the Coalfield sidings so it

could be left connected to a battery charger alongside an electrical supply. With no further need for coal, drums of hydraulic oil were stacked up outside the stores instead.

The Bath Road breakdown and recovery area stretched as far north as the top of the Lickey Incline, west to Swindon and south to Cogload Junction, Westbury and the Mendip quarry areas. It also included up to the Severn Tunnel, although the 'Hole' itself seemed to be a less clearly defined no-man's land. The only significant derailment in there during my time involved a ballast train. The Cardiff Canton gang dealt with that one. It was closer to their end.

On call

In 1980 the depot engineer incorporated me into the one week in four on call roster. Being called out by the divisional control at any time of day or night, the role of the on call man was to assess what resources would be needed to deal with an incident, arranging for the gang to be assembled, called in from home where necessary, the breakdown train formed up and train crew, including a guard, found. Ideally, a visit to site was undertaken while this was happening but rarely were two jobs the same or in the same location. That is except in the case of the loco fuelling point at Westbury which had three derailments overnight in one week on the same set of points. The majority of jobs I attended were straightforward derailments in yards, splitting of points, track spread or involving trap points at the end of loops and mostly dealt with by jacking and slewing.

The most unusual call out I encountered was an instruction from Control one weekday evening to assemble the complete breakdown formation including the crane and manned by a full gang ready to go at short notice. Then a few hours later we were stood down with no explanation. I later found out that a special service with claret coloured coaches running under a specific headcode and carrying some very important people had passed through our patch. It was on a 'need to know' basis and we didn't need to know.

Crane work was not just about breakdowns and derailments. The civil engineer would occasionally make use of the depot's heavy lifting capabilities during pre-planned engineering work. Our 45-ton steam crane was used to offload concrete beams in preparation for a bridge renewal east of Swindon station. That was the day it tipped over when the ground in the yard, made





up from years of ash, suddenly gave way under one of the outriggers. The new hydraulic crane was involved in a double lift with the Old Oak Common crane during a weekend bridge renewal over the River Thames south of Oxford.

Winter problems

Being on call was not exclusively about dealing with breakdowns and derailments. The severe winter of 1981 caused a number of issues not just within Bath Road depot itself but also the HST depot at Saint Philip's Marsh. There were problems with the depot heating freezing up, pipe joints bursting and even with fuel supplies which came in by rail tanker unable to be offloaded due to snow damage. When severe frost was forecast or a depot rang Control to report that their low temperature warning device had activated, advice went out across the Region to put frost precautions in place, ensuring that all locos and DMUs on depot were started up every few hours and run for 20 minutes. Engine coolant had a number of additives to

inhibit scale build up and corrosion but it was not an effective anti-freeze.

On a night when a particularly severe frost was forecast following heavy snow, an order went out to bring any out stabled locos back to the depot or arrange to leave their engines running all night wherever they stood. Failing that, they were to have a low lying coolant pipe cut through to drain the system in order to protect the engine. and that applied to any locos under repair on the depot which could not be started. I trudged through heavy snow to deal with two Class 37s stuck in yards which could not be brought in due to a lack of drivers. Many staff managed to get into work despite atrocious travelling conditions, but for some it was just impractical.

An important job as winter approached was to ensure that a selection of locos were fitted up with miniature snow ploughs. The pair of independent snow ploughs had to be checked over and taken for a trip around the block to make sure the wheels still turned and to work some oil around the axle boxes. A pair of Class 37s were ideal traction for ploughing duties. Class 47s were not fitted for multiple working and the wheel slip system appeared to be a bit more sensitive, so they were not considered suitable. It was not every year that the ploughs needed to be used in anger in our part of the world, but I did miss a bit of serious recovery work by 24 hours as my week of on call ended. That was when a 3-car DMU hit a snowdrift at Sparkford near Yeovil ending up a considerable distance away from the track. The breakdown train could not get near until the line had been cleared the following

With the need to transport heavier and bulkier materials such as wheelsets between depots and main works following the demise of the Enparts service, it made sense for one of the depot van and fork lift truck drivers to be sent on a HGV driving course. It provided a lot more flexibility not having to hire in haulage contractors on an ad hoc basis. The Swift's overnight road service was predominantly for smaller items or pallet loads.

The Labourers

I have often said that the most important people on the depot were those on the bottom rung of the ladder. When the boss took a few days off, life carried on more or less as usual. But if the labourers who kept the mess room and ablutions block clean were missing, that was a different matter.

In my early days on the depot, there

had been an older labourer who used to burn up the rubbish out the back of the Main Shed by the turntable. He had transferred to Bath Road when St Philip's Marsh steam depot closed. I recognised him from my trainspotting days as he always gave us a friendly warning to keep an eye out for the foreman. Looking at the sort of things he put on his fire, I am convinced that he thought his job was to keep it burning at all costs. Always the butt of horseplay by some of the apprentices, one day they found an old driver's hat, put some silver foil around it and presented it to this hapless individual telling him he had been promoted to inspector. Once the penny dropped that it was all a ruse, he was seen chasing the culprits around the locker room with a shunting pole, the sharp end of which could have inflicted some serious damage.

In the late 1970s the depot needed to recruit labourers to replace those who had either moved across to the HST depot or had been lost due to natural wastage. One chap who was taken on held a HGV licence but could find no work. The supply of drivers in the general economy was exceeding demand, in total contrast to more recent times. Another had been a lighterman working barges in the docks, a skill the need for which had all but disappeared. A third individual who had been recommended by his uncle, who was a fitter's mate, had to be let go. With complaints about his aggressive behaviour from colleagues who were showing him the ropes, his references came back from a previous employer simply stating, "Does this man have a twin brother?" That was as good a warning as any.

The late 1970s saw a short period of industrial action by workshop staff known locally as 'The Donkey Jacket Strike'. The engineering unions across the Western Region depots appear to have been spoiling for a fight with management over a number of issues and were just looking for an excuse to kick off. Locally, the trigger was down to a couple of donkey jackets kept in the stores to be issued to anyone attending a call out. The staff reps were insisting that everyone should have a personal issue. One afternoon the staff occupied the Daily Shed preventing locos from being serviced. The night shift was not allowed to clock on and all workshop staff were suspended. As part of the depot management, I was drafted into a team, including up to the divisional maintenance engineer himself, to try and keep the service running. For myself it was ten 12-hour

night shifts at the DMU fuelling and inspection pit. I was also volunteered to deliver a letter to the last known home address of everyone involved indicating that they would be dealt with under the disciplinary procedure before being allowed back to work. Once it was all over, there were occasions walking through the Main Shed when I would hear, "Look out, here comes the postman."

At the north end of the site was a cube shaped brick built building with a large sign on the side indicating that it was a 'Locomotive Test Centre'. Inside was an old 4000-gallon tender from a withdrawn steam loco. Large electrodes had been assembled inside and cables from them run out into the yard in an underground duct to a terminal point. To test a loco under load, the traction motors were isolated and the main generator connected by heavy duty cables running down to the terminal point. Power generated running up to full power was absorbed by the tender full of water acting like a giant immersion heater. Measuring the voltage and current produced then multiplying them together produced the power output in kilowatts which was then converted to horsepower using a simple formula. This tender full of water was later replaced with a large resistance bank in a shipping container down in the yard and was always operated by the rolling stock inspectors.

During 1982 I transferred across to the HST depot leaving our young graduate engineer to pick up the reins back at the loco depot. He rang me one day to ask for advice having been asked to look at a Class 47 where the electric train heating (ETH) had failed. There were some serious voltages inside that control cubicle and not somewhere where it was advisable to go prodding around with the engine running unless you knew what you were doing. I told him to wait and I would come across to give him a bit of guidance. With suitable isolations in place, I opened up the cubicle and operated a relay by hand, finding it to be partially seized. Cleaning and lubricating the pivot of the operating arm sorted that one in just a few minutes but it was purely luck on my part, literally the first thing I had checked. It did nothing to enhance this poor lad's self confidence.

Haulage

The following year I moved up to HQ in Paddington to cover a temporary vacancy in Maintenance Control. It was a role which managed the input of work into the Western Region depots,

balancing locos being released back into traffic to ensure the operator had sufficient traction to run services. For each main depot there was a percentage of each type of loco known as the maintenance allocation which allowed examinations and repairs to be carried out while achieving availability targets, typically between 80 and 90%. The theory was that if reliability could be maintained, availability would look after itself.

I was now involved with my old depot from a different angle involving daily telephone calls with the traction maintenance engineer (TME) on the early turn and then the senior maintenance foremen on late and night turns. We discussed progress on stopped locos, estimated release times and dates, then agreed timescales for locos to be presented for exams and planned repairs. The planning tool we utilised was TOPS, the rather user unfriendly computer system used to manage locos. A pre-assignment was input that indicated to traction controllers where and when a loco was required to come out of service as well as the reason. The programme and sequence of maintenance exams was based on cumulative TOPS hours run.

Locos such as Bath Road's allocation

of Class 31s. 37s. 50s and 56s were relatively easy to manage as they generally worked either within the West of England Division or on out and back workings such as to Portsmouth and Cardiff. The largely non-ETH Class 47s, which made up a significant proportion of Bath Road's allocation, were a different kettle of fish. They tended to work all over the BR system at the whim of the traction controllers in the various regional controls, requiring negotiation to agree the most expedient way to work a loco back to its home depot in a timely manner. The normal route with a Class 47 freight loco for Bath Road was to work it towards Severn Tunnel Junction. From there, a morning daily freight ran to Bridgwater, the loco then running light engine back to Bristol by early afternoon. Our Bath Road TME was not beyond a bit of sleight of hand if he had men standing around waiting for work. If a spare loco was available, it was not unheard of for him to arrange with the running foreman to swap it out on the Down Through Line outside the depot on its way down to Bridgwater, something which did not always come to light at Control.

Bath Road was potentially caught up as a loser due to an initiative by BR Headquarters at Derby around 1984. With the Class 47 being a go anywhere multi-functional loco, there were concerns about failed locos being dragged all over the system back to their home depots for attention. A network of main depots with Class 47 capabilities was set up. The principle was that a failed loco would be taken to the nearest depot able to effect repairs irrespective of which depot or region it was allocated to. The London Midland Region did not allocate their Class 47s to specific depots but put them into a pool to maintain them at any of their depots. With no nominated depots on the Southern Region, Bath Road and, to a greater extent, Old Oak Common would end up losing out, with failed locos being dragged up from down south impinging on their production targets for their own locos. When the Western Region's green liveried 47484 'Isambard Kingdom Brunel' incurred twelve shifted tyres over on the Eastern Region, potentially requiring six replacement wheel sets or alternatively a quicker double bogie change, they found a way of sending it back to us. It was a policy which made sense for minor repairs but was quietly dropped with only lip service being paid to it.

To be concluded in TRACTION 280



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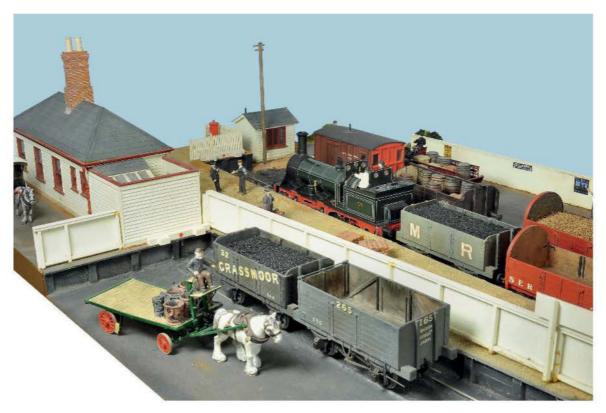


SECOND WIND

Regenerated and condensed for 2023, Geoff Stenner's new 'Oakhurst Town' captures the spirit of its predecessor while faithfully recreating a nearly forgotten backwater in the 1880s.



LAYOUT I S7 I OAKHURST TOWN



LEFT: The end of the line at Oakhurst Town. with a rather too clean coal yard populated with typical dumb-buffered scratch-built wagons, and the far siding showing characteristic SER round end opens.

BELOW: Working SER-style scotch block protecting the single passenger line from goods or loco runaways. Operated via wire-in-tube from a servo in the backscene.

BOTTOM: Manning Wardle no.313 acting as station pilot. The model is based on the Slater's kit, and the prototype was bought by the SER in 1881. The SER twinarm water crane is a commercial product.

eaders with long memories may remember my 'Oakhurst' S7 layout based on the South Eastern Railway in Kent in the 1880s, which featured in the BRM Annual for 2009. Having appeared at 20 shows between 1998 and 2008, the layout had eventually come to the end of the road; at 25ft x 3ft, it was heavy and cumbersome for basically one person, and so was retired to the garage.

Around 2014, I started to fancy the idea of a compact exhibition layout, which might be easily transportable without needing to hire a van, and could re-use the stock and buildings from 'Oakhurst' into which I had put many years of work. I was able to measure up the capacity of a Skoda Octavia estate car to which I had access at the time to assess what might fit, eventually purchasing the same model myself. Having decided all was viable, I stiffened the sinews and summoned the blood and set to dismantling 'Oakhurst', preserving as many items as I could for re-use, down to the fencing and dummy point rodding.

First steps

After suitable thought and sketching, a very simple layout seen in the accompanying photographs was devised; whereas 'Oakhurst' had been based on a real station (Bromley North), the 'Oakhurst Town' replacement had a trackplan that no sane railway engineer would have accepted, there being no runround and limited siding space. However, the necessary use of a pilot locomotive has actually increased both operating and viewer interest. The mode of transportation in an estate car restricted the baseboard size to 9ft (3 x 3ft x 2ft boards) for the scenic section, with a 4ft fiddle yard, giving 14ft x 2ft over the legs, considerably smaller than the previous trainset.





OAKHURST TOWN I S7 I LAYOUT



ABOVE: Cudworth 118 class 2-4-0 no. 246, one of the last built in 1874, threads its way over the three-throw turnout on its way out of the station. The model is scratch-built with homemade wheels and Stubbs gearbox and driven by a large coreless motor in the tender.

In order to reduce weight, I experimented with 50mm dense foam for baseboards with 12mm thick ply end plates, 3mm MDF side pieces and a top of Daler picture framing board suitably sealed with brown paint; this worked, though, when I had to remake the fiddle yard, I replaced the Daler board with a top of 3mm MDF, which has proved superior.

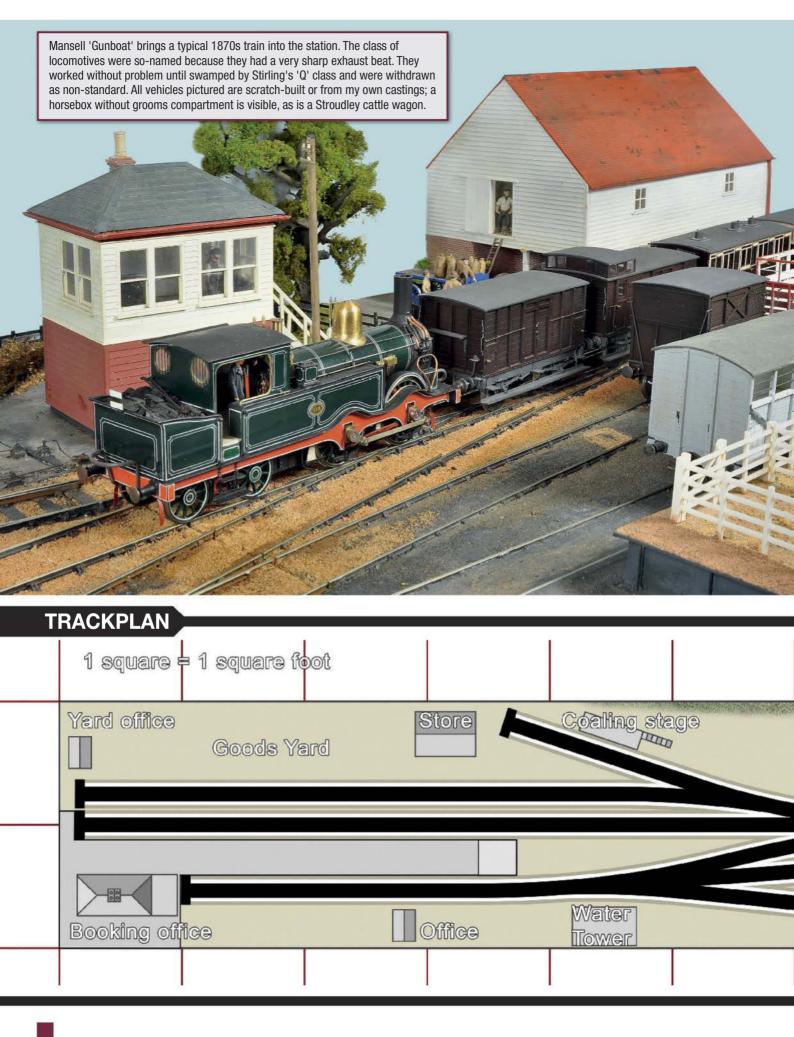
A basic easily-bolted-together lighting rig was concocted from aluminium angle, bought online already cut to size. 5mm foam board in long strips (cut to size by my obliging local art shop) form a fascia and are attached with Velcro, and lighting is by flexible LED strips from the local 'Range' store, stuck beneath and behind the fascia. All this is so much lighter and easier to deal with than the mains-powered (and very hot) spotlights on a wooden gantry used on the previous layout.

Challenging trackwork

For this smaller and more restricted layout, I wanted to increase historical accuracy and interest by including some of what I had now learnt about turnouts as used by the SER in my chosen period. Turnouts were not to be the much later REA 'A', 'B', or 'C' types beloved of modellers, but custom angles with various length loose-heel, straight-cut switches generated via the TRAX 2 program during the planning stage. I trusted this program as there appears to be no known official SER turnout drawings of the period; custom and practice of other railways of the period was therefore used, plus SER photographs.



LAYOUT I S7 I OAKHURST TOWN



OAKHURST TOWN I S7 I LAYOUT

The final trackplan used one simple and two threethrow turnouts, the latter with overlapping switches, a type also used by the NER, GER and MR. I have been challenged over the use of these turnouts for passenger lines, but photographic evidence shows there were three such turnouts used at the SER Charing Cross terminus station when opened in 1864, and I have seen a photograph of one under a passenger train in an 1859 picture of Market Harborough LNWR.

I have no doubt they were less in favour on passenger lines as locomotives grew heavier, but my layout is a nearly forgotten backwater in the 1880s, which might have eventually been rebuilt (like Caterham, for example), so I would argue that the track wasn't altered until the revamp took place.

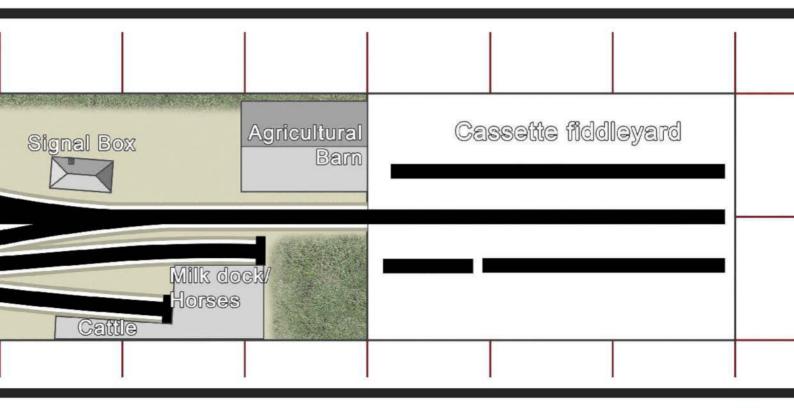
These turnouts proved tricky to construct. I ended up with a pile of reject switches as any slight adjustment to alignment of rails, gauge, etc, caused rejections because of now unsuitable over all or planing length. Close examination of photographs showed joggles as well as the normal 'set' in the stock rails of the real thing, and production was more successful once this was understood. The pivoting of the switches was achieved using an Exactoscale brass locking fishplate to hold each switch to its respective closure rail, with the joint supported as in the prototype; this latter was achieved using a 4mm scale track rivet. The whole setup is quite loose, but the operating wire, which comes up through the baseboard from the homemade operating unit is biased so that it pushes the tie bar and thus the switches towards their respective closure rail. All turnouts are servooperated using the Peco control system, though I did use slightly better servos than those originally supplied. Blade throw and speed of throw is fully adjustable, and they are DCC-controlled via a Lenz master unit and a ROCO Multimaus handset.



A South Eastern cornucopia, basically an aerial view of the 118 Class and train, the latter again all scratch-built. The water tank has a Plastikard 'brick' base, and the tank was home-cast in resin from my own masters, then chopped up to make the appropriately sized tank. Two 1870s-era slotted post-SER signals are visible.



A ground-level view of 'Gunboat' and train, though the headcode board seems to have disappeared. The roofless SER cattle wagon just visible (my own castings again) dates from the 1850s, and I hope the contrast between the shingle ballast main line and the ash/dirt siding ballasting will be noticed.

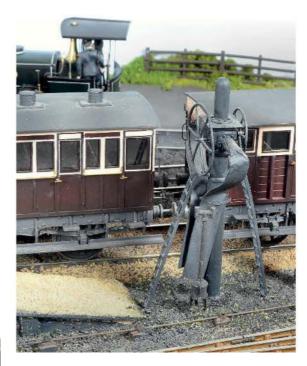


LAYOUT I S7 I OAKHURST TOWN

Turning to the rest of the track, deep ballasting was required to imitate the so-called 'boxing of the ballast', where the sleepers are entirely covered except in the area of the switch blades. The original reason for this practice was that it was thought to reduce noise, but it was eventually rejected as it also hid rotting sleepers. The only way to make this work on the layout was to emulate the prototype in that a first layer of coarse material was glued in place (dilute PVA as usual), and then, once dry, a second finer layer added on top. This work was done in the winter and took days to dry out.

The signals are those from the previous layout, but are now servo-controlled from small switches via a 'Bouncer' unit, now defunct but bought many years ago and stashed away until finally being used. This can set bounce, shudder and speed of movement of the signal arms. I included one scotch block to protect the running lines from the loco road and long goods siding. It does work, being powered from a servo hidden in the undergrowth via wire in tube, and again controlled from the handset.

RIGHT: Lurking behind the water crane are two 1860s coaches. one with a coupe compartment, Lighting at that time was very class conscious; firstclass coaches usually had one lamp per compartment, the plebs in third class at worst having only one lamp for the whole coach.



Scenic renovation

The rest of the layout is conventional; all the buildings appeared on the previous layout, some now being 25 years old; the signal box is large and probably out of place, but is there because it is so recognisably SER. For the loco road, I did construct a coaling stage based on a photograph of one at Sevenoaks and used the wonderful Evergreen strip in various sizes as required.

The station platform and cattle/milk/horse landing used a mixture of foam board and Daler board and I hope reproduces the SER's widespread use of timber platforms, with supposedly 'gravel' spread on the top surface. Spare layers of layout foam were built up and hacked to shape to form the hill at the exit to the fiddle yard. My scenery is not up to the standard of some of the luminaries in our hobby, but I find Woodland Scenics products sensibly used give a pretty acceptable effect.

The 'ground' was formed with the usual build-up of Polyfilla and DAS clay, with various blacks, browns and greys from the Vallejo range sloshed over until something acceptable appeared. The shingle ballast (extracted from Dungeness on the prototype) was similarly toned down where required, and an effort was made to sink siding track work into the 'ground', the apparent main line ballasting of sidings on some layouts being a pet hate of mine.

New stars of 'Oakhurst Town'

Since the original layout was dismantled, three new locomotives have been completed, though not all are necessarily in use at shows. The first of these is a Stirling 'A' class 4-4-0 based on the SER KITS product. I basically used just the etches and a few castings, adding my own boiler from brass tube and a smokebox from nickel silver. Other fittings were from my own castings produced for my other Stirling locos. The locomotive uses Slater's driving and bogie wheels turned down by



The Stirling A Class 4-4-0 heads for the station. These locomotives were the first flush of modernisation when Stirling took over as CME, being based on one of his designs produced for his former employer, the G&SWR. The rounded cab appeared on four of his six designs.



The 'Gunboat' rests at the buffers, its coaches having been pulled clear of the platform by the station pilot, allowing the former to escape to regain the head of the train. The LSWR wagon visible is the Adams design with wooden corner posts, all home-cast.

OAKHURST TOWN I S7 I LAYOUT

TOP RIGHT:

A reminder of the agricultural nature of Nineteenth Century Kent, as a horse drawn flat truck waits to be loaded once the conversation ceases! The warehouse (also visible in other views) is really the only nonrailway building on the layout, but Kentish in origin. Built from Plastikard, foam board and adapted Wills roof pantiles (I think).

MIDDLE RIGHT:

The 118 class awaits departure with wooden tender brake shoes visible; there were no brakes on the loco itself at this time. The signals were built using commercial wooden posts with a home-cast slotted extension on top.

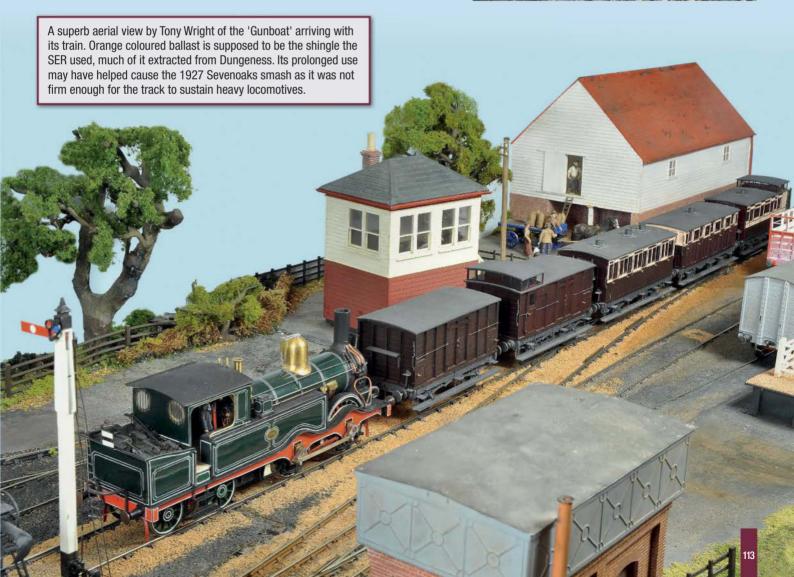
eye to S7 standards, with AGH tender wheels picking up via split axles. There is a large Maxon motor in the tender driving a Stubbs gearbox via a shaft beneath the footplate. The locomotive is probably too large for the layout (a soto voice comment to this effect was heard on one occasion!), and to boot, I now know it should probably be painted 'Invisible Green' for my period, but for the moment, it stays as it is.

Next, having earlier mentioned the need for a pilot loco, I built a Slater's Manning Wardle 'F' class 0-4-0ST kit. The SER bought one of these in 1881 to shunt at the ever-expanding Folkestone Harbour, but it has been borrowed for 'Oakhurst Town' pilot duties. I bought the kit second-hand and part built. Someone had made a start on the body but had come to grief with the chassis.

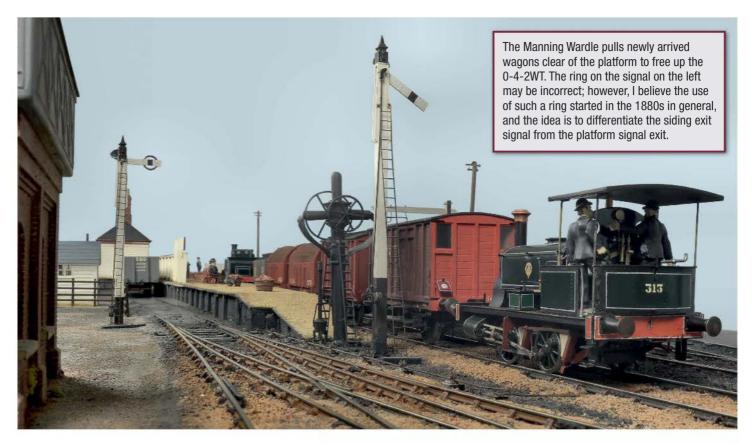
After some thought, and bearing in mind it would be the first locomotive I had ever built with outside cylinders, I made PCB spacers to set the frames at around 29mm outside width, and arranged cylinders, etc., to allow clearance for the crosshead and front wheel crankpin. A trip to the Middleton Railway allowed me to examine the wheels on their captive MW 0-6-0ST, and based on those wheel measurements suitable metal wheels set on 1/8" diameter axles were fabricated at home. A Mashima 1224 sits vertically in the firebox driving a High Level gearbox. I felt I could never bend the thick brass tank parts as supplied in the kit, so replaced them and the cab/bunker side sheets in thinner nickel with rivet detail embossed by my trusty but now defunct 'Double L' riveter.







LAYOUT I S7 I OAKHURST TOWN



The canopy is based on one clear side-view of the loco and has an outlet from the safety valve through the roof. Finally, for DCC control the smallest available Zimo chip is slipped precariously in at the side of the gearbox.

The third new locomotive is a Mansell 'Gunboat' 0-4-4T. This must hold some kind of record for construction time, as it was commenced in early 1990 and not finished until February 2022, which is far longer than the 1877 to 1893 life of the original! I can't really account for this except that its construction was awkward from the start, and over the years I found myself working on it for a few months, then putting it aside in favour of something easier. Construction and painting were finally achieved in one long session of several months during 2021 by simply ignoring anything else until it was finished, it features homemade wheels, Stubbs gearbox and coreless motor.

To get split axle pick-up from all eight wheels, the driving wheel axles are in several parts with the outside brasses insulated via a 'dead' section of axle. Construction is otherwise conventional, but I went against my usual practice of bolting parts together to ease painting by soldering the tanks to the footplate to increase the rigidity of the footplate. Victorian locomotives can be very flimsy in both body and chassis, so any extra rigidity is welcome. The original GA drawing showed brakes on the bogie (which were duly added), but was vague on means of operating; fortunately the cab steps are in the way of whatever levers, etc., should be there. Similarly, I was unable to include a couple of pipes, which were on the tank tops as they seemed to terminate without trace.

Under-hung springs were also a problem, and the only way I could deal with them was to glue my castings to the base of the outside brasses and have dummy





MIDDLE LEFT:

The 'A' Class enters the station with typical outside-framed goods 'break' (correct spelling for the era) just visible top left. The paler spot of ballast in the foreground siding marks the location of the magnet for the Alex Jackson couplings in use.

BOTTOM LEFT:

The 118 again. The design dates from 1859 and was slightly modified as things went along; one change was from a built-up chimney to the stovepipe design as shown. All locos were eventually reboilered by Stirling and retained the green livery as shown until Wainwright took over in 1899.

hangers unattached and disappearing into the murk beneath the outside frames. The locomotive features an injector on the right-hand side of the smoke box for the operation of the Smith's Simple Vacuum Brake. This was not shown on the drawing, so measurements were 'guestimated' by careful measurement and comparisons using the three available photos enlarged on a tablet computer. Suitable masters were made and the parts then home-cast and attached. All the pipework was carefully bent up, trial fitted then safely stored until being fitted after painting was completed.

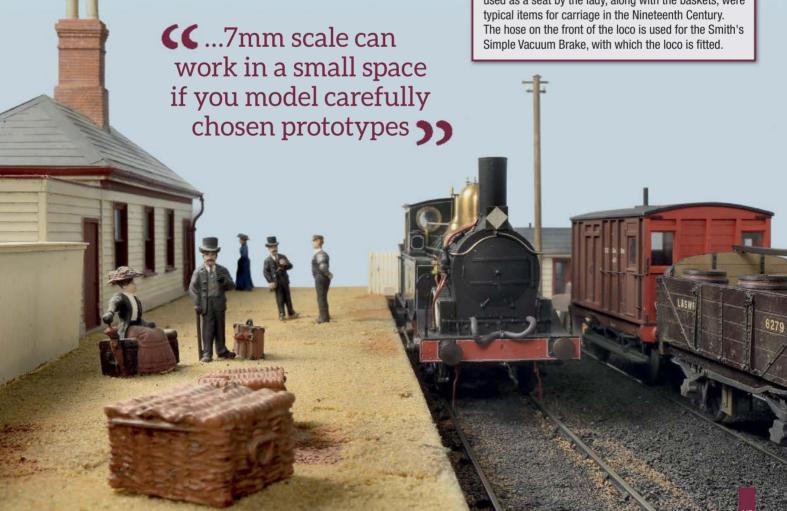
Final thoughts

So, this is the story of the second wind my stock and buildings received after years of previous use on another layout. I hope this small layout shows that 7mm scale can work in a small space if you model carefully chosen prototypes, and I hope it also provokes some interest in using Scaleseven track and wheel standards, though, of course, these are not for everyone.

If you are interested in the SECR and its SER and LCDR constituents, I strongly recommend membership of the South Eastern and Chatham Railway Society, wherein lies much knowledge and information not necessarily available elsewhere. Finally, my thanks to SECSOC members John Kingsland and James Maxted, who have helped with operation at various shows, and to Steve Bromhall, who usually mans the fiddle yard and deals with PR while I am scratching my head over some complicated shunting move which has just fouled up.



A view along the supposedly gravel-covered platform, surface from Daler board with sand sprinkled on it; one passenger looks a bit drunk. The large trunk being used as a seat by the lady, along with the baskets, were typical items for carriage in the Nineteenth Century. The hose on the front of the loco is used for the Smith's Simple Vacuum Brake, with which the loco is fitted.



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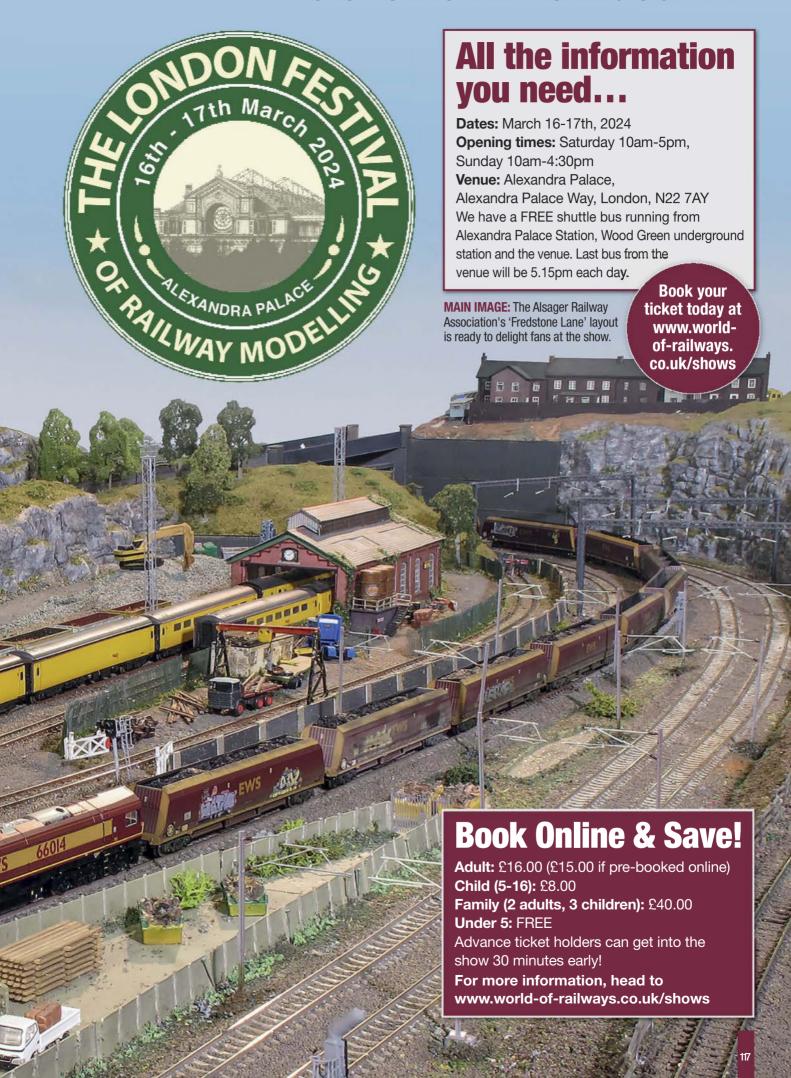


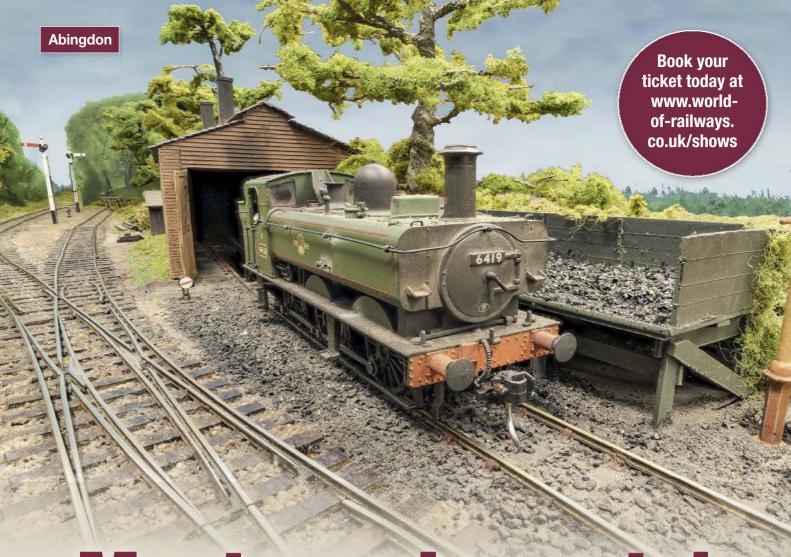






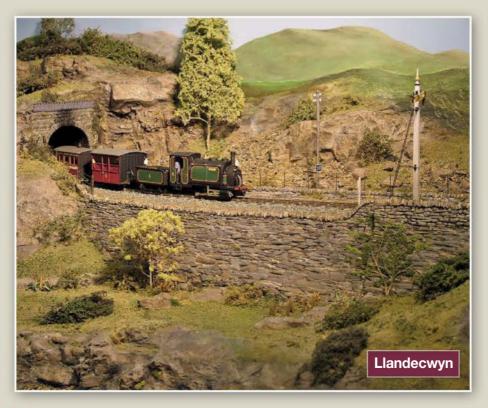


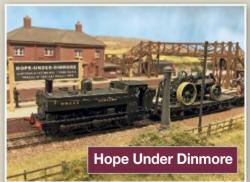




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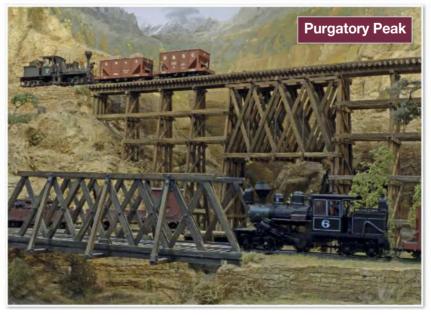


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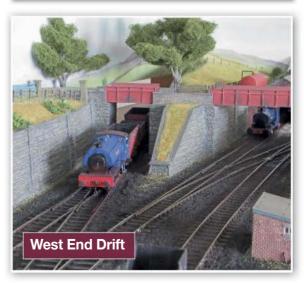


Layouts confirmed so far...

Abingdon – OO Carterton - 00 East Quay - 00 Gordon's Lane - 00 Nictun Borrud - 00 Nictun 2K - OO Roshven - 00 Welby Lane RTC - OO City Basin Goods - N Fredstone Lane - N Lisworth Bay - N Solent Summit - N The Royal Albert Bridge - N Todmorden Midland - N Tucking Mill - 2FS Hope-under-Dinmore - EM Llawryglyn - EM Orchard Wharf - EM Sheepcroft - EM Top Yard - EM West End Drift - EM Great Bardfield - P4 Harton Gill - P4 Wantage Tramway - P4 Frecclesham - O Medway Quay - O Newchapel Junction - O Watlington - O Llandecwyn Rly - 009 Purgatory Peak - On30 The Yard - 7mm N/G Bremen Tramway - HO Neuhausen - HO Port Washington - HO Putnam Division - HO LEGO LSUR Layout - L LEGO LNUR Playout - L HRCA - OO 3-rail

Whiteleaf Rack Railway - G

This list is subject to change.



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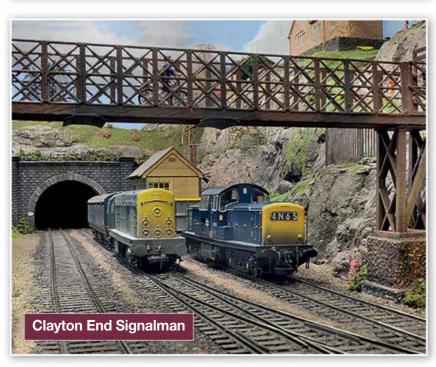
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Layouts confirmed so far...

Almond Bridge - 00

Bridgewater - 00

Brunswick Yard - 00

Clayton End Signalman - 00

Clucas Bay - 00

Dalziel North- 00

Depot 254 - 00

Donaghadee Railway Station - OO

Effingham Street - 00

Fountainhall TMD - OO

Glenkiln Road - 00

Griffen Road - 00

Gresty Bridge - 00

North Road - 00

Port Robert - 00

Reevy Road West - OO

The Quarry (Bill & Bens Layout) - OO

Towns End - 00

Tellindalloch - 00

Tulloch Bridge - 00

Yett's O Muckhart - OO

Wardlaw - 00

Weedram Distillery - OO

Wellpark - 00

Canal Wav - N

Castlebridge - N

Evemouth -N

Glen Farist - N

Inverkeithing - N

Invernevis - N

Law Junction - N

Levenbank - N

Borrington by the Sea - O

Eastfield - O

Harviestoun - O

Raventhorpe - O

Nove Mesto na Nedostatku - TT

Twelvemill Bridge (Hornby Magazine

stand): TT:120

Dalgie Hill - HO

New Westminster - HO

Williamson River - HO

Balornock Goods - British HO

Neuburg 1913 – 2013 – HOm

Dduallt - 009

Trenches - 009

Trerice - EM

High House Colliery - P4

Kettlewell - P4

Rolvenden - P4

Reeth - S7

A Journey in Switzerland - G

Hornby Catalogue 1985 - Nostalgia

A layout for kids of all ages - Lego

This list is subject to change.



HIGHLAND OUTPOST

Paying homage to happy memories spent on the railways, this wonderful scene captures the beauty of the Scottish Highlands.

Words and Photography: James Hilton



FACTFILE

NAME: Lochdubh

SCALE/GAUGE: 2mm:1ft/9mm/N

SIZE: 58cm x 22cm

ERA/REGION: Scottish Highlands,1980s

LAYOUT TYPE: Shelf / Cameo

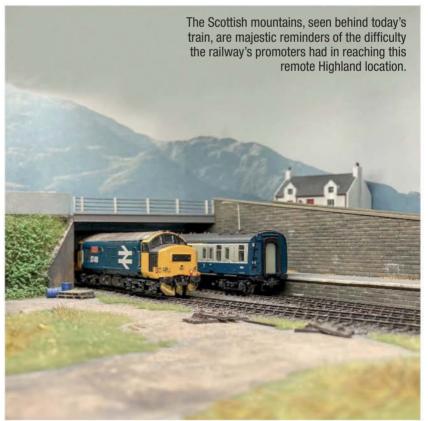
LAYOUT IN LOCHDUBH



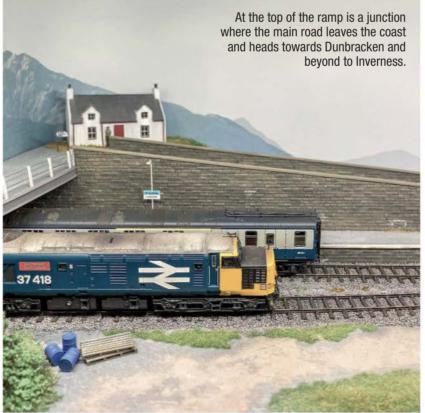
arrived that morning, across the water. Glimpses first of that infamous pier-side location, then sounds as I disembarked the ferry and walked up the slipway, the distinctive idle of an English Electric discernible above the noise of lapping waves and the cries of seagulls. A short stroll across the road bridge and down the approach ramp and a scene I had lived through photographs in treasured books awoke before me...

As was custom and practice, the locomotive was sitting at the buffer stops, having uncoupled from its short train. The crew, not visible having retired for a well-earned cup of tea, would run around closer to time. I was pleased to find the small shop on the platform open, welcomed by a tired and somewhat incongruous Walls' ice cream sign!

With a can of Coke and Mars bar safely stowed in my rucksack, I strolled out towards the pier to the end of the platform and my steed for the journey east to the Highland capital. The 'tractor' resplendent in large logo blue (the best livery on a Class 37 in your author's humble opinion) was smart but tired, wearing the signs of its long journey earlier this morning. Noting the number and grabbing a quick photograph for posterity, I strolled down to find a seat near the front of the train where I could appreciate the thrash on the







climb out of Lochdubh, the start of another wonderful railway adventure.

My route would follow Loch Carron and its Glen towards Achnasheen and the summit, then onwards through Strath Bran to Loch Luichart and Garve, before dropping into Dingwall and joining the Far North line at the head of the Cromarty Firth, continuing east, then south east a little further before reaching Inverness. The route dates from the building of the Dingwall and Skye Railway, authorised in 1865, and has survived Beeching and several more recent threats to see its own modernisation in 1984 with the installation of Radio Electronic Token Block signalling. Apart from (and sadly) the end of both the iconic Class 26, synonymous with the line for so many years, and many of the signal boxes along the line, today's railway is relatively unchanged from birth, providing glorious views to enchant the traveller, and for locals a lifeline through the winter months.

While traffic today is in the hands of the trusty Class 37s, it is expected that the new Super Sprinters allocated to Inverness, and currently proving successful on the Far North route, will be rostered from next summer.

Historically, the railway extended onto the pier for booming fish traffic, yet today there is little apart from an occasional timber working from the small yard at

LAYOUT IN LOCHDUBH

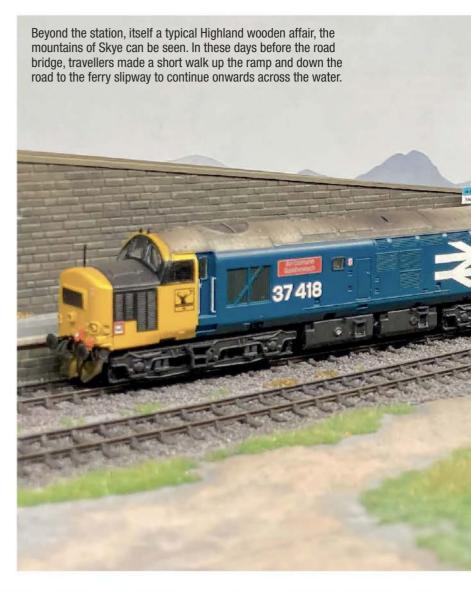
Lochdubh. That said, fuel oil for the Skye ferry is still brought in by rail, unusually with a tank attached to the morning train on Fridays as required - this mixed train, an anachronism in the modern railway, and a draw for enthusiasts, must surely be on borrowed time!

However, this is not my first visit to Lochdubh, as I was lucky enough to experience the line a few years ago before modernisation. On that visit, arriving in the dark behind a 26, the Sulzer bark on the 1 in 50 climb out of Dingwall intensified by the dying light and the magic of arriving at my destination under cover of night was terrific, especially finding my way to the Lochdubh Hotel and its infamous Stag Bar!

Waking the next morning to the still waters of the Inner Sound, a light mist blanketing the Loch and crisp spring sunshine illuminating the peaks of Skye against a beautifully blue sky, was something to remember. After a full Scottish breakfast, a pleasant walk found me wandering to the station to watch the first train of the day arrive; the parcels (with passenger accommodation) service was always heavily-laden, but as the road into the village had been improved in the late 1970s, its days were numbered by my visit in March 1981. Later in the day, I returned to Inverness with wonderful views out of my carriage window with the tired but eager McRat making light work of our two coach train.

While many lament the passing of steam, for me, it is the end of these classic locomotive-hauled trains on the Scottish Highland Lines that will be sadly missed. Yes, the journey and views will continue in efficient comfort onboard Metro-Cammell's finest, but how can one compare that experience to the picture window of a Mk. 1 carriage with a Highland Stag-emblazoned locomotive up front, on this most picturesque of pilgrimages?

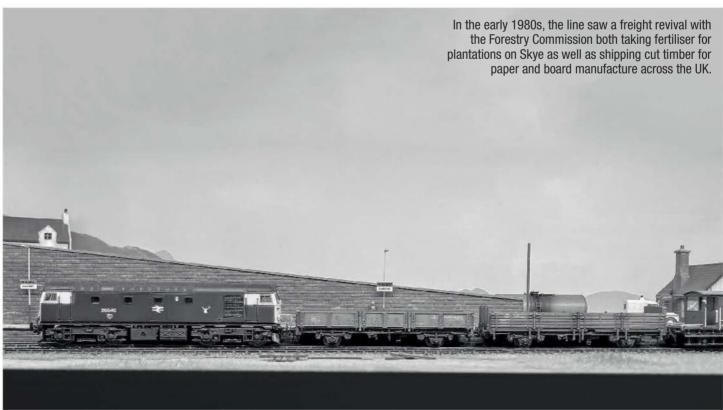
Welcome to 'Lochdubh'.





LOCHDUBH I N I LAYOUT







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Modelling Inspiration: The Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway

Words & Photography: David Ratcliffe



PROTOTYPE

ften running through attractive countryside, and with an interesting range of locomotives and rolling stock, heritage railways offer considerable layout potential. Among them is the Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway (E&BASR), which operates along the fourmile line between Embsay, near Skipton, and Bolton Abbey in North Yorkshire.

First established as the Embsay & Grassington Railway Preservation Society, it was British Rail's decision in 1965 to retain the freight-only branch from Skipton to Grassington that would see the group concentrate its efforts on bringing back into operation a part of the recently-closed former Midland Railway route between Ilkley and Skipton.

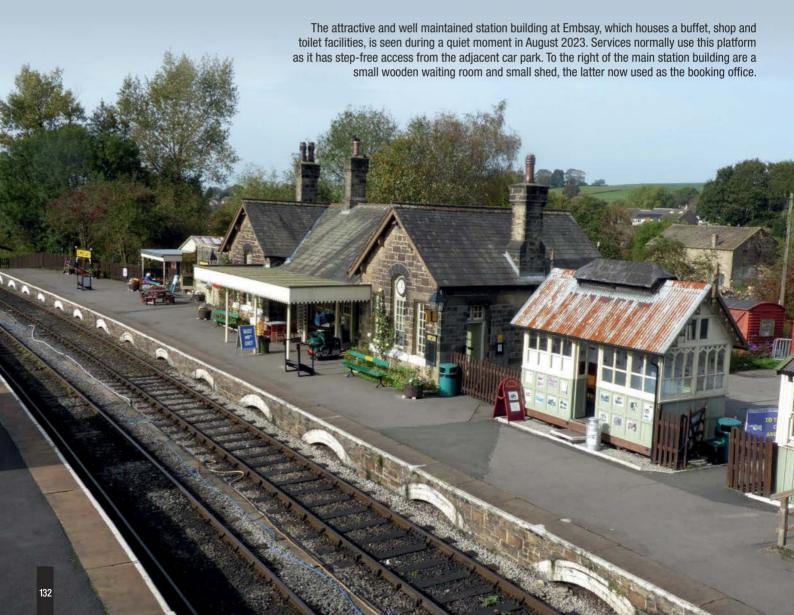
Having changed its name, first to the Yorkshire Dales Railway Society and then to the Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway (E&BASR), the preservationists initially ran trains over the quarter mile of track that remained from Embsay to Bow Bridge Junction, but between 1979 and 1997 they gradually brought the line from Embsay station to Bolton Abbey back into use, with the rebuilt station at Bolton Abbey being opened on October 26, 1997.

In its early years, the line quickly became home to an impressive collection of former industrial locomotives, both steam and diesel, while in recent years, regular loan arrangements with other heritage railways have added to the variety of motive power to be seen at Embsay. The line also occasionally played host to larger locomotives and is now home to a small number of former main line types, both steam and diesel.

Over the same period of time, the E&BASR's coaching stock has also evolved, from the arrival in 1972 of two ex-Manchester South Junction & Altrincham Railway trailer coaches to today's small fleet of ex-BR Mk.1 vehicles. The current coaching stock also includes a number of much earlier vehicles, including an L&SWR 1st Open Saloon, which was modified into a Royal Saloon for the use of Queen Victoria in 1887, and two Saloon coaches dating from 1906 and 1913, built respectively for the directors of the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway and the London & North Western Railway. Another rare vehicle to be found at Embsay is No. 3170, a petrol-engine-driven Autocar built by the North Eastern Railway in 1903, which began operating at Embsay after a lengthy restoration during 2019.

As at many preserved sites, the E&BASR has also become home to an eclectic selection of freight wagons, including opens, flats, vans and tanks, together with ballast hoppers and brake vans. Some of the wagons have been used in helping to rebuild and then maintain the infrastructure of the line, while others feature in the demonstration goods trains, which occasionally run on special gala days.

Leaving the attractive two-platform station at Embsay, the single line heads east, passing the station signal box and then threading its way between the carriage shed and workshops before continuing for just over a mile through the beautiful rolling scenery of the Yorkshire Dales to reach the short platform and waiting shelter at Holywell Halt. Soon after leaving the halt, which was built by society volunteers and named after a nearby well, the line reaches Stoneacre passing loop and signal box and then Draughton Engineers' Sidings. Having road access, these sidings are sometimes used to transfer stock to and from the line.





Located on either side of the loop at Bolton Abbey station are the water tank and signal box, while various items of stored rolling stock, including a two-car Pacer, can also be seen in this view recorded in September 2023.



Class 20 No. D8110 and *Beatrice* leaving Embsay with the midday train on 10 October 2023. The Class 20, which had previously been at the South Devon Railway, was double-heading as it was required to shunt engineers' wagons at Bolton Abbey later that afternoon.



The workshops and carriage shed at Embsay can be seen in this view from the station footbridge, while former Taff Vale Railway 0-6-2T No. 85, built in 1899 and on loan from the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway, waits to leave for Bolton Abbey in May 2018.

PROTOTYPE



No.7 *Beatrice*, a beautifully-restored Hunslet built 0-6-0ST, w/n HE2705 built 1945, arrives at Embsay with the late morning service from Bolton Abbey on October 10, 2023. Prior to preservation, this locomotive had worked for the NCB at Ackton Hall Colliery, Featherstone, and is named after the colliery manager's daughter.

Just over another mile brings the line to Bolton Abbey station where, in addition to a run-round loop, there are also three stabling sidings that can be used to store spare coaches and wagons. Following its closure in March 1965, the original station building at Bolton Abbey had become a derelict shell that had to be demolished, with the heritage line constructing a new building close to the original 1888 design. A redundant signal box from Guiseley station, on the Leeds to Ilkley line, was purchased from BR and re-erected at the west end of the platform at Bolton Abbey, while a parachute water tank came from Skipton station where it had stood out of use for many years.

Like many heritage lines, the E&BASR occasionally run demonstration freights. Hunslet-built 0-6-0ST w/n HE3783, named *Darfield No.1*, 'heads such a working near Holywell Halt in September 2008.



Dining trains are very popular, bringing additional revenue to many heritage lines. Here, ex-BR Mk.1 TSO No. M4575, fleet number YDR8, is pictured at Embsay on October 10, 2023, with its tables laden with piles of rather fine cakes! In recent years, the E&BASR has refurbished a number of their Mk.1s, repainting them from BR maroon into the attractive BR carmine and cream livery.

After the water tank had been restored in the workshops at Embsay, it was then moved by rail to Bolton Abbey on the E&BASR's own Lowmac wagon, before being craned into position on the opposite side of the loop to the signal box. Work on building a second platform at Bolton Abbey has also been underway for several years in order to facilitate the long-term aim of extending the line further east towards Ilkley.

Back at Embsay, the line to the west of the station remains in use for about a quarter of a mile to another run-round loop constructed close to the site of Bow Bridge Junction, although there is no longer a physical connection at the junction between





Overnight accommodation for volunteers at Embsay is provided in an ex-BR Mk.3a Sleeping Coach, No. 10694, one of the ten Mk.3 sleepers, which were leased to Danish State Railways (DBS) in 1987. They returned to Britain in November 1998 and, after a period in store at Moreton-in-Marsh, No. 10694 was moved to Embsay in 2002. Since then, it has been placed on Commonwealth bogies and been completely rewired, although it remains in somewhat faded DSB 'Crescent Moon and Stars' livery and retains its international 12-digit UIC number 50 86 7572 098-3.



No. 17, the L&SWR Royal Saloon converted for the use of Queen Victoria in 1887, the year of her Golden Jubilee, awaits its next dining passengers at Embsay station in August 2023.



Among the various restored freight wagons to be seen in the E&BASR's demonstration freight workings is Gunpowder Van No. W105742.



NER Autocar No. 3170 is pictured leaving Embsay beneath the station's substantial footbridge. Stabled alongside in platform two are the coaches for the following day's dining service to Bolton Abbey.

the heritage railway and the Skipton to Rylstone Quarry (Grassington) freight-only line now owned by Network Rail. Trains from Bolton Abbey will sometimes first run through Embsay to Bow Bridge Loop, before heading back to terminate in platform one at Embsay station.

From late spring until mid-autumn, there are usually four rounds trips between Embsay and Bolton Abbey on most days, with additional trains operating during the summer and the festive season as well as on gala days, and with its delightful setting and friendly and helpful staff, it is well worth a visit.

The stations at Embsay and Bolton Abbey, or alternatively the section around Stoneacre and Draughton set in the stunning landscape through which the line runs, could form the basis for a reasonably compact layout that was both interesting to build and operate. With its relatively short trains and eclectic collection of locomotives and rolling stock, the E&BASR is certainly a prototype with much potential.

Hornby 2024 Announcements

For the full list of new models announced, including delivery updates on the models announced in 2023 - head to **World of Railways** or RMweb.

Hornby is playing catch up in 2024, with noticeably fewer new OO models announced in its annual reveal. That said, there is still plenty to be excited about, plus further announcements later in the year planned, including a separate TT:120 update. Here are some of the highlights...

70 years of Margate

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the opening of the Hornby factory in Margate. To celebrate the occasion, a number of new products are being released in limited numbers, including five locomotives (750 available), a wagon (2000 models), and the factory and office building (1000 available).

The resurgence of Railroad

The Railroad brand is to be repositioned as the 'entry point' to the Hornby range, with some locomotives being made available indefinitely. A large model range is key for Railroad, and it will play a vital role in introducing new people to the hobby. There are a number of new locomotives and rolling stock items joining the range in 2024, including in the 'Railroad Plus' range, which will be positioned as a stepping stone for new modellers to reach the main range.

Licensing success

Hornby also announced the end of its relationship with Coca-Cola. A partnership that has proved hugely successful for all the brands within the company. Hornby told BRM that it was time to walk away from the license because it had achieved all it had hoped and there wasn't much left to produce.

In other news, the Beatles range has proved hugely successful, and this range will be expanding in 2024 with a new train set and locomotive launched alongside the wagons. Other musicthemed products are expected soon.

Diesel locomotives



What: GBRf, Class 66, Co-Co, 754 Northampton Saints - Era 11 (Sound Fitted)

When: July 2024 How much: £139.99



What: FGW, Class 153, No. 153361 - Era 9 When: May 2024 How much: £152.99

What: GNER Class 43 HST Bo-Bo Train Pack When: August 2024 How much: £359.99





What: BR, Class 08, 0-6-0, 08570 - Era 7 When: November 2024

How much: £189.9



What: BR, Class 09, 0-6-0, D4100 Dick Hardy - Era 11

When: November 2024 How much: £189.99

More new diesel locomotives

DB, Class 66, Co-Co, 66012 - Era 10 - £94.99 - expected July 2024 GBRf, Class 67, Bo-Bo, 67027 - Era 11 - £194.99 - expected July 2024

(Jubilee Collection) GBRf, Class 66, Co-Co, 66734 Platinum Jubilee - Era 10 - £99.99 expected July 2024

(Jubilee Collection) DB Cargo, Class 67, Bo-Bo, 67007 Queen's Jubilee - Era 11 - £194.99 expected July 2024

(Jubilee Collection) GBRf, Class 66, Co-Co, 66705 Golden Jubilee - Era 9 - £99.99 - expected July 2024

Steam locomotives





What: S&DR, 0-4-0, Locomotion No. 1 When: October 2024 How much: £169.99.



What: L&MR No. 58, Tiger - Era 1

When: April 2024 How much: £139.99



What: Hornby Dublo BR, A4 Class, 4-6-2, 60016 Silver King - Era 4

When: May 2024 How much: £319.99



What: LNER, W1 Class 'Hush Hush' Streamlined, 4-6-4, 10000 - Era 3

When: May 2024 How much: £254.99



What: LNER, P2 Class, 2-8-2, No. 2002 Earl Marischal with steam generator and extra

smoke deflectors - Era 3 When: November 2024 How much: £294.99

More new steam locomotives

BR, Class 9F, 2-10-0, 92203 Black Prince - Era 6 - £249.99 - expected November 2024 BR (Early), Class B1, 4-6-0, 61379 Mayflower - Era 11 - £219.99 - expected September 2024 BR Princess Coronation Class City of Lancaster 46243 - Era 4 - £239.99 - expected October 2024 BR, Thompson Class L1, 2-6-4T, E9011 - Era 4 - £179.99 - expected September 2024 BR, Thompson Class L1, 2-6-4T, 67735 - Era 4 - £179.99 - expected September 2024 BR (Early), Britannia Class, 4-6-2, 70001 Lord Hurcomb - Era 4 - £239.99 - expected November 2024 GWR, Class 6000, 4-6-0, King Stephen - Era 3 - £229.99 - expected August 2024 BR, Class 6000, 4-6-0, 6009 King Charles II - £229.99 - expected August 2024



Skaledale models

Front and Left-Hand Victorian Terrace House Garden Wall - £14.99 - expected April 2024

Front and Right-Hand Victorian Terrace House Garden Wall - £14.99 - expected April 2024

Left-Hand 2 Up/2 Down Terraced House - £27.99 - expected April 2024 Right Hand 2 Up/2 Down Terraced House - £27.99 - expected April 2024 Derelict Farm Building - £32.99 expected April 2024

Small Water Tower - £27.99 - expected August 2024

St Andrews' Church - £39.99 - expected August 2024



The end of Playtrains

It feels like only yesterday we were announcing the launch of Playtrains, Hornby's range of remote-controlled battery-powered trainsets for 3-to-6-year-olds. Although not deemed a failure, according to Hornby, Playtrains didn't quite work as an entry-level toy, and research is well underway for a replacement. Playtrains is still on sale at the moment, with no official date yet confirmed on when it will come off the shelves, but we imagine it'll be once stocks run out.



New faces at Hornby get set for 2024

It's all change at the top at Hornby, with a new management team at the helm ready to take the hobby's biggest manufacturer into the next phase of its future. We caught up with Martyn Weaver, the new Head of Brand at Hornby, to discuss the modelmaker's 2024 announcements, plus its plans to recruit the next generation of modellers.

BRM: There are noticeably fewer new models announced this year, is this to allow Hornby to catch up with previous years' announcements that haven't arrived yet?

Martyn: With a change in personnel, it's a great time to put the brakes on this year. We cannot keep announcing things and then have significant delays and not deliver on what we promise. It's about transparency and trust. There are 86 new OO models announced for January, which is still a large amount, and a further 122 will come out in 2024 that we announced last year, so it is very much us playing catch up. We will also announce more products throughout the year, so watch this space.

BRM: You've announced plans for certain locomotives to be made permanently available, which is quite a change from the normal approach, why is this evergreen approach so important?

Martyn: If every product is scarce, there is nothing left for those entrants to the market. It's getting the balance right, you have to have some scarcity for the collectors, but at the same time, you have to have products like Flying Scotsman, Mallard, Class 37, etc, readily available for the new starters or returnees in the hobby.



Hornby is really pushing to introduce new people of all ages to the hobby.

BRM: Does this approach extend to rolling stock?

Martyn: It does, but I would say that so many other people produce rolling stock that you don't need to have a vast wagon and coach range. Obviously, it would be nice if Hornby had it all, but it's not realistic. If we are bringing out a new locomotive in 2025, one of the things we will look at is what goes with it, and firstly, do we have anything or could we make it, and secondly, what's out there in the market? And if you find that one of your competitors has a range, then it's collaborative, we don't need to look at making something that is already available.

BRM: You believe Hornby has a key role to play in encouraging new modellers to the hobby - are you repositioning Railroad to become an entry point to the range?



The Hornby trade stand at King's Cross, London.



Hornby present at the Bluebell Railway Museum.

Martyn: I think the product and packaging won't really change, but the marketing message around it will certainly change. The majority of train sets are bought online, that is how the product is being consumed and the beginning of the experience is a digital experience. And so, the positioning of Railroad is actually about how we position it digitally, and potentially what we put in the box to help purchasers continue that journey.

You get a train set for Christmas, open it, and play with it, but what's the next thing and where does someone go? The product is there, but what is missing is the help to make that next step. It's all about evolution. Before, when someone brought a train set and started their modelling journey with us, we then promoted the Collectors Club, and the Hornby main range, this is a huge step up, which isn't really a stepping stone. For me, the success with this is a set of steps, which is essential for taking people on a journey, and it's not about rebranding Railroad, it's about the communication that this is for the beginners and the returnees to the hobby.

BRM: So, is the launch of the 'Railroad Plus' range a further stepping stone?

Martyn: Absolutely, it's an evolution and making steps smaller and more accessible for people. It helps people to identify the products and the prices that they want. When we start talking about the 2025 range, we will be talking with two different hats, the messaging to the hobby industry and enthusiasts will be very different from those outside of it and new to model railways.

BRM: Sound and steam effects are becoming more important, is Hornby looking at rolling out this new technology across the range?

Martyn: The hobby has certainly evolved with innovation and detail, but that doesn't mean that everyone has taken the journey at the same time. We have 14 new sound profiles due in the new year, but I think with live steam and sound, they will only be a percentage of the product range and not all. I wouldn't say that in five years every locomotive will have steam chuffing out of it or sound, because that's not what everyone wants, plus it drives the price point up.

One of the things we did last year was to put lamps on the front of steam locomotives, which had mixed reviews and we won't do it as a blanket across the range, but will do it for some and will measure the success.

BRM: We know digital is important, but how important is it also for people to actually see the product with their own eyes?

Martyn: Massively. Whether it's magazine reviews, videos, or events. The positivity from the shows I have attended so far has been great. I expected some pushback on the lateness of some products, or quality issues. There have been lots of lateness, and people have gotten used to that wrongly, but quality wise, we are in a better place than we have been for many years and there are new exciting things coming through. At future shows, we will have layouts on the stand with the latest locomotives running around, which is what excites people - because that's what they want to see.

BRM: The Coca-Cola partnership is coming to an end - can you tell us what happened there?

Martyn: It has been very successful, and is a big part of our business that goes beyond Hornby. As a business, it is better to come away from it now it has run a course, and if you exit it at the right time, then it leaves a real positive mark. How realistic can Coca-Cola be on a real railway – are you then just pushing a collector too far? We didn't really have anything else we wanted to do with the

BRM: The Beatles range has done really well and will be growing in 2024 - will there be more music-themed product ranges in the future?

Martyn: It'll hurt your ears more! That's all I can tell you. Beatles really hits a sweet spot, the audience sits in a similar demographic but has opened up a new audience. Doing others a little differently may open up to more audiences. If we can find something else that maybe has people involved in the social world and they like it, then it's not just about putting something on a shelf and getting the money in the till, it's about how others can market it.

BRM: 2024 marks the 70th anniversary of Margate - how will Hornby celebrate?

Martyn: There'll be a number of potential marketing opportunities, a lot of them will be local. I'm not sure how much the wider audience will care for the factory being 70 years old. It hasn't quite got the same appeal as our centenary year, but it will have a lot of appeal for those locally. If you talk to people in Margate, chances are they will know someone who worked at Hornby back in the day.



Meet the team, left to right: Catherine Dunning (Marketing Manager), Martyn Weaver (Head of Brand), Jade Fowler (Marketing & Product Development Assistant) and Wendy Mo (Marketing Assistant).



THE LATEST HEADLIN

World of Railways and Rapido Trains team up for new locomotive



World-of-Railways.co.uk has announced a partnership with Accurascale to launch an exclusive set of three British Steel-marked scrap wagons in a distinctive livery.

Almost a quarter of a million British Railways 'standard' 16-ton mineral

wagons were produced from 1950 onwards, with withdrawals taking place continually through their period of use. British Steel acquired life-expired 16T minerals for moving scrap material to furnaces for recycling. This resulted in a hotch-potch of types, repairs and condition in an internal-use livery, which was frequently little more than locally-applied ownership marking, numbers and weights



marked for the benefit of those handling the materials.

The set of three British Steel Corporation-marked vehicles with patches, local renumbering and weight panels, are based on internal use wagons from within South Wales steel sites dating

through the 1970s to 1980s. Our thanks are made to Hywel Thomas for research assistance in drawing up these typical wagons.

Priced at just £74.95 (including VAT), plus postage, for a boxed set of three wagons, the production run is strictly limited to 250 sets. Delivery is expected late in 2024, and orders can be placed today with a £25.00 deposit.

Exclusive Dynamometer Car in N announced

As part of the new Railway Icons brand, a new partnership between Rails of Sheffield and Locomotion Models, Locomotion Models has revealed an exclusive N gauge Dynamometer Car.

Produced by Rapido, the new model is available to preorder today for £99.95 direct from the Locomotion Models website and will be shipped next year.

Built at Darlington Works by the North Eastern Railway in 1906, the North Eastern Railway Dynamometer Car's role was to accurately and scientifically measure the performance of railway vehicles. It originally entered service under the number 3591, painted NER Crimson Lake. However, in the 1923 Grouping, which saw the NER integrated into the LNER, it started to be used extensively by Chief Engineer, Nigel Gresley. In 1924, it was renumbered 3591Y and painted in a lined imitation teak finish, and in 1928, it was renumbered again to 23591, featuring updates with Gresley's design of bogies.

On 3 July 1938, it became part of railway history, when it was used to record the speed runs on the East Coast Main Line, capturing the record-breaking 126mph run completed by Gresley's A4 Pacific Class No.4468 Mallard.

Following many years of service, including being used in the 1948 Locomotive Exchange Trials by British Railways, it now lives in preservation as part of the National Collection at the National Railway Museum in York.





Rapido Trains reveal new Class 44 in N

The new model will be available in a variety of liveries covering the locomotive's history, from its origins in BR Green to the ever-popular BR Blue, including D4 Great Gable, in its BR Blue preserved livery.

A variety of details and variants seen across the working life of the locomotive will feature, including plated-over steps on the body side, removal of inner sandboxes and extra steps on the bogies. All versions will also be fitted with a radiator fan grill and separately-fitted fan, directional lighting, a smooth-running mechanism, a factory-installed speaker, NEM Coupler pockets, and a Next18 Decoder

Currently in tooling stage, you can pre-order your DCC Ready (RRP £144.95) or DCC Sound Fitted (RRP £249.95) version directly from the Rapido Trains website or from any of its official retailers.



Proposed liveries:

- D1 Scafell Pike in BR Green (as built in 1959)
- D7 Ingleborough in BR Green (as built in 1959)
- D2 Helvellyn in BR Green with small yellow panel
- D5 Cross Fell in BR Green with small yellow panel
- 6/D6 Whernside in BR Green with full yellow ends
- 3 Skiddaw in BR Blue
- 44007 Ingleborough in BR Blue
- 44008/D8 Penyahent in BR Blue with bodyside stripe
- D4 Great Gable in BR Blue



Hattons Model Railways to close

After 77 years of service to the model railway community. Hattons Model Railways has announced its decision to close down. The closure marks the end of an era for one of the industry's oldest and most well-known retailers.

The decision to close follows a thorough assessment of the current business landscape and retail trends. Despite the company's best efforts to adapt to changing market conditions, it has become clear that continuing operations is no longer sustainable. As such, the decision has been taken to wind down in an orderly fashion, leaving no outstanding debts.

Hattons Model Railways would like to express its deepest gratitude to its loyal customers, dedicated staff, and the entire model railway community for its unwavering support throughout the years.

In the coming days and weeks, Hattons will conduct a clearance event to sell off all remaining stock. This presents a final opportunity for customers to acquire exceptional products at discounted prices.



Iron Minks coming in N gauge

Following the success of its OO counterparts, Rapido Trains has announced the Iron Minks and Not-Quite-Minks will be available in N gauge.

The range covers a selection of tooling variants of some of the different guises the 'Iron Mink' had throughout its existence. These include plated or vented ends, wooden or gunpowder van metal doors. and numerous brake configurations. There will be a

selection of livery options too, including many of the same liveries that featured as part of the OO 'Not-Quite-Mink' range.

The models are currently in the design stage, and you can pre-order your triple packs (RRP £69.95) and individual G. Fawkes wagons, which is the most popular OO model (RRP £24.95), directly from the Rapido Trains website or from any of its official retailers.



Dapol Class 68 decorated samples arrive



Dapol has received four new Class 68 decorated samples, two of these samples are of brand-new liveries. The model is currently being reviewed by the design team and is planned to be in shops during spring 2024.

Specification

- Finely moulded body with many separately-added fine details
- Printed name plates and etched plates supplied separately
- Cast wheels with fine relief and appropriate colouring
- Heavy Diecast chassis and all-wheel pick-up
- NEM pockets as standard
- Independently controllable and switchable directional lighting

Available to pre-order today, the new Class 68 will be available in DCC-Ready, DCC-Fitted and DCC Sound versions, priced at £180.00, £215.00 and £300.00. respectively.

Proposed Liveries

- 4D-022-023 Class 68 Pride Of The North 68006 DRS/NTS Green
- 4D-022-024 Class 68 68026 TransPennine Express
- 4D-022-026 Class 68 68033 DRS Compass With Poppy
- 4D-022-028 Class 68 68014 Chiltern Green Bio Fuel Livery
- 4D-022-025 Class 68 Black Douglas 68030 TransPennine Express
- 4D-022-028 Class 68 68002 Compass DRS New DRS Logo



Exclusive Flying Scotsman arrives

Locomotion Models has announced the arrival of its exclusive Flying Scotsman - British Empire Exhibition Condition Model. In collaboration with Hornby, the new exclusive model costs £250.00 and is available directly from the Locomotion Models website.

The British Empire Exhibition was opened on April 23, 1924, and it was this event that made the Flying Scotsman famous. By the time it appeared at the British Empire Exhibition, the locomotive had been renumbered 4472 and named Flying Scotsman after the daily service between Edinburgh and Kings' Cross.







Sonic Models announce **BR 12T Vanwide Ventilated Vans in N**

Available to pre-order now exclusively from Rails of Sheffield. the eight triple packs available include seven Vanwide packs. plus one VEA.

A variety of liveries are to be released, such as BR Bauxite, BR Departmental Olive Green VQV, BR Freight Brown VEV, and BR Railfreight Red/Grev.

The models feature fine levels of detailing, separate etched handles and kinematic couplers in NEM pockets.

Currently expected to arrive in the autumn of 2024, the new models cost £69.95 each and can be secured for a £10 deposit.

Models available:

- Set of 3 BR 12T Vanwide Ventilated Vans, BR Bauxite (Late)
- Set of 3 BR 12T Vanwide Ventilated Vans, BR Bauxite (Early)
- Set of 3 BR 12T Vanwide Ventilated Vans, BR Bauxite (Early) Earle's Cement
- Set of 3 BR 12T Vanwide Ventilated Vans, BR Freight Brown XP
- Set of 3 BR 12T Vanwide Ventilated Vans, BR Freight Brown VEV
- Set of 3 BR 12T Vanwide Ventilated Vans, BR Departmental Olive Green VQV
- Set of 3 BR 12T VEA Ventilated Vans. BR Railfreight Red/Grev
- Set of 3 BR 12T Vanwide Ventilated Vans, BR Freight Brown VMV XP

Squires Tools acquires the Freestone Model Accessories range of kits

The range includes Townscene back scenes, BILTEEZI, Prototype Models, Howard Scenics and Scene-Setters Glazing Bars. Modellers who enjoy assembling cardboard kits will be delighted that these ranges haven't been lost.



First on sale is the Townscene range of painted backscenes. As well as complete vistas. there are individual buildings to allow the modeller to personalise the background to their model. The buildings are suitable for all eras and available in both OO and N scales.

New 2024 kits from Metcalfe Models revealed

Expected to be available during the early part of this year, the new kits have been designed as part of the new Industrial Revelations Range, which was released in November.

The two new kits will be available in OO and N gauge. The first is 'Grimy Old Mill'; a large mill that can be built as a stand-alone building or low relief and used alongside other industrial buildings in the range. The new kit costs £25 in OO and £18 in N.

The second release is an overbridge, a versatile bridge walkway as seen on many old and new factory and office buildings. Again, designed for use with any of Metcalfe's other industrial buildings, the bridge can be fitted at different levels and angles and costs £8.50 in OO and £7.50 in N gauge.



Updated tooling for Class 57

Heljan has updated its existing Class 57 tooling for OO gauge. Among the key changes is smart and sharp new paint finishes, an upgraded chassis with 21-pin decoder socket, LED lighting and switchable tail lamps. New liveries that have not been previously modelled include First Great Western, West Coast Railways 'Northern Belle' (as pictured) and Network Rail yellow. Old favourites return in Virgin Thunderbirds Brains and Virgil Tracy liveries. Available to buy now from Heljan stockists costing just over £150, delivery is expected between January and March this year.



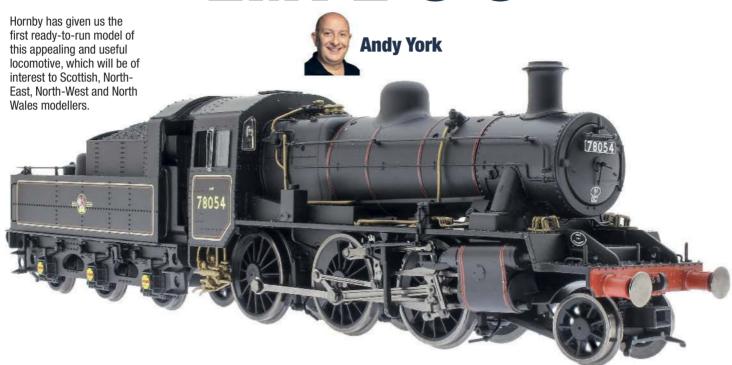








Hornby BR Standard 2MT 2-6-0



he 78xxx BR Standard 2MT class designed by R. A. Riddles owes much to Ivatt's LMS 2MT 2-6-0 design. The BR Standard 2 was the smallest of the BR standard designs and featured changes to the LMS design such as tapered-in locomotive and tender cabs at the roof line so that they could be used across the network where loading gauges were less generous. Built from 1953 at Darlington, the class of 65 could be found working light goods and passenger services around Scotland's central belt and the Borders as well as the North-East and North-West of England, while a small number of BR greenliveried examples worked the ex-Cambrian lines in North Wales.

Our review example, 78054, which is from the second batch of this model, was built as part of a batch of 10 destined for the Scottish Region in 1955 and allocated to the Motherwell depot. The locomotive started out life hauling freight. However, after a year, it was moved to Keith where it ran passenger services. The locomotive was also allocated to Aberdeen Ferryhill and Bathgate sheds before being withdrawn in December 1965.

Hornby's model looks an absolute delight on first inspection, capturing the look of this small-boilered locomotive perfectly with its BR3 type tender and complex Walschaert's motion. In black, the eye is drawn to the finely-moulded detail and the number of separately-fitted components. Much of the piping is picked out in metallic brass, which would only have looked like this when first released into service. These moulded plastic components are slightly overscale when compared to real-world images, particularly the piping from the mechanical lubricators around the front of the running plate. However, if these had been produced to scale they would have been too fragile and it's fair to say that the whole model feels quite robust given the finesse.

The distinctive cab taper is subtly replicated and the partially open cab doors are a nice touch and, with the fall plate, are compatible with the tender and locomotive moved to its closest setting. Hornby has done, as ever, a great job with the cab detailing with legible dial printing.

Separate parts are noted in the instructions including a dummy front to the pony truck if the tension-lock coupling is not required, front steps if curvature permits, bufferbeam detailing and cylinder drain cocks - sadly, the pack was omitted from this production sample which means the images do not include these.

The running of the model is absolutely superb, smooth and silent, capably handling half a dozen Mark 1 coaches so it's up to the job of the sure-footed prototype. Decoder fitting is achieved by removing the four screws to access the tender where the 8-pin socket is housed; this can be achieved without disconnecting Hornby's standard 4-pin plug and socket arrangement from the locomotive.

As much as this model is superb in execution, it's also telling that due to its comparatively lengthy period from announcement to delivery, it does not have some of the features we have come to regard as common such as 21-pin decoder socket, pre-fitted speaker, practical locomotive to tender coupling and firebox LEDs - if the RRP had remained closer to that given at the time of announcement, a little more leeway of those factors could be given. I still love it, though!







When the loco and tender are close-coupled, the fall-plate and half-closed doors disguise the gap well.



Hornby is a master of cab detailing with legible dials and pipework.

FACTFILE

Models:

R3836 78047 BR black, late crest R3838 78010 BR black, late crest R3839 78000 BR green, late crest R3981 78054 BR black, late crest R3982 78006 BR green, late crest

Era: 1953 - preservation

Construction: Plastic body and

diecast motor bogie Weight: 297g

Minimum curves: Radius 2

(438mm)

DCC socket: 8-pin

Accessory pack: Bufferbeam detailing, pony truck plate, front steps, ejectors, cylinder drain cocks

WHAT WE LIKE

- ✓ A welcome gap filled
- ✓ Accurate shape and styling
- ✓ Wealth of piping and detailing
- Performance



On test, our locomotive capably handled six Mark 1 coaches - impressive stuff.





REVIEWS (2) 00 gauge (1) 1938-preservation (£££) 113.99



Hornby Ruston & Hornsby 88DS



ornby's talented designers took on the challenge of the tiny 48DS a few years ago, which required the use of a match truck for practicality. However, its slightly larger brother can stand and run on its own four wheels and, arguably, the 88DS is a far more useful prototype, finding use right across the UK, and indeed the world through its exports, within a wide range of industries; gas works, paper mills, manufacturing works, refineries and chemical works, quarries, cement works, steelworks, power stations and collieries plenty of inspiration there and then you can add in BR's usage of six of these within their civil engineering departments.

271 of these 80/88HP locomotives were made, and our review sample is in a standard Ruston factory livery of lined green and red buffers as delivered to the North Eastern Region's Civil Engineering department and used at York's Leeman Road permanent way and concrete depot - the site of which is now the NRM's car park.

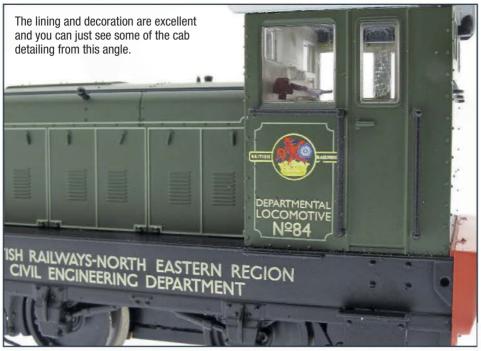
Although Ruston & Hornsby's 88DS was produced from 1938 to 1969 in their Lincoln factories, the basic design changed little, after the introduction of a closed-cab style in 1947, other than the different 17 and 20 weights of the 80 and 88HP versions achieved with running plate weight, and Hornby's model of these is an excellent portrayal of the body of these useful locomotives. Weighing in at 127g, it feels quite chunky and robust for its size thanks to diecast components within the body. Even the very fine nose-mounted nonworking lamp feels very durable considering the finesse of its mounting bracket. The definition of detail around the bonnet and cab is particularly fine and subtle. The size and shape look spot on overall, including a raised section on one side of the bonnet for the small, secondary 11/2HP 'donkey' engine required to charge the compressed air reservoir to be injected into the cylinders to be able to start when cold.

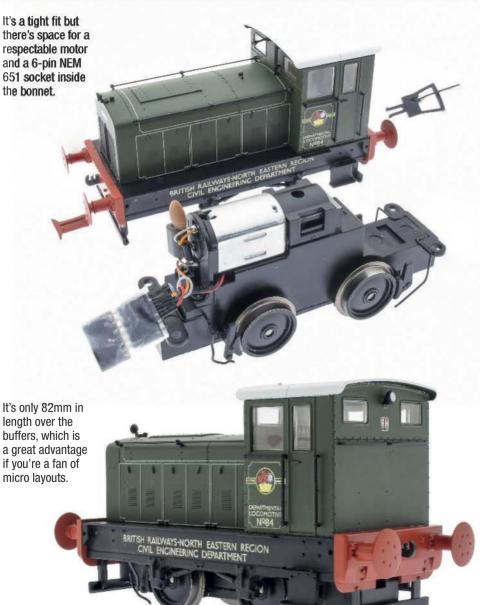
The decoration is very good with extremely fine lining and there is good density to the crest and lettering. The inside of the cab is detailed and painted, too, right down to the planked floor. The red paint to all faces of the unsprung buffers looks a little odd compared to what we are used to seeing, but it's definitely a R&H thing with many supplied from the factory in such a fashion. They just need dirt! The accessory pack includes red fillets for the bufferbeams if you are not using tension-lock couplings, which further improves appearance.

Hornby has packed a good motor under the bonnet, which gives enough power to move four Mk.1 coaches around and space for a 6-pin decoder to fit the wired harness; something a little more robust with direct fitting would have been preferable as there is an art to tucking the wire back in after fitting a decoder. I understand the reasons for the chassis being the shape and size it is to accommodate the coupling mounting pockets, which the vast majority would require, but the continuous block from one bufferbeam to another gives a hefty appearance below the running plate which is at odds with the spartan appearance outboard and between the chain-driven wheelsets that is very apparent on the real thing.

One of our regular contributors, Dave Hall, has already taken a saw to his chassis to improve this aspect, so despite the points raised, I say that this is a model well worth treating yourself to at a good price point.







FACTFILE

Models:

R3894 No.4 North British Distillery Co. Ltd, yellow

R3895 No.3 Rowntree & Co.

lined green

R3896 No.84 BR lined green,

late crest

R3897 No.20 BR Blue

Era: 1938 - preservation

Construction: Plastic body and

diecast motor bogie Weight: 127g

Minimum curves: Radius 1

(371mm)

DCC socket: 6-pin

Accessory pack: Bufferbeam fillets

WHAT WE LIKE

- ✓ Undeniable cute factor
- Industrially widespread
- Weight
- Performance





Bachmann Narrow Gauge Dinorwic quarry wagons



achmann continues to extend its popular narrow-gauge range with a different style of slate wagon in flat bed and sided form based on the locally-made wagons used in the Dinorwic quarries near Llanberis. These are distinct from the previously-produced Ffestiniog wagons, differing in appearance in that they have no buffers.

The flat bed wagons were used to transport slabs of slate from the rock face to dressing and finishing buildings and could also be employed to move other large, bulky items around the quarry. These new flat bed models are priced at £49.95 for a set of three models, available in plain grey or red with white



The simple and small wheelsets do run freely.

lettering and are fitted with metal wheels and NEM coupling pockets, and are supplied with both standard OO9 scale couplings, to couple to other rolling stock and locomotives, and simple hook and loop couplings, which provide a much more discreet coupling solution within a train formation.

While flat bed wagons were used to transport slabs of slate and other large, bulky items, dressed slates that were ready to leave the quarry would be moved around the site and to transhipment yards and docks in wagons like these with sides. The sides and ends were not fully enclosed but instead were much akin to a basket - this open form made the cargo of slates very noticeable and so Bachmann has included a rather nice load of dressed slates with every wagon to replicate this. Again, these wagons with sides are available in plain grey or in red with weights in white lettering and are priced at £56.95 for a set of three.

Each set includes sufficient standard OO9 couplings but are much improved in appearance by the fitted hook and loops couplings, bringing the wagons closer together in train formations. A nice addition to the expanding range.

Models:

393-225 Dinorwic Slate Wagons without sides 3-Pack Grey 393-226 Dinorwic Slate Wagons without sides 3-Pack Red 393-227 Dinorwic Slate Wagons with sides 3-Pack Grev 393-228 Dinorwic Slate Wagons with sides 3-Pack Red [WL] Era: 1870s - preservation **Construction:** Plastic body and metal wheelsets Weight: 3g per wagon Minimum curves: Radius 1 **Accessory pack:** Standard 009 couplings

WHAT WE LIKE

✓ Characterful and useful wagons for quarry scenes

These wagons really are small! Each measuring 25mm in length, it's a relief that they don't have to be overpowered by standard 009 couplings when running as a train.





Accurascale MDW 21T SCIAD WAGONS Andy York



Accurascale's MDO and MDV wagons in detail (BRM September 2021) and as part of a second run of their MDO/MDV wagons, Accurascale has turned its attention to the MDW variant which, as with the MDV, is vacuum-braked but also has through piping for

e previously reviewed

192 of the wagons were converted from Diagram 1/119 and 1/120 wagons in Perth between 1965 and 1987, principally for use in carrying scrap around Scotland and the North East, although some were used in the South Wales area in later years.

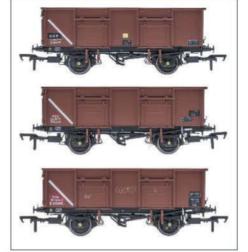
air braking when used within Speedlink services.



The stencilled and handwritten painted details are particularly well captured on this wagon.



In addition to all the underframe braking detail of an MDV, there's also a through air pipe, which can be seen running the length of the wagon curved around the axles.



The variations in markings and numbers mean wagon packs give some variety in use rather than the uniformity we were used to with wagons over the years.

Accurascale has produced two packs of three of the bauxite liveried wagons, each differently numbered with TOPS references and with variations of the markings for numbers and data and even some graffiti on one wagon.

Four of the MDW wagons were taken into engineers' stock and TOPS-coded as ZDV and ZDY, and Accurascale has also produced a single wagon as an exclusive only available via its website of a wagon with a distinctive tatty and slapdash painted appearance, as utilised for scrap during the electrification of the Birmingham Cross-City line from 1991.

To further extend the COAL21/MDO and COAL21VB/MDV range, Accurascale has produced three more packs of each wagon in pre-TOPS and TOPS liveries, with each pack of three wagons priced at £74.95, the same price as at their launch two years ago.

wagons from Accurascale, with separately fitted etched parts for lamp brackets, grab handles and door bangs. As ever, the models are superbly finished, with fine mouldings and robust etched detail parts at a good value price point.

FACTFILE

Models:

ACC1111 MDW TOPS Bauxite -

ACC1112 MDW TOPS Bauxite -Pack B

ACC1087 MDO BR Grey Pre-TOPS

ACC1088 MDO BR Grey Pre-TOPS

- Pack G

ACC1089 MDO BR Grey TOPS -

ACC1096 MDV Pre-TOPS Bauxite

ACC1097 MDV TOPS Bauxite -

Pack G

ACC1098 MDV TOPS Bauxite -Pack H

ACC1099EXL ZDV TOPS Bauxite -LDB311717 - Exclusive

Era: 1950 – 1990s

Construction: Plastic body and

etched parts

Weight: 50g per wagon

Minimum curves: Radius 2 (438mm)

Accessory pack: Cosmetic instanter couplings, vacuum pipes and brake rigging on MDV

WHAT WE LIKE

- ✓ Underframe detail
- ✓ Accuracy of markings









Bachmann & Graham Farish HRA bogie hopper



t's rare to be able to review the same product in two different scales at the same time from the same manufacturer; it shows just how good N gauge can be.

With over 1,000 HTA wagons in service and a declining demand for their intended traffic, coal, DB Cargo took the decision to have WH Davis shorten 110 of the wagons in 2017 to make them more suitable for aggregate traffic. As built, there would have been wasted space inside the wagons filled to the same weight as a coal load. 3.5m was removed from the centre of the wagon with the central hopper discharge doors below the chassis, before welding the two halves together to reduce the capacity but maintain the 102T load weight.

The 'cut and shut' nature of the rebuilds is evidenced by the weld lines midway along the wagon sides and these marks are captured in model form, along with details such as the hopper doors, handwheels and separate pipe runs. Each wagon runs on bogies fitted with metal wheelsets and comes pre-fitted

with sprung buckeye couplings, which are Bachmann USA's E-Z Mate couplings, echoing those fitted to the prototypes, bringing a rake of these wagons closer together than the tension-lock couplings would. Standard tension-lock couplings, which fit into the NEM coupling pockets on the bogies are supplied for optional fitting. Buffers are also supplied as optional fittings, allowing wagons to be configured as 'inners' without any buffers or as 'outers', which usually carry buffers at one end only.

The 'inner' ends of the wagons in a rake with the buckeyes do not require buffers but the ends of the rake should be so fitted, and Bachmann provides two pairs of two-part buffers with each wagon for assembly and fixing to the holes provided dependent on how the modeller will utilise the wagons. Looking closely, I can see why the buffers have been moulded in two parts, but it would have been better if these had been part-assembled by the factory; it was a

frustration to keep them level and correctly orientated while fixing to the wagon as shown in our review pictures. That was on the 4mm scale version; I hadn't the patience to do it on the 2mm scale version that day!

The OO model, in particular, has a good, chunky feel to it with die-cast chassis elements, whilst the N gauge model seems to be all plastic. The finish is superb with DB Cargo's bright red providing the base colour, against which the logo, safety warnings, instructions and TOPS information are all in contrasting white with excellent density. Although the liveries are uniform, Bachmann has produced four different numbers in OO and three in N to add variety to a rake.

Close inspection and examination of much-enlarged images show just how similar the two models are; there is little compromise for the N gauge model compared to its larger cousin and I am sure both will be equally popular with modellers of the contemporary scene in both scales.





Although the livery is quite uniform, there are four different numbers produced in 00 and three in N.



The Bachmann USA E-Z Mate sprung knuckle coupling is a good solution for inter-rake coupling; note the absence of buffers at this end.

FACTFILE

Models:

37-865 HRA Bogie Hopper DB Cargo OO

37-865A HRA Bogie Hopper DB Cargo OO

37-865B HRA Bogie Hopper DB Cargo OO

37-865C HRA Bogie Hopper DB Cargo OO

373-865 HRA Bogie Hopper DB Cargo N

373-865B HRA Bogie Hopper DB Cargo N

373-865C HRA Bogie Hopper DB Cargo N

Era: 2017 - present

Construction: Plastic body and

diecast chassis (OO)

Weight: 147g (OO), 22g (N) Minimum curves: Radius 2

Accessory pack: Rake end buffers

WHAT WE LIKE

- ✓ Superb livery application
- ✓ Utilising an existing product design to keep pace with the real railway





Bachmann Narrow Gauge Gloucester bogie coach



The gold and black printing on the coach sides is superb; especially considering the uneven surface.



ime flies! It's six years since Bachmann announced its narrowgauge Gloucester bogie coaches as an ideal accompaniment to the firm's Ashover Railway version of the Baldwin tank locomotive but the wait's worth it; these really are quite beautiful.

Four of these coaches were built by the Gloucester Railway Carriage & Wagon Co. Ltd for the Ashover Light Railway in 1925. While the line was built to transport minerals, in order to obtain its Light Railway Order it had to agree to offer a passenger service; hence the order for the coaches. They were purpose-built but ran on bogies from ex-War Department Wagons, as seen beneath Bachmann's WW1origin open and van bogie wagons. When passenger services ceased in 1936, the coaches were put into store. Coaches No. 1 and 2



The handbrake wheel on the bogie points to the War Department origins of the re-purposed bogies.

were later sold to the Lincolnshire Coast Light Railway, with No. 2 recently being re-painted into an Ashover-style livery. No. 4 is now owned by the Golden Valley Light Railway, based on the Midland Railway at Butterley, and has been returned to Ashover Light Railway livery as depicted by this model. No. 3 was scrapped.

The models are available in four liveries, two Ashover pieces and three in the Lincolnshire Coast's liveries of blue and cream, crimson and cream and appealing maroon livery in a similar style to our review sample. The decoration of the model, especially the gold lining over the side matchboarding, is superb with plenty of detail; with separately-fitted ventilators and finely moulded rain strips on the roof, the sides of the coach have panelled walls with recessed windows, while the doors are also recessed and have metal handrails on either side.

The coach interior is fully modelled and decorated in cream and brown, with two compartments in each coach surrounded by vestibules at each end. The compartments have seats running underneath the windows along either side. The floorboards of the coach are amongst the many intricately detailed features, as are the supports and boards that make up the ceiling. Underneath the coach body, the diecast metal chassis is fitted with brake rigging along the centre and pipes along the full length of each coach. The coach body itself is supported on bogies that are equipped with metal wheels and NEM coupling pockets.

The appeal of the model will stretch far beyond Ashover and Skegness!

CTFILE

Models:

394-025 Ashover L. R. Crimson 394-025A Ashover L.R. Crimson No. 4

394-026 Lincolnshire Coast L. R. Blue & Cream

394-027 Lincolnshire Coast L.R. Crimson & Cream

394-028 Lincolnshire Coast L.R. Maroon

Era: 1925 - preservation

Construction: Plastic body and

diecast chassis Weight: 55q

Minimum curves: Radius 1

(228mm)

WHAT WE LIKE

- ✓ Superb gold lining and lettering
- ✓ Running qualities
- ✓ A model spanning a century of interest



The underside is quite spartan; but accurate.

Presents

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Abingdon (OO)

Bodmin (P4)

Burdock (N)

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Clarendon & Scrubbs Lane (P4)

Corwenna (00)

Drws-y-Nant (2mm FS)

Hungerford (EM)

James Street (N)

Lintor Town (OO)

Moors View (N)

Old Parrock (OO)

Overlord (00)

The Parlour Railway (O)

Pencader (EM)

Portsea (TT3)

Redbridge Wharf (OO)

York (2mm FS)

British Modern Layouts:-

Banbury (N)

Bottom Works Sidings (OO)

City Basin Goods (N)

Collingwood (OO)

Elbow Lane (OO)

Hinksey Yard (N)

Kings Park (N)

Leigh St George (N)

Museum of Transport (OO)

Pwllheli (P4)

Whiteacres (00)

Continental Layouts:-

Beijao (HO)

Bergeller Bahn (HOm)

Broadford (HO & EM)

Cessy-en-Bois (HO)

Hauteluce (Z)

Königshafen (N)

Los Tanimals (N)

Norge - A Taste of Norway (HO)

Zeedijk (HO)

Children's Layouts: Lego City (L), Sakura Crossing (HO), Sodor Island (OO)

Traders Invited: Aspire Gifts & Models, N C Butler, JB's Model World, Neil Cresswell, Model Rail Developments, Model Railway Bits, Ron's Totems, Sunningwell Command Control, The Wagon Yard, Transport Treasury, Thunderbolt Models

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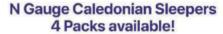
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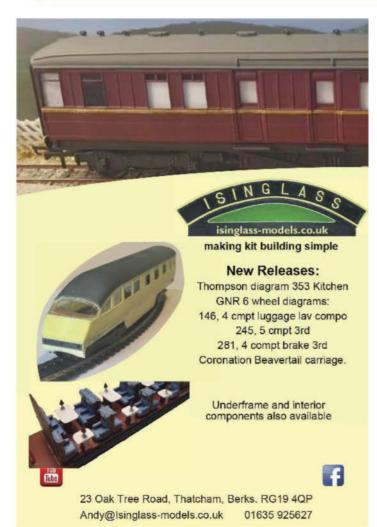
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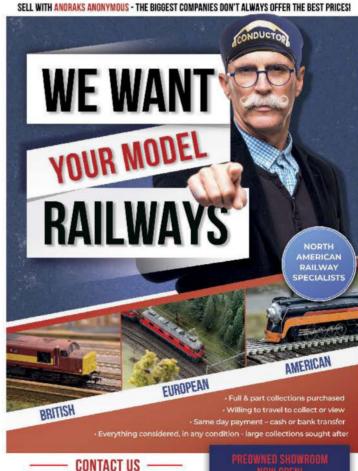
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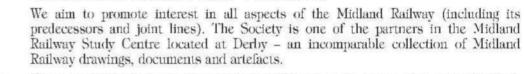


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Jan 27/28 - KENDAL Model Railway Exhibition, Kendal Leisure Centre, Burton Rd, Kendal, Cumbria, **LA9 7HX**. Sat 10-5. Sun 10-4.30

Feb 3/4 - ALTON - FebEx 2024 Alton Model Railway Group Exh, Eggars School, Anstey Road, Alton, Hants, GU34 4EQ. Sat 10.30-5. Sun 10.30-4.00.

> February 10/11 - DONCASTER The Festival of British Railway Modelling, **Doncaster Racecourse, Bawtry Road,** Doncaster, DN2 6BB. Saturday 10 - 5. Sunday 10 - 4.

Feb 17 - TONBRIDGE M/Rail Exhibition, Angel Centre, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1SF 10-5. www. tonbridgemrc.com Less than 5 mins walk from Tonbridge Station.

Mar 2 - KETTERING Gauge 'O' Guild Spring Show, Kettering Leisure Village, Thurston Drive, Kettering, NN15 6PB. 10-4. *Plenty of FREE parking*

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Mar 9/10 - BASINGSTOKE Basingstoke & North Hants Model Railway Exhibition, Aldworth Science College, Basingstoke, RG22 6HQ, Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4.

> March 16/17 - ALEXANDRA PALACE London Festival of Railway Modelling. Alexandra Palace. Alexandra Palace Way, London, N22 7AY. Saturday 9.30-5, Sunday 9.30-4.30. Squires will have 2 stands again this year.

March 30-April 1 - YORK Model Railway Show. The Knavesmire Stand. Racecourse Road, York. Y023 1EX. Sat & Sun 10 - 5, Mon 10 - 4.30 Coming to York? Why not try Sunday or Monday? The show is less busy - see more of the layouts, AND a lot easier to get to our stand.

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April 13/14 - CALNE Model Railway Show, Calne Leisure Centre, White Horse Way, Calne, **SN11 OSP.** Sat 10 - 5, Sun 10 - 4.30.

April 20/21 - MACCELSFIELD Model Railway Group Exhibition, Tytherington School, Manchester Rd, Macclesfield, SK10 2EE. Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4.30.

April 27/28 NEC BIRMINGHAM Model World Live, Hall 12, NEC, B40 1NT. Scale Modelling & Model Railways in the same hall. Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4.

May 11/12 - BRACKNELL expoEM Spring Show, Bracknell Leisure Centre, Bagshot Rd, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 9SE. Sat / Sun 10.30 - 5.30. **TICKETS VALID ON BOTH DAYS** May 25/26 - RAILEX2024 AYLESBURY Risborough & District Model Railway Exhibition, Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Stadium Approach, Aylesbury, Bucks, **HP21 9PP.** Sat 10 - 5.30 Sun 10 - 4.30. **FREE Parking on Site**

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July 6/7 - BARRY & PENARTH Model Railway Exhibition, St Cyrus School, Sully Rd, Penarth, CF64 5XP. Sat 10-5/Sun 10-4 *FREE PARKING ON SITE*

July 20 - BAKEWELL - Gauge 1 North 2024, The Agricultural Business Centre, Haddon Rd, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1AH. 10-4.30.

Aug 17/18 - WAKEFIELD ExpoEM Summer Show, Kettlethorpe High School, Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield, WF2 7EL. Sat 10-5/Sun 10-4.

Sept 7/8 - STAFFORD GUILDEX 2024 Gauge 0 Guild M/Rail Exhibition, Bingley Hall, Stafford Showground, Weston Rd, Stafford, ST18 OBD. Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4. www.gauge0guild.com Sept 21/22 HIGH WYCOMBE Scaleforum 2023, Cressex Community Scholl, Holmers Lane, High Wycombe, HP12 4QA. Sat 10.30-5.30, Sun 10-4.30. Adult Two Day Admission £12.00!!! For all enquiries email scaleforum@scalefour.org website www.scalefour.org Oct 12/13 - ALDERSHOT Model Railway Exhibition, Farnham MRC, Alderwood Leisure Centre, Tongham Rd, Aldershot, GU12 4AS. **FREE Show guide & FREE Car Parking* Oct 26/27 - GLASGOW CATHCART Model Railway Exhibition Pollokshaws Burgh Hall, Pollokshaws Rd, Glasgow, G43 1NE. Sat/Sun 10-4.

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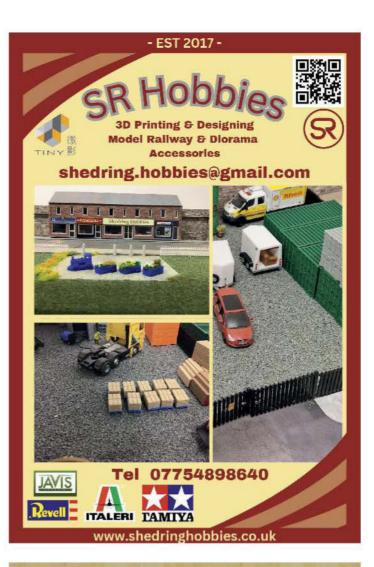


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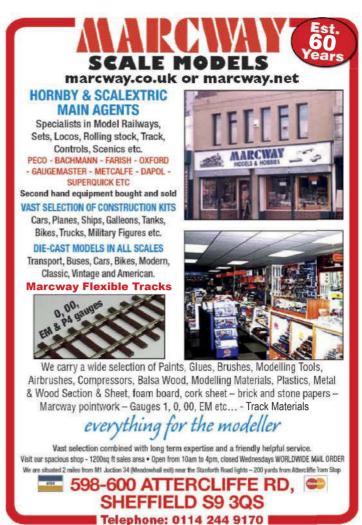
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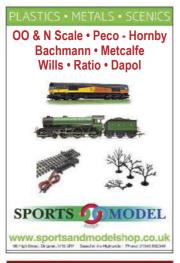


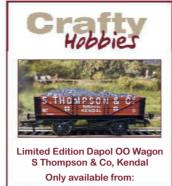
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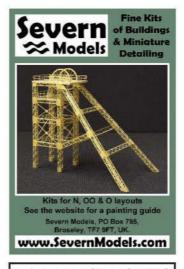
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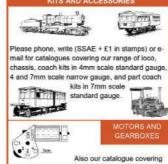
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EDITORIAL

I BRAND CONTENT MANAGER

Debbie Wood

E debbie.wood@warnersgroup.co.uk

I FEATURES WRITER

Phil Parker

E phil.parker@warnersgroup.co.uk

■ RMWEB EDITOR & BRM PHOTOGRAPHER

Andy York

E info@rmweb.co.uk

■ PROOF READER

Tony Wright

PUBLISHER

Steve Cole

E stevec@warnersgroup.co.uk

■ MARKETING MANAGER

Keeley Tansley

 $\hbox{\bf E keeley.} tansley@warnersgroup.co.uk$

ADVERTISING

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Sarah Jarman

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DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

■ DESIGNER

Dan Jarman

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I ADVERTISING DESIGNER

Amie Carter

E amiec@warnersgroup.co.uk

■ PRODUCTION EXECUTIVE

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Buffer Cop A quick trip to WonderWorks



The TT:120 layout is compact, but shows the scale off well.

rriving nice and early for the visit to Hornby, Debbie and Phil took the opportunity to have a look around the new Hornby WonderWorks gallery, which replaced the Hornby Visitors Centre earlier this year.

First impressions is that this is a proper tourist attraction, designed to entertain families as well as provide something for the hardcore enthusiast. The old display could be a bit of a maze to navigate, but now it's easy to find your way around, as well as being bright and airy.

Each part of the business: Railways, Scalextric, Airfix, Corgi and Pocher, gets its own section of display. The dark banks of display cabinets have been trimmed back to make it less of a dusty museum, and more an immersive experience.

There's plenty to get hands-on with. Airfix offers a table full of QuickBuild Bugatti Veyrons to assemble. Scalextric has a large track, with scenery based on the local area, and a couple of Micro Scalextric layouts. All were waiting for drivers, and although we didn't have time for much play, were great fun to drive.

Railways present three brand new layouts; two OO and a TT:120 model. One can be driven using tablet computers and the latest DCC software. Again, we tested these and can report even technophobe Phil managed to make trains move.

Some early comments by enthusiasts have bemoaned the reduction in historic models on show. There are still plenty to see, and how many cabinets of Hornby Dublo do we need? Many notable models from Hornby's 100-year history are still on show.

There's plenty of detail showing how they are made, too, with an emphasis on modern model development and manufacturing. Surely more inspiring to today's youngsters who may well be persuaded into engineering this way?

If you are in Kent, WonderWorks is definitely worth a visit, and should entertain the whole family; just what it's designed to do.

This month in pictures...



You, too, can become a pilot in a giant Airfix kit at WonderWorks



Why do Christmas displays seem to feature steam engines?



2mm scale York Road underground station on show at the MRC open day.



A little steam action to blow away the cobwebs on New Year's Day.

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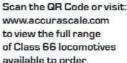
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All models shown are pre-production samples and are subject to refinement and alteration



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