

5th October 2026, update for



Atworth History Group

A history of Melksham Railway Station

“From Brunel to the next phase”

- collated by Graham Ellis

1848 – 1850 – 1872 – 1923 – 1948 – 1966
1985 – 1993 – 1001 – 2006 – 2013 – 2026
– continuing into the future

About this presentation

My thanks to many including: Alan Baines, Simon Brewer, Lisa Ellis, Jane Jones, Richard Fairhurst, John Money, Bob Morrison, David Philips, Tony Seager, Guy Vincent and the Melksham and District Historical Association for permission to use their pictures and graphics in this presentation and associated works. Other pictures are from my personal collections. Please ask me for individual attributions and copyright details, and let me know of any corrections. This presentation is a moving document, and additional material is welcome for consideration for future revisions.

I have included some historic photographs which show dangerous practises around the railway, and their inclusion is purely illustrative and neither I nor the Melksham Transport User Group condone them. Some pictures looking forward are artists' impressions and show what the future might look like, but there's no guarantee of that.

My thanks also to all the wonderful people I have been involved with over the past decades in our joint work on Melksham Station, its train service, and the wider and aspects of public and sustainable transport at they effect the Melksham and the county, region and country. I really appreciate your friendships, even at times when we've not been able to agree on mutual goals and how to achieve them. This has been very much a collaborative team venture with each of us bringing our strengths as we can to reach places we could not otherwise reach, and long may that continue into and through the next decade.

The current version of this document may be found at
<https://grahamellis.uk/wsw.pdf>

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Melksham Station and the railway line through

1. Victorian Era - plans, opening in 1848 to 1901
2. Until 1950 - plodding along in a changing world
- 3. Dying days, closure and rebirth - 1950 to 2000**
- 4. Growing up again - teenage years 2001 to 2026**
5. Delivering a quality sustainable future product

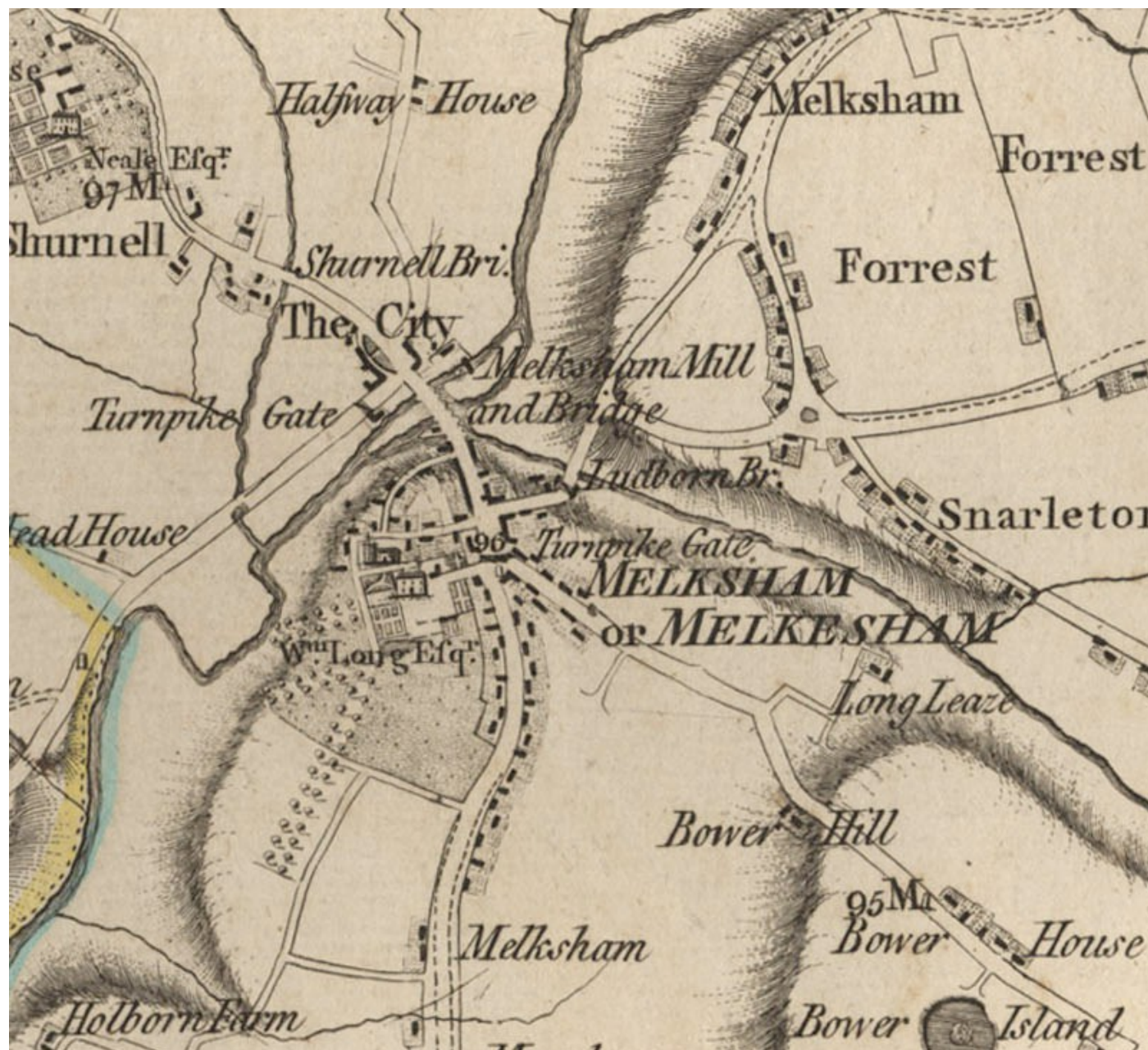
Melksham Station and line – a more detailed timeline

Conceived as independent operation, Wilts Somerset & Weymouth Railway	30th June 1845
First section opened	5th September 1848
Taken over by Great Western Railway	14th March 1850
Completion to Weymouth	1st June 1857
Holt station opened 1861 as an interchange platform, full station	1st April 1874
Gauge Change	June 1874
Bradford north curve opened	11th March 1895
Lacock, Beanacre, Broughton Gifford and Staverton halts opened	September 1905
Grouping	1st January 1923
Air ministry loop opened	1942
Loop towards Corsham removed	July 1959
Nationalisation	1st January 1948
Beanacre and Broughton Gifford closed	1955
Station (also Lacock, Holt and Staverton) Closed	18th April 1966
Final schedules passing passenger trains	summer 1968?
Re-opened	13th May 1985
Loop toward Bath removed	17th March 1990
Privatisation Bill	1st April 1994
Melksham Railway Development Group founded	1995
Operator – Wales and West (Prism Trains) from	13th October 1996
Operator – Wessex Trains (National Express) from	14th October 2001
Operator – First Great Western – from	1st April 2006
TransWilts Community Rail Partnership founded	17th April 2010
Local Sustainable Transport (Trial) service starts	December 2013
Operator Rebranded "Great Western Railway"	September 2015
Trial service confirmed to become permanent	September 2016
Covid lockdown	26th March 2020
Operating changed from franchise to contract	June 2022
Operator to be renationalised	13th December 2026

Before the coming of the Railways



Andrews' and Dury's Map of Wiltshire, 1773



Great Western Misses Melksham

- Railway from London to Bristol Proposed Brunel's plan
- was to route it via Melksham
-
- But settled for route via Box & tunnel
-
- Main works to be at Swindon

Opened in stages / past Chippenham in 1841

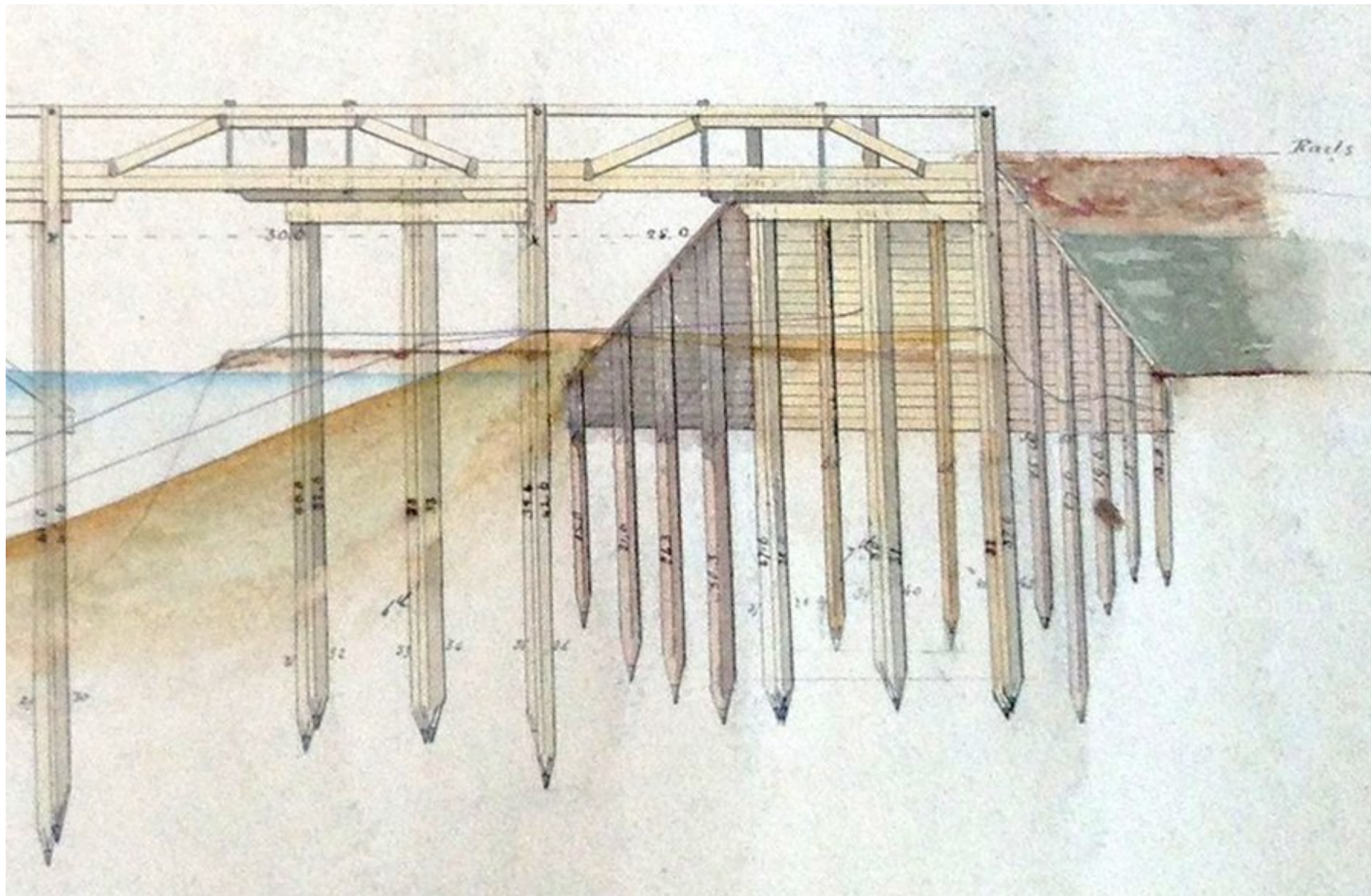
Melksham missed off the main line

Melksham wanted to get its cheese to market

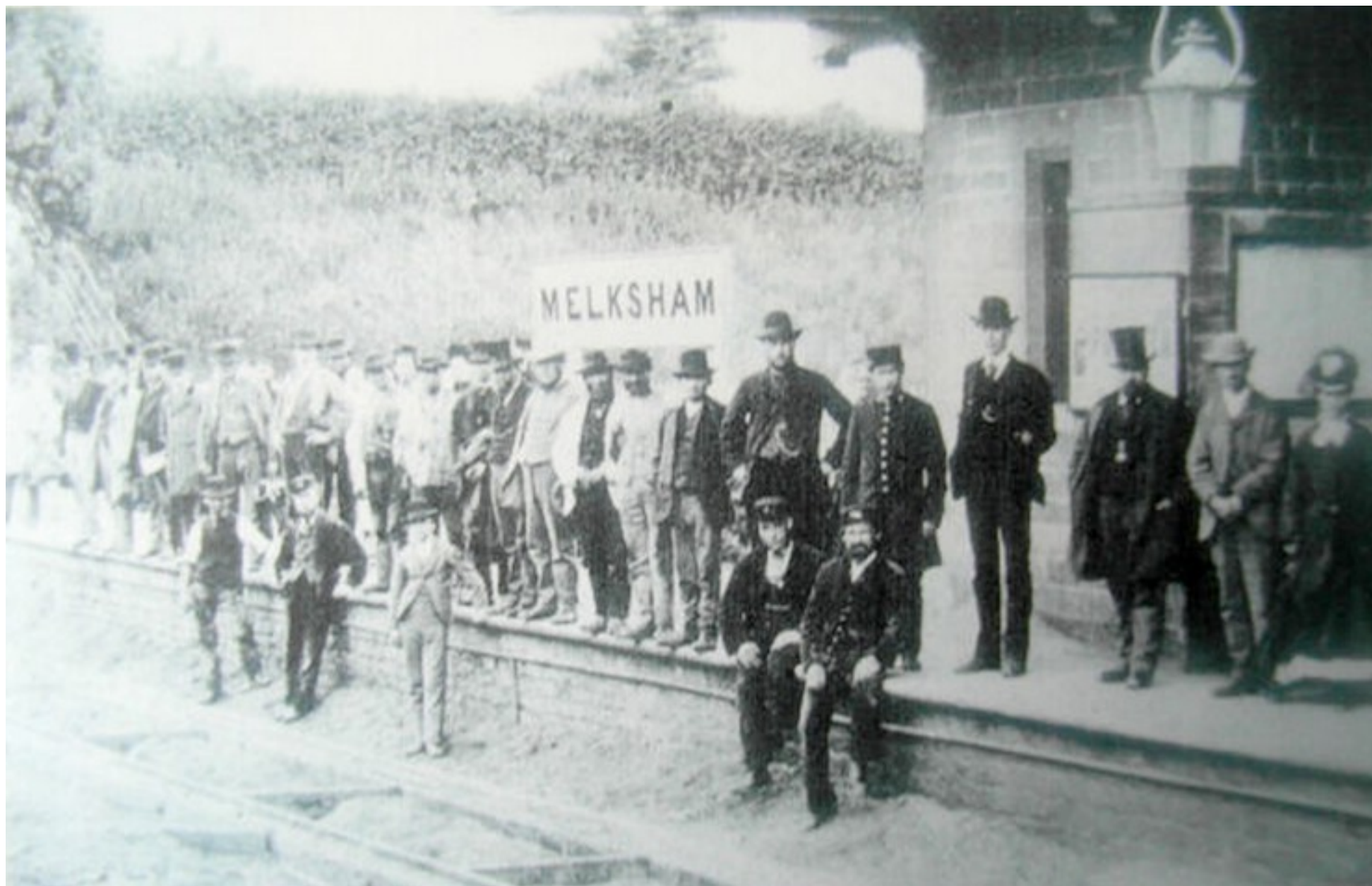


`So ... independent Construction

- Wiltshire, Somerset and Weymouth Railway Co.
- First section opened in 1848 Thingley to Westbury
- Intermediate Stations at Melksham and Trowbridge
- Main line passengers changed at Thingley. **Why?**
 - Lack of agreement between companies
 - Fear of facing points
- Construction was to Brunel's gauge of 7' 0.25"
- Lack of money stalled construction at Westbury



Preparing to open – Circa 1848



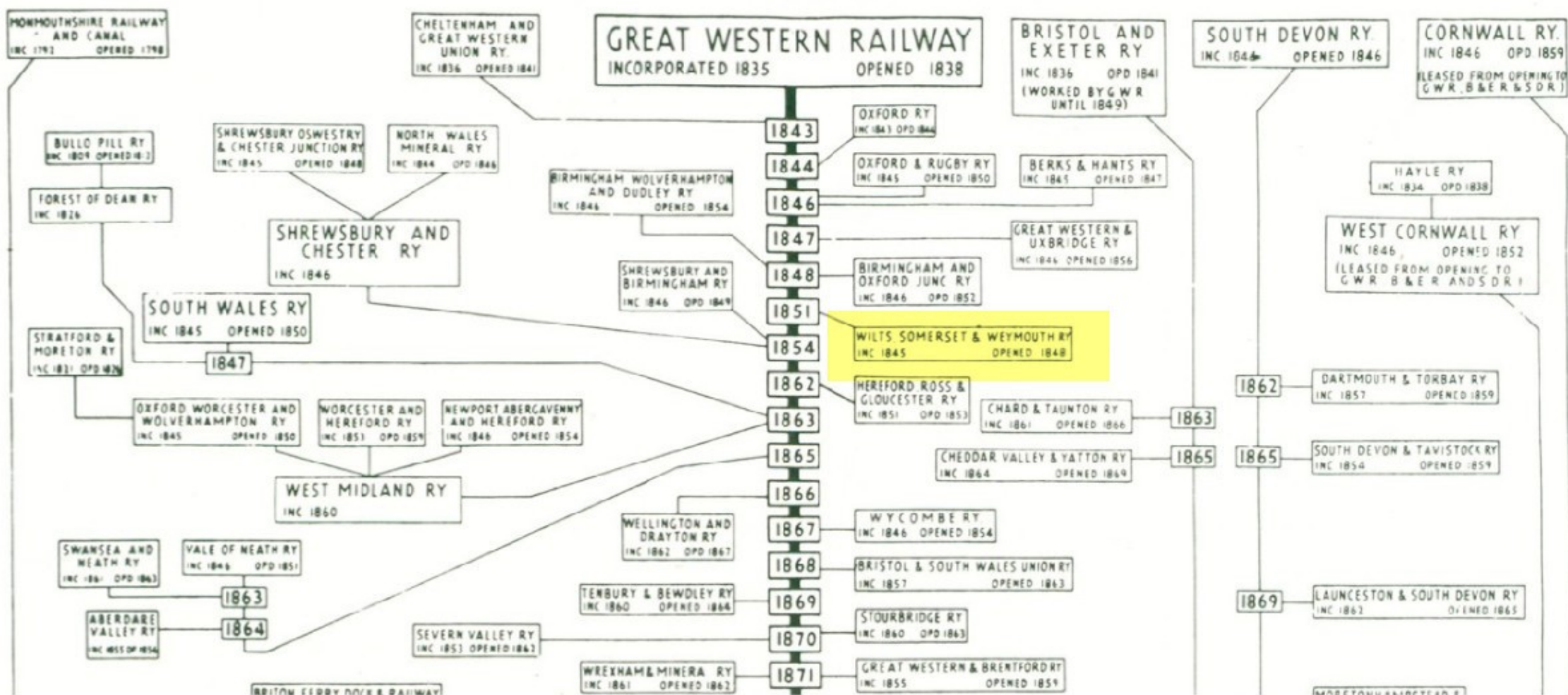
Thingley Junction [1966]



Great Western Expansion

- Bought out by Great Western
- Through trains via Thingley from 1850
- Extending the W S & W main line ...
 - Frome; Castle Cary; Yeovil; Dorchester;
- Weymouth Branches and beyond branches
 - Warminster then Salisbury
 - Bradford-on-Avon then Bath
 - Devizes then Hungerford

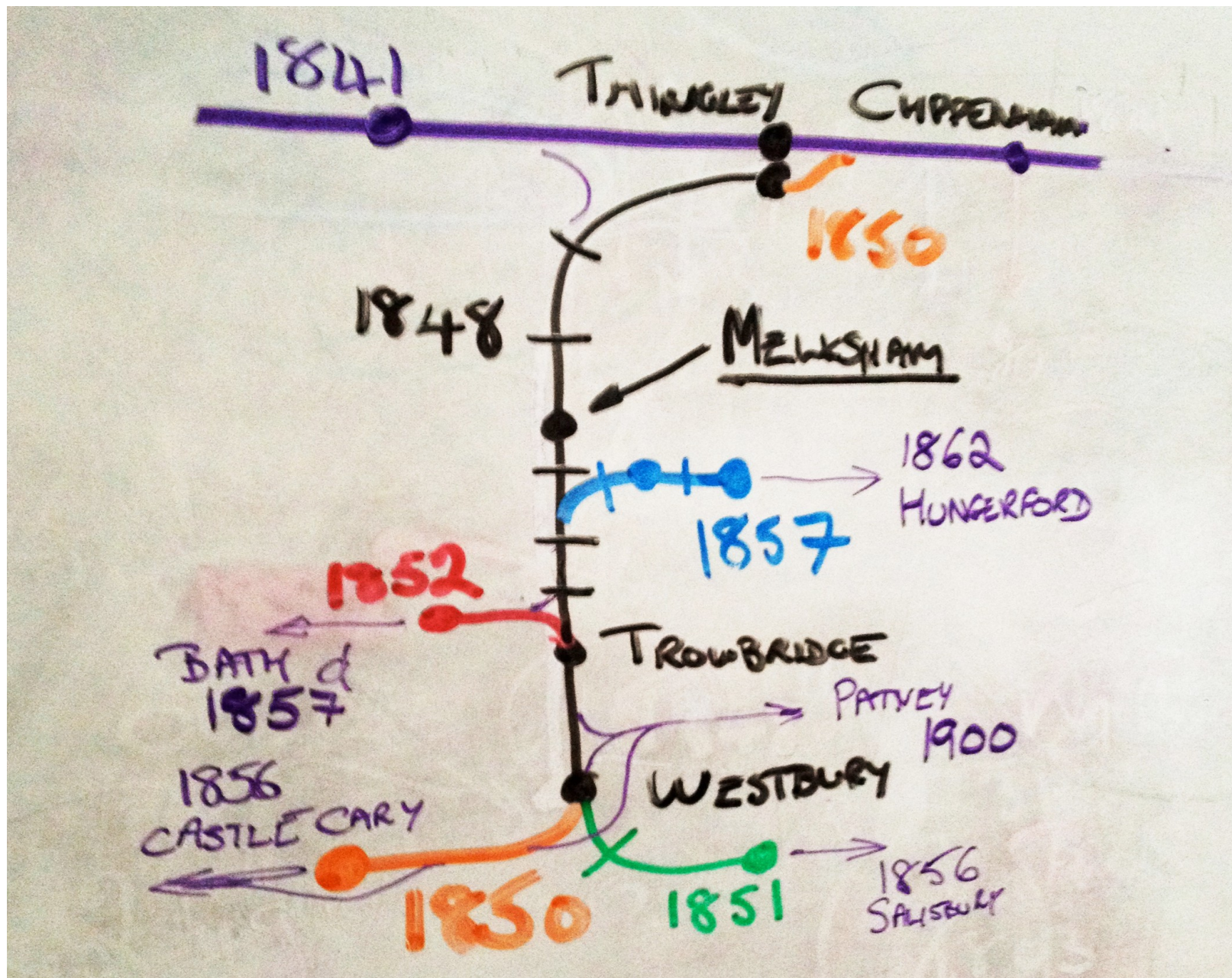
GWR buying up other railways



Bridge on the Devizes line



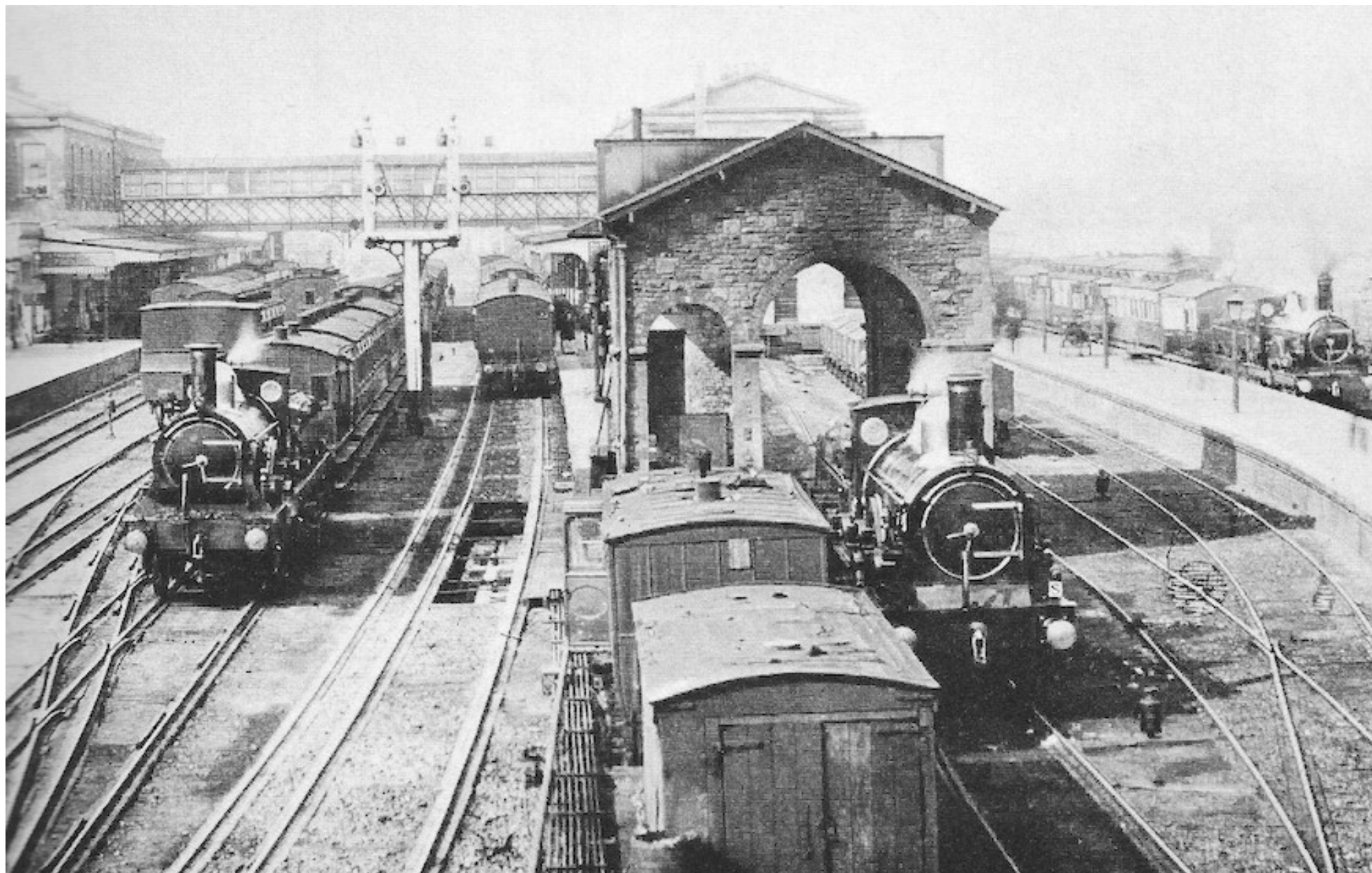
Expanding branches - WS&W



Great Western – 1870 - 1900

- Change of gauge (1872 at Melksham) and years or prosperity **but ...**
- Cutoff and infill lines
 - London and South Western to Weymouth
 - Westbury to Patney
 - Castle Cary to Taunton
 - Frome and Westbury avoiding lines [later]
- We become something of a **secondary line**
- ...

Swindon, circa 1890



TROWBRIDGE and BATH.—Great Western.

Bradshaw, 1895

Chippenham, Bath, Salisbury,

16

Bridport, Dorchester, and Weymouth.

CHIPPENHAM, YEOVIL, BRIDPORT, DORCHESTER, and WEYMOUTH. — Great Western.

Miles from Chippenham.	Fares from Paddington.			Week Days.												Sundays.			Via Frome.
				Down.	Up.	Down.	Up.	Down.	Up.	Down.	Up.	Down.	Up.	Down.	Up.	Down.	Up.	Down.	
	1 cl.	2 cl.	gov.	Paddington Sta.,	mrn	mrn	mrn	mrn	mrn	mrn	mrn	non	aft	aft	aft	aft	mrn	aft	aft
	s.d.	s.d.	s.d.	LONDON 2...dep.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				READING 2... "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				OXFORD 3 5 & 2 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				SWINDON 2... "	6 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6 1/2	17 6	13 2	7 10	Chippenham...dep.	8 35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8 1/2	18 1	13 7	7 10	Melksham...dep.	6 49	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11 1/2	18 7	13 11	8 1	Holt 14...dep.	8 55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 1/2	...	...	...	Trowbridge 17...arr.	7 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				BRISTOL * 8...dep.	8 15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				BATH †... "	6 33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				Trowbridge...dep.	7 5	7 15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21 1/2	19 3	14 8	8 5	Westbury...arr.	7 13	7 23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26 1/2	20 6	15 0	8 10 1/2	(see below) { dep.	7 28	7 38	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
41	21 3	16 0	9 4	Frome (below) { dep.	7 38	7 56	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	24 0	18 0	10 6	Witham 17...arr.	9 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				WELLS † 17...arr.	9 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32 1/2	22 1	16 8	9 9 1/2	Bruton...dep.	8 6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 1/2	22 7	17 0	10 1	Castle Cary...dep.	8 13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
40 1/2	23 6	17 8	10 4	Sparkford...dep.	8 22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
43	24 0	18 0	10 4	Marston Magna...dep.	8 29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
47 1/2	24 9	18 1	10 4	Yeovil (Pen Mill) { ar	8 37	8 39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
51 1/2	25 8	19 1	10 8	20, 70, 72 { dp	8 39	8 51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
56	26 3	19 9	11 0 1/2	Yetminster...dep.	8 51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
60	27 0	20 0	11 4	Evershot...dep.	9 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				Maiden Newton...arr.	9 12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				Maiden Newton d	9 30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
62 1/2	27 8	20 8	11 6 1/2	Toller...dep.	9 38	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 1/2	28 6	21 0	11 10	Powerstock...dep.	9 44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
69 1/2	29 4	21 8	12 1 1/2	Bridport S { arr.	9 51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
69 1/2	29 6	21 8	12 2	" (East St.)...dep.	9 54	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
71 1/2	29 9	21 9	12 3 1/2	" (West Bay)...	9 56	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				Maiden Newton...dep.	10 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
63 1/2	27 4	20 4	11 4	Grimstone...dep.	9 14	10 49	11 44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
67 1/2	28 0	20 0	11 4	Dorchester (G.W.) 66	9 22	11 0	12 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
70 1/2	28 9	20 0	11 8 1/2	Upwey Junc. 18 1/2	9 41	...	12 11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
74 1/2	29 6	20 0	11 11 1/2	Weymouth 68 1/2 arr.	9 50	11 18	12 20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7				Weymouth (L.S.) "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

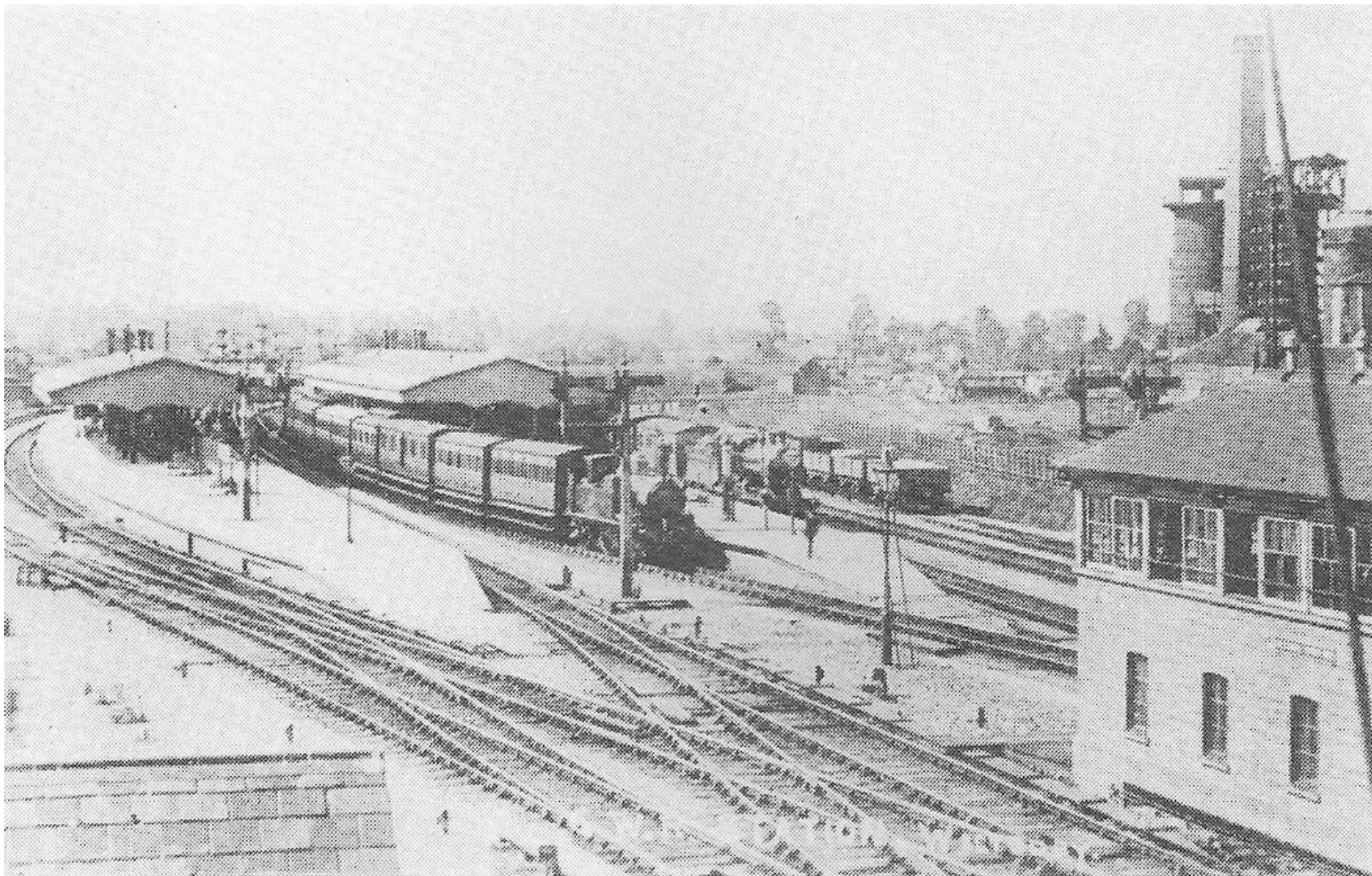
For Steamers between Weymouth and Guernsey and Jersey, see page 633.

a Stops when required to set down from Witham and beyond. b Via Frome. c Passengers for Melksham leave at 2 36 aft. * Temple Meads. † Manvers Street. ‡ Tricker Street. § Bradpole Road. ¶ Grimstone and Frampton. ¶ For other Trains between Upwey Junction and Weymouth, see page 13.

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Westbury Station, c 1908



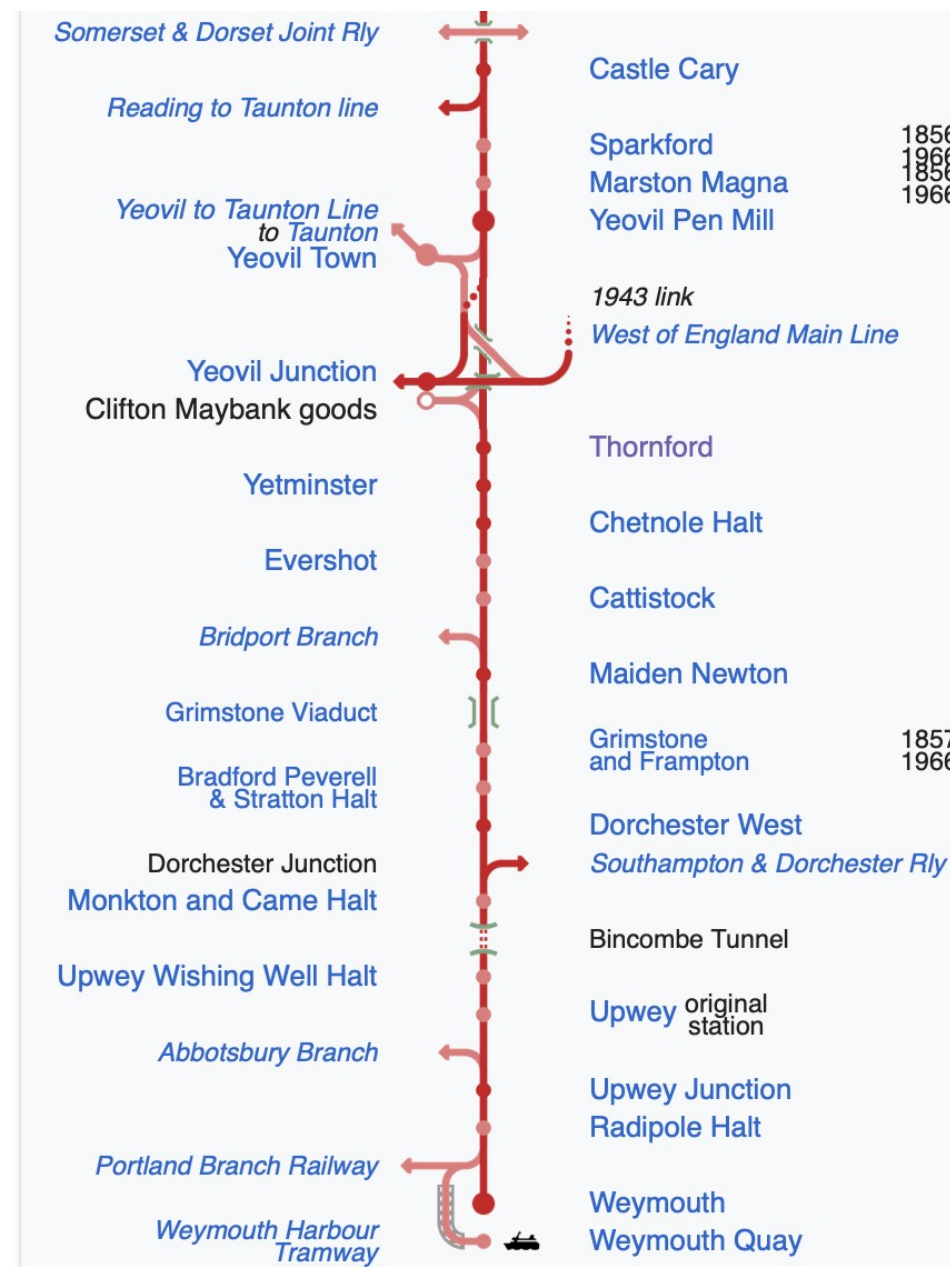
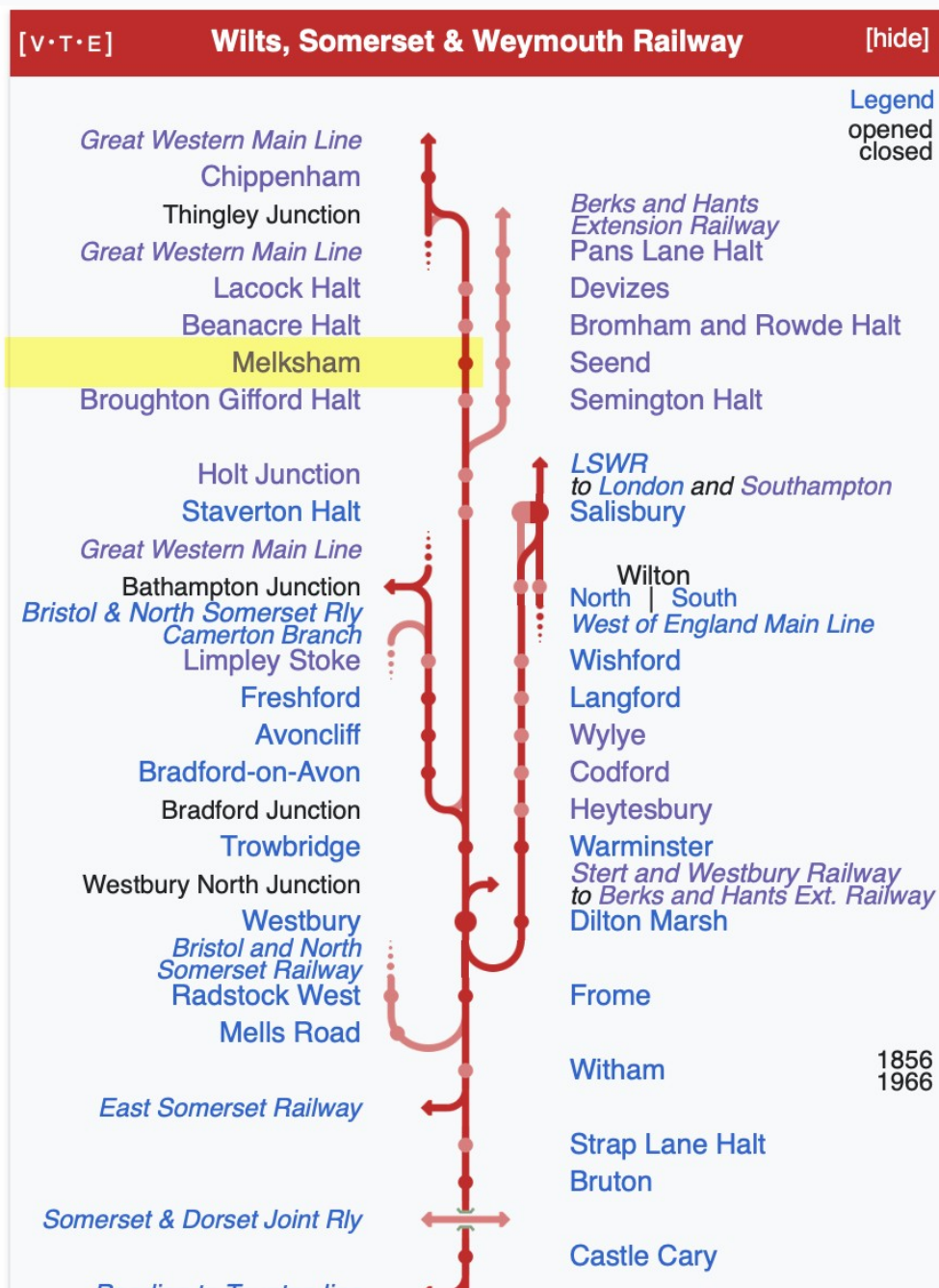
Further stops on the line

- **Extra Stations** – earlier ones, stone built
Lacock
Staverton
- **Extra station** – for the junction
Holt
- **Extra halts** for railmotors, wooden platforms
Beanacre
Broughton Gifford

Works outing at Holt, 1903



The Wiltshire, Somerset and Weymouth



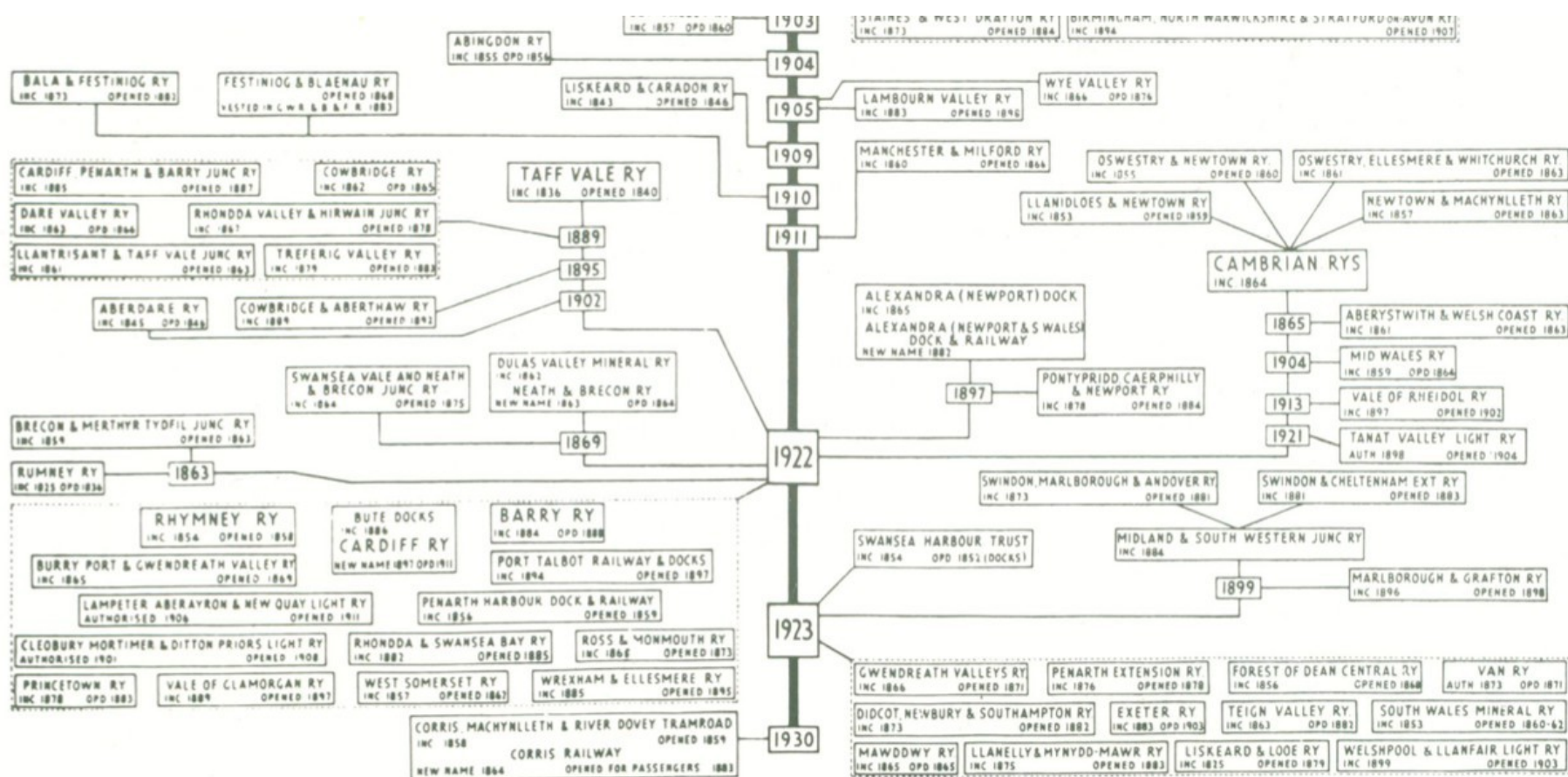
An Edwardian Postcard



From Great Western to Great Western !

- Road and private cars start to encroach
- The Great War puts huge pressure on railways
- By 1922, private railway companies are worn out
- From 1st January 1923, the government grouped railways into 4 companies – **Southern**, **London and North Eastern**, **London Midland and Scottish** and **Great Western** the latter the only company to retain the name of a constituent

Run up to 1923 grouping



GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY

MAP OF SYSTEM

Great Western Railway Main Lines
Great Western Railway Branch Lines
Lines over which G.W.R. has running powers
Railways with which the G.W.R. run in connection
Other Railways
Road Motor Routes
Coach Routes
Steamer Routes
Company's Docks





TRAIN LOAD OF 26 TRUCKS
PART CONSIGNMENT OF 41
TRUCKS OF FEATHERS
MAY 9 1928

Flooded, between the wars

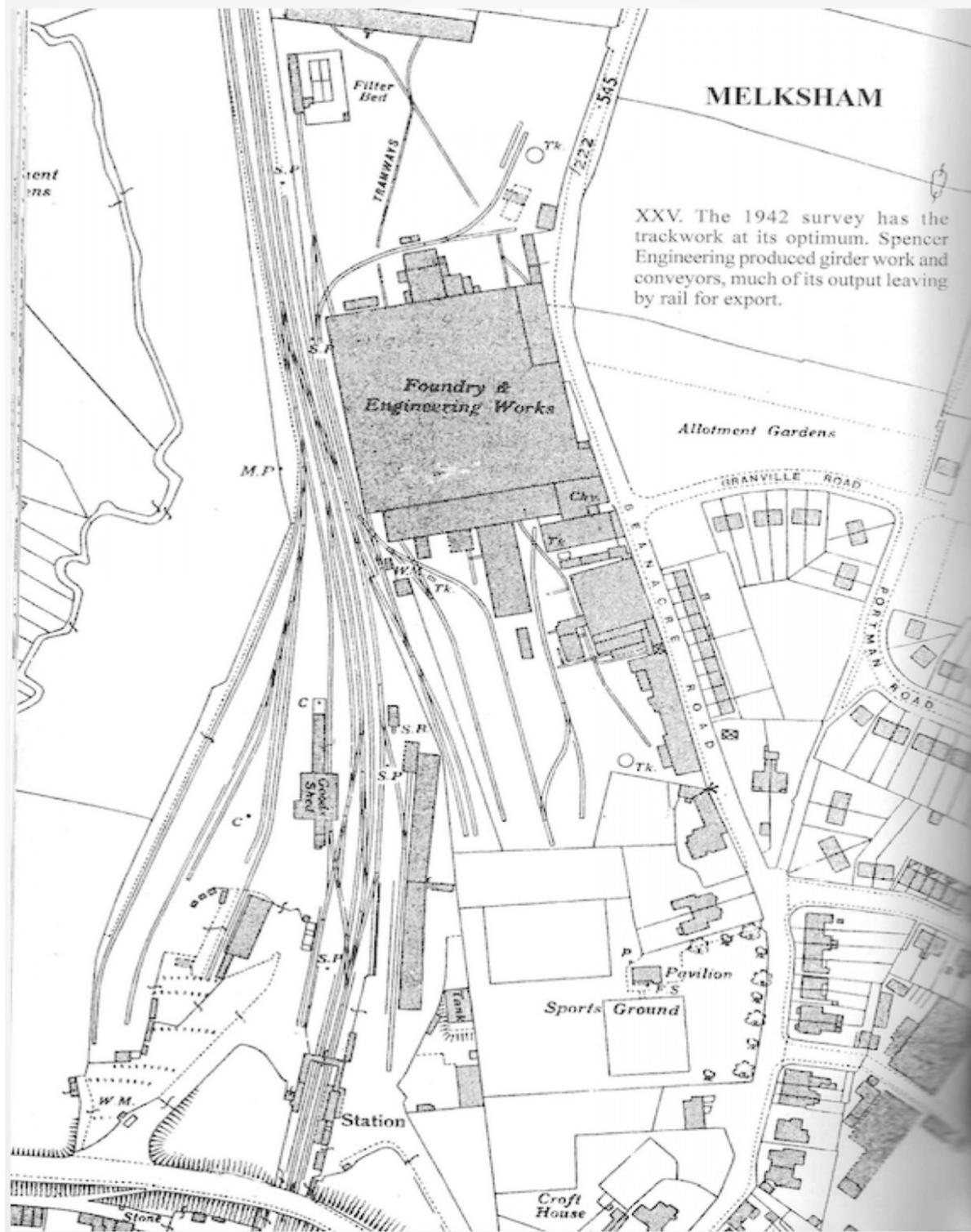


Circa 1940



Second World War and BR

- Second World War brought renewed pressures
 - RAF Melksham was a major training point
 - Major sidings at Lacock, extra loop to Corsham
 - Signal Boxes opened for the war
 - But equipment worn out and finances ruined
-
- Railways nationalised on 1st January 1948
 - The line through Melksham becomes part of British Railways, Western Region



At the heart of the war effort

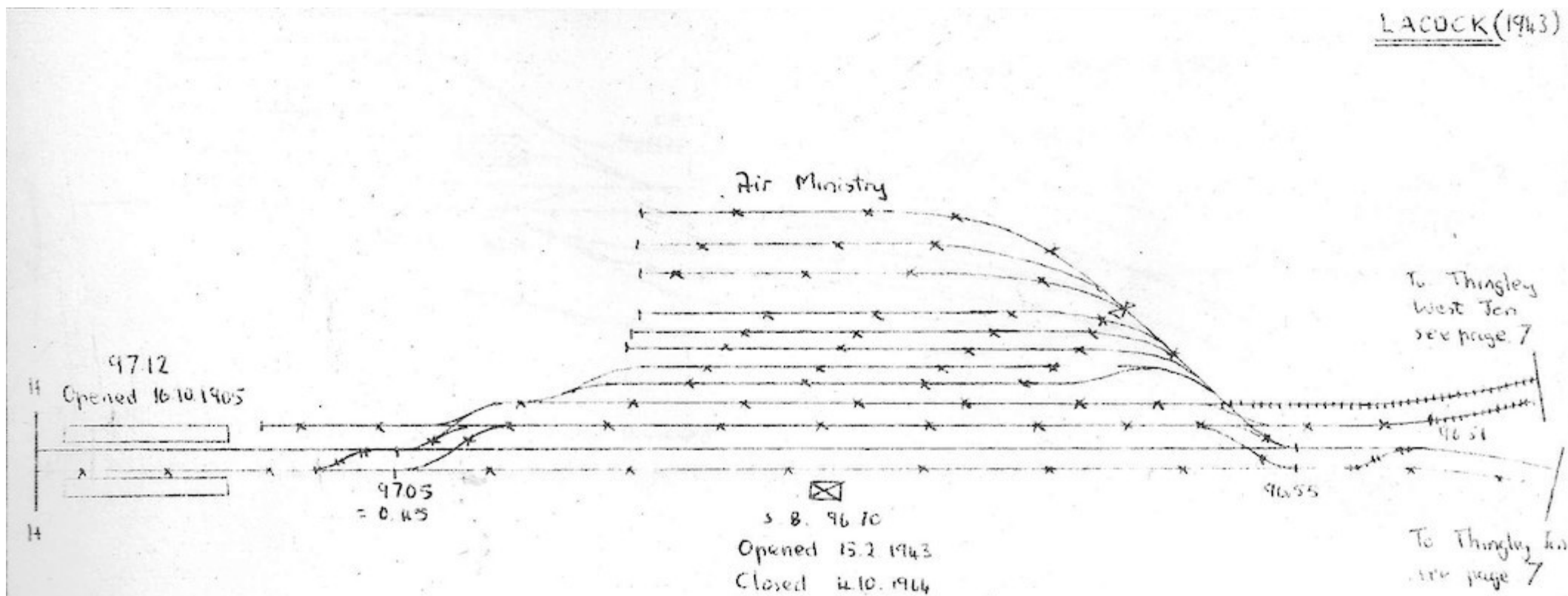
Equipment from Spencers



RAF Melksham



Track layout, Lacock



- 15.2.1943 New Up Sidings and S.B. into use.
- 29/8-2/9.1943 All into use including curve to Thingley West
- 26.7.1959 Thingley West Curve t.o.u.
- 15.9.1964 All connections t.o.u. except two main line crossovers
- 12.10.1964 Two crossovers t.o.u.
- Line singled 26.2.1967.

Lacock, c 1952



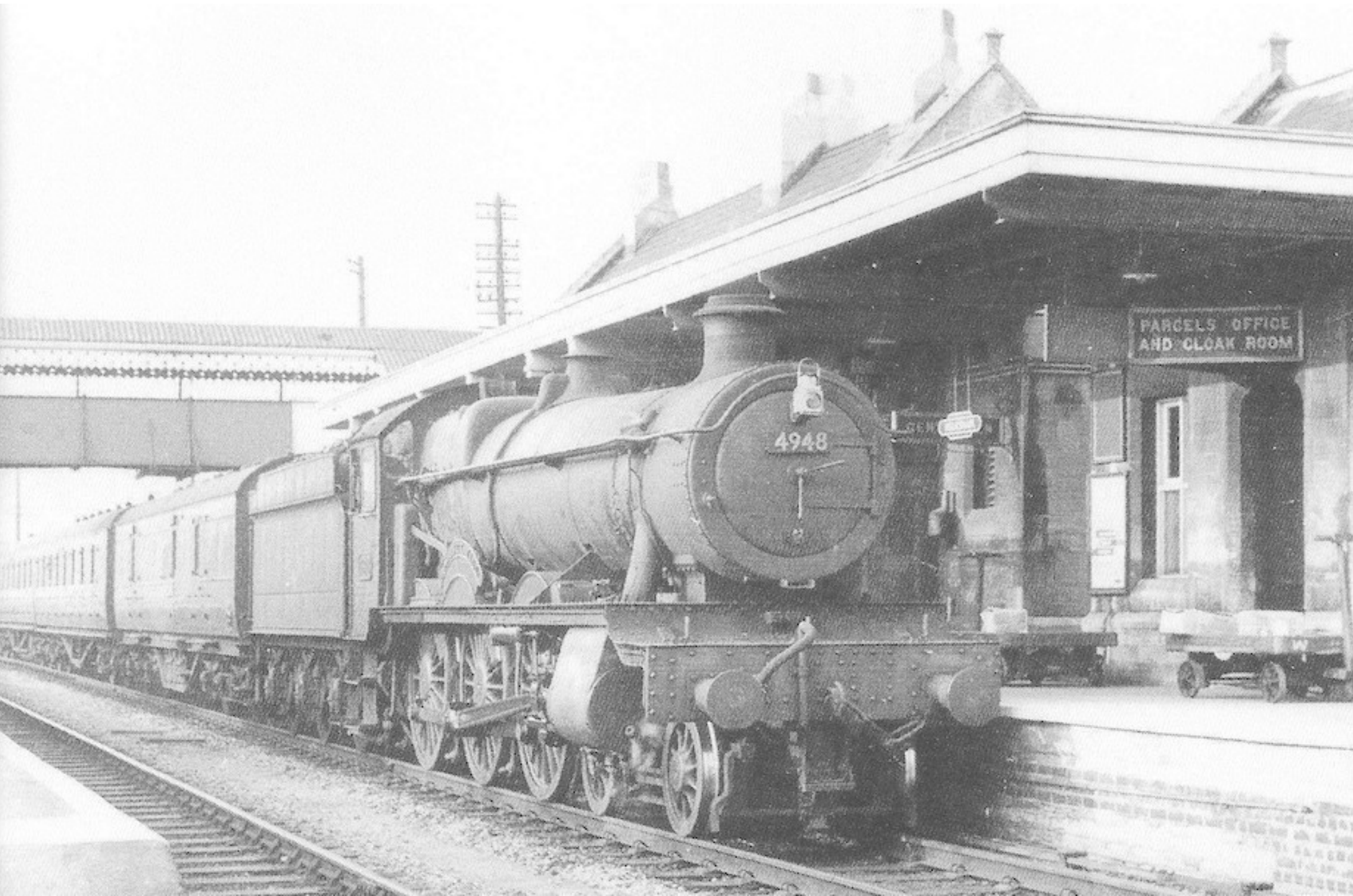
Thingley Junction, 1952



Thingley Junction







Trowbridge train at Melksham











Heading South



Awaiting the Trowbridge train



Holt



Bradford Junction



Arriving into Trowbridge



Waiting to leave Trowbridge





Setting out from Westbury



Modernisation ...

- Freight continued to move to the roads
- Passengers move to private cars
- Railways .. old fashioned, out of date and out of favour.
- The Modernisation plan, spearheaded by Ernest Marples and Dr Richard Beeching saw InterCity as the future
- Closed thousands of miles of track & many local stations

A station without goods ...



... platforms with no customers ...



... trains without passengers



Lacock, 1966, looking north



Staverton



With a staffed ticket office at MKM





Table W 62

Week Days—continued

Table 62—
continued TAUNTON, WEYMOUTH, DORCHESTER WEST, YEOVIL,
FROME, WESTBURY, NEWBURY, READING and LONDON

	am	pm	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	am	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm
81 Penzance .. dep	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7 30	..	..	..	..	..
81 Plymouth ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1030	..	..	..	..	..
81 Paignton ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1050	..	..	..	..	..
81 Torquay ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11 0	..	..	..	..	..
81 Exeter (St. David's) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12 7	..	..	..	..	..
Taunton .. dep	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1250	..	..	..	..	..
Grech St. Michael Halt ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	pm	..	..	..	..	..
Durston ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lyng Halt ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 2	..	..	..	..	..
Athelney ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1112	..	..	..	..	..
Langport East ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Long Sutton and Pitney ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Somerton (Somerset) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Charlton Mackrell ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Keinton Mandeville ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alford Halt ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Weymouth Quay, dep	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" Melcombe Reg. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Town ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Radipole Halt ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Upwey and Broadway ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dorchester West ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bradford Peverell M ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grimstone & Frampton ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Maiden Newton ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cattistock Halt ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Evershot ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chetnole Halt ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yetminster ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Thornford Bridge Halt ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yeovil (Pen Mill) } arr	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
dep	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marston Magna ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sparkford ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Castle Cary ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bruton ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wicham (Somerset) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Frome } arr	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
dep	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westbury ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
72 Salisbury .. dep	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westbury .. dep	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trowbridge .. arr	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
72 Bradford-on-Avon .. arr	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
72 Bath Spa ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
72 Bristol (Tem. Mds.) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trowbridge .. dep	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Staverton Halt ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Holt Junction ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Melksham ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lacock Halt ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chippenham ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
61 Swindon ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
61 Didcot 64 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
61 Oxford 64 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lavington ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Semington Halt ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Seend ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bromham & Rowde Halt ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Devizes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pans Lane Halt ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Patney and Chirton ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Woodborough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Manningford Halt ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pewsey ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wootton Rivers Halt ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Savernake (Low Level) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bedwyn ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hungerford ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kintbury ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Newbury ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Thatcham ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Midgham ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Aldermaston ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Theale ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Reading (West) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Reading General ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
PADDINGTON 50 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

For Notes, see page 91

Page from Bradshaw
1960

Complete Closure in all but name

- Beanacre and Broughton Gifford closed in 1955
- Lacock, Melksham, Holt and Staverton closed in 1966
- Also in 1966, the Calne and Devizes lines closed
- The line from Chippenham to Trowbridge remained open, with a single passenger train each way per day ... that was reduced further in due course to just a summer saturday train, varied route such as Oxford to Weymouth

Closed. The daily train passes by.





Saturdays

17 June to 2 September

Midlands to Yeovil and Weymouth

Heavy figures denote through carriages;
light figures denote connecting services
For general notes see page 12

b Passengers must hold regulation
Tickets, see page 58

k Channel Islands passengers conveyed by bus between Weymouth station and Weymouth Quay

After closure, before demolition



1969





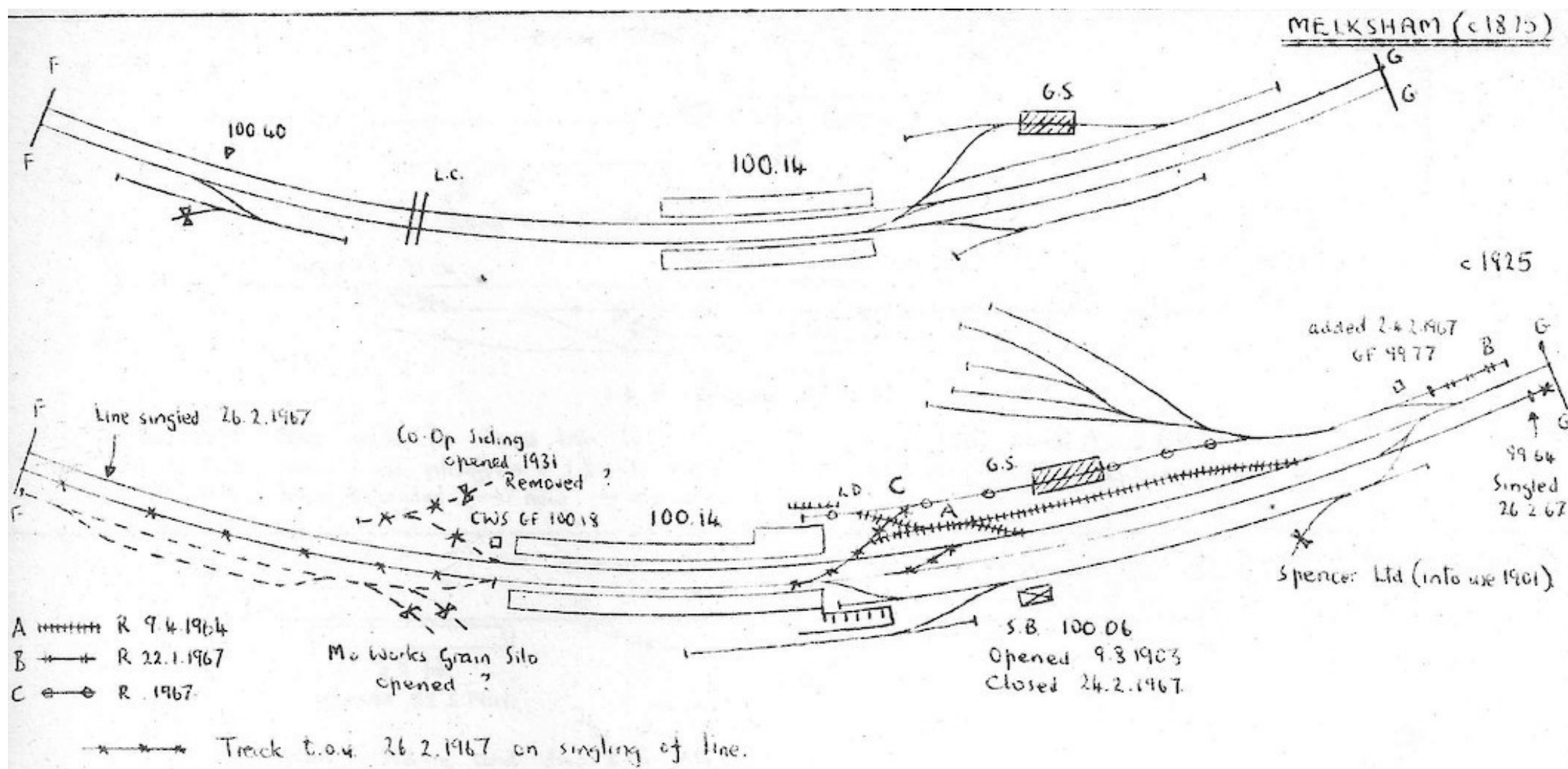
Dismanted to a basic railway

- The Station buildings were demolished
- The sidings were reduced
- The line was singled in 1967
- In 1990, the triangle at Bradford Jn was removed
- Where there was a buyer, land was sold off
- The line only survived at all for the occasional freight train and as a useful diversionary route to the West.





Track layout, Melksham over time



A line for enthusiast's specials ...



And she's still going strong!



... for diverted expresses ...



... and for freight ...



Where residents caught trains from elsewhere

 Day return

2nd

The George Ward School
Association

Saturday, 20th May, 1978

~~Trowbridge~~ or Bradford-on-Avon
to

York and back

Valid by special train only

For conditions see over (W)

0171

0171

But then ...

- OPEC and the 1973 oil crisis
- The growth of Melksham
- The rise of the commuter outside London
- Rail travel came back into fashion
- In 1982, Regional Railways core sector was created
- Re-openings of stations included Melksham in 1985

PA242		MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS				READING, THINGLEY SALISBURY, WEYMO							
DOWN SEE SPECIAL NOTES		2B22	2012	1C56	2A66	1025		1025	1025	2A72	2012	1F32	1091
			To Portsmouth Harbour	To Plymouth		09 50 from Glasgow Central to Weymouth		09 50 Glasgow Central to Poole	09 50 Glasgow Central to Poole	16 22 from Taunton			17 10 Cardiff Central to Portsmouth Harbour
TIMING LOAD		D2	DEMU	HST	D2	D420		D420	D420	D2	D2	D350	D210
						FO +		FO +	FX +			VB +	VB
LONDON PADDINGTON dep		1		16 45							16 23	16 57	
READING arr		2				DRL		DRL	DRL		UML		
READING dep		3	16 47	16 52	17U07	16 59		16 59	16 59		17 23	17 27	
Reading D.M.U.D.		4		17U09		17q 12		17q 12	17q 12		17 25	17 29	
Reading West Jn dep		5							①			[1]	
Oxford Road Jn arr		6											
Oxford Road Jn dep		7											
Reading West		8											
Southcote Jn		9	16 50	16 55							17 28		
BASINGSTOKE arr		10	16 52	16 57	17 12	17 19		17 19	17 19		17 30	17 34	
		11		17 18		17 36		17 36	17 36		17 51		
Theale		12	16 56										
Aldermaston		13	17 02										
Midgham		14	17 07										
Thatcham		15	17 12										
Newbury Racecourse		16	[1]									17a 46	
NEWBURY arr		17	17 19									[1]	
NEWBURY dep		18		17 22								17 53	
Kintbury		19											
Hungerford		20											
Bedwyn		21											
		22		17 31									
Pewsey		23											
Woodborough arr		24		17a 39									
Woodborough dep		25											
		26		17 42									
Lavington		27											
		28		17 49									
		29		[3]									
Heywood Road Jn		30		17 56									
		31											
Hawkeridge		32											
BRISTOL TEMPLE MEADS dep		33			17 20	UNTIL		FROM		17 40			18 16
Bathampton Jn		34			17 46	28 SEP		5 OCT		18 04			18 33
Freshford		35			17 53					18 11			
Avoncliff		36			17 56					18 14			
Bradford-On-Avon		37			18a 00					18a 18			18a 42
Thingley Jn		38											
Bradford Jn		39			18 03					18 21			18 46
Trowbridge		40			18a 07					18a 25			18a 46
Hawkeridge		41											
		42			[1]					[2]			
WESTBURY arr		43		17 58	18 14					18 33			18 54
WESTBURY dep		44		18a 00	18 15								18a 47

Back in business!



May 1985 – another First Train



Health and safety??





Main line relayed along platform



Baby steps – open, but ...

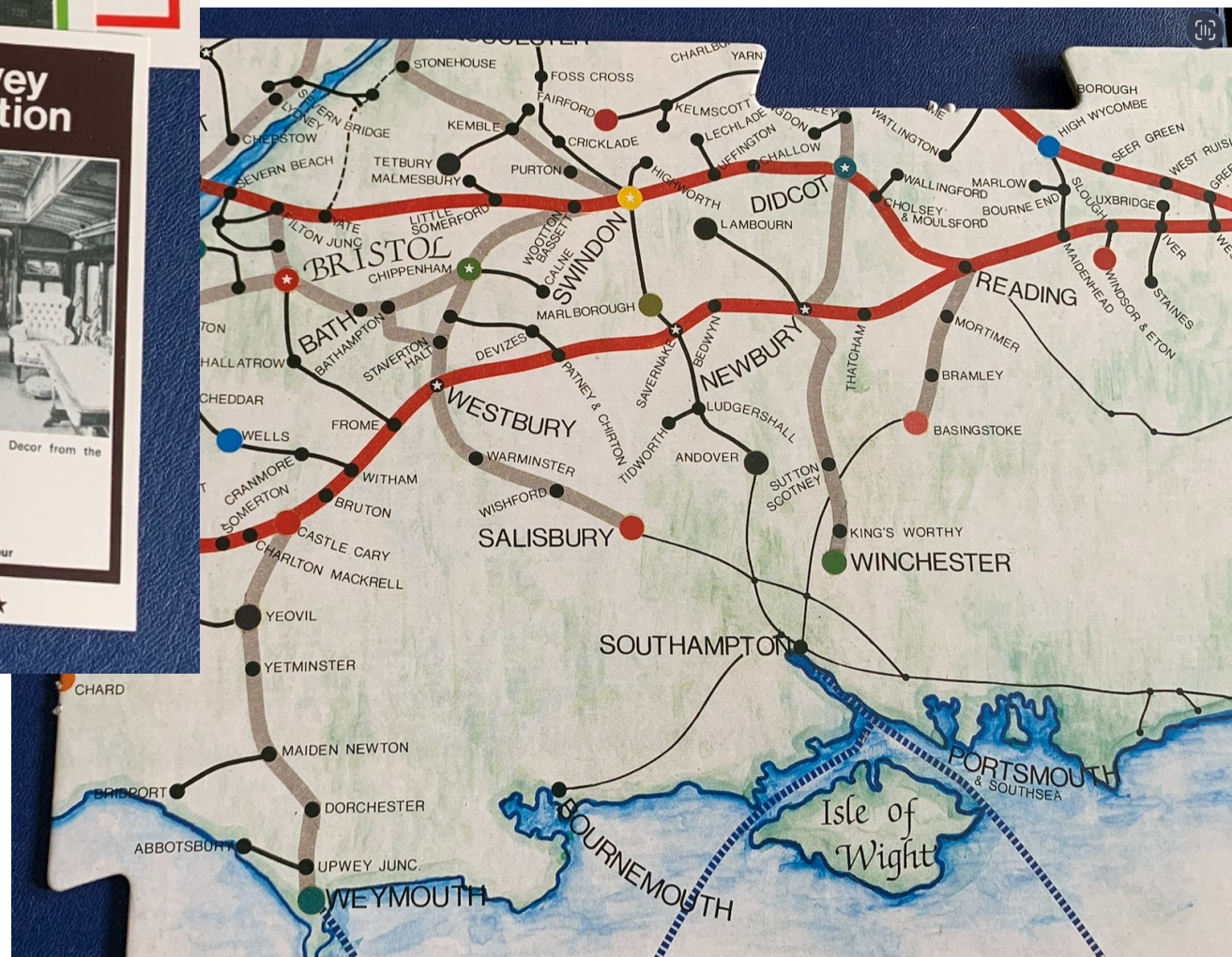
- Just a return commuter trip to Swindon / limited
- uptake Lack of advertising of new services
- Mumbled on through privatisation; → 5 a day in
- 2001 Operated on a shoestring by Wessex Trains
- Hostile land (different company's station) in
- Swindon Unreliable, often cancelled, **never the**
- **less growing**

By 2006, peak trains were quite busy having grown at 8% per annum for 5 years; lunchtime train was still thin in use

Bradford curve, lost as late as 1990



Celebrating 150 years of GWR



Open – just. Tired and faded.



September 1994, 07:40 from Frome



Fares from Melksham, Jan 1997

MELKSHAM 3346			
use prices to/from CHIPPENHAM			
AVONCLIFF 3265 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	3.20	4.20	
7D		18.90	
BATH SPA 3271 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	4.70	5.30	
7D		23.80	
BRADFORD ON AVON 3341 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	3.00	4.00	
7D		18.00	
BRUTON 5702 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	6.30	7.80	
SV 8A		12.00	
7D		35.00	
CASTLE CARY 5703 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	6.90	8.20	
SV 8A		12.10	
7D		36.90	
CHETNOLE 5840 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	9.10	10.70	
SV 8A		15.10	
CD B7		10.30	
CHIPPENHAM 3267 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	2.10	2.50	
7D		11.20	

MELKSHAM 3346			
DEAN (WILTS) 5942 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	8.70	10.00	
DILTON MARSH 5502 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	2.60	3.90	
7D		17.60	
DUNBRIDGE 5944 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	9.30	10.60	
FRESHFORD 3344 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	3.60	4.70	
7D		21.00	
FROME 5707 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	3.80	5.00	
GILLINGHAM DSET 5796 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	10.30	11.90	
SV 8A		15.40	
GRATELEY 5514 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	9.10	10.80	
KEMBLE 3325 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	9.00	10.20	
SV 8A		13.70	
7D		45.60	
KEYNSHAM 3237 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	5.70	6.80	

LONDON BRIT RAIL 1072			
rte SWINDON 847 †			
GWR	(S)	(R)	
FO	37.50	75.00	
SO	24.50	49.00	
SV 5A		31.50	
SS 5N		25.00	
7D		124.00	
rte Any Permitted †			
GWR	(S)	(R)	
FO	43.00	86.00	
SO	28.50	57.00	
SV 5A		35.50	
SS 5N	25.50	26.00	
7D		127.20	
rte AP SLOUGH 411 †			
GWR	(S)	(R)	
LF L1		43.00	
AX N1		17.50	
SA M5		26.00	
LONDON INTL(CIV) 5470			
rte † Any Permitted †			
GWR	(S)	(R)	
EF	44.10	88.20	
EO	29.60		
EV		37.70	
EL	27.70	28.20	
rte † SWINDON 847 †			
GWR	(S)	(R)	
EF	38.60	77.20	
EO	25.60		
EV		33.70	
EL		27.20	

MAIDEN NEWTON 5853 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	9.90	11.50	
SV 8A		14.60	
CD B7		11.00	
OLDFIELD PARK 3219 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	4.70	5.30	
7D		23.80	
SALISBURY 5663 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	6.50	7.50	
SV 8A		12.10	
7D		33.50	
SHERBORNE 5835 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	12.20		
SV 8A		16.60	
SS 8N		12.40	

MELKSHAM 3346			
STONEHOUSE 4770 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	10.10	10.70	
SV 8A		15.00	
7D		48.00	
STROUD (GLOS) 4771 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	10.10	10.70	
SV 8A		15.00	
7D		48.00	
SWINDON (WILTS) 3333 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	5.70	5.80	
7D		26.10	
TAUNTON 3471 ♦†			
GWR	(S)	(R)	
SO	10.50	21.00	
SV 8A		12.40	
SS 8N	9.50	10.00	
TEMPLECOMBE 5837 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	10.70		
SV 8A		14.80	
SS 8N		10.80	
THORNFORD 5849 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	8.70	10.90	
SV 8A		15.10	
CD B7		9.50	

TISBURY 5798 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	9.50	11.70	
SV 8A		15.40	
TIVERTON PARKWAY 3474 ♦†			
GWR	(S)	(R)	
SO	17.50	35.00	
SV 8A		18.60	
SS 8N	14.50	15.00	
TROWBRIDGE 3348 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	2.10	2.50	
7D		11.20	
WARMINSTER 5505 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	3.20	5.10	
7D		22.90	
WESTBURY 5712 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	2.80	3.30	
7D		14.90	
YEOVIL PEN MILL 5856 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	8.70	9.30	
SV 8A		13.00	
CD B7		9.10	
7D		41.90	
YETMINSTER 5857 ♦†			
RWW	(S)	(R)	
SD	8.40	10.90	
SV 8A		14.60	
CD B7		9.50	

all prices only — not t

23 January
2003
11:41 SOU →
SWI



Melksham Station, Circa 2003



A passing train to Glasenbury



Westbury still a major operation point



Service butchered again

- Strategic Railway Authority counted passengers in 2003 Assumed a 0.8% growth where 8% compound achieved Specified back down to 2 trains a day for next franchise

First won the franchise and scheduled trains to minimise cost (running train in spare time off other line)

- rather than maximised passengers.

From December 2006 full peak trains withdrawn. We had

"Two trains a day – too early in the morning and too late at night"

Too early

MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS

Operator		GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	SW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	SW	GW	GW
Notes				A																		B				
Facilities				⬇	⬇			⬇	⬇		⬇		⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	
Cardiff Central	Ⓜ d	-	-	-	-	-	0628	-	0730	-	-	-	0830	-	-	0930	-	-	1030	-	1130	-	-	1230	-	-
Newport	d	-	-	-	-	-	0642	-	0744	-	-	-	0844	-	-	0944	-	-	1044	-	1144	-	-	1244	-	-
Severn Tunnel Junction	‡ d	-	-	-	-	-	0653	-	0755	-	-	-	0855	-	-	0955	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Patchway	‡ d	-	-	-	-	-	0706	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bristol Parkway	Ⓜ d	-	-	-	-	-	-	0725	-	0819	-	-	-	-	-	0920	-	-	1022	-	1120	-	1222	-	-	1320
Filton Abbey Wood	d	-	-	-	-	-	0709	0728	0809	0823	-	-	0909	-	-	0923	1009	-	1025	1109	1123	1209	1225	-	1309	1323
Bristol Temple Meads	Ⓜ d	-	-	0520	0544	-	0648	0722	0749	0822	0841	0851	0905	0922	-	0949	1022	-	1049	1122	1149	1222	1239	1251	1322	1349
Keynsham	d	-	-	-	0551	-	0655	-	0756	-	0848	0858	-	-	-	0956	-	-	1056	-	1156	-	1246	1258	-	1356
Oldfield Park	‡ d	-	-	-	0558	-	0702	-	0803	-	0855	-	0917	-	-	1003	-	-	1103	-	1203	-	1253	-	-	1403
London Paddington	Ⓜ d	-	-	-	-	0527	-	0630	0700	-	0730	-	-	-	-	0830	0900	-	0930	1000	1030	1100	-	1130	1200	1230
Bath Spa	Ⓜ d	-	-	-	0602	-	0706	0735	0807	0835	0859	0907	0921	0935	-	1007	1035	-	1107	1135	1207	1235	1257	1307	1335	1407
Freshford	d	-	-	-	0612	-	0715	-	0816	-	0908	-	-	-	-	1016	-	-	1116	-	1216	-	1306	-	-	1416
Avoncliff	d	-	-	-	0614	-	0718	-	0819	-	0911	-	-	-	-	1018	-	-	1119	-	1219	-	1308	-	-	1419
Bradford-on-Avon	d	-	-	0544	0618	-	0722	0747	0823	0847	0915	0920	0933	-	-	1022	1047	-	1123	1147	1223	1247	1312	1320	1347	1423
Swindon	d	-	-	-	-	0612	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chippenham	d	-	-	-	-	0628	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Melksham	d	-	-	-	-	0637	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trowbridge	d	-	-	0552	0625	0647	0728	0753	0829	0853	0921	0927	0939	0951	-	1029	1053	-	1129	1153	1229	1253	1319	1327	1353	1429
Westbury	a	-	-	0559	0632	0655	0735	0800	0836	0900	0928	0933	0949	0958	-	1036	1100	-	1136	1200	1236	1300	1326	1333	1400	1436
Weymouth	a	-	-	-	0824	-	-	-	-	-	1103	-	-	-	-	1209	-	-	-	-	1409	-	-	-	-	-
Westbury	d	0524	0549	-	0637	0701	-	0801	-	0901	-	0939	-	0959	1008	-	1101	1111	-	1201	-	1301	1327	1339	1401	-
Dilton Marsh	d	-	-	-	-	0703x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1010x	-	-	1113x	-	-	-	1329x	-	-	-	-
Warminster	d	0532	0557	-	0645	0712	-	0809	-	0909	-	0946	-	1007	1019a	-	1109	1121	-	1209	-	1309	1338	1348	1400	-
Salisbury	a	0555	0618	-	0710	0736	-	0832	-	0932	-	1009	-	1029	-	-	1132	1141	-	1232	-	1332	1358	1410	1432	-
Romsey	a	-	0637	-	0729	0755	-	0850	-	0950	-	-	-	1048	-	-	1150	1210	-	1250	-	1350	1418	-	1450	-
Southampton Central	a	-	0649	-	0740	0809	-	0904	-	1004	-	-	-	1104	-	-	1204	1222	-	1304	-	1404	1432	-	1504	-
Bournemouth	a	-	0744	-	0843	0910	-	1000	-	1100	-	-	-	1200	-	-	1300	1310	-	1400	-	1500	1511	-	1600	-
Fareham	a	-	0714	-	0805	-	-	0927	-	1027	-	-	-	1127	-	-	1227	-	-	1327	-	1427	1455	-	1527	-
Cosham	a	-	0723	-	0813	-	-	0935	-	1035	-	-	-	1135	-	-	1235	-	-	1335	-	1435	1504	-	1535	-
Fratton	a	-	0734	-	0820	-	-	0942	-	1042	-	-	-	1142	-	-	1242	-	-	1342	-	1442	-	-	1542	-
Portsmouth & Southsea	a	-	0738	-	0824	-	-	0946	-	1046	-	-	-	1146	-	-	1246	-	-	1346	-	1446	-	-	1546	-
Portsmouth Harbour	Ⓜ a	-	0745	-	0830	-	-	0955	-	1054	-	-	-	1154	-	-	1254	-	-	1354	-	1454	-	-	1554	-
Train continues to		PAD										WAT										BTN			WAT	FRO

Too late

Operator		GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	SW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	SW	GW
Notes																										
Facilities		◇I			◇I		■	◇I					■I		■I		◇I		◇		◇				■	
Cardiff Central	⑦d	1330	.	.	1430	.	.	1530	.	.	.	.	1630	.	.	1730	.	.	1830	.	1930	.	2030	2100	.	2204
Newport	d	1344	.	.	1444	.	.	1544	.	.	.	.	1644	.	.	1744	.	.	1844	.	1944	.	2044	2115	.	2218
Severn Tunnel Junction	±d	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1655	.	.	1755	.	.	1855	.	.	.	.	2125	.	2235
Patchway	±d	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2139	.	2248
Bristol Parkway	⑦d	.	.	1422	.	1520	.	.	.	1622	1646	.	.	1720	1746	.	.	1822	.	1920	.	.	.	.	.	.
Filton Abbey Wood	d	1409	.	1425	1509	1523	.	1609	.	1625	1649	1655	1709	1723	1749	1809	.	1825	1909	1923	2009	.	2108	2142	.	2252
Bristol Temple Meads	⊕d	1422	.	1448	1522	1544	1551	1622	.	1649	1707	1714	1722	1749	1807	1822	.	1849	1922	1949	2022	2049	2123	2200	2225	2320
Keynsham	±d	.	.	1455	.	1551	1558	.	.	1656	1714	.	.	1756	1814	.	.	1856	.	1956	.	2056	.	2207	.	2327
Oldfield Park	±d	.	.	1502	.	1558	.	.	.	1703	1721	1726	.	1803	1821	.	.	1903	.	2003	.	2103	.	2214	.	2334
London Paddington	⊕⊕d	1300	.	1330	1400	.	1430	1500	.	1530	.	.	1600	1630	.	1700	1745	1730	.	1830	.	1930	.	2045	.	2145
Bath Spa	⑦d	1435	.	1506	1535	1602	1607	1635	.	1707	1725	1731	1737	1807	1825	1835	.	1907	1935	2007	2035	2107	2136	2218	2238	2338
Freshford	d	.	.	1515	.	1610	.	.	.	1716	.	1740	.	1816	1834	.	.	1916	.	2016	.	2116	.	2227	.	2347
Avoncliff	d	.	.	1518	.	1613	.	.	.	1719	.	.	.	1819	1837	.	.	1919	.	2019	.	2119	.	2230	.	2350
Bradford-on-Avon	d	1447	.	1522	1547	1616	1622	1647	.	1723	1737	1745	1750	1823	1841	1847	.	1923	1947	2023	2047	2123	2148	2234	2251	2354
Swindon	d	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1844	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Chippenham	d	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1901	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Melksham	d	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1911	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Trowbridge	d	1453	.	1528	1553	1624	1628	1653	.	1729	1744	1751	1757	1829	1847	1853	1920	1929	1953	2029	2053	2129	2154	2240	2257	2359
Westbury	a	1500	.	1536	1600	1633	1636	1700	.	1736	1751	1758	1805	1836	1856	1900	1927	1936	2000	2036	2100	2136	2203	2247	2304	0007
Weymouth	a	.	.	1710	.	.	.	.	.	1914	.	.	.	2010	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2310	.	.	.	.
Westbury	d	1501	1511	.	1601	.	1639	1701	1711	.	1754	.	1805	.	.	1902	1941	.	2001	.	2101	.	2203	.	2308	.
Dilton Marsh	d	.	1513x	.	.	.	.	.	1713x	.	1756x	.	.	.	.	.	1943x	.	.	.	.	.	2206x	.	.	.
Warminster	d	1509	1522a	.	1609	.	1647	1709	1722a	.	1805a	.	1813	.	.	1909	1951	.	2009	.	2109	.	2211	.	2315	.
Salisbury	a	1532	.	.	1632	.	1709	1732	.	.	.	.	1835	.	.	1932	2013	.	2032	.	2132	.	2232	.	2335	.
Romsey	a	1550	.	.	1650	.	.	1750	.	.	.	.	1854	.	.	1950	2034	.	2050	.	2150	.	2253	.	.	.
Southampton Central	a	1604	.	.	1704	.	.	1804	.	.	.	.	1904	.	.	2004	2048	.	2104	.	2202	.	2304	.	.	.
Bournemouth	a	1704	.	.	1804	.	.	1848	.	.	.	.	2002	.	.	2100	.	.	2210	.	2316	.	0015	.	.	.
Fareham	a	1627	.	.	1727	.	.	1827	.	.	.	.	1927	.	.	2027	.	.	2127	.	2242	.	2327	.	.	.
Cosham	a	1635	.	.	1735	.	.	1835	.	.	.	.	1934	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Fratton	a	1642	.	.	1742	.	.	1848	.	.	.	.	1942	.	.	2042	.	.	2141	.	2256	.	2344	.	.	.
Portsmouth & Southsea	a	1646	.	.	1746	.	.	1852	.	.	.	.	1946	.	.	2046	.	.	2145	.	2259	.	2348	.	.	.
Portsmouth Harbour	⊕a	1654	.	.	1754	.	.	1900	.	.	.	.	1954	.	.	2054	.	.	2152	.	2304	.	2354	.	.	.
Train continues to		WAT										FRO										FRO				

Santa - 2007



Santa - 2009



Santa 2010 – a High Speed Train



Santa 2012 - “Crowd Control”



What could have been and what has been achieved



First (or third generation) Great Western

- 2005 – 2012 franchise ... service provided defied logic
- Campaign groups such as Melksham Railway Development Group, West Wilts Rail Users Group, Save the Train and More Train Less Strain operated in the area
 1. To make it known there was an improvement case
 2. To have that improvement case seriously analysed
 3. To (re)gain an appropriate service
 4. To retain that appropriate service

Supported by the community in person



... and online

Charles Abnett, Christopher Adlem, Jade Aldersley, Scott Aldersley, Desna Allen, Tony Ambrose, Neil and Elizabeth Andrews, Gill Anlezark, Mark Annand, Christopher Appleton, Stephen Appleton, Una Appleton, G Arbery, David Arundale, Oliver Ashmore, Doris Aylott, Peter Aylott, George Bailey, Alan Baines, Charlotte Baker, Cllr.Martin Baker, Helen Baldwin, Alistair Banks, Jon Banks, Mr P. Barber, Alison Barkshire, Roger Barnes, Bill Barnett, Sarah Barton, Chris Bastian, Emma Batchelor, Paul Batchelor, Tom Bazan, Ray Beaty, Jackie Beeney, Adam Bell, Kevin Bennett, Nigel Bergin, Ian Bertram, Nicholas Martin Bethune, Matt Bewley, Brendan Biggs, Christina Biggs, Peter Biggs, Peter Blackburn, Nick Blakemore, Steve Bollen, Julie Boston, Thomas Bowden, John Bowley, Darren Bowser, John Boxall, Michael G Boyce, John Boyce, Michael Boyce, Jan Bradford, Paul Brann, Andrew Bray, Cllr Michael Bray, Stephen Bray, Chris Brayne, Sion Bretton, Sylvia Brewer, John Bridgen, Rolf Brindle, Wendy from Bristol, H G Britton, Aidan Brown, G & B Brown, Rob Brown, Paul Browning, Ralph Bryder, Susan Buck, S Budden, Roger Burfitt, Gillian Burke, Richard Burke, Sue Burns, Jonathan Cailles, Keith Cameron, Sue Cameron, Adrian Cannon, P Canty, Trevor Carbin, Gill Cardy, Ben Carey, Sandra Carleton, Geoffrey Carr, Anne Case, Chris Caswill, Roger Catte, Ralph Chadkirk, Paul Chant, Roy Chaplin, Siobainn Chaplin, Pat Chapman, Trevor Checketts, Elizabeth Chettleburgh, Daniel Clack, Elizabeth Clark, Cllr. Ernie Clark, Stephen Clark, Amanda Clarke, Isabel Clarke, Rasullah Clarke, Sue Clarke, Andy Clayton, Michael Clayton, Cllr Rollie Cleere, Gavin Cliffe, Ian Cluley, Howard Cole, Margaret Cole, Don Collier, Mark Connolly, Derek Coop, Gerry Cooper, Gill Cooper, Ros Cooper, Steve Cooper, Mr Philip Coote, Adam Cordingley, Melksham Without Parish Council, Nick Court, Peter Court, David Couzens, Deborah Couzens, Russell Cox, Jane Cragg-Barber, Ariane Crampton, Peter Crane, Ellie Crouch, Margaret Crumley, Marc Crundell, Simon Crundell, Ian Cunningham, Julie Cunningham, A Cuttall, Christine Dance, Peter Dauncey, Lynda Davey, Catharina Davies, Leah Davies, Melvin Davis, W R Davis, Peter R. Davis, John Davison, Trevor Daw, Brian De'ath, Gail Delahaye, Michael Deverill, Robert Dickenson, Viv Dipper, Graham Ditte, Michael Dix, Apoorva Dixit, Rob Dixon, Mike Dille, Alistair Dobbie, Ian M Dobie, Louise Dodge, Greg Dring, Rob Drummond, Gerard Duddridge, John Dunn, Peter Durnan, Andy Durrant, Andrew Eberlin, Molly Edge, Peter Edge, Charles Edwards, Colin Edwards, John Elliott, Chris Ellis, Graham Ellis, Lisa Ellis, Norman Ellis, Simon Ellison, Wilfred Emmanuel-Jones, Wilfred Emmanuel-Jones, Ann-Marie Escott, Ian Escott, Austen Espeut, Clare Ettinger, Gareth Evans, Nick Evans, Cllr Sue Ezra, Richard Fairhurst, Andrew Fall, Will Fancy, Phil Farmer, Mark Fell, Mr Brendan Fenlon, Mike Ferris, F Fieber, Joyce Field, Tony Field, David Fielden, Michelle Finch, Mrs L M Fish, Steven Fish, Rosemary Fisher, Steven Fisk, Ged Fitzgibbon, Janet Fitzjohn, Claire Fleming, Lee Fletcher, Nicki Fletcher, Sally Ford, Karen Forester, Wendy Forsyth, Steve Fountain, Andrew Fox, Tim Freeborn, Kate Freeman, John Freidberger, Valerie Fritz, Peter Fuller, Joyce Furnell, Stuart Fyfe, Richard Gale, Rosemarie Gale, Steve Gale, Will Gale, Stuart Gascoigne, Graham Giles, Karen Giles, Mark Giles, Chris Gillham, John Girdler, John Glover, Elaine Godley, Benji Goehl, Tricia Golinski, Alex Gordon, P A Gordon-Duff, Tehmina Goskar, Dr Claire Graves, Julie Green, Peter Greenhalgh, Andrew Griffin, Brigid Griffith, Cllr Mark Griffiths, Carole Groombridge, Donald Groombridge, Peter J Grove, Ruth Grundy, Richard Gurney, Bill Guy, Marieke Guy, David Habershon, Richard Hadlow, Mary Hagger, Colin Hall, Robert Hall, Kate Halliday, Duncan Hames, John Hamley, Pat Hammersley, Chris Hankin, Carla Hanreck, Michael Hanson, W Harding, Anne Hardy, Rosemary Harriott, Chris Harrison, Colin Harrison, Bill Harrop, Richard Harvey, Richard Haverger, Jonathan Hawkes, Peter Hayward, Catherine Helvin, Mike Hemming, Peter Henden, Mr John Henderson, Sue Henderson, Karl Hewlett, Matthew Hibbert, Barbara Hickman, Carol and Ray Hillier, S Von Hippel, Joanne Hoare, Cat Hobbs, Jesse Holloway, Nigel Holman, Christopher J Holmes, John Horton, Sue Horton, Stephen Howard, James Hubbard, Jon Hubbard, Claire Hudson, Fiona Hulbert, Melanie Humphrey, Keith Humphries, Margaret Humphries, Jane Hunt, Joan Hunt, William Hunt, Benjamin Hutchins, Anne Hutchinson, Steven Hyde, Vanessa Hyde, Kathy Iles, John Ingram, Christopher Irwin, Chris Isaac, David Jackson, Grant Jackson, Rob Jacobs, Chris Jager, Jana James, Mrs Mary Jarvis, Ruth Jefferson, David Jenkins, Philip Johns, Rosalind Johnson, Brenda Jones, Ceri Hurford Jones, Stanley Jones, Tudor Jones, Vincent Jones, Cllr Paul Sample JP, Barbara Jupp, Daniel Kelly, John Kelly, Chris Kemp, Frank Keohane, Nicholas Keyworth, Anji King, David King, David Kinge, Pat Kinnersly, Terry Kirby, Gwyneth Knight, Jesse Lake, Mrs Ceri Lambdin, Pamela Lampard, Sarah Lancaster, Jeremy Lane, Tom Lane, Isabel Langsford, Penny Larcombe, Richard Larcombe, Jane Laurie, Ian Lavery, Sarah Lawson, Jacqui Lay, Bob Lee, Martin Leib, Debbie Lennon, Roger Lewis, Henrietta Leyser, Jeff Ligo, Colin Little, G Lloyd, Wendy Lloyd, Anne Lock, Joanne Lockwood, Michael Lodge, Mike Lucas, Lucy Ludlow, Moura MacDonagh, Cate le Grice Mack, Ruth Mackey, Tim Mackie, Alex Malcolm, Sean malough, David Mann, Minter Mari, Amanda Marshall, Howard Marshall, Oliver Marshall, J R Marshall, Kirsten Martin, Jonathan Massey, Carol Mathews, Marianne Matthews, Pete Matthews, Tony Matthews, Jonathan Maxwell, J. McAree, Margaret McCallum, Shirley McCarthy, Fion McCormack, George McDonic, Ian McGill, John McGrath, Jaime McHale, Dominic McKeown, Phil McMullen, Philip McMullen, Tom McMullen, Mrs Gillian Meehan, J Meiklejohn, Glyn Ford MEP, Graham Watson MEP, Adam Michaelson, Anna Michaelson, Lisbet Michelsen, David Miles, Sally Miles, V. Miller, Fraser Mills, Mike Mills, Mr. Yousaf Mirza, Rebecca Mitchener, John Money, Derek Monnery, Cllr.derique montaut, Philip Moody, Barry Moore, Philippa Morgan, Theresa Morrison, Marion Mortimer, Martin Mottram, Margaret Munt, Melanie Murrell, Stephen Musgrave, David Nash, Tim Naylor, John Neal, Mike Neighbour, Rosalyn Newcombe, Mike Newman, Sue Newport, Graham Newton, Giselle M Nicholson, Anthony J Nicklin, Mark W. Norton, T J Nutt, Marianne O'Doherty, Cllr David Oakensen, Cllr Vic Oakman, Lloyd Ocampo, cllr Steve Oldrieve, Kerry-Ann Oliver, Councillor H Osborn, Councillor Jeff Osborn, Kirsty Paget, Richard Pagett, Matt Paish, Stan Pajak, Caroline Palmer, Graham D. Palmer, Joanne Parrock, Martha Parry, Andy Parsons, Salisbury Green Party, Postman Pat, Joe Patrick, Mr S Pe3rriman, D Pearce, Michael And Glenys Pearce, Hugh Pearce, Mike Pearce, Tim Pearce, jane Pelly, Matt Penny, Chloe

Duncan Hames (before he was our MP)



Some of the TransWilts team

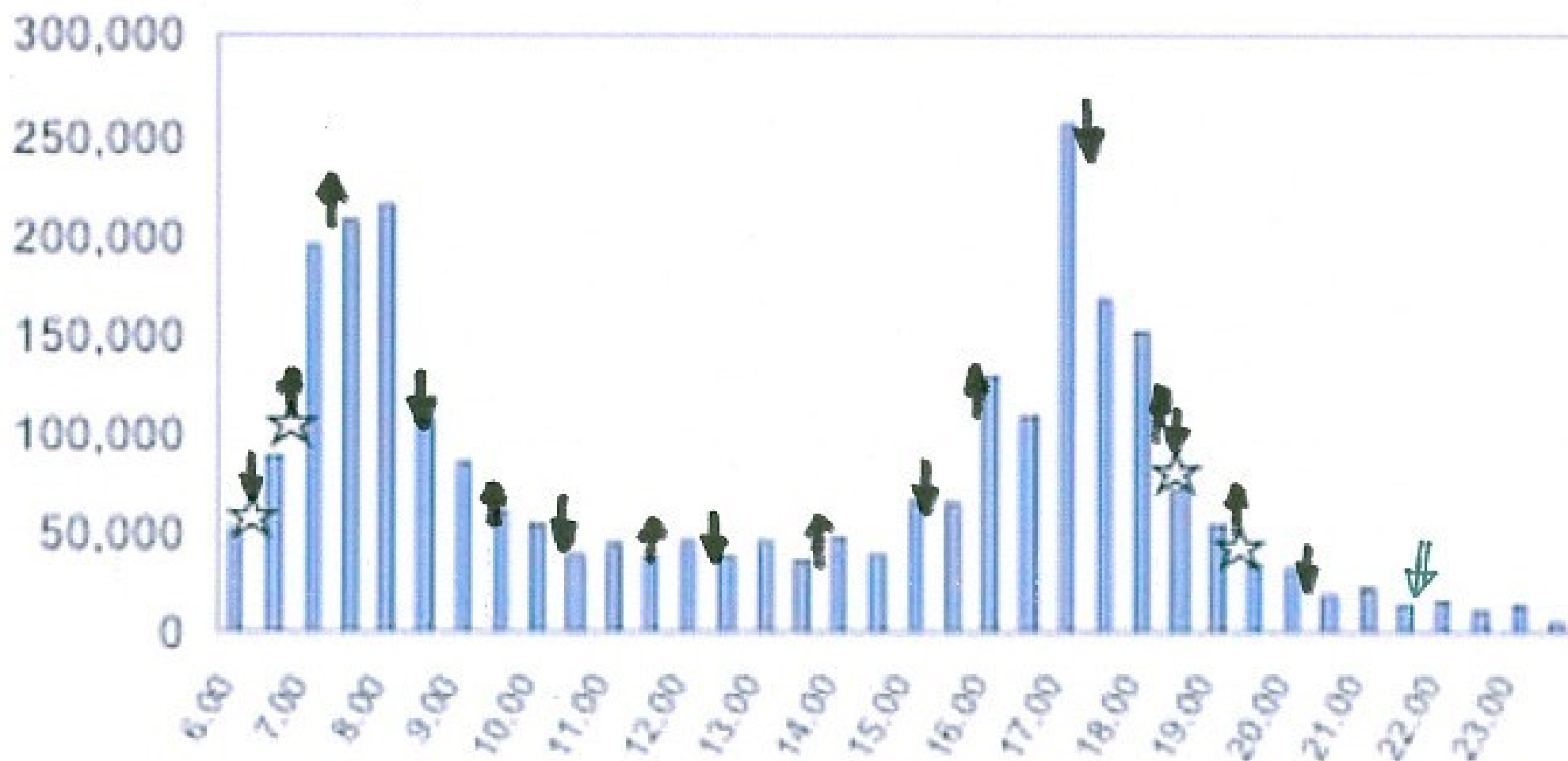


The challenge

- TransWilts Rail – our MP (Duncan Hames), Wiltshire Council, Network Rail, First Great Western, the Wessex Association of Chambers of Commerce, The Swindon and Wiltshire LEP, local community and rail user groups.
- TransWilts rail needed
 - A business case study
 - An operational case study
 - A public survey
 - A Business survey
 - Proof that they could get people to actually use trains

Reports, studies, surveys, trials

Passenger numbers: by time of departure from station Great Britain



A lot of people helped with this

TransWilts Community Rail Partnership

At the re-introduction of day and peak trains from Swindon to Westbury, serving Chippenham, Melksham and Trowbridge – December 2013



A Roll of Honour for the support of the TransWilts railway line and services thereon. The following people, whether or not they remain actively involved to this day, deserve our honour, respect and gratitude for the work they have done and the faith they have had in the project as we herald the start of a service that's improved and much more appropriate for the route it serves, and the towns along the way.

For ...

- * Significant involvement as a campaigner or passenger, longstanding and initiated at least 8 years ago
- * Going greatly above or beyond what would normally be expected from their linked professional role
- * Investment of lots of time and effort - e.g. 150 days or 1500 new threads on the Coffee Shop Forum
- * Nurturing and encouraging others along in the same direction and providing support to those working towards improvement

Roll of honour – December 2013

We salute ...

Adrienne Westbrooke; Alan Baines; Alan Weymouth; Anne Lock;
Bob Lee; Chris Hankin; Chris Irwin; David Philips; David
Redgewell; Duncan Hames; Gordon Dodge; Gordon Edwards;
Jean Harris; Jenny Raggett; John Crook; John Hamley; John
Money; John Wilkinson; John Williams; Jon Glover; Julian Crow;
Julie Boston; Lee Fletcher; Margaret Willmot; Mary Jarvis; Mike
Williams; Nick Westbrook; Paul Johnson; Pete Jobson; Peter
Blackburn; Phil McMullen; Richard Gamble; Rolf Brindle; Sheila
Wilkinson; Sion Bretton; Steve Petty; Terri Welch

*and others we may have missed, especially those before the time
we were involved*

Return of an appropriate service



Appropriate service – trial metrics

- From 8th December 2013, 3 year trial service
- 8 trains each way per day, Monday to
- Saturday Slightly fewer on Sundays
- Target in year 1 – 45,000
- passengers Target in year 3 –
108,000 passengers
- that's up from 56 to 320 journeys per day on the
Chippenham – Melksham – Trowbridge route
section

DfT mechanism to continue if it succeeds

Minister, MP, FGW, Council - **together**



All Party support. Prospective MP & Minister



Upgrading the station. New Shelter



Integrating bus and rail (OOOps)



The Rail Link bus started in the summer of 2014 and ran to spring 2015.

It was financed from the LSTF, and provided by extending the working day of one of the (then) two town bus minibuses.

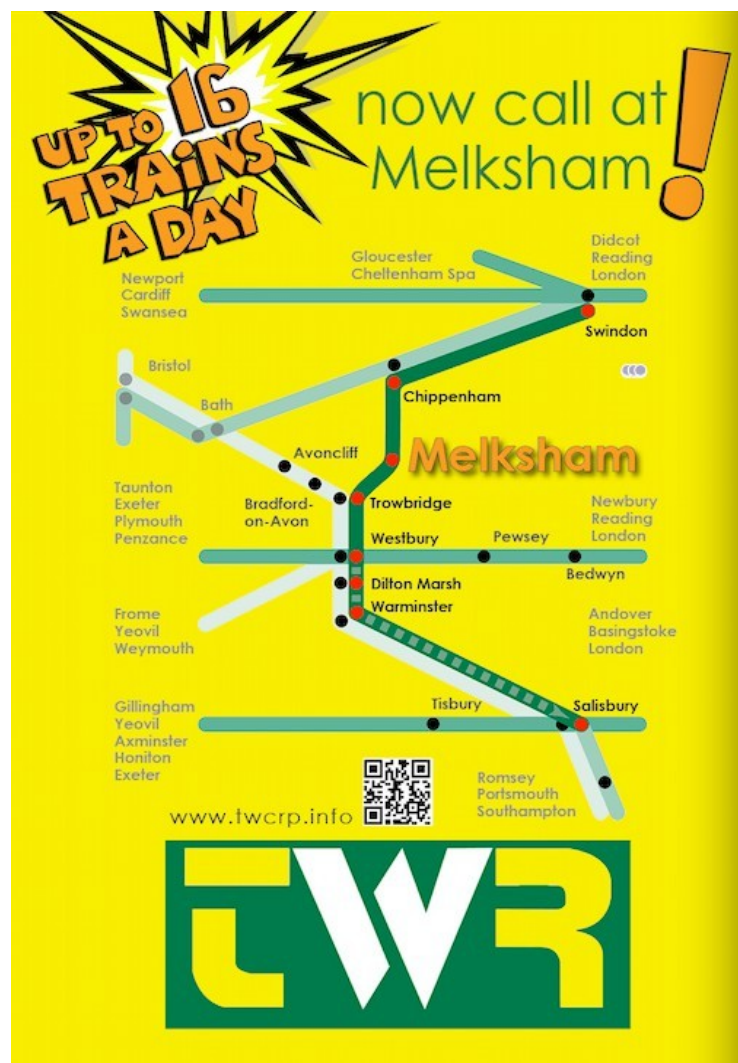
It ran from Bowerhill, via the east of Melksham and The Forest and Town Centre to the railway station in time for the two peak trains to Swindon, and back in the evening after the two peak trains got back.

Passenger numbers were up to about a dozen on the busiest journey in the lead up to Christmas 2014.

A Wiltshire Councillor rode on the service on first day back in the new year (Friday 2nd January) and filed a report that the service only carried a couple of passengers. He requested that the funding be transferred to a youth transport project. We only learn of these activities later so failed to respond with solid data; although there was nothing confidential about them, neither were they published.

The service had been a free one to help build up passenger numbers, funded from grant money. Passengers indicate they would pay for the bus ride like they paid for the train, but without a formal consultation report and only a limited timescale under LSTF, the risk of continuing the service was not taken.

The community letting people know!



First Great Western

Swindon to Westbury

MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS	London Paddington	Reading	Swindon	Chippenham	Melksham	Trowbridge	Westbury	Pewsey	Newbury	Reading	London
	0745	0945	1145	1400	1630	1745	1900				
	0813	1012	1212	1428	1659	1812	1928				
	0612	0849	1047	1247	1514	1736	1852	2012			
	0629	0906	1104	1304	1539	1753	1909	2029			
	0638	0915	1113	1313	1553	1803	1919	2038			
	0647	0931	1124	1323	1602	1813	1928	2048			
	0655	0942	1133	1333	1610	1821	1935	2055			
	1116	1319	1622	1820	1919	2019	2122				
	1209	1409	1710	1912	2010	2113	2213				
	0712	1007	1209	1346	1646	1909	1950	2109			
	0736	1029	1232	1410	1709	1932	2013	2132			
	0809	1104	1304	1504	1804	2004	2048	2202			
	0952	1154	1354	1554	1900	2054	2152	2304			

Weymouth

from £16.50
(off peak day return)

SATURDAYS	UNTIL 6 SEPTEMBER AND FROM 25 OCTOBER					A		B			
	London Paddington	ⓐ	0730	0930	1130	1330	1415	1415	1630	1830	2000
	Reading	ⓐ	0759	0959	1159	1359	1442	1442	1659	1859	2028
	Swindon	d	0836	1036	1236	1436	1522	1522	1736	1936	2108
	Chippenham	d	0853	1053	1253	1453	1539	1539	1753	1953	2125
	Melksham	d	0902	1102	1302	1502	1548	1548	1802	2002	2134
	Trowbridge	d	0912	1112	1312	1512	1558	1558	1812	2012	2144
	Westbury	a	0920	1120	1320	1520	1605	1607	1818	2020	2152
	Yeovil Pen Mill	ⓐ	1006	1316	-	1622c	1817	1821	1919	2222	-
	Weymouth	a	1057	1408	-	1710	1910	1927	2009	2313	-
Warminster	a	0946	1209	1337	1609	1653	1617	1909	2109	2209	
Salisbury	a	1009	1232	1359	1632	1716	1709	1932	2132	2232	
Southampton Central	a	1103	1303	1432	1703	1803	1803	2002	2203	2303	
Portsmouth Harbour	ⓐ	1152	1352	1552	1752	1853	1853	2052	2252	2352	

SATURDAYS		FROM 13 SEPTEMBER UNTIL 18 OCTOBER								
	London Paddington	0736	0936	1136	1352	1452	1636	1836	1952	
	Reading	0814	1015	1214	1428	1529	1712	1912	2028	
	Swindon	0848	1046	1248	1512	1607	1746	1947	2114	
	Chippenham	0905	1103	1305	1529	1624	1803	2004	2131	
	Melksham	0914	1112	1314	1538	1634	1812	2013	2140	
	Trowbridge	0932	1122	1332	1548	1642	1822	2023	2149	

Groups of 3 or more
get a 34% discount
on most off peak fares
when travelling together.
Children half price;
unders 5s go free.

Railcard discounts of
34% available on most
off peak fares.

Return train tickets to Melksham
and Trowbridge are also valid on
the 22:26 bus from Chippenham
Station (service 234).

Taking the news to the residents



The new timetable

The TransWilts line

from 18 May to 12 September, 2014

All trains from Swindon call at Chippenham (journey about 20 minutes), Melksham (30 minutes), Trowbridge (40 minutes), and arrive at Westbury about 50 minutes later. All trains from Westbury call at Trowbridge (about 6 minutes), Melksham (16 minutes), Chippenham (26 minutes), and arrive at Swindon about 50 minutes later. Trains run 7 days a week.

From Swindon

Monday to Friday – 06:12, 08:49, 10:47, 12:47, 15:14, 17:36, 18:52, 20:12 and 21:45 (B)

Saturdays – 08:36, 10:36, 12:36, 14:36, 15:22, 17:36, 19:36, 21:08 and 21:30 (B)

Sundays – 09:26, 11:41, 14:51, 17:28, 18:24 and 19:53

From Westbury

Monday to Friday – 07:04, 07:32, 09:48, 11:47, 14:14, 16:15, 18:32, and 19:32

Saturdays – 07:32, 08:22, 09:32, 11:32, 13:32, 15:06, 16:32 and 18:32

Sundays – 08:35, 10:32, 13:32, 16:29, 17:20, 18:50 and 19:40

(B) - By bus from Chippenham / only runs as far as Trowbridge. Train tickets accepted.

How is it doing?



Getting Communities to use it



How was it doing by summer 2014?



Getting Commuters to use them



... into Swindon



Out for the day

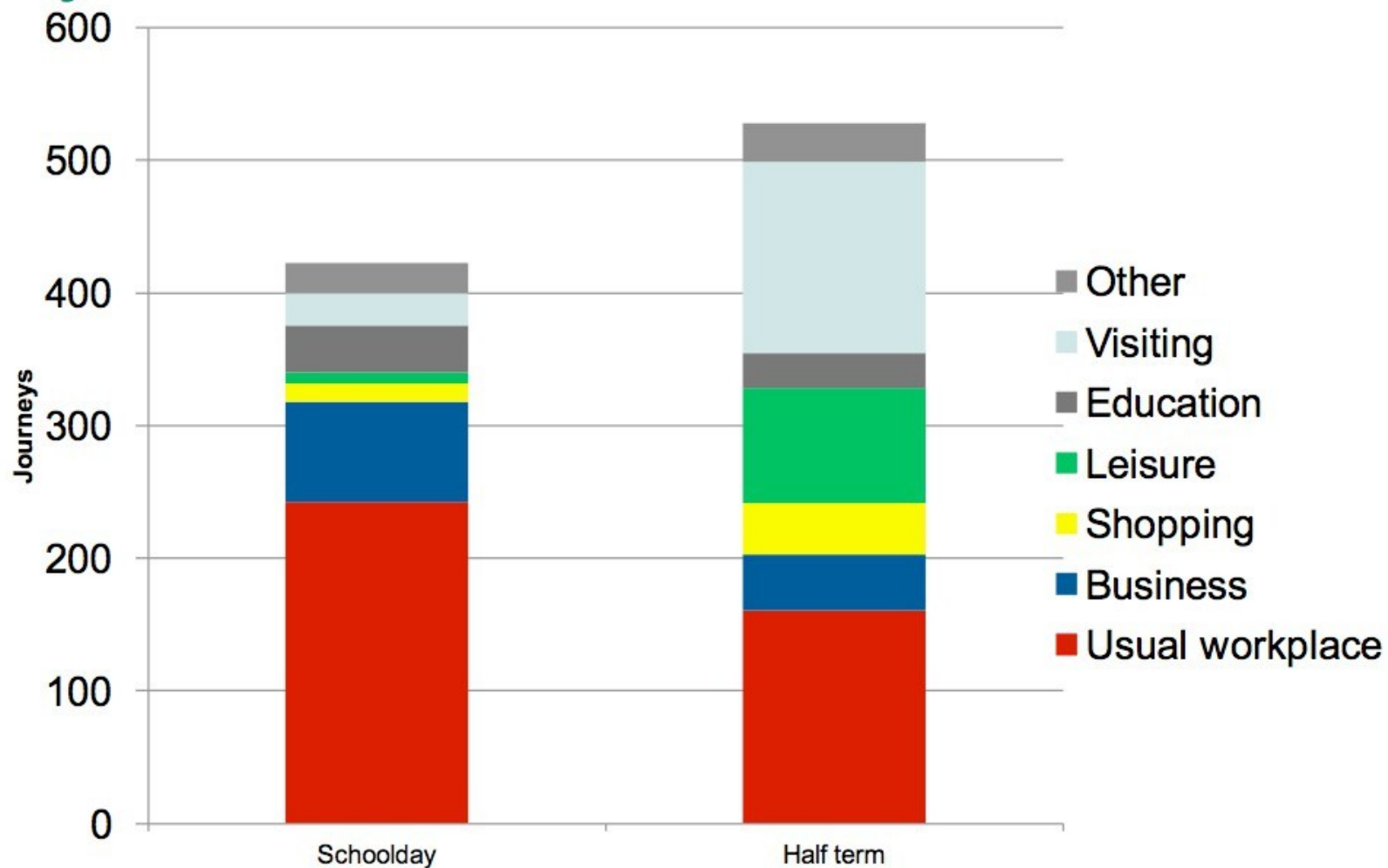


How is it doing?

- It's very hard to tell how a train service is doing from pictures, so I'm going to share with you some figures that were presented by Wiltshire Council to the First Great Western Stakeholder's conference on 26th May 2014
- Remember the old figure of **56** journeys per day. The forecast was **135** per day in the first year, with a target of **320** per day by the third year.
- We're just six months in so far ...

Numbers of journeys and types

Journeys



Where the new passengers come from

A day in the (early) life of TransWilts

- 46 journeys previously made entirely by car
- 15 journeys previously made by bus
 - But 43 TWR journeys started or ended with a bus
- 85 journeys previously made via Bath
 - Saving of typically 19 minutes
 - Capacity relief for Westbury-Bath corridor
- 129 completely new journeys
 - Over a third associated with new job or home
 - A quarter described as “too difficult” prior to the new train service

Melksham is at the heart of the network



The Customer's view

The additional services
on this route have been
life changingly positive!

Commuter

*It's fab having this route.
I am teaching the
children the route so that
they can go on their own
in future*

*Leisure traveller with party of
children*



The future – as it was 10 years ago

- Next franchise from 2015 for 1, 3 or 5 years
- Longer term planning up to 2026 at LEP and WC and DfT

Everyone is thinking now about what comes next

- Shrinking, growing or mushrooming??
- Changing ... timetable? ... trains? ... route?
- Signalling? ... loops? ... doubling? ...
curve? ... electric?

- Ideas that were once pie in the sky become possible then probable

Supported by everyone together via the TransWilts
Community Rail Partnership (“TransWilts Rail”)

My conclusion in 2014 ...

Please use our train service!

~~Any Questions?~~

What has happened since?

You know what they say about the TransWilts...



TransWilts Line Your north/south connection in Wiltshire

- Services from morning to evening, seven days a week.
- Journey time about 45 minutes, Swindon to Westbury.
- Through ticketing from and to any National Rail station in Great Britain.



For more information:
www.gwr.com
 03457 000 125
www.transwilts.org
 0845 459 0153

These trains are operated by Great Western Railway as part of the Department for Transport franchise for the wider area. Services from Swindon to Westbury are a Community Rail Service designated by the Department for Transport through the TransWilts CIC.



AC:RP
New life for local lines

Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

GWR | Great Western Railway

Melksham train departures

Returning to Melksham

Train departs from Swindon for Melksham just past 10.00am (approx 10.10am)

Monday to Friday

06:11, 08:44, 11:05, 13:14, 15:14

17:35, 18:51 and 20:45

Saturdays

08:45, 11:04, 13:04, 15:04, 16:01

17:35, 19:33 and 21:07

Sundays

09:12, 11:41, 13:41, 15:46, 17:44, 19:27 and 21:10

Train departs from Westbury for Melksham just past 10.00am (approx 10.10am)

Monday to Friday

05:17, 07:03, 07:35, 09:45, 12:15

14:15, 16:25, 18:39 and 20:06

Saturdays

07:37, 08:35, 10:05, 12:05, 14:07

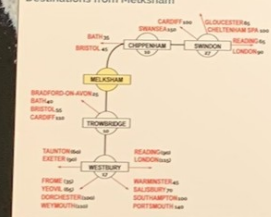
15:00, 16:32 and 18:35

Sundays

08:20, 10:44, 12:39, 14:05, 16:50

18:35 and 20:18

Destinations from Melksham



Numbers shown on this diagram are typical journey minutes. Train leaving Melksham for Chippenham at 06:11am (approx 06:20am) will arrive at Chippenham at 06:56am. A change of train is required on the way. Journey time shown includes the time taken to get on and off the train. Some journeys may take longer than shown.

Contact details

Website - <http://www.mrug.org.uk>

Facebook - [MelkshamMUG](https://www.facebook.com/MelkshamMUG)

Email - info@melkshamrug.org.uk

Twitter - [@MelkshamMUG](https://twitter.com/MelkshamMUG)

Melksham
rail user group

Trains Departing from Melksham Station

Monday to Friday		Saturdays		15 December 2019 until 16 May 2020	
TRAVELLING TO	LEAVES MELKSHAM AT	TRAVELLING TO	LEAVES MELKSHAM AT	TRAVELLING TO	LEAVES MELKSHAM AT
Chippenham and Swindon	05:33	Chippenham and Swindon	07:52	Chippenham and Swindon	08:37
Trowbridge and Westbury ¹	06:36	Chippenham and Swindon	08:50	Trowbridge and Westbury	09:36
Chippenham and Swindon ²	07:19	Trowbridge and Westbury	09:10	Chippenham and Swindon	11:00
Chippenham and Swindon	07:52	Chippenham and Swindon	10:20	Trowbridge and Westbury	12:05
Trowbridge and Westbury	09:09	Trowbridge and Westbury	11:29	Chippenham and Swindon	12:56
Chippenham and Swindon	10:01	Chippenham and Swindon	12:20	Trowbridge and Westbury ³	14:04
Trowbridge and Westbury	11:30	Trowbridge and Westbury	13:29	Chippenham and Swindon	15:06
Chippenham and Swindon	12:32	Chippenham and Swindon	14:22	Trowbridge and Westbury	16:10
Trowbridge and Westbury	13:39	Trowbridge and Westbury	15:15	Chippenham and Swindon	17:06
Chippenham and Swindon	14:32	Trowbridge and Westbury	16:26	Trowbridge and Westbury	18:08
Trowbridge and Westbury	15:39	Chippenham and Swindon	16:47	Chippenham and Swindon	18:51
Chippenham and Swindon	16:41	Trowbridge and Westbury	17:58	Trowbridge and Westbury	19:51
Trowbridge and Westbury	18:01	Chippenham and Swindon	18:50	Chippenham and Swindon	20:34
Chippenham and Swindon	18:55	Trowbridge and Westbury	19:58	Trowbridge and Westbury	21:34
Trowbridge and Westbury ¹	19:16	Chippenham and Swindon	20:22		
Chippenham and Swindon ²	20:22	Trowbridge and Westbury	21:32		
Trowbridge and Westbury	21:10				

The Winter 2019/Spring 2020 brochure contains more information and is currently available at the following locations: Melksham Tourist Information Centre, Melksham Town Hall, Melksham Library, and members of Melksham Rail User Group.

Melksham
rail user group

Steam trains return / excursions 2014 and 2016





Electric trains aborted to Chippenham



Level Crossing improvements have started





There is still some old stuff around



West Wiltshire Rail User Group







Better train information and gaps at ene of day filled

Departures from Melksham			
Time	Destination	Plat	Expected
18:01	Westbury Calling at: Trowbridge (18:10), Westbury (18:17). (GWR) Last report: Arrived at Melksham (17:53) Note: This train has 2 coaches.	1	On time
18:55	Swindon Calling at: Chippenham (19:04), Swindon (19:21). (GWR) Last report: No report Note: This train has 2 coaches.	1	On time
19:16	Southampton Central Warminster (19:45), Salisbury (20:05), Romsey (20:24), Southampton Central (20:36). (GWR) Last report: Between Gloucester and Stonehouse (17:52)	1	On time
20:22	Cheltenham Spa via Swindon Calling at: Chippenham (20:31), Swindon (20:49), Kemble (21:07), Stroud (21:21), Stonehouse (21:26), Gloucester (21:42), Cheltenham Spa (22:05). (GWR)	1	On time
21:10	Westbury Calling at: Trowbridge (21:19), Westbury (21:26). (GWR) Last report: No report	1	On time

Ticket Vending Machine



Parking has gone from free to paid and feared





More occasional special trains



We measure how busy by the amount of rubbish



29th September 2016 – Marketing Award and accreditation



Weymouth Wizard – summer 2016

The purpose of this train is to provide an extra service and relief capacity from Bristol and especially Trowbridge and Westbury onwards to Weymouth on Summer

Saturdays. In past years and when there's not been engineering, the train has run shortly behind a regular train and it's been hard to persuade too many people to "wait for the nice train", resulting at Westbury, where a four- or five-car train has left packed and then 25 minutes behind it a very sparsely occupied eight-coach HST. The objective has been to get the train, with around 500 to 550 seats, bustling, even though on the direct route, the numbers often struggle to get much more than 100 passengers. This social media campaign succeeded.

From	To	Fare
Bristol Temple Meads	Weymouth	11.10
Salisbury	Weymouth	10.40
Chippenham	Weymouth	10.10
Trowbridge	Weymouth	9.80
Westbury	Weymouth	9.50
Frome	Weymouth	9.20
Castle Cary	Weymouth	8.90
Westbury	Weymouth	8.60
Westbury	Weymouth	8.30
Westbury	Weymouth	8.00
Westbury	Weymouth	7.70
Westbury	Weymouth	7.40
Westbury	Weymouth	7.10
Westbury	Weymouth	6.80
Westbury	Weymouth	6.50
Westbury	Weymouth	6.20
Westbury	Weymouth	5.90
Westbury	Weymouth	5.60
Westbury	Weymouth	5.30
Westbury	Weymouth	5.00
Westbury	Weymouth	4.70
Westbury	Weymouth	4.40
Westbury	Weymouth	4.10
Westbury	Weymouth	3.80
Westbury	Weymouth	3.50
Westbury	Weymouth	3.20
Westbury	Weymouth	2.90
Westbury	Weymouth	2.60
Westbury	Weymouth	2.30
Westbury	Weymouth	2.00
Westbury	Weymouth	1.70
Westbury	Weymouth	1.40
Westbury	Weymouth	1.10
Westbury	Weymouth	0.80
Westbury	Weymouth	0.50
Westbury	Weymouth	0.20

First Great Western #weymouthwizard



Rail Minister Paul Maynard visits 2nd March 2017



15th June 2018

The core team at the Community Rail conference



Opening and subsequent closure of Hub cafe



Demonstration run of electric bus to the station



Engineering works and rail replacement buses





Cycle hire was tried











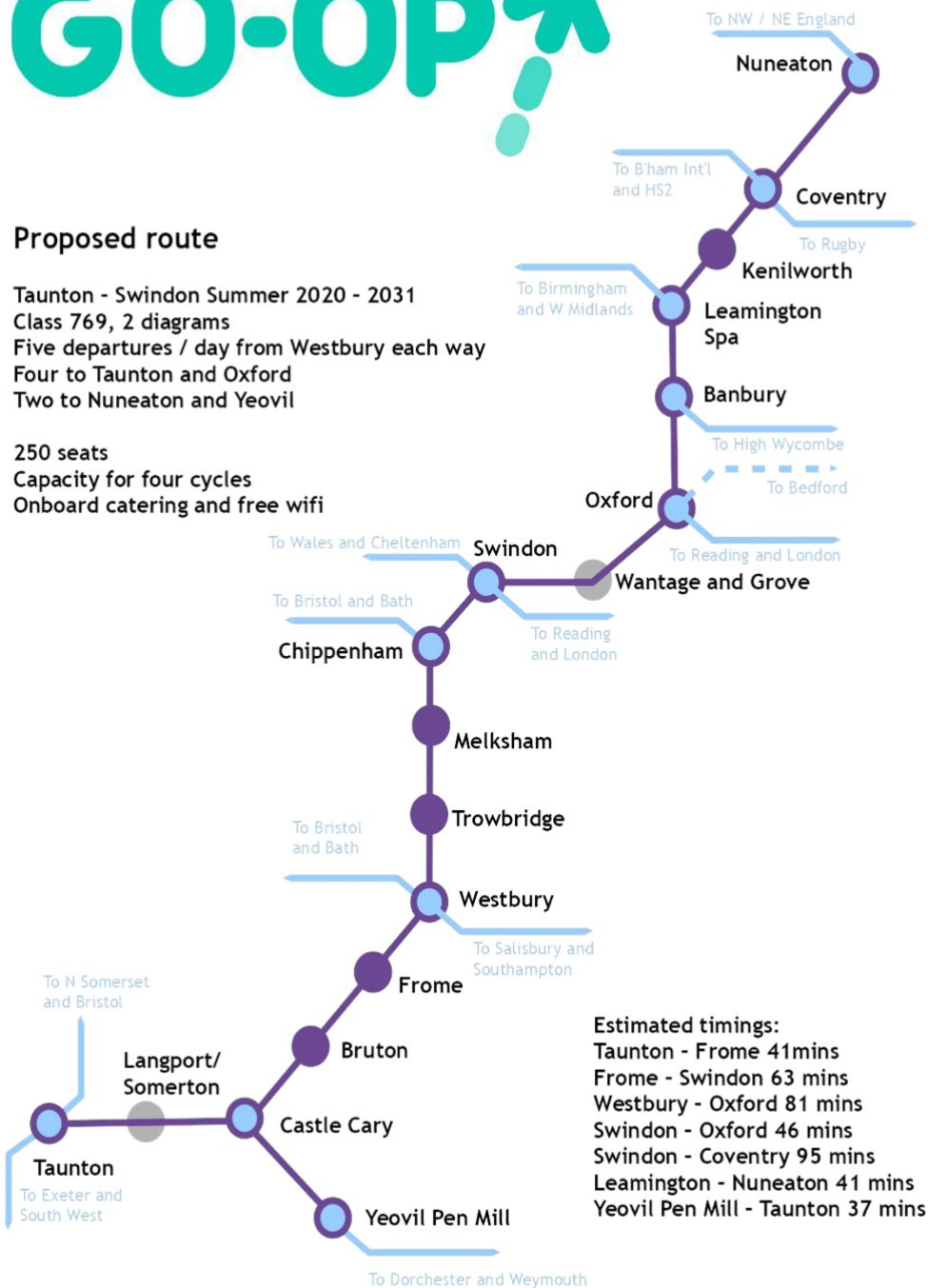


GO-OP

Proposed route

Taunton - Swindon Summer 2020 - 2031
Class 769, 2 diagrams
Five departures / day from Westbury each way
Four to Taunton and Oxford
Two to Nuneaton and Yeovil

250 seats
Capacity for four cycles
Onboard catering and free wifi



**MELKSHAM
TRANSPORT
USER GROUP**



TransWilts changed to being an accredited CRP





8th December 2023 – A million journeys in 10 years



A “Thank You” to all – Wiltshire Council, Department for Transport, TransWilts, Travelwatch SouthWest, First Group, and the local Town Council shown at Westbury.

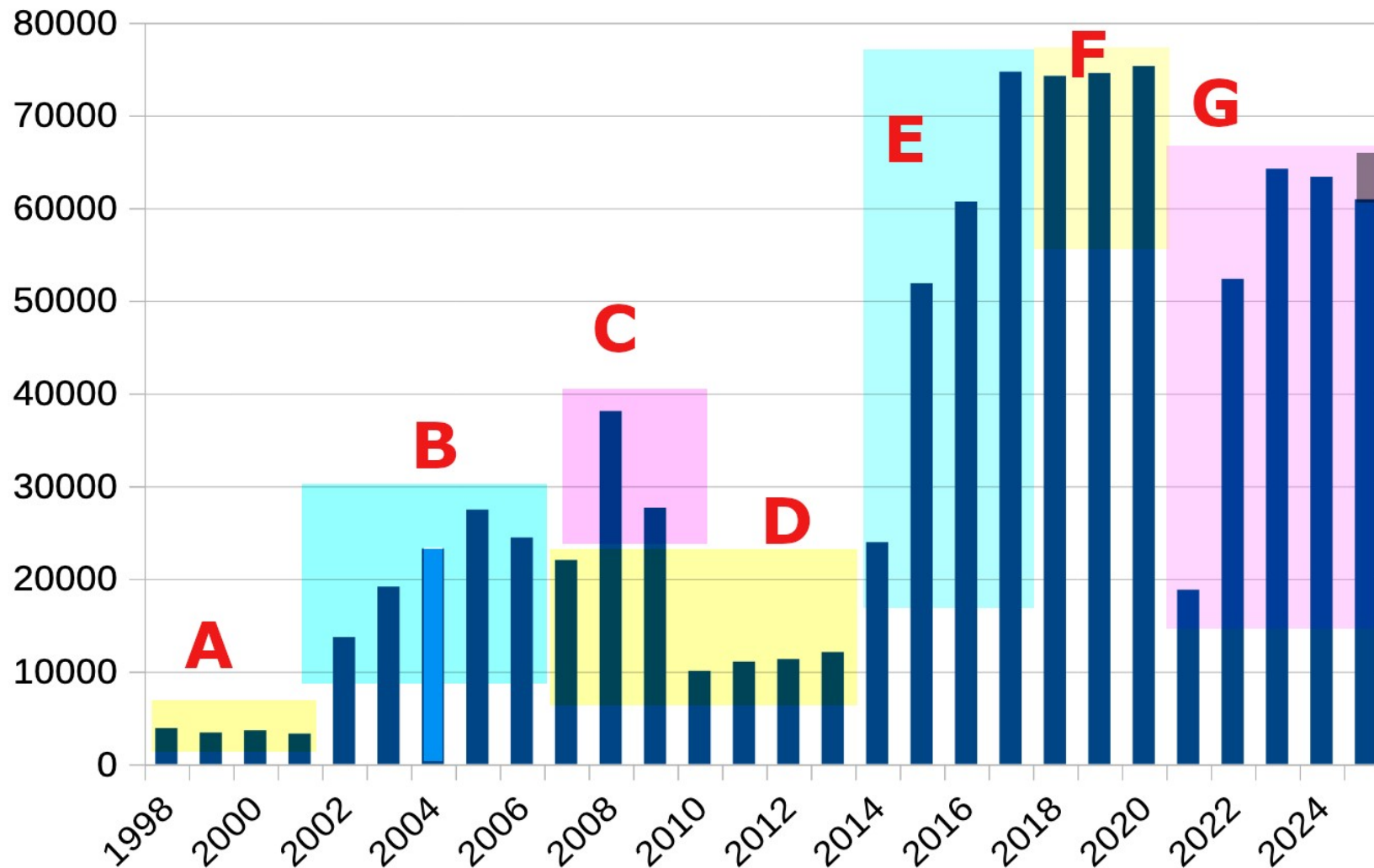


Melksham Station, today (August 2026)



This millenium – now 25 years more history

Ticket sales for train journeys to / from Melksham



Key to previous slide

A - Bumping along with just a single commuter service to Swindon and back, 5 days a week

B - Wessex Trains, 5 each way per day. 2004 is an estimate.

C - "Melksham Specials" - dominant sales of Melksham to Bristol tickets for use only from Trowbridge or B-o-A

D - First Great Western - 2 trains each way per day

E - Local Sustainable Transport fund - up to 8 / 7 (Sat) / 5 (Sun) trains each way per day

F - Commuter train full, reliability issues started, community rail refocused

G - Covid! And post-covid period. Line closed for 5 weeks in year to end of March 2025.

GWR

Let's travel safely
this summer



Travel at quieter times



Wash your hands



Wear a face covering

To find out more visit GWR.com/Safety



The Melksham Rail User Group is an independent local community group which looks to encourage the use of public transport for journeys to, from and within Melksham.

Public transport timetables: <http://melksham.go>
Main web site: <http://www.mrug.org.uk>



We thank
Melksham Town Council,
Melksham Without Parish Council,
and all users of trains & buses
for their support.



We are members of TransWilts CIC and the Community Rail Network.

Melksham
rail user group



Melksham Trains, Summer 2020

Change of timetables for other services:
--- to Frome, Tisbury and the South West
--- to Frome, Tisbury, Pewsey, Marlborough and Marnham
--- to Marlborough, Salisbury, Southampton and Portsmouth
--- to Dorchester, Exeter and Plymouth
--- to Exeter, Plymouth and London (Plymouth)
--- to Exeter, Plymouth and London (Plymouth)
--- to Exeter, Plymouth and London (Plymouth)

Change of timetables for other services:
--- to Frome, Tisbury and the South West
--- to Frome, Tisbury, Pewsey, Marlborough and Marnham
--- to Marlborough, Salisbury, Southampton and Portsmouth
--- to Dorchester, Exeter and Plymouth
--- to Exeter, Plymouth and London (Plymouth)
--- to Exeter, Plymouth and London (Plymouth)
--- to Exeter, Plymouth and London (Plymouth)

Monday to Friday for late July, August and early September 2020

This service may vary on Bank Holiday Monday (1st August)

Westbury	08:17	08:45	12:10	14:10	16:25	18:20
Trouton	08:23	08:51	12:16	14:16	16:31	18:26
Melksham	08:33	09:01	12:26	14:26	16:41	18:36
Chippenham	08:43	09:11	12:36	14:36	16:51	18:46
Swindon	08:59	09:27	12:52	14:52	17:07	19:02
Swindon	08:11	08:44	11:05	13:14	15:14	17:30
Chippenham	08:27	09:00	11:21	13:30	15:30	17:46
Melksham	08:36	09:09	11:30	13:39	15:39	17:55
Trouton	08:46	09:19	11:40	13:49	15:49	18:05
Westbury	08:53	09:25	11:46	13:55	15:55	18:11

Saturdays for late July and August 2020

Note: the 1st train to Swindon on a Saturday evening in both directions at present
Trains replaced by bus on 1st September

Westbury	07:37	12:05	14:07	16:30	18:25
Trouton	07:43	12:11	14:13	16:36	18:31
Melksham	07:53	12:21	14:23	16:46	18:41
Chippenham	08:05	12:33	14:35	16:58	18:53
Swindon	08:24	12:52	14:54	17:17	19:12

Swindon 08:33 11:05 13:05 15:05 17:34 19:34
Chippenham 08:54 11:22 13:22 15:22 17:49 19:49
Melksham 09:00 11:31 13:31 15:31 17:59 19:59
Trouton 09:10 11:41 13:41 15:41 18:08 20:08
Westbury 09:19 11:49 13:49 15:49 18:16 20:16

Sundays for late July and August 2020

Check notice for each Sunday as there may be minor changes.
Example: 08:28 Westbury to Swindon starts from Westbury at 08:47 on 26th July
Trains replaced by bus on 1st September

Westbury	08:28	10:44	14:47	16:58	18:35	20:18
Trouton	08:38	10:54	14:57	17:08	18:45	20:28
Melksham	08:47	11:03	15:06	17:17	18:54	20:37
Chippenham	08:57	11:13	15:16	17:27	19:04	20:47
Swindon	09:13	11:29	15:32	17:43	19:20	21:03
Swindon	09:12	11:41	15:39	17:45	19:27	21:10
Chippenham	09:27	11:56	15:54	18:00	19:42	21:25
Melksham	09:37	12:06	16:04	18:10	19:52	21:35
Trouton	09:46	12:15	16:13	18:19	20:01	21:44
Westbury	09:52	12:21	16:20	18:26	20:09	21:53

Trains operated by GWR - <https://www.gwr.co.uk> E&S 21.7.2020 v0.9

MELKSHAM
TRANSPORT
USER GROUP

Information

Melksham Station
Onward Travel Information

Main destinations by line

Line	Destination	Frequency
Swindon	Swindon	Hourly
Chippenham	Chippenham	Hourly
Westbury	Westbury	Hourly

oWh | Cross Western Railway | National Rail

You must wear
a face covering,
unless exempt.

The British Transport
Police could fine you £100

MELKSHAM TRANSPORT USER GROUP

Your Guide to Transportation Includes: Summer/Autumn Timetables

17 May 2026 through 12 December 2026

SOUTHBOUND – Swindon • Melksham • Westbury

MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS	London Paddington	departs		0748	1000	1213	1415	1623	1748	1900	2131
	train starts from		GCR						GCR		
	Swindon	departs	0603	0845	1105	1314	1514	1745	1844	2012	2231
	Chippenham	departs	0619	0900	1121	1330	1529	1800	1900	2028	2246
	Melksham	departs	0629	0909	1131	1340	1539	1810	1910	2039	2256
	Trowbridge	arrives	0639	0919	1140	1349	1548	1819	1918	2048	2305
	Westbury	arrives	0645	0926	1147	1357	1558	1826	1926	2056	2312
	train continues to		SOU						SAL		

SATURDAYS	London Paddington	departs		0748	1000	1200	1400	1632	1848	2000 ²	2048 ¹
	Swindon	departs	0844	1105	1313	1514	1735	1944	2110 ²	2212 ¹	
	Chippenham	departs	0859	1121	1329	1530	1751	1959	2125 ²	2228 ¹	
	Melksham	departs	0909	1131	1339	1539	1801	2009	2135 ²	2237 ¹	
	Trowbridge	arrives	0918	1140	1348	1548	1810	2018	2144 ²	2247 ¹	
	Westbury	arrives	0925	1148	1355	1557	1818	2025	2152 ²	2255 ¹	
	train continues to		WEY ¹								

SUNDAYS	London Paddington	departs		0759	1030	1230	1445	1645	1845	2030
	Swindon	departs	0908	1132	1332	1544	1744	1943	2134	
	Chippenham	departs	0923	1147	1347	1559	1769	1959	2149	
	Melksham	departs	0932	1157	1356	1609	1809	2009	2159	
	Trowbridge	arrives	0941	1205	1406	1618	1818	2018	2209	
	Westbury	arrives	0949	1214	1412	1626	1825	2025	2216	
	train continues to		WEY ³	WEY	FRO	SAL				

Bold
Through service

Light
Connecting service

¹ until 12/9/2026
² from 19/9/2026
³ until 8/9/2026

NORTHBOUND – Westbury • Melksham • Swindon

MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS	train starts from		SAL								
	Westbury	departs	0705	0745	0945	1217	1418	1623	1837	2006	2116
	Trowbridge	departs	0711	0762	0951	1223	1424	1629	1843	2012	2122
	Melksham	departs	0721	0802	1000	1233	1434	1639	1853	2022	2132
	Chippenham	arrives	0730	0811	1010	1242	1443	1648	1903	2031	2141
	Swindon	arrives	0747	0834	1027	1259	1500	1705	1921	2050	2158
	train continues to		WOF						CNM		
	London Paddington	arrives	0851	0939	1134	1359	1607	1805	2036	2207	2301

SATURDAYS	train starts from								WEY ¹	
	Westbury	departs	0746	0948	1217	1419	1623	1836	2008 ²	2118 ¹
	Trowbridge	departs	0762	0955	1223	1426	1629	1841	2016 ²	2124 ¹
	Melksham	departs	0802	1005	1233	1435	1639	1851	2025 ²	2134 ¹
	Chippenham	arrives	0811	1018	1244	1444	1648	1900	2034 ²	2144 ¹
	Swindon	arrives	0828	1035	1301	1501	1706	1917	2054 ²	2200 ¹
	London Paddington	arrives	0936	1137	1407	1605	1805	2036	2159 ²	2306 ¹

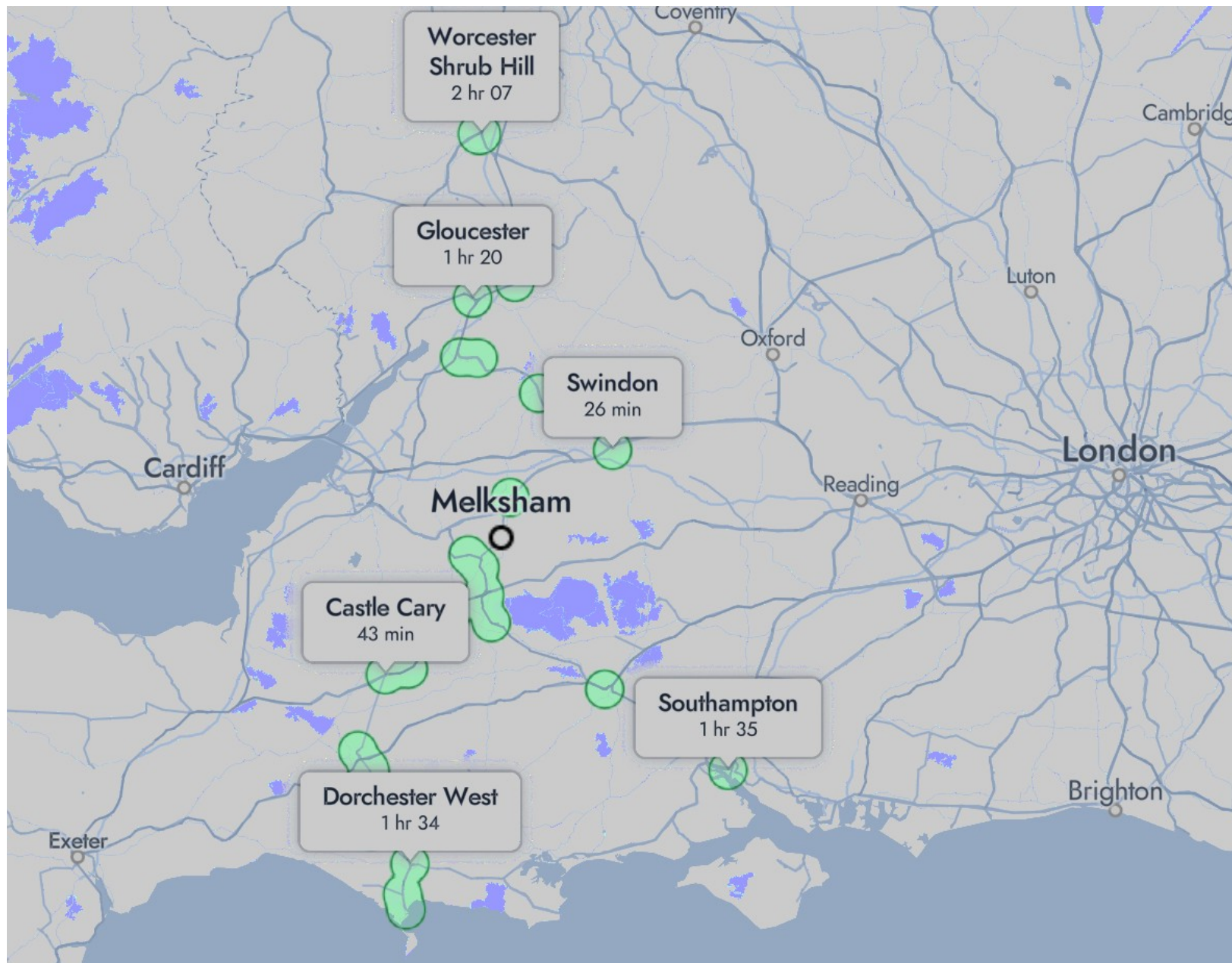
SUNDAYS	train starts from		WMN	WEY	FRO	FRO	CLC		
	Westbury	departs	0816	1041	1213	1414	1652	1849	2038
	Trowbridge	departs	0823	1046	1219	1421	1658	1855	2044
	Melksham	departs	0832	1057	1231	1430	1708	1906	2054
	Chippenham	arrives	0841	1106	1240	1440	1717	1916	2103
	Swindon	arrives	0858	1126	1257	1457	1734	1933	2123
	London Paddington	arrives	1014	1231	1409	1559	1835	2050	2236

Changes to the GWR timetables
The times shown in this timetable are a guide to the GWR services. Train times may change late at night or at weekend. You should always confirm your

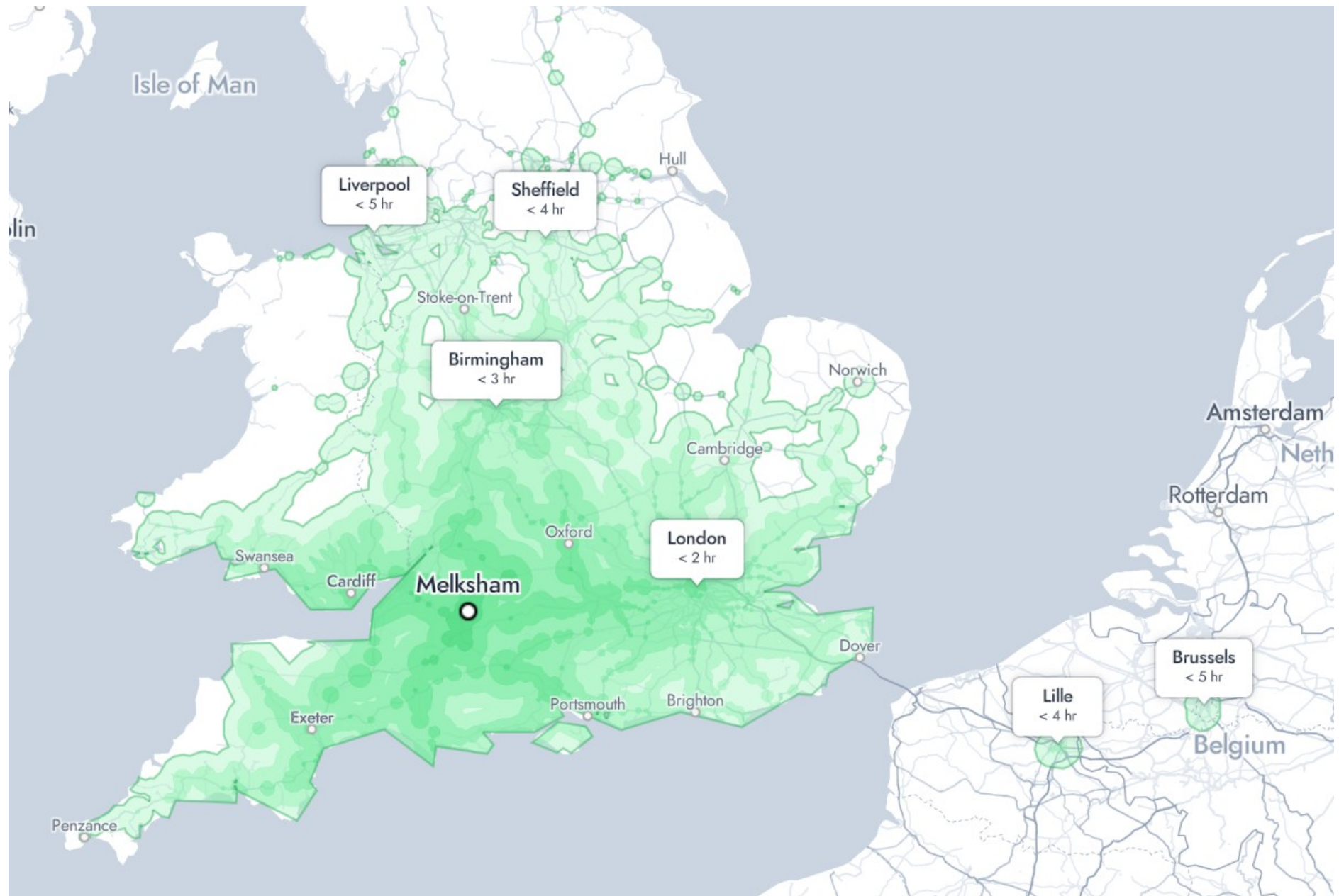
CLC
CNM
FRO
GCR
SAL
SOU
WEY
WMN
WOF

Castle Cary
Cheltenham Spa
Frome
Gloucester
Salisbury
Southampton Central
Weymouth
Warminster
Worcester Foregate Street

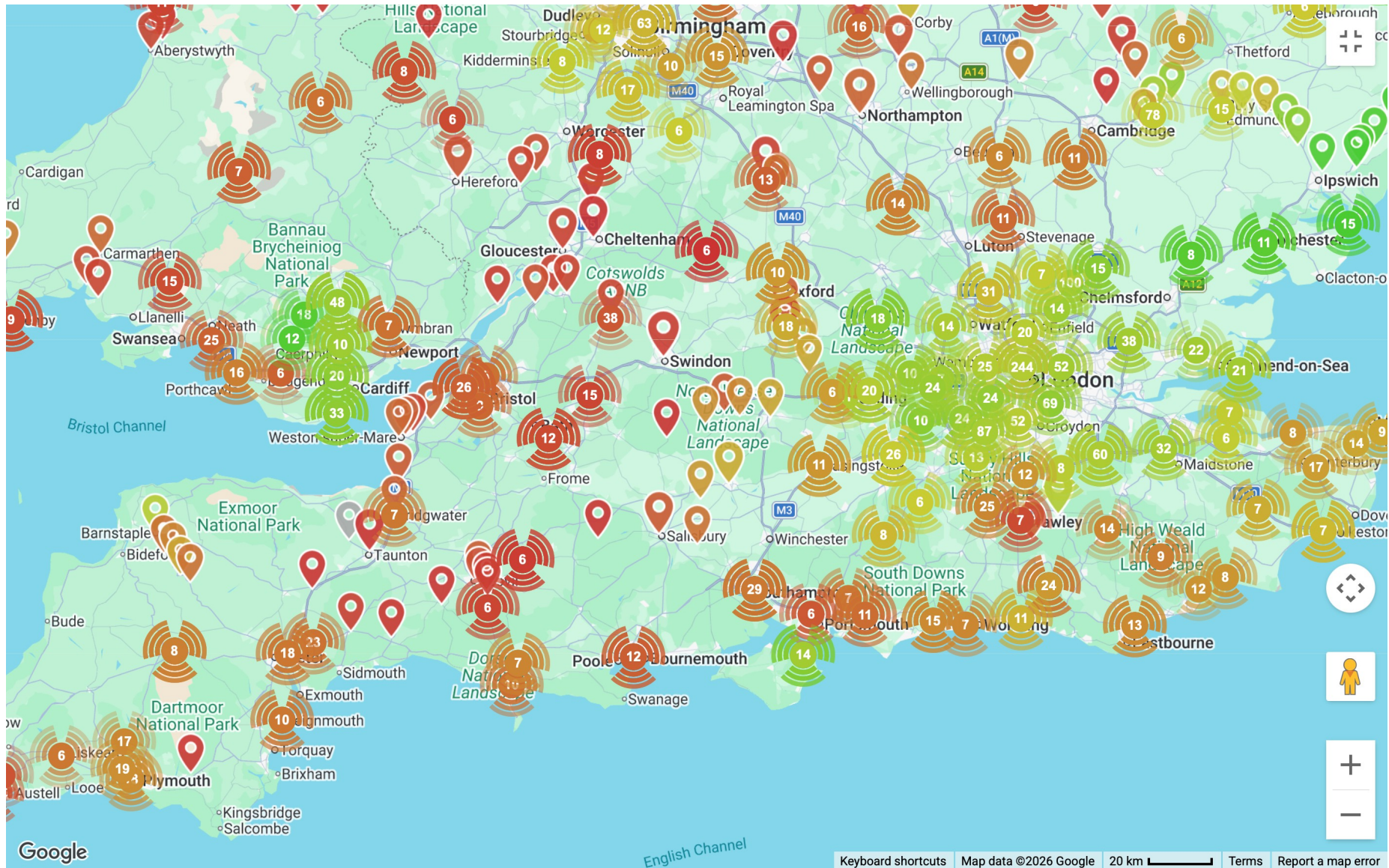
Direct trans from Melksham, Autumn 2026



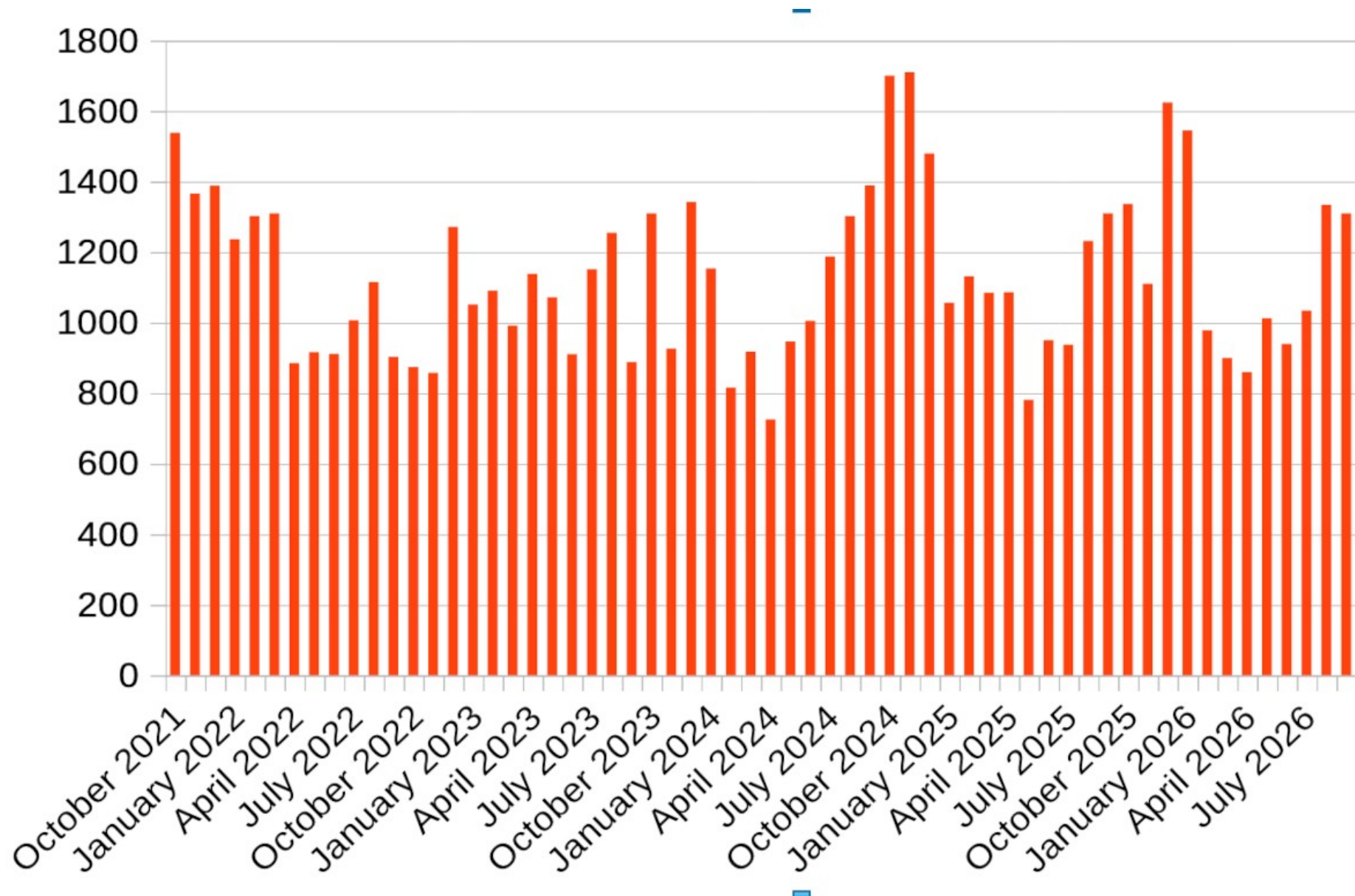
5 hours by train from Melksham



We have a reliability issue right across the region



Lots to talk about – <https://www.passenger.chat> run from Melksham
New posts by month



Who are the organisations you may contact these days?

Parish Councils

Melksham Transport User Group

West Wiltshire Rail User Group

TransWilts Community Rail Partnership

Wiltshire Unitary Council

Western Gateway subNational Transport Body

TravelWatch SouthWest

(First) Great Western Railway

Great Western Coffee Shop forum

Railfuture Ltd

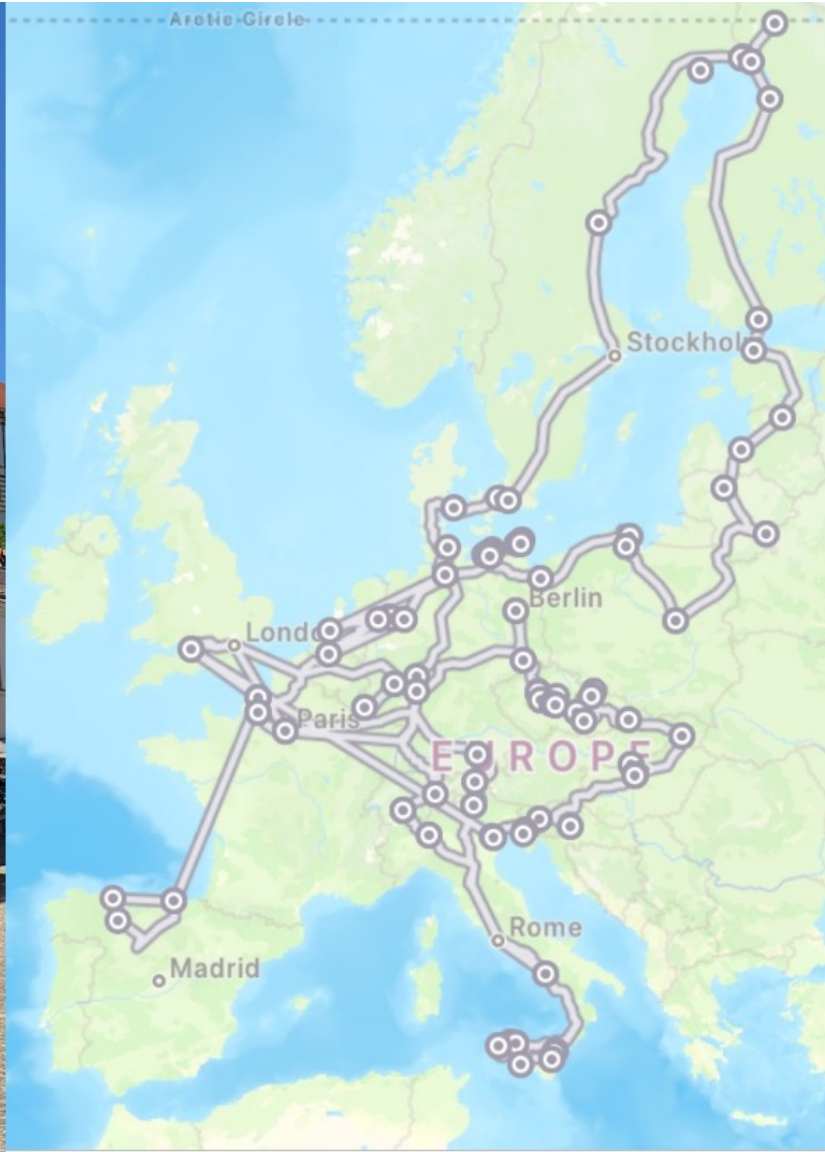
Departement for Transport

Great British Railways

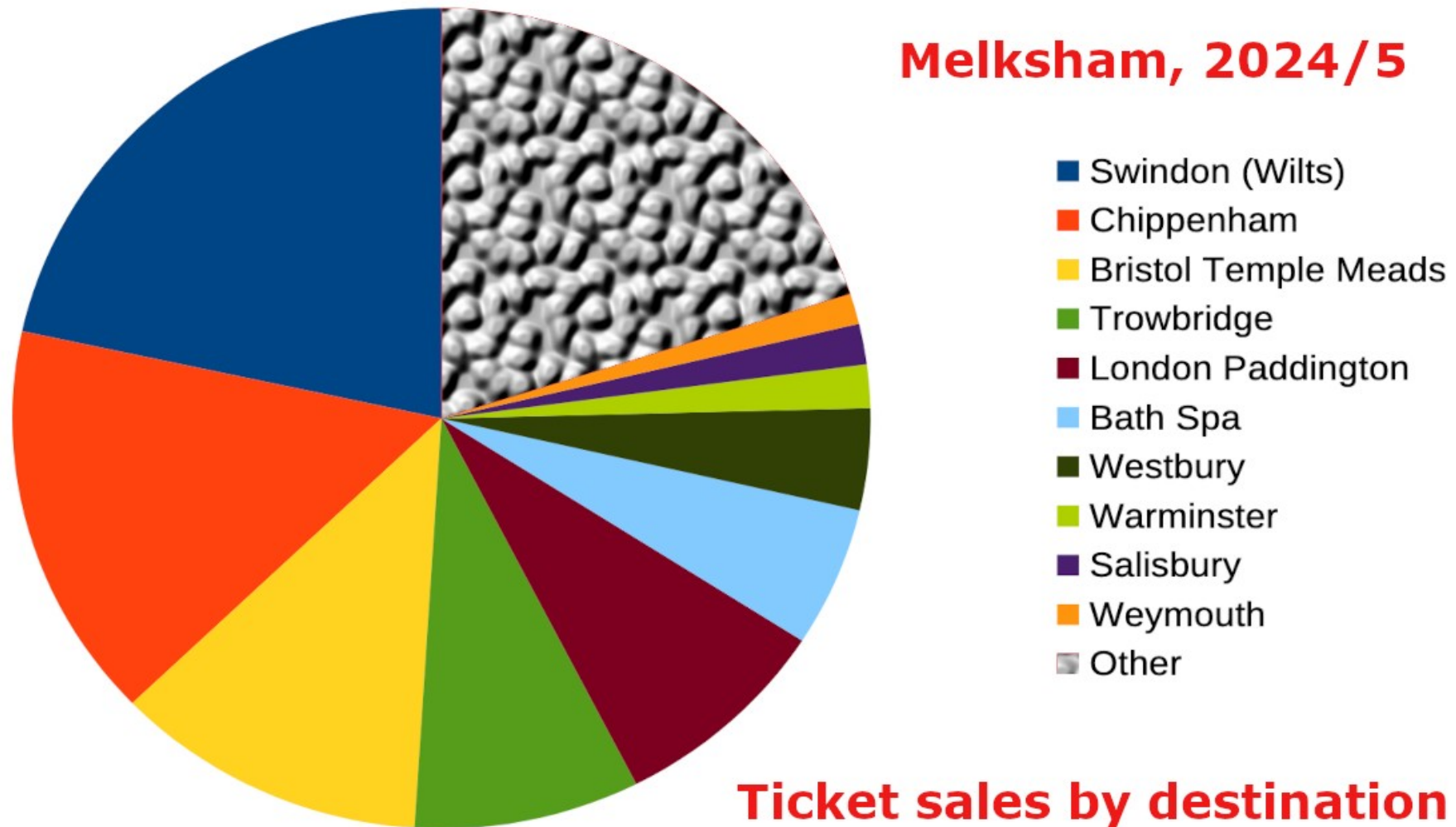
Network Rail

National Rail

Far and wide from Melksham – 2024/5/6 – 2027?

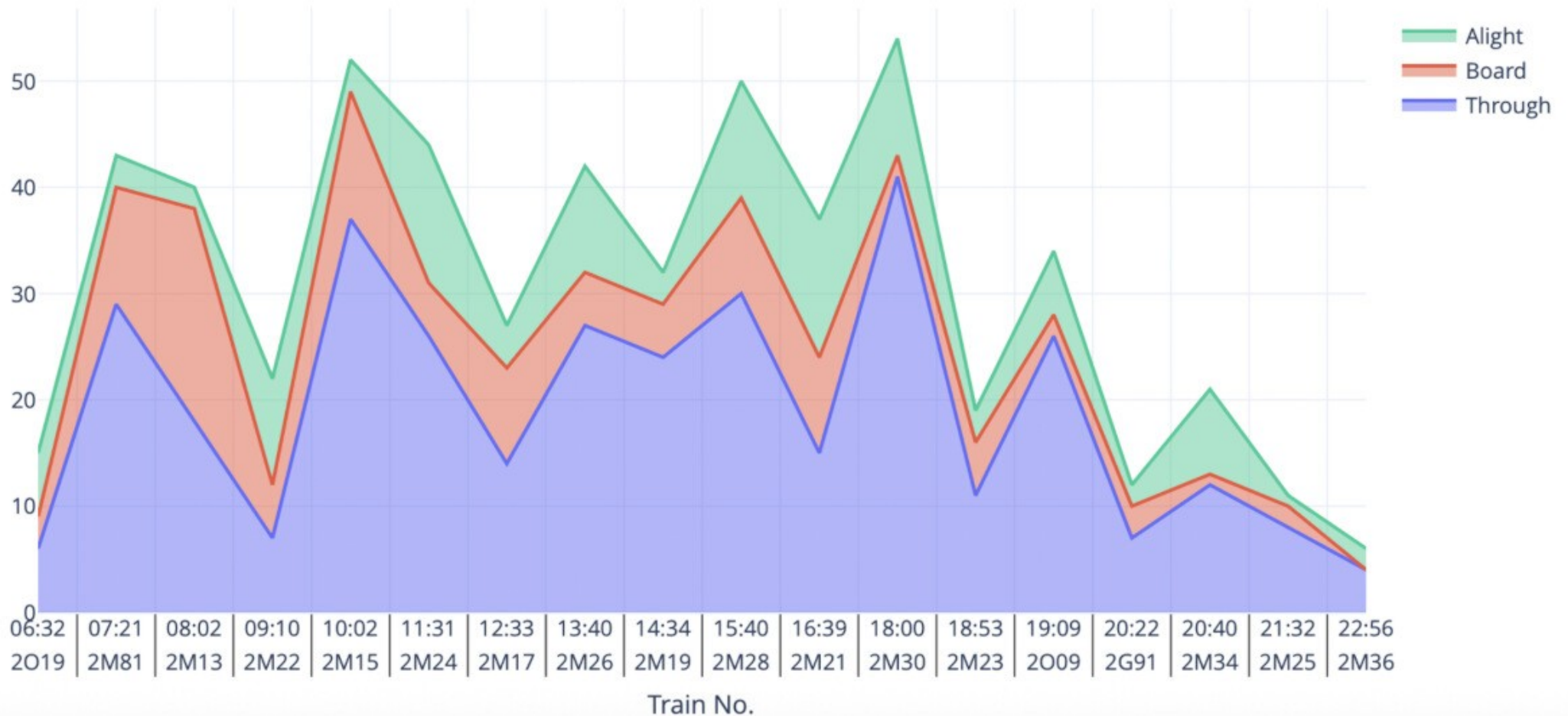


Where do people travel by train?



What time of day do they travel?

Passenger numbers at Melksham on a typical summer weekday in 2024



Looking forward - (1)



Looking forward - (2)

DfTO Operators

LNER
Northern
Southeastern
Transpennine Express
SWR
Greater Anglia
C2C
WMT
GTR

Private Sector TOCs

Chiltern
GWR
EMR
Avanti
CrossCountry

DfTO Transfer

Planned Sept 2026
Planned Dec 2026
TBC 2027
TBC 2027
TBC 2027

Most DfT rail staff transferred to DfTO April 2026

Looking forward - (3)



Volunteers Needed!

Real People
Making a
Difference

Help us with a new and
exciting venture!



Support



Skills



Community



Heritage



Be part of
something special!

More details
to come...

MELKSHAM
TRANSPORT
USER GROUP

Looking forward - (4)

Looking forward - (5)

We are recruiting a team of volunteers to join us at Melksham Station to provide tea, coffee, and help and guidance on public transport to, from and within the Melksham area - opening late 2026.

A friendly face, with a little knowledge of getting around the area, does wonders for passenger confidence and public transport use. Could you be one of those friendly faces welcoming people to Melksham, and helping them connect outward and onward with trains and buses?



THANK YOU ...

The current version of this document may be found at

<https://grahamellis.uk/wsw.pdf>

**And thank YOU for your attention to this presentation
and for using our public transport yourself
as and when it's appropriate to you**



My thanks also to all the wonderful people I have been involved with over the past decades in our joint work on Melksham Station, its train service, and the wider and aspects of public and sustainable transport at they effect the Melksham and the county, region and country. I really appreciate your friendships, even at time when we've not been able to agree on mutual goals and how to achieve them. This has been very much a collaborative team venture with each of us bringing our strengths as we can to reach places we could not otherwise reach, and long may that continue into and through the next decade.

Graham Ellis, October 2026 - graham@sn12.net - 07974 925928

Any questions? Offers to help? Ask now or please get back in touch later.