

Historic Kidderminster Project Report No. 448

Rifle Range Halt, Severn Valley Railway

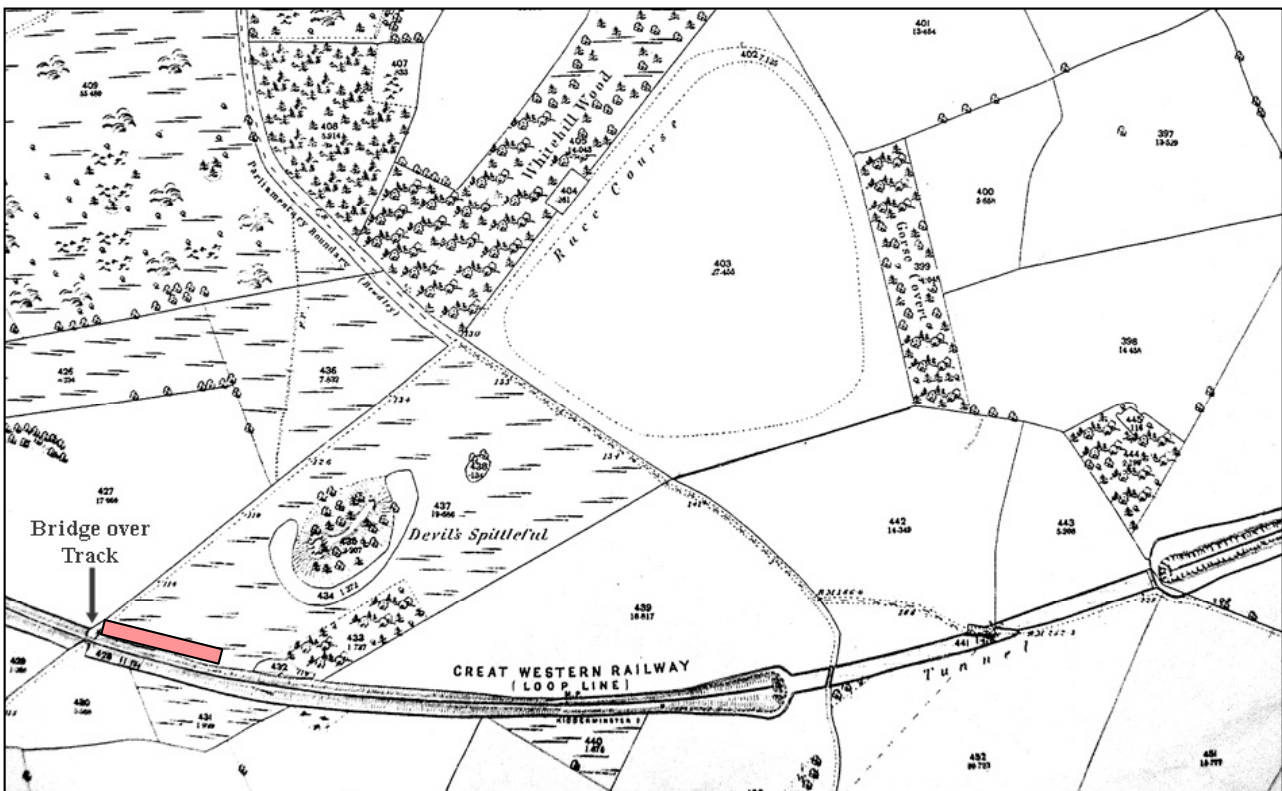
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The building of Rifle Range Halt was authorised by Great Western Railway (GWR) on 12 April 1905 at a cost of £145 [1].

The plans [2] show a timber platform 100 yards long 6' wide and 3' high and a waiting shelter 20' x 7' similar to that on Foley Park Halt [3]. These shelters were commonly known as 'Pagodas' because of their distinctive design.

The Halt was situated [2] next to the line at 137M 34CH (OS Map Grid Reference SO804745) adjoining the bridge over the cart track on the tunnel side. There was a footpath from the platform to the cart track.



OS map for 1884 showing the approximate position of where the Rifle Range Halt (marked in pink) later became situated. OS Grid Reference: SO804745

GWR inspected the Halt on 2 May 1905 and stated that the opening was to be in June [2]; but no official date was given or is known.

Although opened in conjunction with a Steam Rail Motor Service, as was Foley Park Halt [3], the main purpose of Rifle Range Halt was to provide better access for the Local Volunteers (precursors to the Territorial Army) to the nearby Rifle Range which has since lent its name to much of the area shown on the above map.

The Halt was closed to passengers on 4 Oct 1920 but remained *in situ* until the early 1930s [4] for the occasional use by trains conveying military personnel on exercises [5].

The 1884 OS Map above shows the position of Kidderminster Racecourse [6] just a short distance away from the position of the Halt. The two never coexisted; the last meeting at the racecourse being held in 1885. When the 1902 OS map was published the Racecourse area had been renamed as the Rifle Range.

References

1. National Archives, Kew MT/29
2. National Archives, Kew MT134/12
3. Historic Kidderminster Project Report No. 039 Steve Bragginton (2006)
4. The Directory of Railway Stations (1995)
5. Local knowledge
6. Historic Kidderminster Project Report No. 444 Bob Millward (2008)