

Passenger Train Services over Unusual Lines

1978-9

This page updated 13 May 2022

8 May 1978 until 13 May 1979. Unless otherwise indicated, trains operated on Mondays to Saturdays only. SUN denotes Sunday trains.

Rather than offering a complete new edition, those corrections and amendments known to the current compiler are tabulated in this amendment sheet, to be read in conjunction with the original edition. No attempt has been made to correct *mileages* even though some are believed to require revision.

PENMANSHIEL TUNNEL: the tunnel collapsed on 17 March 1979 blocking the East Coast main line between Berwick and Dunbar. A number of diverted and additional trains were operated by other routes – the pattern and use of “unusual” lines being similar to that shown in **PSUL** for 1979-80, *q.v.*

LONDON AREA

L0: add: *{new entry – existing facility not previously recorded}*

L1: **Barking Junction** to read **Barking Tilbury Line Junction West**
Amend explanation of * note: * These trains (to or from the Upminster line) also use the Tilbury Line Junction West – Upney Junction link at the east end of Barking station

New entry: **Lea Junction – High Meads Junction:** NRU

L4 and L5: other services between Stratford and Tottenham Hale ran to/from Stratford (low level) via Channelsea Junction and Temple Mills – these entries represent the few journeys using Stratford (high level) instead

L5: from 2 October 1978 2025 SX Tottenham Hale – Stratford started 2028

L6: title to read: **Stratford: Carpenters Road curve**

L7: **Dalston West Junction** to read **Dalston Western Junction**; *from 14 May 1979 line regained full regular service*

L11: add: 2237 SUN Broad Street – Willesden Junction Low Level

L12: **City Goods Lines** to read **City Lines**

L18: **Cricklewood Junction** to read **Cricklewood Curve Junction**

L19: **Brent Junction** to read **Brent Curve Junction**; in addition to SAGA charter trains, Motorail trains added from 18 June 1978

L22: line restored by June 1978

L27: in addition to SAGA charter trains, Motorail trains added from 18 June 1978

L29: SUN Weybridge – Waterloo service ran only until **2211** SUN

L30: *From 8 May 1978 gained regular unadvertised service between Wimbledon and Point Pleasant Junction:*

N 2324 Waterloo – Wimbledon (staff train)

L31 and L32: add to title: **(Central section)**

L35 (Willesden Junction – Kensington Olympia section): C 2340 Stirling – Kensington Olympia ran **FSX** and SUN; C 2045 Inverness – Kensington Olympia started 2110 on SUN

L42: title to read: **Battersea Pier Junction (Central section) – Stewarts Lane Junction – Factory Junction**

L44: title to read: **Canterbury Road Junction - Loughborough Junction**

L46: title to read: **Cannon Street South Junction – Metropolitan Junction**

L56a: add: *{new entry – existing route with reduced service}*

L57a: add: *{new entry – existing route not previously recorded}*

EASTERN REGION

New entry: **Manningtree Junction: North Junction – East Junction** *{existing obscure route}*

Trains shown non-stop between Ipswich and Harwich Parkeston Quay

E5/E6: add: FROM 11 SEPTEMBER TO 2 DECEMBER 1978, due to engineering work in Stoke Tunnel and then Peascliffe Tunnel (for electrification) ECML blocked overnight each night from 2000 to 0600, Monday to Friday nights, and trains diverted thus:

Via E5 and E6: from Kings Cross: 1904 SX, 1940 SX, 1952 FO, 2225 SX, 2345 SX, 2335 SX, 0100 MX; to Kings Cross: from Edinburgh 2230 SX, 2315 SX; from Newcastle 2255 SX; from Aberdeen 2020 SX, 2115 SX

Via E6 only (stopping at Sleaford): from Kings Cross: 2000 SX, 2230 SX, 2300 SX0115 MX, 0550 MX; to Kings Cross: from Edinburgh 2020 SX, 2315 SX; from Aberdeen 1930 SX

Via E5 only (stopping at Lincoln Central): 1700 SX Edinburgh – Kings Cross
Similar diversions applied (but varying on a week-by-week basis) from 2000 Saturday to 1600 Sunday

New entry: **Welwyn Garden City flyover**

Most up local stopping trains, starting from Welwyn Garden City

E7: add: D 1115 SO Skegness – Nottingham; D 1138 SO Skegness – Chesterfield extended to Sheffield

E25: *regular use (by one Motorail train) ceased after summer 1978 season - last ran 16 September 1978*

E26: from 6 August 1978 route extended to **Rotherham Masborough Station North Junction** (connections at Station South Junction put out of use)

E27: *Withdrawn with effect from 5 June 1978*

E30: *from 8 May 1978 reduced to SUN and summer Saturdays only*

E32: categorised as a Goods Line. Used for diversion of Leeds – Doncaster InterCity trains for renewal of Marshgate Jn 4 March to 8 April 1979.

E36: *facility ceased before complete closure of line in July 1980*

E38: title to read: **Shirebrook West – Shirebrook East Junction** (*note: Shirebrook East Junction controlled by Shirebrook Junction (Mid.) signal box*)

E40: title to read: **Retford West Junction (high level platform 2) - Thrumpton West Junction**; in entries, Retford GN to read Retford (high level); add: 0202 SUN Manchester Piccadilly – Retford (high level)

E43, E44, E45 and E45a: **Wath Central Junction** to read **Wath Junction**

E43 and E45a: Mexborough East Junction also known as Mexborough No. 2 box

E44: Mexborough South Junction also known as Mexborough No. 3 box

E48: **Loversall Junction (Up line)** to read **Loversall Carr Junction (Up line)**

E50: Joan Croft is two words

E51: Used for diversion of Leeds – Doncaster local services for renewal of Marshgate Jn 4 March until 8 April 1979. *With effect from 14 May 1979 service reduced from all-year weekdays to summer Saturdays only*

E54: extended **Crofton West Junction – Oakenshaw Junction** (common with E56)

E55: *delete entry (line not in practice used for passenger trains)*

E58: *with effect from summer 1978 reduced to summer Saturdays only (previously summer weekdays)*

E59: heading to read: **Heaton Lodge Junction – site of Spen Valley Junction (via fast lines)**

E60 and E61: **Heaton Lodge Junction** to read **Heaton Lodge East Junction**

E62: *with effect from 8 May 1978 Bradley Wood Junction – Bradley Junction section reduced to summer Saturday only (previously all-year weekdays)*

E64: add: Any trains using platforms 1, 2 or 3 at Leeds would have required to use this route. No trains so booked, but happened during engineering works.

LONDON MIDLAND REGION

M7: **Castle Donnington** to read **Castle Donington**

M12: add: When Birmingham/Nuneaton line is blocked for engineering work, Birmingham - Leicester services run via this route, reversing at both Coventry and Nuneaton

M21: *from 6 October 1978 became all-year (Fridays)* – add: 1230 FO Plymouth – Manchester Piccadilly

M24: add: *{new entry – from 27 May 1978 for summer Saturday service for 1978 season only}*
Perry Barr West Junction – Perry Barr South Junction section was previously staff train only. All sections of route also covered by adjacent entries M25 and M26

M39: title to read: **Crewe North Junction – Crewe Wistaston Road Platform**

M44: **Bidston North Junction** to read **Seacombe Junction**
Withdrawn with effect from 2 October 1978

M48: new (short lived) regular Sunday use from 14 May until 30 July 1978

M51, M52 and M53: **Crowthorne Junction** to read **Crowthorn Junction**

M71: delete final sentence (Moorfields deep level platform opened and temporary service via this route ceased – both from 8 May 1978)

M74: add (after FROM 1 OCTOBER): due to WCML being blocked by engineering works

M75: *Dalesrail* service - introduced from 8 April 1978 - was *start of regular service* over this route (*Branch Line News* 337, p.1). First *Dalesrail* excursions ran in August and September 1975, but only between Leeds and Appleby.

M80: add: *{new service from 27 June 1978 – BR steam excursion}*

WESTERN REGION

W2: from 1978 season, limited summer SX journeys resumed

W5: *summer Saturday service ceased at end of 1978 season - last ran 19 August 1978 (route retained for diversionary use)*

W12: *summer Saturday service ceased at end of 1978 season - last ran Saturday 30 September 1978 (route retained for diversionary use)*

W13: note N* applied to **all** trains

W14: semi-regular summer TWThO workings from South Wales for Bristol Zoo had died out by about 1973/4

W22: the shuttles on 25 September 1977 may have been the last such local shuttle services between Hereford station and the Bulmers site, there being no mention subsequently in *Branch Line News* of other than occasional through trains, or shuttles totally within the Bulmers compound

W26: **Radyr Branch Junction** add **a.k.a. Penarth Curve East**

W31: add, to “dated” diversions, 2115 SO Paddington – Port Talbot

W33 and W34: **Court Sart Junction** to read **Court Sart Junction (down)/Briton Ferry Flying Junction (up)**

W33: *with effect from 8 May 1978 service reduced to seasonal by withdrawal of weekday all-year train*

W35: *with effect from 8 May 1978 service increased from seasonal by addition of weekday all-year train*

SOUTHERN REGION

S1: add D 2230 SUN Weymouth – Weymouth Quay

Winter service was one train a week only:

1930 FO Waterloo – Weymouth Quay (*also Christmas and Easter*)

S2: entry to read: **Millbrook - Southampton Western Docks (Mayflower Ocean Liner Terminal – berths 105/6)**

Boat trains in connection with sailings to and from Southampton Western Docks, usually 1510 from Waterloo and 1015 from Southampton Western Docks

S3: entry to read: **Northam Junction - Southampton Eastern Docks (Queen Elizabeth II Ocean Liner Terminal – berths 38/9)**

Boat trains in connection with sailings to and from Southampton Eastern Docks, usually 1600 from Waterloo and 1015 from Southampton Eastern Docks

SCOTTISH REGION

H1: amend 1508 Carlisle – Stranraer Harbour to be 1508 **SX** (Lochgreen Junction signal box closed from 1400 Saturdays)

H12, H13 and H14: **Cowlairs Junction** to read **Cowlairs West Junction**

H30: add 1120 SUN Lairg – Inverness

New entry: NORTHERN IRELAND RAILWAYS

Antrim – Bleach Green Junction

Special trains between Belfast York Road and Antrim or beyond, including RPSI summer only *Portrush Flyer* (Saturdays 22 July, 5 and 19 August 1978)

Whitehead – Whitehead Excursion Platform (RPSI)

RPSI excursions (including *Portrush Flyer* summer excursions) to/from Whitehead

CÓRAS IOMPAIR ÉIREANN

Dublin: Glasnevin Junction – Islandbridge Junction

Delete: 2130 Cork – Dublin Connolly (did not carry passengers north of Mallow)
