

# Hello Heritage...

## Whitwick Station



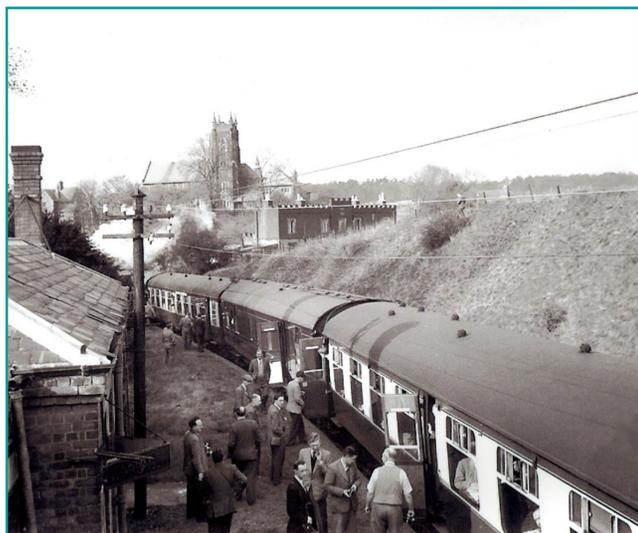
Whitwick Station can be seen on the right in this photograph from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Built by London North Western Railway, the station opened in 1883 for the new Charnwood Forest Railway. Part of the premises was a shop.

Other noteworthy buildings are: The Railway Hotel, built to cater for passengers; two former pubs, The Crown and Cushion and The Wagon and Horses; and cottages fronting the road beyond the church gate.



Whitwick Station 1914: London North Western Railway Rail Motor by the platform. These little engines acted like a local rail-bus service for passengers enabling travel through to Shackerstone to connect with Nuneaton trains. Only seven Rail Motors were built. The engine was inside the coachwork and the vehicle could be operated from either end of the single carriage. The Rail Motor service operated between 1906 and 1920.

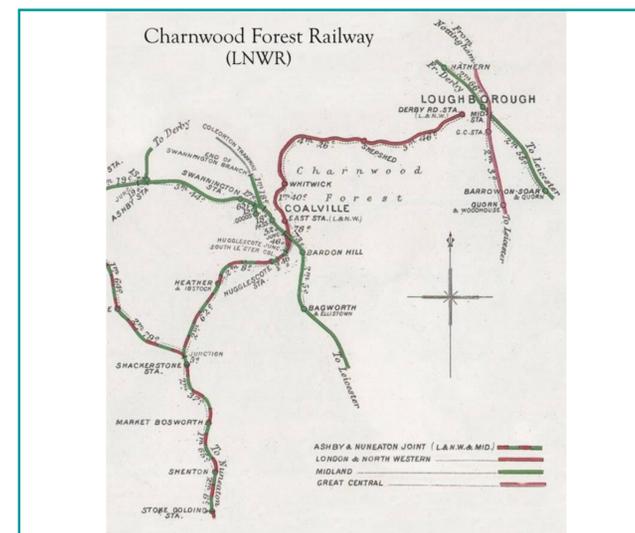
Note the extensive station buildings on the platform.



Whitwick Station 1957: A special excursion steam train, "The Charnwood Forester", stands at the dilapidated platform whilst railway enthusiasts explore.

Passenger traffic stopped in 1931 although occasional special excursions continued to run. "The Charnwood Forester" was the last passenger train to travel along the entire length of the Charnwood Forest line.

Look over the bridge parapet to view a very different scene. Station facilities have been demolished and trees obscure the other buildings.



The Charnwood Forest Railway 1883 – 1963

Whitwick Station is the only remaining building on this line which linked Coalville and Loughborough. Constructed primarily to carry freight, the single track railway was just over ten miles long with four stations: Coalville East; Whitwick; Shepshed and Derby Road, Loughborough. Later Halts were added at Thringstone, Grace Dieu and Snell's Nook. Passenger traffic ceased in 1931; the line closed completely in 1963. Sections of the trackbed are footpaths.

For more information visit: [whitwickhistoricalgroup.org.uk](http://whitwickhistoricalgroup.org.uk)

 Whitwick Historical Group