

Photographs For A New Century

Third Edition

TRANSPORT



Registered Charity 1094700

The original photographs in this collection were taken as part of the Gloucestershire 2000 Photographic Archive project. The Society initially decided to photograph 100 'sites and monuments' which had some historic interest so that a record would exist of their nature and condition in the year 2000. The photographers were all volunteers and were given a free hand regarding the photographs that they took subject to the above general principle. The range of photographs taken varied from monuments which were already well recognised for their historic relevance, to items which were not especially significant in themselves but had a particular interest. All the monuments or sites photographed could potentially face at least modifications and at worst threats to their continuing existence over time.. The work was coordinated by Ron Beard and ultimately the volunteers produced more than 250 photographs, from which those you can see in this document were chosen.

The intention at the time was to revisit the selected sites at ten-year intervals and take new photographs. Accordingly, this was done in 2010 (second edition), and for this **third edition** in the period 2019 – 2024. The collection now provides a record of any changes that have occurred over the last twenty years and provides a valuable insight into how historic sites of interest in the Dean area are valued and cared for. Unfortunately, for the second and third editions some of those who took the original photographs are no longer with us, so new volunteers were recruited. All are acknowledged underneath their photographs.

The photographs are presented in themed collections, namely Mines & Quarries, Transport, Industry, Agriculture & Forestry, Religion and Other Buildings & Monuments. A complete index to the collection is also available.

You can browse through this document, or each individual site can be accessed via the index below.

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Bixslade Tramway



Bixslade Tramway -The best preserved Forest of Dean tramway, a branch to the Severn and Wye Tramway and Railway, completed by 1812, operated until 1946.

West Dean Parish

Camera location - SO606100

View direction – West

Photographer - A J Sulston

Date taken - January 2000

This photograph was taken a little further up the track but the remains are in a similar state - somewhat overgrown and with only one set of stone sleepers exposed.

Photographer - J Orr

Date taken - March 2010





A summer view taken close to the original viewpoint.



The tramway is still clear although vegetation is encroaching, restricting the exposed width. Forestry England has created new warnings regarding access limitations.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 25th November 2021

Bixslade Tramway Rails



Bixslade Tramway rails - At the time taken was the only known remaining section of tramplate in situ.

West Dean Parish

Camera location - SO606099

View direction – West

Camera location - SO606099

Photographer - A J Sulston

Date taken - June 2000

One of the rails is still visible in this photograph, although it is in some danger from traffic.

Photographer - M Bramwell

Date taken - May 2010





The old tramway rails are still exposed although the viewed section varies as work's traffic disturbs the ground.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 25th November 2021

Bradley Hill Tunnel (North Portal)



This three hundred yard tunnel was built in 1854 for the Forest of Dean Railway shortening the line followed by the former tramway.

Ruspidge Parish

Camera location - SO661104

View direction – East

Photographer - J Sulston

Date taken - July 2000

The track bed has become more integrated into the garden of the house which formerly housed the gatekeeper of the track crossing just to the right of the photograph. The photograph below shows the house more fully. The house featured largely as "Aunt Charlotte's Cottage" in "Heaven Lies About Us" by Gladys Duberley

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - October 2010





Crossing Keepers House (2010)



Building expansion has made the tunnel entrance more difficult to see, but it is still visible.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 20th August 2021

Buckshaft Tramway



Buckshaft tramway took iron ore from the Buckshaft mine to the furnaces at Cinderford. Some portions of the tramway were incorporated into roads or remain as tracks. This photograph shows part of the line of the tramway near St White's School.

Cinderford Parish

Camera location - SO654129

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - South East

Date taken - May 2000



Apart from minor building changes the most noticeable feature is the number of parked vehicles. The view below is taken from about 100 metres further on looking in the reverse direction.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2010



The view is similar to the previous decades with the addition of minor works and additional car parking.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 27th February 2020

Bullo Pill Dock



Bullo Pill dock - The harbour was built for exporting coal at the terminus of the 1809 Bullo Pill Railway. An unusual, masted yacht sailed here from West Indies.

Newnham Parish

Camera location - SO689099

Photographer - B Rye

View direction - East

Date taken - April 2000



This view, taken when the tide was in, shows that the dock entrance is virtually unchanged although the metal masted boat (which originated in Lydney Docks many years earlier) has now disappeared from the view.

Photographer - M Bramwell

Date taken - June 2010



The upper photo shows the main dock which appears rather neglected (albeit full of boats). However, the upper pond has been restored (lower photo). The rest of the site, currently under the ownership of Darren Larkham, appears to be suffering from creeping industrialisation.

Photographer – K.Walker

Date taken – 25th February 2022

Cookson Terrace, Lydney



Cookson Terrace was built in 1858-9 by the Severn and Wye Railway Company to house its workers. The larger central building was a hotel until c1970. The terrace was named after the Chairman of the Company, Joseph Cookson.

Lydney Parish

Camera location - SO635018

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - East North East

Date taken - June 2000



This photograph was taken from a slightly different view point because the terrace was hidden by vegetation from the original location.

Photographer - K Walker

Date taken - July 2010



No change by 2022, except that a new 'feature' metal fence has been installed since then to replace the existing one.

Photographer – K Walker

Date taken – 20th October 2022

Dean Road



Dean Road, Blackpool Bridge - Origin disputed, paving was once thought to be Roman. Bridge on Forest of Dean Central Railway in background

West Dean Parish

Camera location - SO652087

View direction - South West

Photographer - A J Sulston

Date taken - January 2000



The site is gradually being hidden by vegetation although its essential character is still evident

Photographer - M Bramwell

Date taken - May 2010



The road surface has been covered although the line of the road can be followed and there is a simple notice board.

Photographer – K. Walker
Date taken – 25th February 2022

Dilke Bridge



The Dilke Bridge carries the Cinderford - Speech House road over the line of the Severn and Wye mineral loop near Lightmoor. As can be seen from the signs the railway track is now part of the family cycle track.

Cindeford / Ruspidge Parish

Camera location - SO641126

View direction - North

Photographer - A J Sulston

Date taken - February 2000



The main differences are due to the different seasons when the photographs were taken.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2010



A closer view of the bridge showing masonry detail (2010)



In 2021, remains as a feature of the cycle track which follows the line the former railway.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 30th September 2021

Drybrook Road Station



Drybrook Road Station was at the junction of the Severn and Wye Lydney to Cinderford line and the mineral loop. The line of mature trees on either side of the track are indicative of former stations of the Severn and Wye Railway Company.

Cinderford Parish

Camera location - SO632145

View direction - North West

Photographer - R Beard

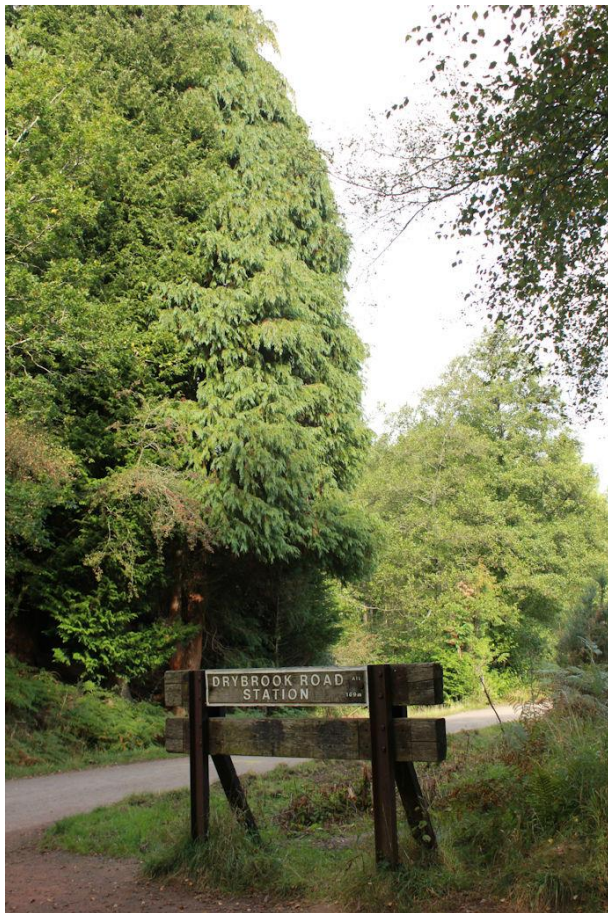
Date taken - September 2000

The track has become very overgrown and the foreground shows evidence of the activities of Forest boar.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - October 2010





The site has become more obscured by vegetation and now needs the signpost to help identify the line.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 27th February 2023

Etloe Viaduct



Etloe Viaduct - This viaduct is a relic of an abortive enterprise - the Purton Steam Carriage Road (1830/32) - which was abandoned due to pressure from the Severn and Wye Railway.

Awre Parish

Camera location - SO670049

Photographer - B Rye

View direction - North North East

Date taken - April 2000



The remains of the viaduct show little change apart from the further invasion by vegetation.

Photographer - M Bramwell

Date taken - May 2010



By 2022 vegetation growth has reduced the visibility to some extent.

Photographer – K. Walker

Date taken – 25th February 2022

Flour Mill Colliery Railway Tunnel



Flour Mill Colliery railway tunnel, Bream - This tunnel is on one of the lines forming part of the Flour Mill Colliery / Princess Royal Colliery complexes.

West Dean Parish

Camera location - SO6050

View direction – North

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2000

The brickwork and stonework has been renovated and the tunnel still serves as a useful storage facility

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2010





In 2021, still in use for storage.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 13th August 2021

Forest of Dean Tramway and Former Wesleyan Chapel



Line of Forest of Dean Tramway and former Wesleyan Chapel, Cinderford Bridge - Opposite the Chapel (1869) was a milepost showing Bullo 4 1/4 miles. Removed by a collector. The entrance to the nineteenth century Old Arles level was just beyond the shed on the left..

Ruspidge Parish

Camera location - SO651125

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - South South East

Date taken - July 2000



The old chapel and tramway show little change apart from the decoration and flagpole.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2010



As before – some detail obscured by vegetation.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 27th February 2020

Former Littledean to Cinderford Road



Former Littledean to Cinderford road, Buckshaft.

Ruspidge Parish

Camera location - SO655124

View direction – South

Photographer - R Beard

Photographer - R Beard

Little change apart from the growth of vegetation

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2010





The "road" remains clear although there is evidence of boundary damage.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date Taken – 16th September 2021

Haie Tunnel East Portal



Haie Tunnel East Portal - Originally a tramway tunnel on the Bullo Pill Tramway, this was possibly the earliest rail tunnel in the world (1809), enlarged in 1854 for the steam railway, 1064 yards long.

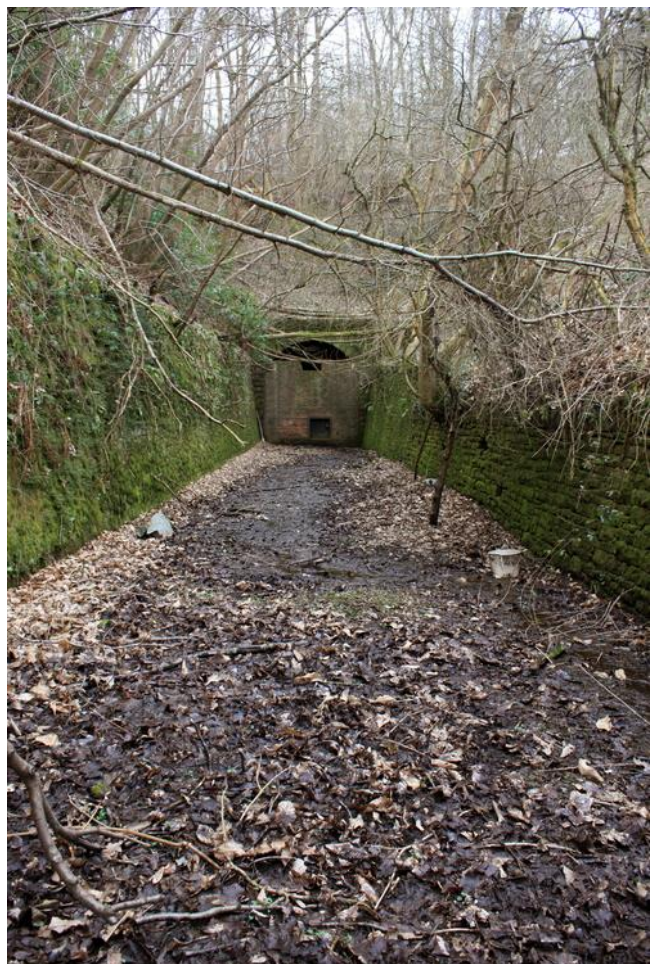
Newnham Parish

Camera location - SO675100

View direction – West

Photographer - A J Sulston

Date taken - February 2000



A clearer view which shows little change in the last ten years.

Photographer - J Orr

Date taken - March 2010



No change, but access is more limited by vegetation growth.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 6th March 2023

Lydbrook Quay



The precise location of the old quay at Lydbrook is uncertain. This photograph shows a possible site, although the additional photograph below is more likely as it is alongside the end of a former tramway. This is on private ground.

Lydbrook Parish

Camera location - SO601169

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - West

Date taken - August 2000



The banks of the Wye here and the possible remains are still clear - although these piers may merely be fishermens' stands.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken November 2011



No change since 2010.

Photographer – Mary Sullivan

Date taken – 13th April 2022

Lower Lydbrook Viaduct and Forge Site



Lower Lydbrook, Viaduct Cottage and Viaduct House Site of former Severn and Wye Railway viaduct - The building on the right (partially obscured by trees) is a former mill and is on the site of Lower Lydbrook Forge (c1610 to c1818).

Lydbrook Parish

Camera location - SO595165
Photographer - R Beard

View direction - North West
Date taken - August 2000



The more recent photograph shows little change.

Photographer - M Sullivan

Date taken - July 2010



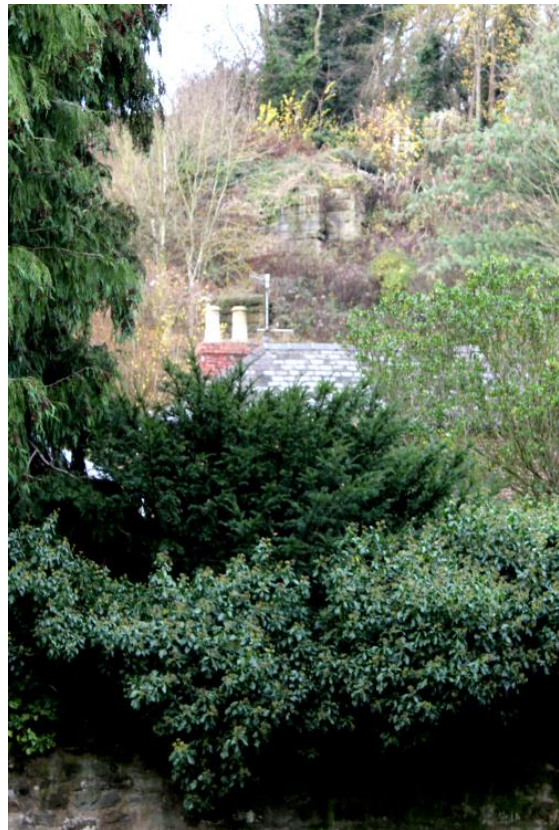
A wider view shows no change since 2010

Photographer – M. Sullivan

Date taken – 14/02/2022



Former viaduct blocks



Viaduct remains can be seen in the distance

Lower Redbrook Village



Lower Redbrook Village - Railway bridge which carried the Wye Valley Railway until 1959, linking Redbrook Station (right bank in England), with Penallt (left bank in Wales), the sites of which are 200metres apart, but hidden in trees.

Newland Parish

Camera location - SO527096
Photographer - A J Sulston

View direction - North
Date taken - November 1999



Lower Redbrook and the railway bridge show little change. New developments have taken place around the site of the tinplate works to the right of the view.

Photographer - M Bramwell

Date taken - October 2010



This photograph speaks for itself and was taken from near the Offa's Dyke path.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 10th March 2022

Lydney Dock Gates



Lydney Dock gates – The tidal basin of Lydney Docks was developed for the export of coal and timber in 1821. The docks declined with the closure of the Forest collieries and the dockside railway was lifted in 1960.

Lydney Parish

Camera location - SO650014
Photographer - B Rye

View direction - West South West
Date taken - November 1999



Considerable improvements have been made to the dock area since 2000.

Photographer - M Bramwell

Date taken - May 2010

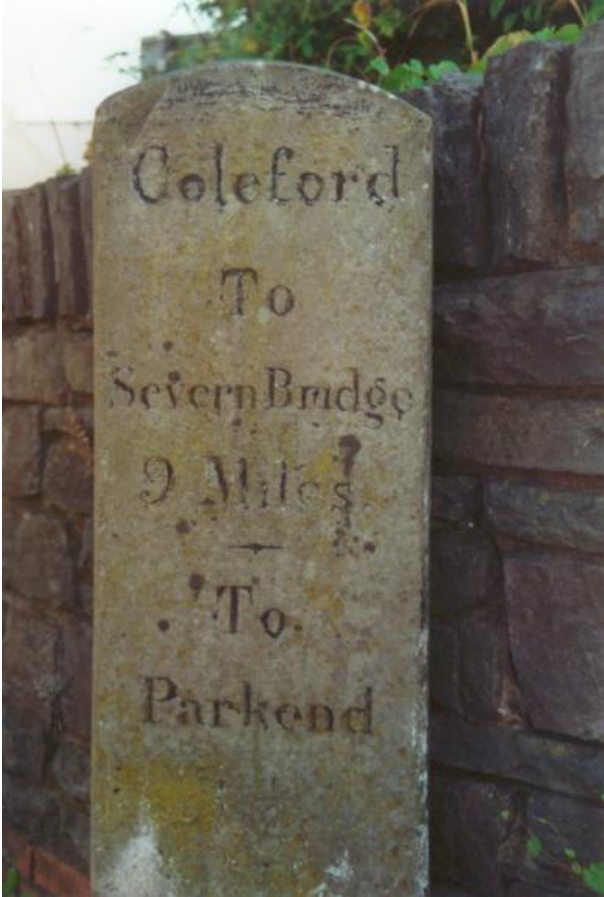


The scene in 2022. Since then, considerable restoration work has been carried out by the Environment Agency. Access to the pier head is currently restricted by security gates.

Photographer – K. Walker

Date taken – 25th February 2022

Milestone (Coleford Centre)



Milestone, Coleford centre - Shows distance to former Severn railway bridge

Coleford Parish

Camera location - SO576108

View direction – East

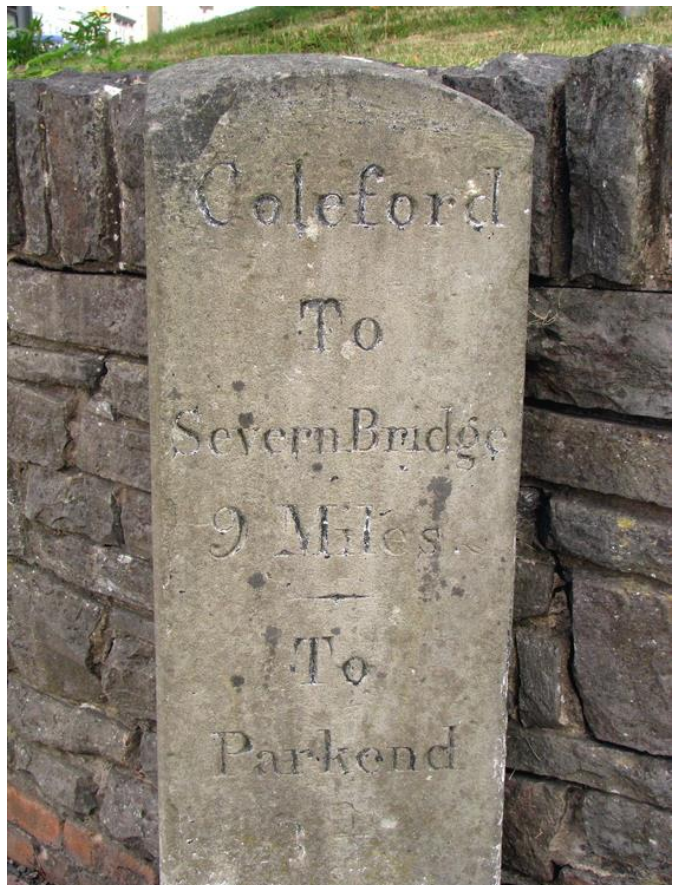
Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2000

The milestone is still in position.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2010





The lettering on the stone has become partially obscure by 2021.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 13th June 2021

Monmouth to Coleford Railway Bridge (Coleford)



Bridge on Monmouth to Coleford railway at Coleford - Buildings beyond the bridge include station master's and railway workers' cottages with Mill House (Wm Stenson's steam mill engine house and home).

Coleford Parish

Camera location - SO573106

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - South South West

Date taken - September 1999



The building in the right foreground of the original photograph has gone, otherwise everything is much the same as it was.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - November 2009

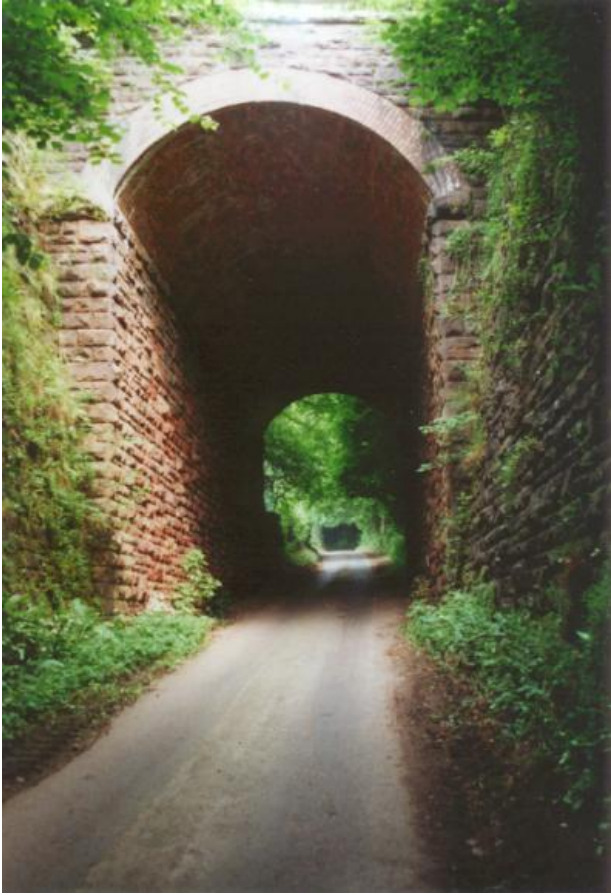


This outstanding example of a skew arch bridge is still in good condition in 2021.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 13th June 2021

Monmouth to Coleford Railway & Tramway Bridges (Near Coleford)



Bridges on former Monmouth to Coleford railway and tramway - The bridge in the foreground carried the railway over the road, in the distance a pillar of the former tramway bridge can just be seen.

Camera location - SO564100

View direction - North West

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2000

Little has changed, unfortunately the pillar of the former tramway bridge is hidden by vegetation

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2010





Photographer – R. Beard
Date taken – 2nd September 2021



By 2024, the railway bridge survives in reasonably good condition. The survival prospects of the tramway bridge have been improved by removal of trees and vegetation.

Photographer – K. Walker

Date taken – 22nd February 2024

Monmouth to Coleford Tramway and Congregational Church, Coleford



Monmouth to Coleford tramway and Congregational Church, Coleford - The tramway dates from 1812 and the sleepers have been retained in recent improvements to the town centre, the chapel (1842) has been converted to flats.

Coleford Parish

Camera location - SO575109

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - North East

Date taken - September 1999



One or two signs have changed, but much remains as it was - including advertising boards.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - November 2009



No discernible change since 2010.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 13th June 2021

Oakenhill Railway Tunnel Entrance



Oaken Hill railway tunnel - SW entrance of this tunnel on the Moseley Green mineral line branch of the Severn and Wye Railway, keystone dated 1871.

West Dean Parish

Camera location - SO630079

View direction - North North East

Photographer - B Rye

Date taken - November 1999



A view of the northern portal of the tunnel in 2010.

Photographer - M Bramwell

Date taken – May 2010



Southern portal of the tunnel in 2022, showing little change from 1999.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 17th February 2022

Parkend Station



Parkend Station - This former station on the Severn and Wye railway was reconstructed during 1998-2000 as a terminus for the Forest of Dean Railway.

West Dean Parish

Camera location - SO617078

Photographer - A J Sulston

View direction - North

Date taken - January 2000



Improvements by the Forest of Dean Railway are evident.

Photographer - M Bramwell

Date taken - May 2010



The station is still being maintained very well in 2022.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 17th February 2022

Pike House, Sling



Pike House, Sling - A toll house on the Coleford to Lydney road which was turnpiked in 1795.
Newland Parish

Camera location - SO581078
Photographer - R Beard

View direction - South West
Date taken - June 2000



Only the vegetation has changed.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2010



No change by 2022.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 17th July 2022

Point Quarry Tramway Tunnel, Fetter Hill



This is a former tramway tunnel which took a branch from the Parkend - Coleford tramway into the Point Quarry.

West Dean Parish

Camera location - SO598086

View direction - South East

Photographer - J Sulston

Date taken - 'Midwinter' 1999



The surroundings are more overgrown, but there is no other change of note.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - December 2010



The structure is still basically sound in 2020, and little changed since 1999.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 6th February 2020

Railway and Tramway Tracks of Forest of Dean Railway, Ruspidge



The green area on the left is part of the former railway track which was sold off to private owners after the railway ceased operations in the 1960s. To the right is the former tramway track from Lightmoor and Shakemantle mines to Cinderford Furnaces which the railway line replaced.

Ruspidge Parish

Camera location - SO651123

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - North

Date taken - July 2000



The main change has been the removal of the metal posts alongside the former railway, which had caused something of a hazard to pedestrians and motorists using the adjacent road.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2010



No change since 2010.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 12th March 2020

Railway Bridge (Saintlow Enclosure)



This stone bridge carried the Severn and Wye mineral loop (now part of the family cycle trail) across a forest ride. This bridge and another, close by, which was intended to cross the Forest of Dean Central Railway, were necessary because the loop line was running along a high embankment

Ruspidge / West Dean Parish

Camera location - SO629107

View direction - North West

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2011



The vegetation apparent in 2011 has been removed by 2021, and the structure is apparently in good condition.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 13th September 2021

Redbrook Incline



Redbrook Incline - Carried a branch from the Coleford to Monmouth tramroad, built 1812, to connect with Redbrook Wharf. Little used after mid 18th century, and track removed before 1880.

Newland Parish

Camera location - SO537102

Photographer - A J Sulston

View direction - North

Date taken - January 2000



The incline is largely unchanged since 2000

Photographer - J Orr

Date taken - July 2010



No discernible changes in 2022, the structure still appears to be basically sound.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 10th March 2022

Ruspidge Halt



The symbolic reconstruction of Ruspidge Halt marks the Southern end of Cinderford's Linear Footpath. The Berry Wiggins tanker truck is reminiscent of the goods traffic that once used the Forest of Dean branch line.

Cinderford Parish

Camera location - SO649127

View direction - North

Photographer - J Sulston

Date taken - February 2000



Little has changed apart from vegetation growth.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2010



The paintwork on the tanker shows signs of deterioration, otherwise much the same as in 2010.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 27th February 2020

Shakemantle Tramway and Bible Christian Chapel, Ruspidge



This former tramway transported iron ore from Shakemantle Mine to Cinderford Furnaces. The building on the right was the former Bible Christian Chapel now used as a workshop for high quality weatherproof clothing.

Ruspidge Parish

Camera location - SO651119

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - South

Date taken - July 2000



The tramway remains unchanged, even the tarmac patches are as they were. The building is no longer used as a waterproof clothing workshop.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2010



Some redecoration of the chapel evident in 2020, otherwise no change since 2010.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 12th March 2020

Trafalgar Arch



Trafalgar Arch, near Brierley - Bridge over the former Severn and Wye Railway. The bridge carried colliery 'traffic' and renovated when the former railway track was incorporated into a family cycleway.

Cinderford Parish

Camera location - SO624142

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - North East

Date taken - August 2000



Largely unchanged apart from an increase in vegetation cover.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - October 2010



No change since 2010.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 23rd September 2021

Tramway Sleeper, Ruspidge



When Cullamore Bridge (carrying the tramway from Lightmoor to Ruspidge) was demolished, several of the old tramway sleepers were deposited along the edge of a nearby footpath. This was just one of these stone blocks.

Ruspidge Parish

Camera location - SO650120

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - South West

Date taken - July 2000



Although it was not possible to identify the specific block from the previous picture, this one was in a very similar condition.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - November 2010



In danger of being overwhelmed by vegetation, this block is still in place in 2020.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 12th March 2020

Wesley Road Plate (Cinderford)



During Victorian times a number of new roads were made 'at the expense of the Crown'. This example shows the commemorative plate that was erected in Wesley Road, Cinderford

Cinderford Parish

Camera location - SO656142

View direction – North

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - April 2000

The scene is largely unchanged, the building adjacent to the plate is still a greengrocers.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken June 2010





The plate is one of nine surviving plates out of ten, unique to the Forest of Dean. All nine are Grade 2 Listed. The greengrocers has closed, and the property is empty in 2020.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 5th March 2020

The inscription on the plate can be clearly read.

