

Peak Railway Association archives collection and other sources of information on the Ambergate to Buxton and Chinley route

The aim of this document is to list the key sources of information about the route. The Association collection currently contains about 17,000 items. These include

- 1) Over 9,000 photos. The majority of these are the Peak Rail era from the early 1980s and the largest collections are those of John Phillips and Sheila Rayson. We also hold the Stan Roberts collection (over 400 images) which is made up of photos of Bakewell and Rowsley stations from just before the closure of the route until the 1980s. Stan made a model of Bakewell and parts of Rowsley station which was in the collection for many years and is now in private hands. We also have the Keith Miles collection (over 800 images). Keith was Running Shed Foreman at Rowsley shed for a time in the 1950s and retained an interest in the shed and the line for the rest of his life. His collection also contains photos taken on the West Coast mainline in the Kings Langley area and at St Rollox works in Glasgow where he started his railway career.
- 2) Copies all our house magazines Steam in the Peak and Peak Express plus a newsletter Between the Lines which came out in the 1980s. The house magazine has from time to time included historical articles about the route including a history of the railway in Cawdor quarry at Matlock and the rebuilding of the Bridge Street bridge in Buxton. We also have some copies of a newsletter published by the Sheffield branch in the 1980s. We have a good collection of Peak Rail publicity material and get further donations from time to time which almost always include new material!
- 3) A range of objects and railway uniforms with a link to the route.
- 4) Press cuttings and magazines which feature the route from its opening onwards.
- 5) A collection of railway posters and handbills from the route when it was part of the national network
- 6) Tickets from the national network and Peak Rail eras
- 7) Maps and plans by Ordnance Survey and others covering the route
- 8) Books about the route

Books about the route

The route has been well covered by books and the collection contains most of the known ones from the 1970s onwards. The key text remains

Bill Hudson (1989) *Through Limestone Hills* OPC

Other texts covering the route include

John M Stephenson (1982) *The Peak line* Oakwood Press (this incorrectly gives the closure date of the through route as 1/4/68)

Brian Radford (1988) *Midland through the peak* Unicorn Books

J M Bentley (1989) *Scenes from the past 7 The railway from Buxton to Bakewell, Matlock and Ambergate* Foxline

Brian Radford (1988) *Midland through the peak* Unicorn Books

J Judge & J R Morten (1994) *The Peak line a pictorial journey* Oakwood Press

Keith Miles (2002) *Scenes from the past : 44 Rowsley motive power depot* Keith Miles Foxline

Alistair Lofthouse (2003) *Then and now The Monsal Trail* Alistair Alistair Lofthouse

J M Bentley (2013) *Over the Peak part 1 Chinley to Peak Forest (Peak Dale)* Book Law/Foxline

J M Bentley (2014) *Over the Peak part 2 Peakdale to Millers Dale* Book Law/Foxline

V Mitchell and Keith Smith (2019) *Country railway routes Ambergate to Buxton including Peak Rail* Middleton Press

M Bentley (undated) *The District Controller's View B.R. Steam operating No 6 The Peak District* Xpress Publishing

J F Morton (undated) *Halcyon days* Northwood Publications

John Merrett (1991) *Memories of a Peak District railwayman* Old Mill Books

The route also features in a number of other books about the railways of Derbyshire

Christopher P Nicholson and Peter Barnes (1975) *Railways in the Peak District* (this incorrectly gives the closure date of the through route as 1/4/68) Christopher Nicholson (1977) *Branch Lines in the Peak District a pictorial history* Dalesman

Christopher Nicholson (1977) *Main Lines in the Peak District a pictorial history* Dalesman A R Kaye (1985) *British Rail in the North Midlands and Peak District Volume 1 and 2* Lowlander

A R Kaye (1988) *North Midland and Peak District railways in the steam age Volume 1 and 2*

Signalling Record Society (1995) *British Railways Layout plans of the 1950s from the John Swift collection Volume 8: Manchester and Chesterfield to Derby and Trent*

Chris Banks (1996) *British Railways past and present 23 Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Past and Present*

John Hilmer (1996) *British Railways past and present 56 Derbyshire Past and Present*

Bob Pixton (2000) *North Midlands portrait of a famous route Part 1 Derby to Chesterfield* Runpast

Michael Blakemore & David Mosley (2003) *Railways of the Peak District* Atlantis Dick Richardson (2012) *Peak District past The Railways* Country Books

Robert Day (2013) *The lost railway: the Midlands* Ian Allan

J R Hillier (Undated) *London Midland steam in the Peak District* Bradford Barton

Peak Rail

Very little has been written specifically about Peak Rail although its history and development is referred to in several of the books above

Brian Cuttall (2004) *Peak Rail stock book part 2 disposals Peak Rail* Brian Cuttall (2005) *Peak Rail stock book part 1 current stock Peak Rail*

Brian updated these books for a number of years, information held in the archives

D Beglin (2013) *Peak Rail thirty years of signalling from steam centre to rural railway* Blurb

The Rowsley Association

This was formed in 1990 by a group of former staff at Rowsley shed and yard. Their website is <http://www.rowsleyassociation.org.uk> email info@rowsleyassociation.org.uk. They produce a Newsletter twice a year. The group has also produced the following books

No author (2006) *A guide to historic railway walks of Rowsley*

Glynn Waite (Ed - 2006) *Rowsley Railway Miscellany*

Glynn Waite (2007) *Charles Burling railway signalman of Cromford*

Glynn Waite (Ed - 2008) *Rowsley Railway Miscellany - 2*

Glynn Waite (2010) *20 years of the Rowsley Association* Glynn Waite (2012) *Hassop 150*

Glynn Waite produced the following book with the Arkwright Society in 2009

Cromford station –a history

Midland Railway Society

This society has a study centre at the Silk Mill in Derby which houses has a large collection of material relating to the Midland Railway and its successors. Their Journal is produced three times a year and the route has featured from time to time. Their website is <http://www.midlandrailway.org.uk> and the email address for membership is membership@midlandrailwaysociety.org.uk for general enquiries please contact chairman@midlandrailwaysociety.org.uk

They have published two books on the route

Glynn Waite and Laurence Knighton (2003) *Rowsley A rural railway centre*

Laurence Knighton (2004) *Hassop a chronology of railway history*

Derwent and Wye Valley Railway Trust

They are the charitable trust at Peak Rail and run a museum in the exhibition room at Darley Dale station. This includes a selection of photos of the line when part of the national network, objects relating to the route and some photos of the railway in Cawdor quarry at Matlock. For more details of their activities please see their website <http://www.dwvrt.co.uk> and their email address dwvrtrust@gmail.com