

West Wycombe layout update April/May 2023

Introduction

The last update was at the AGM in January and since then there has been further good progress on the West Wycombe 00-gauge layout. If any members wish to join in and help with this great project now would be a good time. Just contact the team or come along to the club evenings on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Fiddle yard progress

- Legs and leg braces cut and assembled.
- The legs slot into 'pockets' on the underside of the boards and are held in place with a split-pin mechanism. All now fitted for the fiddle yard boards with more required for the scenic section.
- Two sets of trestles have been built to enable boards to be turned on their sides for underside work.
- Boards 1 to 6 (see diagram below) of the fiddle yard have been erected in the club room behind the Cariboo layout.
- Wiring colour 'scheme' designed.
- Track and points laid and screwed down on boards 1 to 4. Boards 5 & 6 are being done now.
- Holes drilled for point motor tie bars.
- Copper clad strips fitted, and track soldered down.
- Droppers for copper clad mostly fitted and soldered.
- Droppers for points mostly fitted and soldered.
- Fitted point motors and control gear and connected up DCC bus.
- Repositioning the holes for the connecting plugs & sockets in sides of boards.
- Set of 10 "jumper" cables assembled to connect DCC and power between the boards.
- Fitted protective plywood barrier on the inside of fiddle yard boards as track is close to the edge.

Next steps – Spring 2023 and beyond

Baseboards and fiddle yard

- Complete track and electrical work on boards 5 & 6.
- Build control panel for fiddle yard.
- Connect Cbus to fiddle yard, test and adjust point control.
- Test DCC system and fiddle yard bus connections.

- Make more legs, leg braces and the fitting 'pockets' for the underside of boards.
- Build the hinged 'gate' at the right-hand end of the layout.
- Build the front left corner board (#13) which has more complex land levels to contend with. Rod and Roger are doing this.
- Design discussions concerning board 8 are under way.
- Build wooden separators for stacking the fiddle yard when not in use and for transportation.
- Stack the completed fiddle yard and start erecting the scenic section.

<u>West Wycombe Boards</u>							
		Fiddle yard					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Lower level boards	14					7	
	13	12	11	10	9	8	
		Scenic					

Scenic section

As the fiddle yard trackwork approaches the London end of the layout attention has turned to the railway buildings and other structures that formed the passenger station and goods yard at West Wycombe. The platform buildings and footbridge were demolished soon after the cessation of passenger services in 1958 but the goods shed lingered on into the early 60s. Despite this, we have located numerous photographs that capture the station when still open and these will guide our modelling.

Muz has offered to scratch-build the main building on the Up platform, a typical GW&GC Joint construction. Fortunately, its main features are repeated at other locations e.g. Princes Risborough, which is rather useful! Initially, we are planning to create some scale mock-ups of all the structures which will guide us when finalising the station and yard on the model itself.

Research

- Our photo collection and records of locos, trains and the immediate vicinity of West Wycombe station continues to expand, alongside contact with former BR staff, trainspotters etc. from the 1955-65 period.
- A folding display stand is in place next to West Wycombe in the clubroom.
- Various information posters on display capture this research element of the project.
- Logos for The High Wycombe Community Board who are providing funding are on display.
- We have installed a monitor so that information and photos can be projected from the new laptop that has been purchased.

How can you help?

- To date, we have recorded over 90 different classes of steam and diesel traction passing through West Wycombe in the period 1955-66. We now need to record the work that they were responsible for, and the class numbers involved.
Could you check through our growing collection of magazines and photos and list the locomotives involved?

We are creating a set of scale, mock-up structures of the buildings and structures at West Wycombe, back in the 1950s.

Could you help us research these and maybe construct some of them?

Or maybe, you have personal memories of local trains, workings, operation etc. around High Wycombe in the late 1950s early 60s that you could record as part of our research. Perhaps you recall the period when BRS were based in West Wycombe yard or the special traffic that passed through the North Yard at High Wycombe.

It would be really good to record any of this.

Please talk to Tony or Giles about layout construction, or Ron or Francis about the preparatory work on the scenic section.

Prepared by Tony Cane, Francis Gomme and Giles Blumsom, April/May 2023