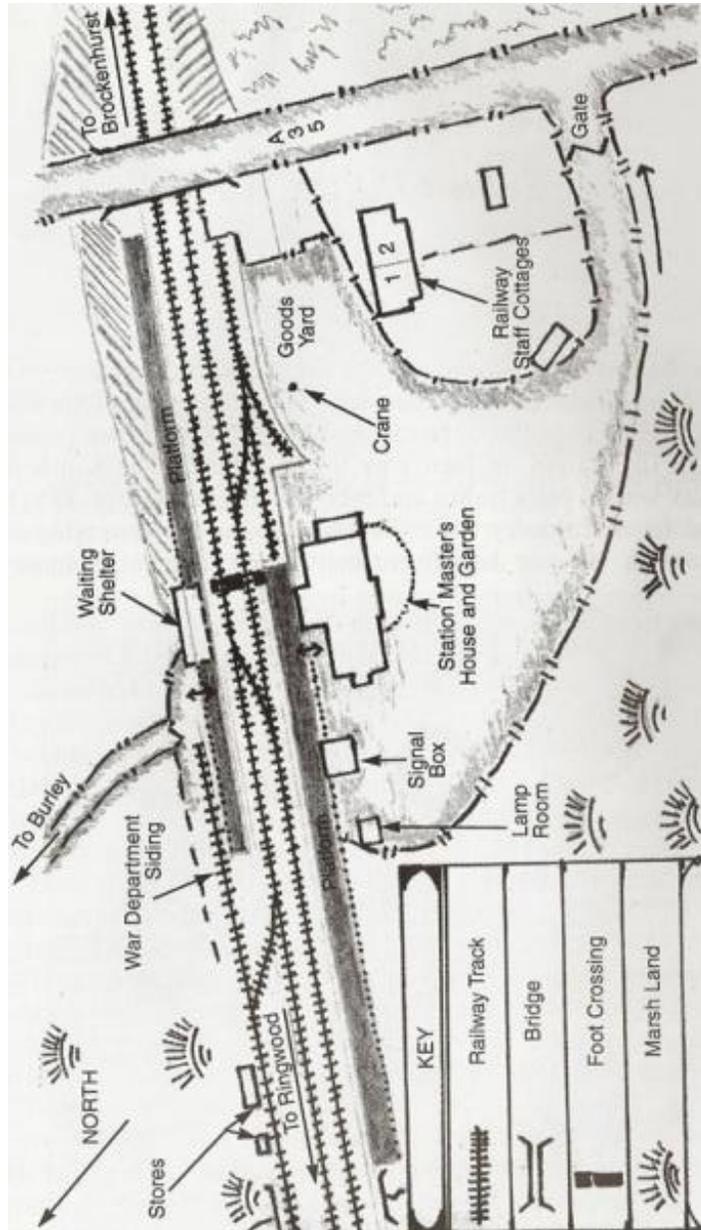


Old Station Tea Rooms, Station Road, Holmsley,
Burley, Hampshire, BH24 4HY



Holmsley Station History...



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The Old Station...

Holmsley station was opened in 1874 under the name of “Christchurch Road” as part of the Southampton and Dorchester railway. It was the nearest station to Christchurch and Bournemouth at the time until direct lines were constructed from Ringwood then Brockenhurst.

In 1894 the station was renamed to “Holmsley Station” and soon fell under the control of the London and South Western Railway before becoming part of the Southern Railway in 1923.

The line was heavily promoted by Charles Castleman, a local solicitor who saw the benefit and potential of the expanding rail network. The winding route earned its name “The Corkscrew”, which it is still known as today. It gained popularity in the early 1900’s with commuters and families and was an important freight depot for the transport of local wood, which was used in the construction of Welsh coal mines.



The station was used by the eldest son of Queen Victoria, Edward. In the late 1800’s, he would often disembark at Holmsley with his then mistress, Little Langtry, en-route to their exclusive residence in Bournemouth.

Holmsley station was also used as a fictional station named “Browdean” in the 1899 novel “The Wrong Box” by a local resident named Louis Stephenson.

In 1907, Holmsley was the arrival point of Kaiser Willhelm of Germany and his cabinet, to attend a conference with Major Stewart Wortley at Highcliffe Castle.

The station’s finest hour was undoubtedly when it played an instrumental part of troop and freight deployment to the aerodrome at Holmsley South during WW2.

The closure of the line...

With the growing popularity of cars, the rail network was put under serious assessment. Richard Beeching was responsible for the writing of “The Reshaping Of British Railways”, also commonly known as the Beeching Report, which led to just over 4,000 route miles being cut on cost and efficiency grounds, leaving Britain with 13,721 miles of railway lines in 1966.

As a result of the Beeching Report, the station was closed from May 4th 1964.

The Station today...

As you can see, today the building still stands with a few expansions and runs as a tea rooms. Inside the restaurant we have a number of old photographs of the station before it was closed down, which you are very welcome to look at.

Just across the road from the tea rooms are the remainders of the old platform for the station. The route is now a cycle path and is a stunning trip through the New Forest, even today.

The train theme is being kept at the old station, with our undercover outside area being called, “Platform 1” and a few of our menu items with train related names. Also look out for our old suitcases and lamps that are dotted around inside and out.