

= Worle railway station =

Worle railway station , on the Bristol to Exeter Line , serves the Worle , West Wick and St Georges suburbs of Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare in North Somerset , England . It is 16 miles (26 km) west of Bristol Temple Meads railway station , and 134 miles (216 km) from London Paddington . Its three @-@ letter station code is WOR . It was opened in 1990 by British Rail . The station , which has two platforms , is managed by Great Western Railway , the seventh company to be responsible for the station , and the third franchise since privatisation in 1997 . They provide all train services at the station , mainly hourly services between Bristol Parkway and Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare , and between Cardiff Central and Taunton . The station 's car park was significantly expanded in 2013 , with a bus interchange built at the same time .

The line through Worle is not electrified , but there is significant local support for it to be electrified as part of the 21st @-@ century modernisation of the Great Western Main Line , partly motivated by worries that unless the line is electrified , Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare will lose direct services to London .

= = Description = =

Worle railway station is located in the east of Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare , Somerset , serving the suburbs of Worle , West Wick and St Georges . The surrounding area is primarily residential , but with several commercial developments , including the Worle Parkway office development next to the station . The station is located just off the B3440 Bristol Road , near the M5 motorway junction 21 and the A370 . There is a car park on the north , east and south sides of the station . The station is on the Bristol to Exeter Line , 16 miles 11 chains (26 @.@ 0 km) from Bristol Temple Meads and 134 miles 42 chains (216 @.@ 5 km) from London Paddington (via Chippenham) . It is the fifth station along the line from Bristol Temple Meads . The station is oriented along an axis at 57 degrees to the meridian .

There are two platforms , on either side of the two tracks through the station . The southern platform , platform 1 , serves westbound trains (towards Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare and Taunton) ; the northern platform , platform 2 , serves eastbound trains (towards Bristol) . Both platforms are 100 metres (110 yd) long . The line through the station has a speed limit of 100 miles per hour (160 km / h) , and is not electrified . Access between the platforms is via an open footbridge with long , sloped ramps for step @-@ free access . Ticket machines are available , and a small ticket office operates during the weekday morning peak , but the station is otherwise unstaffed . Help points are provided , allowing travellers to ask questions of a call centre . There are metal and glass waiting shelters on both platforms ? two on the eastbound platform and one on the westbound .

49 chains (0 @.@ 99 km) west of the station is Worle Junction , where the single @-@ track loop line to Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare diverges from the main line towards Taunton . The next station west along the loop is Weston Milton , the next station west on the main line is Highbridge & Burnham . The next station east of Worle is Yatton .

= = Services = =

The station is managed by Great Western Railway , who operate all rail services from the station . The basic service consists of two trains in each direction per hour : one is the Bristol Parkway to Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare service , calling at all stations ; the second is the faster Cardiff Central to Taunton service , non @-@ stop between Bristol Temple Meads and Nailsea & Backwell , Worle and Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare . Some westbound services are extended to Exeter St Davids or Plymouth . There is one service to Avonmouth on weekday evenings . Each Sunday there are two services to and from the Severn Beach Line . During summer months these terminate at Severn Beach ; the rest of the year only one does , the other terminating at Avonmouth . The typical journey time to Bristol Temple Meads is 25 minutes , to Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare is 8 minutes

Services between London Paddington and Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare call at Worle in the early morning and evening , running non @-@ stop between Bristol Temple Meads and Nailsea and Backwell . From Monday to Friday there are four morning services and one evening service to London , with seven services from London , all in the evening . One service from London is extended to Taunton , and another to Penzance . Saturday sees two services to London , all in the morning , and three services from London , all in the evening ? one is extended to Exeter St David 's , another to Plymouth . There are five services to and six from London on Sundays , spread throughout the day , with one service extended to Taunton and another to Exeter . All trains call at Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare westbound , and at Yatton and Nailsea and Backwell eastbound , but not all stop at Weston Milton . The typical journey time to London is 2 hours 15 minutes .

Local services from Worle are operated by Class 150 , 153 and 158 diesel multiple @-@ unit trains . Until 2012 , Class 143 Pacer units were a regular sight , but these have been moved south to work in Devon and Cornwall following a cascade of Class 150 / 1 units from London Midland and London Overground . Services to and from London are formed of High Speed Train sets , which are longer than the station , so passengers in the front carriages have to move to a different carriage to get out . Passengers are prevented from getting out onto the tracks by a selective door @-@ opening system .

CrossCountry services pass through the station throughout the day , operating services between Cornwall and Scotland , but do not stop . Occasional Great Western Railway intercity services between London and Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare or Taunton and Exeter also pass through non @-@ stop .

= = History = =

The line through Worle saw its first use on 14 June 1841 , when the first section of the Bristol and Exeter Railway 's (B & ER) main line between Bristol and Bridgwater was opened . The line , engineered by Isambard Kingdom Brunel , was built as 7 ft (2 @,@ 134 mm) broad @-@ gauge but was reconstructed as a mixed @-@ gauge line to accommodate local 4 ft 8 1 ? 2 in (1 @,@ 435 mm) -gauge traffic by 1 June 1875 . Services were operated by the Great Western Railway (GWR) on behalf of the B & ER until 1 May 1849 . The B & ER then took over its own workings until the company was amalgamated into the GWR on 1 January 1876 . Broad @-@ gauge trains ceased operation on 20 May 1892 . When the railways were nationalised by the Transport Act 1947 , the line became part of the Western Region of British Railways .

The modern Worle railway station is the fourth station to serve Worle . The first station , 47 chains (0 @.@ 95 km) east of the modern station , was opened in 1841 as Banwell and was known as Worle from 1869 to 1884 , then as Puxton and Worle from 1922 until closure in 1964 . From 1884 to 1922 , there was a station called Worle on the loop line to Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare , 60 chains (1 @.@ 2 km) west of the modern station . There was also a station on the nearby Weston , Clevedon and Portishead Light Railway , which was known as Worle from 1897 to 1913 , then as Worle (Moor Lane) until 1917 , and as Worle Town until closure in 1940 .

The station at Worle was developed as a joint initiative between British Rail and Avon County Council . It cost £ 700 @,@ 000 and was built using lightweight construction materials due to being sited on marshy ground . The station was opened on 24 September 1990 by Councillor Betty Perry , the chair of Avon Council . The first train was a westbound Regional Railways service , operated by Class 150 Sprinter DMU 150270 . All services were local ones ? no scheduled intercity services would call at Worle until 2007 .

Upon the privatisation of British Rail in 1997 , services were franchised to Wales & West , which was in turn succeeded in 2001 by Wessex Trains , an arm of National Express . The Wessex franchise was amalgamated with the Great Western franchise into the Greater Western franchise from 2006 , and responsibility passed to First Great Western , a subsidiary company of FirstGroup , which was later rebranded Great Western Railway . Great Western Railway services to and from London Paddington started calling at Worle in 2007 . Due to the trains being longer than the

platforms , a selective door opening system was used to prevent passengers opening doors which were not adjacent to the platform .

In 2012 , plans to enhance the station 's facilities were approved by the Department for Transport . The works , part of a large transport scheme called the Weston Package , included expanded the car park by 320 spaces , better facilities for cyclists and motorcyclists , and a bus interchange . A bus link to the nearby Queensway retail park was also included in the scheme . The expansion took over unused land to the east and south of the station , and required the removal of slow worms and grass snakes to a nature reserve in Cheddar . The work , which started in April 2013 , was completed later the same year with the new car park opening on 3 September 2013 .

Worle has had a large number of incidents of railway vandalism and antisocial behaviour , and the stretch of line through Worle is considered one of the most vandalised in the United Kingdom ? obstructions have been left on the line and stones have being thrown at railway staff . There have been several incidents of train guards being attacked by passengers who refused to pay their fares , including one incident where the guard was dragged from the train and knocked to the ground . Vandals have also damaged the station 's ticket machines , attacked passengers and slashed the tyres of cars parked at the station .

= = Future = =

First Great Western declined a contractual option to continue the Greater Western passenger franchise (of which services at Worle are a part) beyond 2013 , citing a desire for a longer @-@ term contract due to the impending upgrade to the Great Western Main Line . The franchise was put out to tender , but the process was halted and later scrapped due to the fallout from the collapse of the InterCity West Coast franchise competition . A two @-@ year franchise extension until September 2015 was agreed in October 2013 , and subsequently extended until March 2019 .

With the impending upgrade , the main line from London to Bristol is due to be electrified . However , the electrification will not extend beyond Bristol to Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare , so Worle will continue to be served by diesel trains . This could entail the removal of direct London services , as electric trains would not be able to operate beyond Bristol . Services could however continue using bi @-@ mode trains . The group Friends of Suburban Bristol Railways supports the electrification continuing to Weston , as does MP for Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare John Penrose . Local services will still be diesel @-@ operated , with " Sprinter " units expected to be replaced by Class 165 and 166 " Turbo " units .

Worle is on the Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare / Yate corridor , one of the main axes of the Greater Bristol Metro , a rail transport plan which aims to enhance capacity in the Bristol area . The plan calls for longer and newer trains to prevent overcrowding .