

THE  
*Wharf*  $\frac{006.5}{1:76 \text{ mm/ft}}$



***The history, background and  
modelling of the Borcester  
Water Works Railway.***

by James Hilton

# History

Today, Borcester is a bustling market town on the M5 corridor between Bristol and Birmingham and all trace of the wonderfully charismatic 18" gauge water works railway have dissappeared. The town, built on the banks of the river Seven, was a prosperous market town and improvements in water and sanitation led to the creation of the pumping station near Hempsted Bridge in 1873.

Coal was initially transported from a wharf on the Borcester Canal to the works by a horse worked tramway. The end of the Great War heralded the arrival of a small Avonside steam locomotive from a failed export order for North Africa. The ability to haul heavier loads on the railway saw the introduction of larger capacity bogie wagons (*pictured below behind the Hudswell Clarke diesel that replaced 'Empire' in 1933*).



A standard gauge spur was laid onto the Canal Street wharf from the nearby Great Western Railway in 1935, allowing coal to arrive from the wider rail network. Surprisingly the line survived until 1956 when the pumping station switched from coal to diesel power. The track was lifted during the autumn of that year and stock, life expired, was cut up on site.

# In Miniature

This brief introduction to the Borcester Water Works Railway has been prepared to show how a 006.5 railway full of character can be created in the most limited of spaces. The 6point5 range from Narrow Planet is the perfect choice for recreating this charming line and the Busch sectional track allows a scenic layout in a briefcase.

We recommend starting with a Busch starter set, using the locomotive mechanism inside one of the range of steam or internal combustion locomotives in the range. As funds permit, additional stock can be purchased. It is possible to re-use many of your existing 00 (1:76) scale scenic items, even in the plan shared here featuring a standard gauge interchange.



