

THE NEXT STATION IS HARTLEBURY



Where: 3.5 miles south of Kidderminster

Population: 2,714 (2011)

Service: Until 2014, a rush hours only service of three each way, mornings and evenings. Now there are 19 north to Kidderminster and Birmingham, and 18 south to Worcester, basically hourly with peak time extras. First train 06.27, last [since Dec. 2016] 23.47. Sunday services are still an aspiration.

Footfall: 39,350, growing by 23% a year, with the improved service

Facilities: The station is unstaffed but it has CIS, PA and 'The Key' card readers on each platform, along with unattractive black 'bus shelters'. It has just gained a ticket machine.

Other features: The station building is now The Old Ticket Office pub, with real ale from the adjacent brewhouse. Sadly the doorways and windows facing the platform have been roughly bricked up and look shabby. However, the Great Western style running in boards have been recently refurbished.

Car parking: Space for only about 10 cars by the station as the former goods yard is used for caravan and HGV parking. The village centre is 1 km away but Stourport [population 20,292] is only 4 km away.

History: One of the original stations of the Oxford Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway from 1852, ten years later becoming the junction for Stourport, Bewdley and the Severn Valley Railway to Shrewsbury.

Words: Peter Cousins, Photo: Keith Flinders

Each edition looks at one of our stations that seldom makes the news