

MRUG / 13.1.2021 / 19:30 (Zoom)

slide set at - http://melksham/2021_01

1. Welcome & Apologies
Minutes & Matters Arising

2. Melksham Hub and TransWilts update

3. Service and station update
How it's been going
Upcoming services

4. Financial and organisational

5. Diary 2021 including
Volunteering at the station
Marketing and promotion

6. Bus report

7. Web Site and social media

8. Melksham Bypass and other town development

9. Any other Business

10. Date of next meeting

Melksham
rail user group



Essential travel only!
Stay local if you can!



Travel at
quieter times



Wash your
hands



Wear a face
covering

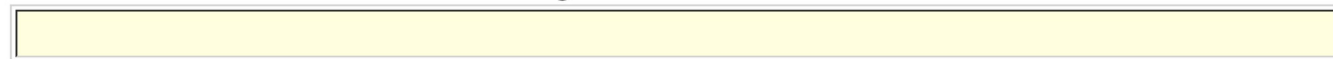
Travel only if you have to

Trains - Melksham Station

* [Map and address](#) of the station

* or on [Google Maps](#)

* *10 minutes walk from the Town Bridge*



Schedule	on time?	platform	coaches	no. stops	train destination	Operated by
1232	✓	1	2	1	Chippenham (1241) & Swindon (1301)	GWR (2M17)
1340	✓	1	2	1	Trowbridge (1349) & Westbury (1356)	GWR (2M26)
1432	✓	1	2	1	Chippenham (1441) & Swindon (1501)	GWR (2M19)
1539	✓	1	-	1	Trowbridge (1548) & Westbury (1555)	GWR (2M28)

* connects at [Chippenham](#) and [Swindon](#)

* connects at [Trowbridge](#) and [Westbury](#)

Using the train safely

If you need to travel, please follow our safety guidance



Buy your ticket online
– access it on your
mobile or smartcard



Check your journey
before you travel



Travel at
quieter times



Allow extra time for
your journey



You must wear a
face covering



Wash hands before
and after. Also carry
hand sanitiser to use



Don't travel if
you're unwell or
have any
symptoms

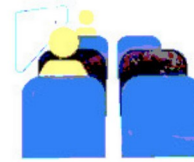


Make a
reservation in
advance, if
available

Help keep our buses safe



You must wear a face
covering on public
transport



Take a window seat, avoid
standing and leave space
in front and behind you.

Please be patient and wait
for passengers to get off
before you board a bus



Do not stand or queue
in the aisle or next to
the bus driver

STAY ALERT • CONTROL THE VIRUS • SAVE LIVES

CAFÉ MANAGER

at Melksham Station Hub Café

**40 hours per week (Monday-Saturday) £10.00-£12.00 per
hour depending on experience**

This project is a unique opportunity to develop this exciting café project from its inception.

Melksham Hub Café is an initiative by the TransWilts Community Interest Company. It is a not-for-profit organisation, any surplus from the Melksham Hub will be invested in local community activities.

The café is expected to serve rail passengers and local businesses. There will be station adoption volunteers using the facilities and community events, especially at weekends. A cycle rental scheme at the Hub means arriving and returning cyclists during the summer, when Sunday café opening will be needed.

Café fitting out is during January 2021 and the café is planned to open on Easter Saturday 3rd April 2021. The role commences by 22 February 2021 to allow time for volunteer training and menu set-up with a "soft launch" opening in March 2021.

The ideal person will have experience of running cafés including recruiting and training. You will also need an ability to work under own initiative, work as part of a team and have an enthusiastic, can-do approach. Training may be available to address gaps in skills, experience and to develop the right individual.

For the full job description, please contact Sophie Martin sophie@transwilts.org





From: Graham Ellis <graham@wellho.net>
Subject: Performance at Melksham Station - December 2020
Date: 1 January 2021 at 08:09:45 GMT
To: "<sophie@transwiltts.org>" <sophie@transwiltts.org>

Hi, Sophie

Summarising December 2020

448 services scheduled

315 ran as trains on time

57 as trains slightly late

15 trains significantly late

5 ran scheduled as buses *

* - said to be on time but we don't know. I saw three - each a few minutes late

56 trains cancelled

Cancellation reasons:

16 due to "heavy rain flooding the railway" (but on another railway line not ours 😊)

38 due to a shortage of train crew

1 due to a fault on the train

1 - no reason logged

85% ppm - which is below 90% target but not unreasonable so.

87.5% running rate is dreadful - cancellation rate (12.5%) of between 5 and 10 times the target, and I suspect the worst around by a long way on lines that remain open (Landslip at Ash and floods near Exeter have lead to closed lines where the figures may be as bad - difference is that the TransWiltts line has not been closed!)

Noting that cancellations continue 1.1.2021 which may be somewhat forgiven because replacement bus alternatives are starting to appear in the journey planner. Replacement buses without timetable information on a very sparse service (rather than a turn-up-anytime-and-ride frequency) in late December made the service pretty well useless to customers. Glad to see bus TIMES now published on trackers and ticket sales site - much better / big relief.

Look forward to trains back soon. If GWR are indeed trimming timetables to fit demand and available staff across their patch, I really hope that they reduce frequency on services that can stand reduction and don't continue to pull entire services except the 20:22 on a daily basis.

Graham

Graham Ellis - graham@wellho.net

01225 708225 or 0797 4 925 928

48, Spa Road, Melksham, SN12 7NY

* Well House Consultants Ltd

* Webmaster at Coffee Shop forum

* Vice Chair Melksham Rail User Group

On Station *volunteers* - paused

From: Emma Morris <Emma.Morris@gwr.com>

Sent: 06 January 2021 12:45

Cc: Community Rail <Community.Rail@gwr.com>

Subject: RE: GWR COVID-19 Volunteer Guidelines 06 January 2021 ALL ON STATION VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES PAUSED

Dear Station Managers and Community Rail Partnerships

I wanted to let you know that GWR have reviewed our guidance for station volunteering in light of the new lockdown and Government guidelines and we are **pausing** all on station volunteering activities for the time being.

If I could please ask you all to cascade this message to your Station Adoption Groups and volunteers respectively and I will be back in touch as and when our messaging alters.

But there is a great deal that we can do. And a great deal of it is important in being prepared for the future too - perhaps more important in these changing times.

The GWR instruction to CRPs (<http://www.passenger.chat/24479>) links to "ten things a station adoption group can do from home". The Coffee shop is not a station adoption group - we do many of the same things and much more, so I have added ten more things ... here are the full 20 in alphabetic order:

- * Contact members to see if anyone needs help
- * Enjoy a rest
- * Exercise taking you past unstaffed stations to see they're in order and discourage vandalism
- * Feeding information to your TOC and other planners about the best service balance to restore
- * Get to know your partner better
- * Have a look at your risk assessments
- * Make a plan to promote your station for visits once the restrictions are lifted.
- * Offer help and support to your TOC and bus operators getting their messages out
- * Practice making better coffee
- * Recruit some new members
- * Research, write and publish historic articles
- * Review your constitution
- * Review your group's objectives for the remainder of the year.
- * Run online meetings and attend online consultations
- * Update web sites and technology
- * Use online channels to keep people making essential journeys up to date
- * Write a book with rail / community interest
- * Write a press release for your local newspaper or magazine.
- * Write a staff newsletter
- * Write an article for Community Rail News

First date definite - others probable

13th January 2021

17th March 2021

19th May 2021 (AGM)

14th July 2021

15th September 2021

17th November 2021

Other Diary Dates:

3rd April 2021 - Official Opening by TransWilts of the Melksham Hub

16th May 2021 - First day of any changes for summer to timetable

17th May 2021 - TransWilts members update

1st December 2021 - Sants's Elves - present wrapping

5th December 2021 - SANTA IS BACK!

12th December 2021 - First day of 2022 timetable

To be added to the diary as and when planned:

* Melksham Party in the Park

* Melksham Carnival

* Melksham River and Food Festival

* Melksham Maker's Markets

* Imber bus running day

Monday to Friday, Northbound

14 Dec 2020 to 14 May 2021

Connections from:

Exeter St. Davids	-	05w47	-	08w03	-	-	14w53	-	17w52
Taunton	-	06w15	-	08w31	-	-	15w20	-	18w19
Weymouth	-	05y27	-	-	-	-	-	-	17z23
Yeovil Pen Mill	-	06y18	-	-	10w45	13w25	15w00	-	18z13
Castle Cary	-	06w41	-	08w52	11w04	13w39	15w14	-	18z40
Frome	-	-	06w50	-	11w21	13w36	15w31	-	18z44
Southampton Central	-	-	-	08w23	11w10	13w11	15w11	17w11	18w43
Romsey	-	-	-	08w34	11w22	13w22	15w22	17w22	18w54
Salisbury	-	06w10	-	09w00	11w42	13w42	15w42	18w01	19w13
Warminster	-	06w29	-	09w22	12w01	14w01	16w01	18w21	19w31
Dilton Marsh (x)	-	06w33	-	09w26	-	13w30	15w34	18w19	-

TransWilts trains:

Westbury	05:17	07:05	07:37	09:45	12:16	14:16	16:25	18:39	20:06
Trowbridge	05:23	07:11	07:43	09:51	12:22	14:22	16:31	18:45	20:12
Melksham	05:33	07:21	07:53	10:02	12:32	14:32	16:41	18:55	20:22
Chippenham	05:42	07:30	08:02	10:11	12:41	14:41	16:51	19:04	20:31
Swindon	05:59	07:47	08:20	10:34	13:01	15:01	17:08	19:21	20:50

Connections on to:

Reading	06c31	08c18	08c59	11c09	13c39	15c39	17c38	20c10	21c33
Paddington	06c59	08c45	09c14	11c36	14c05	16c07	18c04	20c36	22c06

Monday to Friday, Southbound

Connections from:

Paddington	-	07c48	10c02	12c18	14c18	16c32	17c48	19c48
Reading	-	08c13	10c27	12c43	14c43	16c58	18c13	20c13

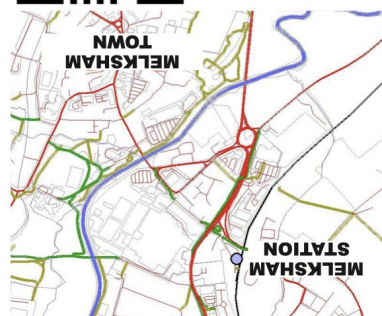
TransWilts trains:

Swindon	06:11	08:45	11:06	13:15	15:14	17:36	18:52	20:45
Chippenham	06:27	09:00	11:21	13:30	15:29	17:51	19:07	21:00
Melksham	06:36	09:10	11:31	13:40	15:39	18:01	19:17	21:10
Trowbridge	06:46	09:19	11:40	13:49	15:48	18:10	19:29	21:19
Westbury	06:53	09:26	11:47	13:56	15:55	18:17	19:36	21:26

Connections on to:

Frome	-	09w42	12w09	14w46	-	18w50	20w07	21w45
Castle Cary	08z40	09w58	12w13	-	16w18	19w05	20w25	22w01
Yeovil Pen Mill	-	10w12	12w53	-	-	19w18	-	22w15
Weymouth	-	11w00	14w06	-	-	20w06	-	23w03
Taunton	09z01	11z34	12w33	-	16w39	19w38	20w45	23w02
Exeter St Davids	09z29	12z03	12w59	-	17w03	20w08	21w14	23w31
Dilton Marsh (x)	06:56	09w53	-	-	-	-	19:39	22w07
Warminster	07:03	10w00	12w11	14w11	16w14	19w13	19:46	22w13
Salisbury	07:23	10w32	12w30	14w30	16w33	19w32	20:05	22w33
Romsey	07:54	10w51	12w50	14w50	16w52	19w51	20:24	22w53
Southampton Central	08:08	11w02	13w02	15w02	17w03	20w02	20:36	23w05

No services 25th and 26th December 2020



Taxis @ Melksham Station
<http://melksh.am/taxi>

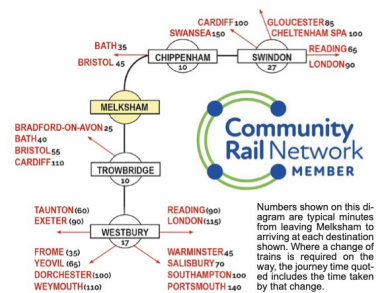
- Times shown at Melksham are CALLING times
- Some trains wait for a few minutes at some stations
- Times at stations shown above Melksham are DEPARTURE times
- Trains call at Dilton Marsh on request
- Change at Salisbury and Westbury (total wait under 40 minutes)
- By train: From 4th April
- Change at Swindon (wait under 60 minutes)
- By bus: Until 24th March
- Errors and Omission excepted. 11.12.2020 v1.5.glo

Trains by Great Western Railway
Subject to Government Restrictions

Travel with confidence

Wear a face mask
Keep 2 metres apart
Travel at 1m per hour

Current train running
<http://melksh.am/trains>



Melksham

rail user group

Website - <http://www.mrug.org.uk>
 Facebook - Melkshamrug
 Email - info@mrug.org.uk
 Twitter - @MelkshamRUG

Melksham

Train Timetable

from Sunday
December 13
2020
through Saturday
May 15
2021

Melksham

rail user group

Saturdays, Northbound

19 Dec 2020 to 15 May 2021

Connections from:

Southampton	-	06w57	08w30	10w42	12w27	13w10	15w10	17w10
Romsey	-	07w11	08w41	10w54	12w38	13w21	15w21	17w21
Salisbury	06w40	07w30	09w04	11w13	13w07	13w52	15w42	17w42
Warminster	07w00	07w49	09w25	11w32	13w28	14w12	16w02	18w02
Dilton Marsh (x)	06z32	07w53	09w29	10z34	13w32	-	15w34	17w34
Exeter St Davids	-	06w56	08w04	09z42	11z43	13w43	-	-
Taunton	-	07w27	08w32	10z06	12z07	14w07	-	-
Weymouth	-	06w38	-	-	-	13w10	14w55	-
Yeovil Pen Mill	-	07w29	-	-	-	14w00	15w45	-
Castle Cary	-	07w54	-	10z27	12z28	14w28	16w06	-
Frome	06w43	08w11	-	11w30	-	14w31	16w23	-

TransWilts trains:

Westbury	07:37	08:35	10:05	12:05	14:07	15:00	16:34	18:35
Trowbridge	07:43	08:41	10:11	12:11	14:13	15:06	16:40	18:41
Melksham	07:53	08:51	10:21	12:21	14:23	15:16	16:50	18:51
Chippenham	08:02	09:01	10:30	12:30	14:32	15:27	17:00	19:00
Swindon	08:24	09:24	10:55	12:55	14:55	15:48	17:18	19:24

Connections to:

Reading	09c09	10c10	11c34	13c31	15c31	16c32	17c48	20c10
Paddington	09c36	10c36	11c59	13c59	16c00	16c59	18c13	20c35

Saturdays, Southbound

Connections from:

Paddington	07c48	10c00	12c00	14c00	15c00	16c33	18c33	20c00
Reading	08c13	10c25	12c25	14c25	15c25	16c58	18c58	20c25

TransWilts trains:

Swindon	08:45	11:05	13:03	15:05	16:02	17:34	19:34	21:07
Chippenham	09:00	11:21	13:21	15:23	16:17	17:49	19:49	21:22
Melksham	09:10	11:30	13:30	15:33	16:27	17:59	19:59	21:32
Trowbridge	09:23	11:40	13:40	15:42	16:36	18:08	20:08	21:41
Westbury	09:30	11:48	13:48	15:49	16:43	18:16	20:16	21:49

Connections to:

Dilton Marsh (x)	10w14	-	-	-	17w13	-	-	22w05
Warminster	09w48	12w10	14w10	16w10	17w10	19w10	21w11	22w12
Salisbury	10w09	12w32	14w32	16w32	17w32	19w32	21w32	22w34
Romsey	10w51	12w51	14w51	16w51	17w51	19w51	21w51	22w53
Southampton Central	11w03	13w03	15w03	17w03	18w03	20w03	22w02	23w04
Frome	10w39	12w39	14w45	-	17w43	18w41	20w43	-
Castle Cary	10w13	12w13	14w13	16w13	17w59	18w57	20w40	-
Yeovil Pen Mill	11w08	13w08	-	-	18w12	19w10	22z17	-
Weymouth	12w08	14w09	-	-	19w08	20w09	23z08	-
Taunton	10w34	12w34	14w34	16w34	18z33	-	21w01	-
Exeter St Davids	11w03	12w59	15w00	16w59	19z01	-	21w29	-

Services shown in green only run for part of the timetable

Sundays, Northbound

13 Dec 2020 to 9 May 2021

Connections from:

Exeter St Davids	-	-	08z34	11w21	-	15w40	-	18w50
Taunton	-	-	09z01	11w49	-	16w03	-	19w16
Weymouth	-	-	08g06	11:03	-	14z07	16w10	17w53
Yeovil Pen Mill	-	-	09w57	11:54	-	15z00	16w58	18w45
Castle Cary	-	-	10w12	12:15	-	16w24	17w13	19w07
Frome	-	-	10w30	12:32	-	16:41	17w30	19w24
Southampton Central	-	-	-	-	13v10	14w57	17w22	18w57
Romsey	-	-	-	-	13v24	15w08	17w39	19w08
Salisbury	-	-	-	10z55	13w55	15w27	17w58	19w27
Warminster	08f11	07b55	-	11z15	14w15	15w48	18w18	19w50
Dilton Marsh (x)	08f16	08b10	-	-	-	15w50	18w23	-

TransWilts trains:

Westbury	08f20	08b25	10:44	12:43	14:47	16:50	18:35	20:18
Trowbridge	08f26	08b41	10:49	12:49	14:52	16:55	18:41	20:23
Melksham	08f37	08b56	11:00	12:58	15:02	17:06	18:51	20:34
Chippenham	08f46	09b16	11:09	13:07	15:12	17:18	19:00	20:46
Swindon	09f03	09b51	11:29	13:24	15:29	17:35	19:17	21:03

Connections to:

Reading	10c26	10c26	12c09	14c09	16c09	18c06	19c48	21c48
Paddington	10c54	10c54	12c36	14c36	16c38	18c40	20c14	22c13

Sundays, Southbound

Connections from:

Paddington	08:00	-	10c43	12c43	14c43	16c42	18c30	19c43
Reading	08:29	-	11c09	13c09	15c09	17c09	18c54	20c09

TransWilts trains:

Swindon	09:04	09:12	11:41	13:41	15:41	17:45	19:29	21:10
Chippenham	09:16	09:27	11:56	13:56	15:56	18:00	19:45	21:25
Melksham	-	09:37	12:06	14:05	16:06	18:10	19:54	21:35
Trowbridge	-	09:46	12:15	14:14	16:15	18:19	20:04	21:44
Westbury	09:37	09:52	12:21	14:20	16:21	18:26	20:11	21:51

Connections to:

Dilton Marsh (x)	-	10w04	-	-	17w07	-	-	-
Warminster	-	10w10	13w11	15w09	16w58	19w08	21w10	22w14
Salisbury	-	10w33	13w34	15w31	17w19	19w32	21w32	22w36
Romsey	-	10w51	13w51	15w50	17w50	19w12	21w49	22w55
Southampton Central	-	11w03	14w04	16w04	18w03	19w27	22w02	23w06
Frome	-	10w33	-	14:30	16:31	18w42	21z47	-
Castle Cary	09:57	10w23	14z11	14:45	18z11	18w58	21z39	-
Yeovil Pen Mill	-	11w02	-	15:00	-	19w12	22z18	-
Weymouth	-	11w54	-	15:51	-	20w02	23z06	-
Taunton	10:18	10w42	14z32	-	18z32	20z32	22z03	-
Exeter St Davids	10:52	11w09	15z00	-	18z57	20z55	22z30	-

From TransWilts for MRUG

- Access to water (watering, cleaning)
- Storage for tools
- WiFi Access codes will be release for us to be able to use *when the Hub opens*
- Thank You – will help volunteer work at the station.

It's important we look ahead ...

- Short term, during the period of lockdown, limited travel and restricted activities
- Medium term, as travel opportunities and desire re-opens
- over year(s), as we settle to a "new normal" whatever that might mean
- over decade(s), as we retune to take account of climate change and the need for sustainability

Reduced services – input (1)

Background and introduction

- * We are headed for a significant period during which public transport passenger numbers will be greatly down on normal, but those remaining will be key (often shift) workers or those on essential journeys outside the pattern of peak commuter or leisure flows.
- * We are headed for a further period where staffing availability may be reduced due to isolation requirements, staff not wanting to take risks running more services than are required, and government wishing to save money by reducing the number of services running around "carrying fresh air".
- * Reducing services that are already thin risks rendering them unusable. Trimming start and end of day makes services useless for health, care and other shift workers and other transport staff getting to work. Combing out services without care can tear apart connections making, ruining total passenger journeys.

Reduced services – input (2)

This paper sets down a series of principles based on these objectives:

- * Provide practical essential journeys on a daily / regular basis for all shifts
- * Provide adequate capacity bearing in mind social distancing requirements
- * Provide a system under which information is easily available and understood
- * Protect resources and have a view towards later rebuilding
- * Run reliable services within staff availability
- * Reduce operational costs and operation of excess capacity

Reduced services – input (3)

Principles

- - Local and regional journeys not to drop below hourly
- - Long distance journeys not to drop below every 2 hours
- - Stations with local flows to have minimum hourly service
- - Low use stations with local flows to have minimum 2 hourly service
- - Longer distance journeys can be rescheduled to serve extra intermediate stations
- - Connections need to be maintained
- - Tickets to be accepted on alternative public transport

Reduced services – input (4)

Example 1

- current timetable about 20 diagrams:

Cardiff-Portsmouth, Bristol-Westbury,-Weymouth. Swindon-Westbury, Also Salisbury-Romsey

- proposal is 8 or 9 diagrams:

- * every hour Bristol (BPW?) - SOU, alternately via Nursling and Eastleigh
(all stations except alternating trains Avoncliff & Freshford, Dean & Mottisfont)

- * every 2 hours Swindon to Weymouth

(arrive at Westbury ahead of service from Bristol, 15 minutes then carries on)

Reduced services – input (5)

Example 3. Wilts / Mendip to Bath buses

- * every hour Chippenham and Corsham to Bath

- * every hour Devizes and Melksham to Bath

(alternating Box/Kingsdown, Whitley/Shaw, Forest/Bowerhill)

- * every hour Warminster, Westbury, Trowbridge, Bradford-on-Avon to Bath

(alternating White Horse and North Bradley)

- * every hour Frome to Bath

(alternating Rode and main road)

- * every hour Frome to Chippenham via Trowbridge, and Melksham

(alternate Rode and Semington, Direct and Holt)

From the November minutes

- Melksham Bypass
- A bypass for the A350 through Melksham has been funded and consultation has started on the route, for which 4 main options are being considered (each with a few variations)
- This inevitably has supporters and objectors. However, it seems inevitable that there will be improvements on the N-S corridors in this area. One option might be to resurrect the plans for an A46/A36 link from junction 18 of the M4. Whereas the bypass will provide considerable relief for local traffic in Melksham, it may create problems further south at Westbury where a bypass is not yet funded.
- Considerations of freight as well as passenger traffic needs to be emphasised.
- The need for a good corridor on the road from Chippenham southwards, should demonstrate that the rail solution also needs upgrading (e.g. double tracking or a dynamic loop).
- MRUG should provide input to the consultation.

Bypass (1) - General

Suggested input:

“Thank you for this early opportunity to provide input into the "A350 Melksham Bypass" consultation process.

Please consider the Melksham Rail User Group and the TransWilts Community Rail Partnerships as stakeholders and consultees throughout this process

We commend options 4 and 5 (rail and bus) public transport and option 6 (cycle and walking) improvements, and note that they score very highly on deliverability, affordability and acceptability. Whilst they are unlikely to meet your objectives on their own, they should provide a valuable and significant element implemented as thoroughly as practical in any solution

Bypass (2) – Look wider, please

Please look at alternative of long distance traffic routing via the already Highways England / Trunk A46/A36 route rather than by increasing capacity on the regional A350 (you have confirmed you can add other options at this stage).

Please take a look at the alternative of rail use for longer distance freight and medium and longer passenger traffic via the TransWilts railway line which parallels the A350 road.

Bypass (3) – Railway infrastructure

Please ensure that any railway crossings (options 9a, 9b, 9c, 8a and 8b) allow for the line to be restored to a double track such that trains can path both ways under or over the bridge at the same time. Please rule out level crossings at each point that rail and road cross.

Please ensure that any development of options 7a, 9b and 9c do not encroach on access to and use of the railway station and public transport hub on Station Approach. The opportunity should be taken within any option to improve bus / road access to the transport hub at the station for connectional public transport links in all directions and by rail, road and path.

Bypass (4) – model for future

Please use modelling which uses current and projected factors in preference or addition to historic ones.

Please take into account and project the consequential housing and business development enabled by the various options in addition to making decisions on purely current and road engineering factors

Bypass (5) – Canal, Cycle aspects

Please ensure that current and planned canal access, use and development is not restricted by any new roads built or changes made to existing roads as an outcome of these proposals or their implementation

Please take the opportunity offered by any changes and development to improve national and other cycle routes in terms of infrastructure, access to it, and removing powered road traffic from the route. In particular but not limited to routes 10 a through d and route 403 / Melksham Forest to Lacock

http://melksh.am/2021_01

Melksham
rail user group



Essential travel only!
Stay local if you can!

Contacts

Train service and station operation

Information and contact for current train times and fares at [Great Western Railway](#) - our train operator

Line / lineside emergency - call Network Rail on 03457 11 41 41

Reporting an incident such as vandalism - call British Transport Police on 0800 40 50 40 (Emergency - call 999)

Strategic line and service development via [TransWilts Community Rail Partnership](#) - our CRP

Officers of Melksham Rail User Group

Chair - Peter Blackburn

Vice-Chair - Graham Ellis

Secretary - John Hamley

Treasurer - Judith Gradwell