

East Kent Light Railway

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EKR 2, an ex SECR class O1 0-6-0, waiting with a mixed train at Shepherdswell, circa 1948. (LOS16251)

East Kent Light Railway

This selection of views from our collection focusses on the East Kent Light Railway, often shortened simply to the East Kent Railway (EKR). The EKR was a Colonel Stephens line like the Kent and East Sussex and was built to service the transport needs of the then newly discovered Kent Coalfield. Initially opened for freight traffic from Shepherdswell to Tilmanstone Colliery in 1911 the line was extended northwards reaching Wingham by December 1912. Passenger traffic commenced in 1916 but the full development of the coalfield never took place as the Great War intervened and only Tilmanstone went into production. After the War an extension was built to Richborough Port which had been a major transportation centre during the War which it was hoped would become a major shipment centre. This was not to happen and passenger services only ran for a brief period to Sandwich Road between 1925 and 1928, whilst freight trains ran occasionally. Remarkably passenger services on the rest of the line continued into the British Railways era, being withdrawn from 30th October 1948. Freight services continued for a short time but by 1951 were cut back to serve Eythorne and Tilmanstone Colliery only. It was in this truncated state that the line survived until final closure in March 1984. Fortunately a heritage railway group managed to secure a lease on the surviving section of the line in 1990 and so the EKR lives on. As with other Colonel Stephens lines the locomotives and rolling stock were somewhat decrepit as his railways rarely bought new locomotives or rolling stock, instead almost exclusively buying stock second hand. Our selection features a wide range of these, including the ex LSWR Adams 4-4-2T which was bought back from the EKR by the SR in 1945 and refurbished to work on the Lyme Regis branch, eventually passing into preservation on the Bluebell Railway.

This selection of views is available as darkroom prints ordered in the usual way or as digital prints or images from the Transport Library ([The Transport Library | Lens of Sutton Association](#))

LOS16180 Roman Road Station, EKR, circa 1948.

LOS16182 Woodnesborough Station, EKR, circa 1930s.

LOS16183 EKR No. 6, an ex SER class 0-6-0 rebuilt with a domed boiler is awaiting departure from Shepherdswell with a mixed service, circa 1947.

LOS16185 Eastry Station EKR, circa 1938, panoramic view looking north towards the junction between the Wingham and Richborough lines.

LOS16186 A general view of the East Kent Railway's Shepherdswell Yard on 27/12/1947 with the engine shed in the distance. The four decrepit coaches in the siding are from left to right: EKR 11, EKR 5, EKR 4 and EKR 1.

LOS16187 EKR 7, an ex LSWR Beattie 0-6-0ST, awaiting departure at Wingham Canterbury Road, circa 1920s.

- LOS16188 Eastry Station EKR, circa 1938, looking north towards the junction between the Wingham and Richborough lines.
- LOS16189 Woodnesborough Station, EKR, circa 1938.
- LOS16190 Wingham Town Station, EKR, circa 1938.
- LOS16191 Shepherdswell Station, EKR, circa 1938.
- LOS16192 EKR 7, an ex LSWR Beattie 0-6-0ST, at Shepherdswell depot, circa 1930s.
- LOS16194 Wingham Canterbury Road Station, EKR, circa 1947.
- LOS16195 EKR 2, an 0-6-0ST formerly named 'Walton Park', circa 1930s.
- LOS16196 EKR 2, an ex SECR class O1 0-6-0, after arrival at Wingham Canterbury Road, circa 1947. This engine had been numbered EKR 100 until 1945.
- LOS16197 EKR 2, an 0-6-0ST formerly named 'Walton Park', at Shepherdswell, circa 1935.
- LOS16198 East Kent Colliery, later renamed Tilmanstone Colliery, circa 1920s.
- LOS16199 EKR 2, an 0-6-0ST named 'Walton Park', at Shepherdswell, circa 1930s.
- LOS16200 Shepherdswell Station, EKR, circa 1938.
- LOS16202 EKR 1, a 6 wheel hand crane, at Shepherdswell circa 1930s.
- LOS16203 EKR 4, an ex MR 6 wheel composite, is seen newly repainted at the East Kent Railway's Shepherdswell platform during the 1930s.
- LOS16204 EKR 8, an ex SER class O 0-6-0, at Shepherdswell, circa 1930.
- LOS16205 Shepherdswell Station, EKR, circa 1938. The connecting line to the ex LCDR line is on the right.
- LOS16238 EKR 6, an ex SER class O 0-6-0 rebuilt with an O1 boiler, awaiting departure from Wingham Canterbury Road, circa 1939.
- LOS16239 Eastry South Station, EKR, circa 1939.
- LOS16240 EKR 4, a Kerr Stuart 'Victory' class 0-6-0T, at Shepherdswell depot, circa 1939.
- LOS16241 EKR 5, an ex LSWR Adams 4-4-2T, at Shepherdswell depot, circa 1939. This engine was sold back to the SR in 1945, reconditioned and put into service on the Lyme Regis branch, subsequently being saved for preservation by the Bluebell Railway.
- LOS16242 EKR 6, an ex SER class O 0-6-0 rebuilt with an O1 boiler, at Shepherdswell Depot, circa 1939.
- LOS16243 EKR 8, an ex SER class O 0-6-0, at Shepherdswell Depot, circa 1930-1935.

- LOS16244 EKR 2, an ex North London Railway 4 wheel passenger brake van, with EKR 6, and ex Cheshire Lines Committee 4 wheel third, at Shepherdswell circa late 1930s.
- LOS16245 EKR 1, an ex Kent & East Sussex Railway bogie saloon, at Shepherdswell circa late 1930s.
- LOS16246 EKR 2, an ex SECR class O1 0-6-0, at Shepherdswell, circa 1948. This engine had been numbered EKR 100 until 1945.
- LOS16247 EKR 6, an ex SER class O 0-6-0 rebuilt with an O1 boiler, at Shepherdswell Depot, circa 1948.
- LOS16248 EKR 6, an ex SER class O 0-6-0 rebuilt with an O1 boiler, at Shepherdswell Depot, circa 1948.
- LOS16249 The last down train on the EKR after arrival at Wingham Canterbury Road, 30/10/1948. The last train was hauled by EKR 2 and consisted of an ex LSWR corridor brake third and an ex LSWR 10 ton goods brake van seen here.
- LOS16250 The last up train on the EKR awaiting departure at Wingham Canterbury Road, 30/10/1948. The last train was hauled by EKR 2 and consisted of an ex LSWR corridor brake third and an ex LSWR 10 ton goods brake van seen here.
- LOS16251 EKR 2, an ex SECR class O1 0-6-0, at Shepherdswell on a typical EKR mixed train, circa 1948. This engine had been numbered EKR 100 until 1945.
- LOS16252 EKR 4, a Kerr Stuart 'Victory' class 0-6-0T, undergoing scrapping at Ashford Works in 1948.
- LOS16253 EKR 1, an ex Kent & East Sussex Railway bogie saloon, at Shepherdswell circa 1948.
- LOS16254 EKR 8 an ex LCDR 4 wheel first is next in line for scrapping following the dismantling of the adjacent EKR 7, another ex LCDR 4 wheel first, at East Kent Railway Shepherdswell on 27/12/1947. (JL Smith)
- LOS16255 EKR 9, an ex LCDR birdcage brake third and EKR 2, an ex NLR passenger brake, are seen at East Kent Railway Shepherdswell on 27/12/1947. (JL Smith)
- LOS16256 EKR 2, an 0-6-0ST formerly named 'Walton Park', at Shepherdswell, circa 1935.
- LOS16257 EKR 6, an ex SER class O 0-6-0 rebuilt with an O1 boiler, at Shepherdswell, circa 1948.
- LOS16258 EKR 5, an ex LSWR Adams 4-4-2T, at Shepherdswell depot, circa 1930s. This engine was sold back to the SR in 1946, reconditioned and put into service on the Lyme Regis branch, subsequently being saved for preservation by the Bluebell Railway.
- LOS16259 EKR 6, an ex SER class O 0-6-0 is seen here at Shepherdswell, prior to rebuilding, with saloon coach EKR 1, 31/12/1931. (Dr IC Allen)

- LOS16260 EKR 4, a Kerr Stuart 'Victory' class 0-6-0T, on a freight train in 1921.
- LOS16261 KESR 'Northiam' a 2-4-0T on loan to the EKR is seen with a construction train near Golgotha Tunnel , circa 1911.
- LOS16262 Tilmanstone Colliery, formerly named East Kent Colliery, circa 1920s.
- LOS16263 EKR 8, an ex SER class O 0-6-0, at Shepherdswell, circa 1930-1935.
- LOS16266 EKR 10, an ex LCDR 6 wheel brake third, at Shepherdswell on 27/12/1947.
- LOS16268 EKR 17. an ex SER van, with an ex LSWR brake third and an ex LCDR brake third at Shepherdswell, circa 1930s.
- LOS22077 EKR 5, an ex LSWR Adams 4-4-2T, at Shepherdswell depot, circa 1945. This engine was sold back to the SR in 1946, reconditioned and put into service on the Lyme Regis branch, subsequently being saved for preservation by the Bluebell Railway. Coupled behind it is EKR 7 which was scrapped at Ashford Works in 1946.
- LOS22434 31434, an ex SECR class O1, is seen at Eythorne EKR on 19/5/1957 with the LCGB 'London Chatham and Dover Special' some 10 years after passenger services had ceased.
- LOS33363 Wingham Canterbury Road EKR looking to the end of the line circa 1938. Note the station nameboard simply stating 'Wingham' and the crude 'buffer stop' consisting of a sleeper across the line.
- LOS63528 EKR 5, an ex LSWR Adams 4-4-2T, at Eastleigh Works in 1946 after purchase by the SR. This engine was sold back to the SR in 1946, reconditioned and put into service on the Lyme Regis branch, subsequently being saved for preservation by the Bluebell Railway. The wagon coupled to it is SR 43148 an ex LSWR 10T van.
- LOS64565 Staple Station EKR, circa 1938.
- LOS64920 Wingham Canterbury Road Station EKR, with family group posed on the platform, circa 1920s.
- LOS64926 Eastry South Station, EKR, circa 1938.
- LOS65587 EKR 4, a Kerr Stuart 'Victory' class 0-6-0T, undergoing scrapping at Ashford Works in 1948. (EB Trotter)
- LOS65588 EKR 4, a Kerr Stuart 'Victory' class 0-6-0T, undergoing scrapping at Ashford Works in 1948. (EB Trotter)
- LOS65589 EKR 6, an ex SER class O rebuilt with an O1 boiler at Ashford Works, in for scrapping in 1948. (EB Trotter)
- LOS69248 SR 1373, an ex SECR class O1, at Shepherdswell circa 1945 with the EKR loco shed in the background.

- LOS69934 EKR 6, an ex SER class O 0-6-0 rebuilt with an O1 boiler, at Shepherdswell EKR station with a mixed train, circa 1947.
- LOS86603 The body of EKR 6, an ex Cheshire Lines Committee 4 wheel third, in use at Staple EKR station, circa 24/7/1948. (JL Smith)
- LOS86604 The remains of Richborough Port station on 6/9/1942.
- LOS86605 EKR 7, an ex LSWR Beattie 0-6-0ST, at Sandwich Road on 22/9/1928.
- LOS86606 Poison Cross Station EKR, circa 1938.
- LOS86607 Eastry Station EKR, looking north circa 1938.
- LOS86608 EKR 3, an ex LSWR Ilfracombe Goods 0-6-0, at Shepherdswell circa 1920s.
- LOS86609 EKR 5, an ex LSWR Adams 4-4-2T, at Shepherdswell depot, circa 1930s. This engine was sold back to the SR in 1946, reconditioned and put into service on the Lyme Regis branch, subsequently being saved for preservation by the Bluebell Railway.
- LOS86610 EKR 5, an ex LSWR Adams 4-4-2T, at Shepherdswell depot, circa 1930s. This engine was sold back to the SR in 1946, reconditioned and put into service on the Lyme Regis branch, subsequently being saved for preservation by the Bluebell Railway.
- LOS86611 EKR 3, an ex LSWR Ilfracombe Goods 0-6-0, at Shepherdswell circa 1920s.
- LOS86612 EKR 5, an ex LSWR Adams 4-4-2T, at Shepherdswell depot, circa 1930s. This engine was sold back to the SR in 1946, reconditioned and put into service on the Lyme Regis branch, subsequently being saved for preservation by the Bluebell Railway.
- LOS86613 Sandwich Road Station EKR, circa 1936.
- LOS86614 Poison Cross Station EKR, circa 1940s.
- LOS86615 EKR 6, an ex SER class O 0-6-0 rebuilt with an O1 boiler, at Shepherdswell EKR station with EKR 5, an ex LSWR corridor brake third, and S54873, an ex LSWR 10 ton goods brake van, on 1948.
- LOS86616 EKR 8, an ex SER class O 0-6-0, at Shepherdswell, circa 22/4/1935.
- LOS86617 EKR 6, an ex SER class O 0-6-0 prior to rebuilding, at Wingham Canterbury Road in 1931. (Dr IC Allen).
- LOS86618 EKR 8, an ex SER class O 0-6-0, at Shepherdswell, circa 22/4/1935.
- LOS86619 EKR 3, and ex Cheshire Lines Committee 4 wheel third, and EKR 5, an ex LSWR 6 wheel brake third, at Shepherdswell, circa late 1930s.
- LOS86620 EKR 7, an ex LSWR Beattie 0-6-0ST, at Shepherdswell Station circa 1920s.
- LOS86621 EKR 1, a 0-6-0ST, inside the loco shed at Shepherdswell, circa 1930s.

LOS86622 EKR 4, a Kerr Stuart 'Victory' class 0-6-0T, at Shepherdswell depot, 22/4/1935.

LOS86623 EKR 7, an ex LSWR Beattie 0-6-0ST, in for scrapping at Ashford Works in 1946.

LOS86624 EKR 3, an ex LSWR Ilfracombe Goods 0-6-0, at Wingham Canterbury Road circa 1920s.

LOS86625 EKR 7, an ex LSWR Beattie 0-6-0ST, at Wingham Canterbury Road circa 1920s.

LOS86626 EKR 29, an ex SER 4 plank open wagon, circa 1940s.

LOS86683 EKR 6, an ex SER class O 0-6-0 prior to rebuilding, at Wingham Canterbury Road in 1931. (Dr IC Allen).

LOS86787 Eastry South Station, EKR, circa 1940s.

LOS86865 EKR 4, a Kerr Stuart 'Victory' class 0-6-0T, near Shepherdswell with a freight, circa 1930s.

LOS91357 EKR 2, an 0-6-0ST named 'Walton Park', at Shepherdswell, circa 1930.

LOS92002 EKR 6, an ex SER class O 0-6-0 prior to rebuilding, at Shepherdswell circa 1925.

LOS92003 EKR 2, an 0-6-0ST named 'Walton Park', at Shepherdswell, circa 1930.

LOSDC0865 Wingham Canterbury Road Station EKR after the track across the crossing into the station was lifted, 14/10/1950. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0866 Lower quadrant signal protecting the level crossing at Wingham Canterbury Road EKR after the track across the crossing into the station was lifted, 14/10/1950. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0867 M7281, an ex Midland Railway 10 ton vanfit, at Wingham Canterbury Road EKR 14/10/1950. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0868 Wingham Canterbury Road EKR goods yard 14/10/1950. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0869 Wingham Colliery Station EKR 14/10/1950. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0870 Staple Station EKR 14/10/1950. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0871 Staple Station EKR 14/10/1950. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0872 Staple Station EKR 14/10/1950. Note the very tidy condition of the station which had closed in October 1948 which at the time of the photograph was only open for goods traffic. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0873 Ash Station EKR 14/10/1950. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0874 Lower quadrant home signal on the Wingham line at Eastry EKR, 14/10/1950. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0875 View of the Wingham line on the left and the Richborough line on the right at Eastry EKR, 14/10/1950. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0876 View looking northwards looking down on Eastry Station EKR, 14/10/1950. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0901 View eastwards at Shepherdswell LCDR looking to the abandoned spur to the EKR on the left, 3/3/1951. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0902 Panoramic view of the EKR yard and station at Shepherdswell. 3/3/1951. The closed EKR platform is in the middle background with the working connection to the SR running behind the engine shed. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0903 View at Shepherdswell EKR looking northwards, 3/3/1951. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0904 EKR lower quadrant home signal at the north end of Shepherdswell EKR yard, 3/3/1951. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0905 View northwards from inside Golgotha Tunnel EKR, 3/3/1951. Note the width of the tunnel which was built for a double track. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0906 LMS type home signal at Eythorne EKR, 3/3/1951. Eythorne station was to the left and the abandoned line to Guilford Colliery was to the right behind the signal. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0907 View southwards at Eythorne Station EKR, 3/3/1951. The abandoned line to Guilford Colliery was to the left. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0908 View northwards at Eythorne Station EKR, 3/3/1951. The 'mainline' of the EKR was to the left and the line to Tilmanstone Colliery was to the right. The headgear of the colliery can be seen in the distance. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0909 Knowlton Halt EKR, 3/3/1951. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0910 EKR milepost 5 near Eastry South Station, 3/3/1951. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0911 Eastry South Station EKR, 3/3/1951. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0912 Eastry Station EKR looking north, 3/3/1951. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0913 Poison Cross Halt EKR, 3/3/1951. (D Cullum)

LOSDC0914 Sandwich Road Halt EKR, 3/3/1951. (D Cullum)

LOSJNF313-331434, an ex SECR class O1, is seen at Eythorne EKR on 19/5/1957 with the LCGB 'London Chatham and Dover Special' some 10 years after passenger services had ceased. (JN Faulkner)

LOSJNF313-431434, an ex SECR class O1, is seen at Eythorne EKR on 19/5/1957 with the LCGB 'London Chatham and Dover Special' some 10 years after passenger services had ceased. (JN Faulkner)

LOSJNF313-5EKR 'Trespass' cast iron notice at Eythorne EKR on 19/5/1957. (JN Faulkner)