

The Opening of Amersham Station



Carpenters working on the construction of the goods shed at Amersham Station, 1891.



Extract from 1898 OS map. There is very little development around the new station. Hill Avenue has not yet been laid out. There are a few houses, the Post Office and the Station Hotel on Station Road.

The first official train service to Amersham departed Baker Street at 10.47am on 1st September 1892. It arrived in Amersham less than an hour later at 11.36am

Amersham station was opened as part of the 16 mile stretch of the Metropolitan Railway from Chalfont Road (now Chalfont & Latimer) to Aylesbury. Dignitaries on the train's first journey were invited to a celebratory lunch in Aylesbury. Local businessmen in Amersham celebrated with a dinner at the Griffin.

The new station was isolated, situated on the hill over half a mile away from the existing town. Amersham's main landowner, the Tyrwhitt-Drakes, opposed the railway being built in the town. They feared that it would ruin the view from their seat at Shardeloes. They eventually relented but only permitted a station on the hill. The only nearby buildings were Woodside Farm, Hyron's Farm and a few houses around the Boot and Slipper pub. There was also a small community around Amersham Common, close to where the Black Horse Bridge is today.

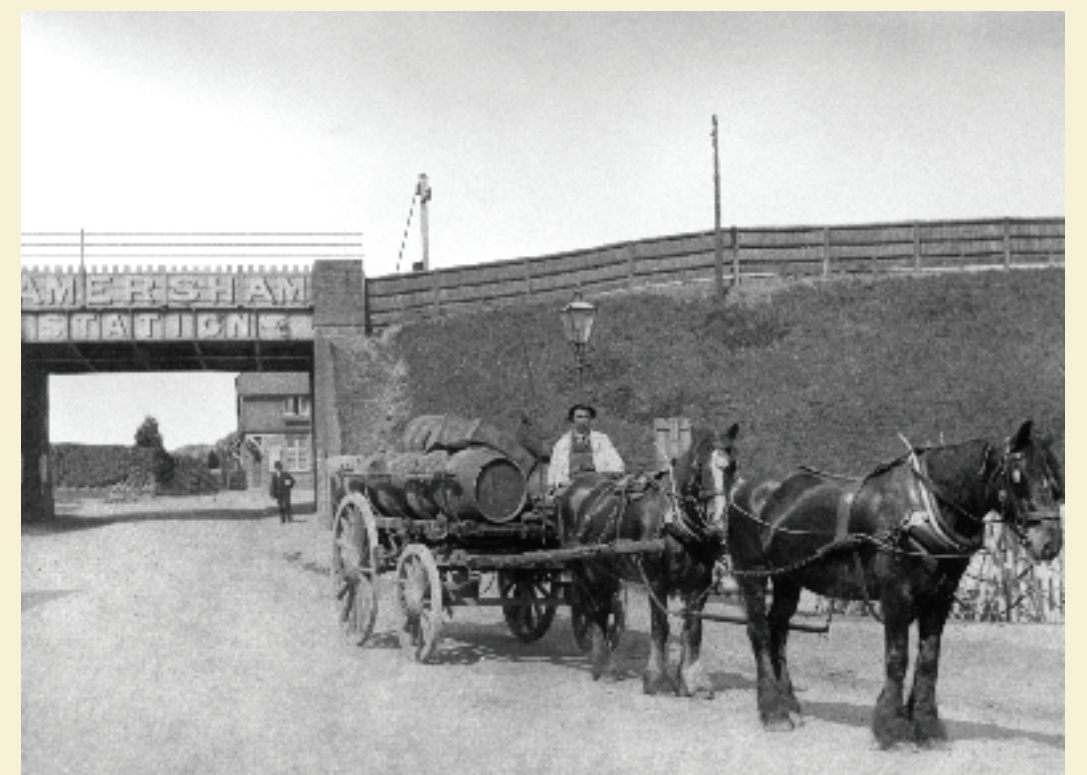
A new road, Station Road, was laid out to link the station to Amersham. It provided a gentler ascent than the existing Rectory Hill, enabling horse-drawn coaches to transport passengers to the station.



A view up Station Road, 1914.



The Station Hotel, opened by Weller's brewery in 1893. The Wellers transferred their licence from the Black Horse pub at Amersham Common to the new hotel outside the station.



Drayman by the bridge at the top of Station Road. He had probably just visited the Station Hotel.