



Railway & Canal Historical Society - Pipelines & Materials Handling Group

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Gas Holders - Vanishing

By Graham H Wild

It was only when the Derby Telegraph announced that the gas holders in Pride Park were to be demolished that I realized that gas holders generally have been disappearing over the years without my really noticing their demise. Those outside London St Pancras station were very noticeable in that there was uproar when it was proposed to demolish them to make way for the new train shed extension for the Eurostar trains. They were eventually dismantled and stored with the intention of re-erecting them close by when the St Pancras station was complete.

There used to be a gas holder by the railway line close to Stapleton Road station as you run into Bristol Temple Meads from Bristol Parkway. This was demolished within the last three years.





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Back to the Derby gas holders, these I understand were built post Second World War about the mid 1950s. The photographs I reproduce here were taken one evening when I remembered that work had already started. Having parked the car at what I considered to be a safe distance from them, I walked close as the various fences would allow to take the photographs. There was a very strong smell of gas even with part of the side had been removed. I would not like to have been the one with the blow torch cutting it up into bits for scrap.

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