HH28. Effingham Junction Station, Howard Road, East Horsley

Opened in 1885, East Horsley's second railway station had wooden buildings until a brick-built ticket office was finally built in 2012.

Effingham Junction station was opened in 1888, part of the 'New Guildford Line' operated by the London & South Western Railway company. It connected Guildford with London Waterloo via Cobham and had a separate branch line going via Epsom – hence the 'junction' label.

The railway company were initially unconvinced of the need for a station here, but acquiesced to local landowners who wanted to transport their agricultural products from this location. Instead of a modern brick building as at nearby Horsley Station, here the railway company erected only a signal box and temporary wooden buildings that could be moved elsewhere if necessary. They didn't hurry with this decision - a permanent brick structure was not built at Effingham Junction until 2012.

During its early years Effingham Junction became popular with London ramblers at weekends and a café flourished beside the station. Electrification of the line in 1925 brought sizeable increases in commuters arriving from across the local area. A large wagon shed was built and during World War Two, King George VI famously spent a night there in his royal train. Houses for railway workers and the station master were also built, then demolished in 1988 when the car-park was enlarged. A modern maintenance depot was also added and is now operated by Colas Rail.

Passenger numbers using Effingham Junction currently average around 665 persons per day, two-third of those at nearby Horsley Station but still a considerable number of people. This reflects the

importance of Effingham Junction as a popular transport hub for people drawn from across the wider area.

This profile draws upon information published in a 2024 article by local historian Vivien White, Chair of the Effingham Residents Association. Her full article may be found on the Association's website at https://effinghamresidents.org.uk/effingham-junction-railway-station

LOCATION: On Howard Road some 150 metres south of its junction with Forest Road.