

WARWICK GASWORKS

About sixty years ago, when I was working on the footplate, my mate and I used to shunt Warwick Cape Goods Yard and this included setting the wagons of coal in a siding for the Gasworks. The siding where the coal-wagons were set was adjacent to the Down Mainline, just west of Cape Road Bridge, and would hold about ten wagons. At a point near this siding was a narrow gauge railway, which took a curving course on a falling gradient to the Gasworks.

To unload these coal wagons the Gasworks used one open topped manually propelled truck. This was positioned close to the coal wagons and a man would shovel the coal out of the wagon into this truck until full, possibly about a couple of tons. As it was a falling gradient, once the brakes were released, this truck would start to roll and the man in charge would step onto the back of it and ride to the Gasworks, a distance of about 150 yards.

I would guess that the Gasworks used about forty tons of coal a day.

(This article was printed in the WIAS Newsletter June 2005)