

The frequency of trains between Paddington, Birmingham (Snow Hill) and Wolverhampton (Low Level) using the Bicester cut-off was substantially increased from September 1960 in line with reductions in services between Euston, New Street and High Level to allow engineering work for electrification. At Banbury some trains now detached portions for the south coast, travelling via Reading. For handling this traffic, three 'Castle' class locomotives, including 7011 *Banbury Castle*, were allocated to Banbury shed. There were 15 departures daily from Paddington to Wolverhampton and beyond by way of Bicester. A 'Blue Pullman' multiple unit operated up morning and down evening business services to and from Wolverhampton and made a return trip to Snow Hill in the middle of the day. The film *Let's Go to Birmingham*, made by British Transport Films in 1962, is a record of a journey from Paddington to Snow Hill in a Blue Pullman unit, completing the journey in five-and-a-half minutes. Directed by Jack West, it was modelled on the famous BBC production, *London to Brighton in Four Minutes*, made a decade earlier. Most of the other trains on the line were then steam hauled and the experience of watching 'King' class locomotives hauling a succession of heavy trains through Haddenham one June evening in 1962 remains memorable.



2. A brand new 'Western Class' diesel, no D1005 Western Venturer, completed at Swindon on 18 June 1962, passes Banbury in the following month heading a rake of vintage Pullman cars substituting for one of the Blue Pullman units on the services between Paddington and Birmingham.