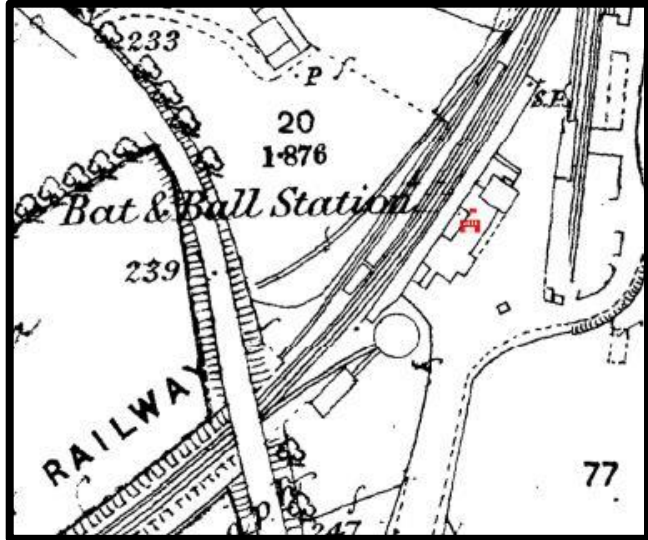


# Turn Table

Steam locomotives were designed to run in one direction- forward. As the Station was originally a termination point due to it being the first railway in Sevenoaks, it was essential to have an engine shed with a turn table enabling the engine to be rotated and placed at the front. Where you are standing is where the once turntable and engine shed was located.

In the era of steam, larger yards also needed round houses with a central turn table which you might be familiar with if you've watched Thomas the Tank Engine. Although the station wasn't that large and not built with multiple tracks, it did need an engine shed. Before trains were invented, turn tables were occasionally used for horse drawn carriages; using a similar design and powered by people. However once locomotives were used for transport, an engineered device was needed due to the extremely heavy weight. Each turn table was different in size depending on the gauge length of the locomotive and if it need to be rotated. Bat & Ball Station's turntable was 45 foot.



*(Image from Kent County Council 1871-1890 historical map. You can see the turn table and engine shed)*



*(Image from Bat & Ball Station. Date unknown. You can just see a glimpse of the turn table to the right of the tracks)*

Sadly, there aren't any photos of what the engine shed looked like but from research and interviews with local residents it was believed to be a bit ropey and not very well made. The shed was fed by a single track from the turntable.

Due to the electrification of the railway around 1935, the engine shed was of disuse. In some circumstances, railway buildings such as engine sheds or signal boxes were sold off very cheaply at the time (now

sought after) and turntables sunk into the ground. Sadly by the end of the year of electrification, the engine shed and turntable were removed from the Station.