

# Waiting Shelter

The waiting shelter you are standing by is made from timber with an intricate decorative valance, typical for railway shelters and matching the other canopy's around the station building. Original waiting shelters or sheds are increasingly becoming rare due to their lack of maintenance (not as hardy as modern metal) and are very vulnerable to vandalism. Although few are demolished and rebuilt using other materials, this waiting shelter remains in near as original condition having undergone a restoration around the same time of the Station restoration and Bat and Ball Community Centre. The waiting shelter did have fully enclosed waiting rooms at either end of the shelter, with an open central section. These features contribute to the architectural interest of the site as a set piece of railway architecture.

The footbridge which is still here today, was originally covered by a corrugated iron structure with a triangular patterned frame and no mesh sides to stop people falling through. The footbridge lost it's decorative cover around 1962 and 1984.



*(Image: Kent Rail by David Morgan)*



*(Image: Waiting shelter prior to restoration 2017. The state here was altered by Southeastern, opening the enclosed waiting rooms either end.)*

*References: Kent Rail, Historic England, Bat & Ball Station Heritage Collective, Disused Stations online.*