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AND FINALLY...

Dailens – once you saw it, now you don't

PHOTOS: Bryan Stone



Dailens, 19 km from Lausanne where the lines to Yverdon and Vallorbe diverge, was opened as a halt in 1855, was enlarged in 1870 when it became the junction, and was closed to passengers in 1967. The reason was not so much the obvious scarcity of custom, but that the junction was to be completely rebuilt, the mechanical signalling removed, making the station and its lever frame redundant. One picture, taken in March 1968, looks north upon the station, office and rural level crossing, a 'just-in-time' case indeed. The station master was still at his lever frame, while my train from Vallorbe passes through the reconstruction work. Very quickly, platforms and points were removed, track re-aligned for high speed, and control passed to Cossonay, just south. Today the double track line to Vallorbe is still there, although traffic is nothing like it was, and the last reminder of Dailens is the still recognisable station house, on the east side. Just next door, however, is a huge development neither dreamed of in 1855, nor in 1967; SwissPost and others have installed to the west of the main line, a large rail-connected sorting centre, with block trains running across the country from this intermodal terminal. Dailens is still on the railway map - but there are passengers no more. 



TOP: The old station just before removal in March 1968.

LEFT: The SwissPost complex now on the site.