

# 7.

## Amlwch branch

Leaving the mainline at Gaerwen, the branch to Amlwch was opened fully in 1867. During the period covered by this volume it was used by steam and DMU operated passenger traffic until December 1964 but the main involvement of English Electric traction came from the 1970's onwards with numerous class 40 hauled freight services traversing the line. In the main these involved workings to and from the Associated Octel chemical plant at Amlwch. Trainloads of sulphur were transported there from Mostyn Dock. In the other direction consignments of chlorine and ethylene dybromide were despatched from Amlwch to Ellesmere Port and anti-knock compound to a number of UK and European refineries, altogether this amounted to a total of approximately 70,000 tonnes per annum. In addition, during the mid 1970's class 40's made occasional visits to a spur off the branch at Rhosgoch to deliver pipes for a pipeline from the Shell Oil storage tanks on the site to their Stanlow refinery, see page 82. Also, from the early 1980's they started to turn up on Trip workings from Llandudno Junction. Finally, during the 1980's a number of class 40 hauled charter trains visited the line. The first of these, as shown on pages 82 and 84, was the "Amlwch Pioneer" top and tailed by 40058 and 40034 in May 1983.



### Above

July 20th 1983. 40172 is seen heading 7D05 the Amlwch to Llandudno Junction tanks at "The Dingle" Llangefni. The final destination for the load from Associated Octel would be Ellesmere Port. The post for the former Llangefni up distant signal is seen in the foreground. The last working of this service took place behind 31126 on February 10th 1994 although its frequency had been much reduced since September of the previous year. Closed for over 17 years there are rumours circulating about a possible re opening of the line to cater for tourists and possibly to transport materials needed for the potential Wylfa B nuclear power station project. As for 40172, she would remain in traffic for only a further seven weeks from this date before being withdrawn from service at Crewe Diesel depot.

**Photo Peter Hanahoe.**