

Lyonshall Castle – one of a record-breaking class of steam locomotives

The Castle class locomotives were a group of 4-6-0 steam locomotives of the Great Western Railway. They were originally designed by the railway's Chief Mechanical Engineer, Charles Collet, based on an earlier design by the great Locomotive, Carriage, and Wagon Superintendent G J Churchward. They worked the company's express passenger trains.

The Castle class was noted for superb performance on the *Cheltenham Flyer* during the 1930s. On June 6 1932, pulled by 5006 Tregenna Castle, the train covered 77 miles (124 km) from Swindon to Paddington at an average speed of 81.68 miles per hour (131.45 km/hr). This world record for steam traction was widely regarded as an astonishing feat.

The Castles had roomy cabs, with side windows and comfortable seats for the driver and fireman, and a canopy extending rearwards for shelter. Great Western panache was evident in the smart green livery with copper-capped chimney and polished brass safety-valve cover.

Lyonshall Castle was built at Swindon in May 1935 and withdrawn in September 1962.

Specification

Cylinders (4)	16 x 28 inches	Driving wheel diameter	6 feet 8½ inches
Boiler press.	225 lb/sq in	Total weight	126 tons 11 cwt
Length	65ft 2 in	Coal capacity	6 tons