

THE BR-BRECKNELL, WILLIS 'HIGH SPEED' PANTOGRAPH

The BR-Brecknell, Willis 'High Speed' pantograph represents a joint development by Brecknell, Willis & Co Ltd and the R&D Division's Dynamics Section. The main frame of the Brecknell, Willis 'High Speed' pantograph has been taken and a head suspension and pneumatic frame suspension added.

At first, the pantograph was developed as a low friction, variable parameter device for use in the study of pantograph/overhead line interaction. However, the large number of tests carried out suggested that the pantograph had excellent potential for higher performance service use. Thus, a number of tests have been put in hand to explore this possibility further.

This document describes the pantograph, and outlines the work that has been conducted up to and including test running from Euston to Carlisle on test coach 'Prometheus'.

The report concludes that the general performance of the BR-Brecknell, Willis 'High Speed' pantograph looks very encouraging. Tests so far show that any preliminary snags have been overcome, and that a service evaluation can sensibly begin.