

First recorded UK car journey is marked with historic plaque

Evelyn Ellis drove the first documented motor car journey in 1895 leaving Micheldever Station, near Winchester, Hampshire on a 45 mile journey to the village of Datchet in Berkshire. The journey took eight hours and 14 minutes.

Evelyn was driving a new 4hp Panhard and Levassor car which had been shipped from Paris to Southampton and on to Micheldever for the journey.

He was constantly on the look-out for the police during the drive as he regularly broke the then speed limit of 2 mph in towns and 4 mph in the countryside. It is said he hoped to be stopped so he could start a test case against the unreasonably low speed limit.

A plaque to mark the event was installed by the National Transport Trust at Micheldever railway station and the unveiling was watched by many vintage car enthusiasts on Saturday 3 July 2021.

