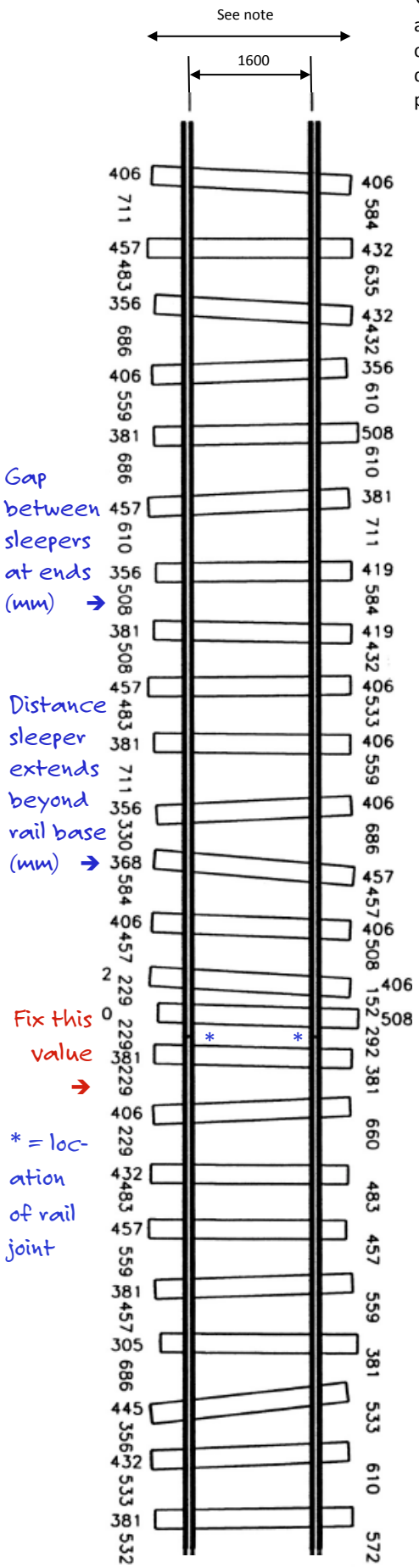
SAR 1600 mm broad gauge track – unballasted developmental 'mainline' measured near Alawoona, 1981

These data sheets are downloadable free from http://www.sap4group.org.au/downloads_and_links.html



Dimensions shown are millimetres, full size. (Measurements were taken in inches, with a tolerance of about ± half an inch; the mm figures shown are simply the result of metric conversion without rounding.)

Features of this drawing

The track was secondary mainline. Rail was in 24.3 metre lengths. Joints were square (perpendicular).

The sleepers adjacent to the joints shown were particularly close.

Sleeper size (timber): 2540–2670 mm x 254 x 127 mm thick. Rail weight: worn 63 pounds/yard (= 31 kg/m = code 55 in HO). Base plates 254 x 190 mm.

The origin of this "main" line as a developmental line early in the 20th century was reflected in its still being without ballast – see the indicative lower photograph on page 5-12 of the covering article. The track was laid on red/tan-coloured sandy mallee loam, level with the surrounding land. For the most part in this section, the sandy loam was flush with sleeper tops, but in some patches the sleepers were about 20–30 mm above the sand. About 20% of sleepers were in badly "pumped" holes – see covering article. No rust stains were noticeable on the sleepers.

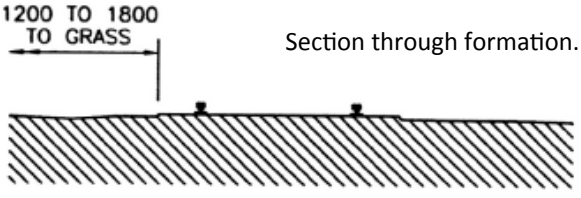
Thin tufts of grass were about 2 metres from the ends of sleepers.

Ensure this drawing is the right size

Having an exact-scale drawing is especially useful when making a jig to ensure accuracy of sleeper spacing. The original was drawn to HO scale (1:87.1). However, your computer and printer may not reproduce it at this scale exactly. You can easily correct this. After printing this page, measure the actual length of the line labelled "259l". It should be 29.75 mm long at 1:87.1 scale. Calculate the percentage setting needed to correct it and reprint or photocopy at this new setting.

Simulating broad gauge at 16.5 mm

This drawing is for 1600 mm broad gauge track. In HO scale that equates to a gauge of 18.37 mm. If you want to retain a gauge of 16.5 mm but give the impression of broad gauge, see the notes in the 'Typical broad gauge track with timber sleepers' data sheet.



Section through formation.

Excluding sleepers adjacent to rail joints: average gap between sleepers 535 mm; average sleeper centre lines 790 mm.