

HEXHAM - ALLENDALE OLD RAILWAY (Border Counties June Ry.)



Description of Exploration - Easter 1958

The reason that I put this exploration first is that this was the first railway the usual "trunvirate" explored. Following this, will be all the railways that these three - Francis, Jeremy, and Frank - have explored. Then will follow those with Terry and after that those with just Jeremy and myself. (All these are up to the date of writing)

Daddy took us in the car, after much disputing as where to start, to a bridge about half a mile from where the branch joins the main line. We did not go down to the main line, and I think in some ways we regretted it. However after going under two bridges on which we saw the usual number plates:-

(86)

we came to some trespassing notices and also mile posts (the trespassing notice was only for the railway). Soon we saw the main line below us for the last time. Also here there was a small mineral branch but it was not at all obvious.

Coming onto an embankment we went over numerous fallen cattle and sheep bridges. Then came what I think was the most beautiful part of the railway - a shallow cutting with heather growing either side. Here we stopped to have some "Gub and Pop" and imagined the old train chuffing up the line like Billyoh!

Next came Elrington station followed by Langley up a steep gradient, which continued to Steward. Over the top of a rise we suddenly descended into Alendale station - a caravan site - where we were met with car. The weather had been good and we took four hours to walk it.