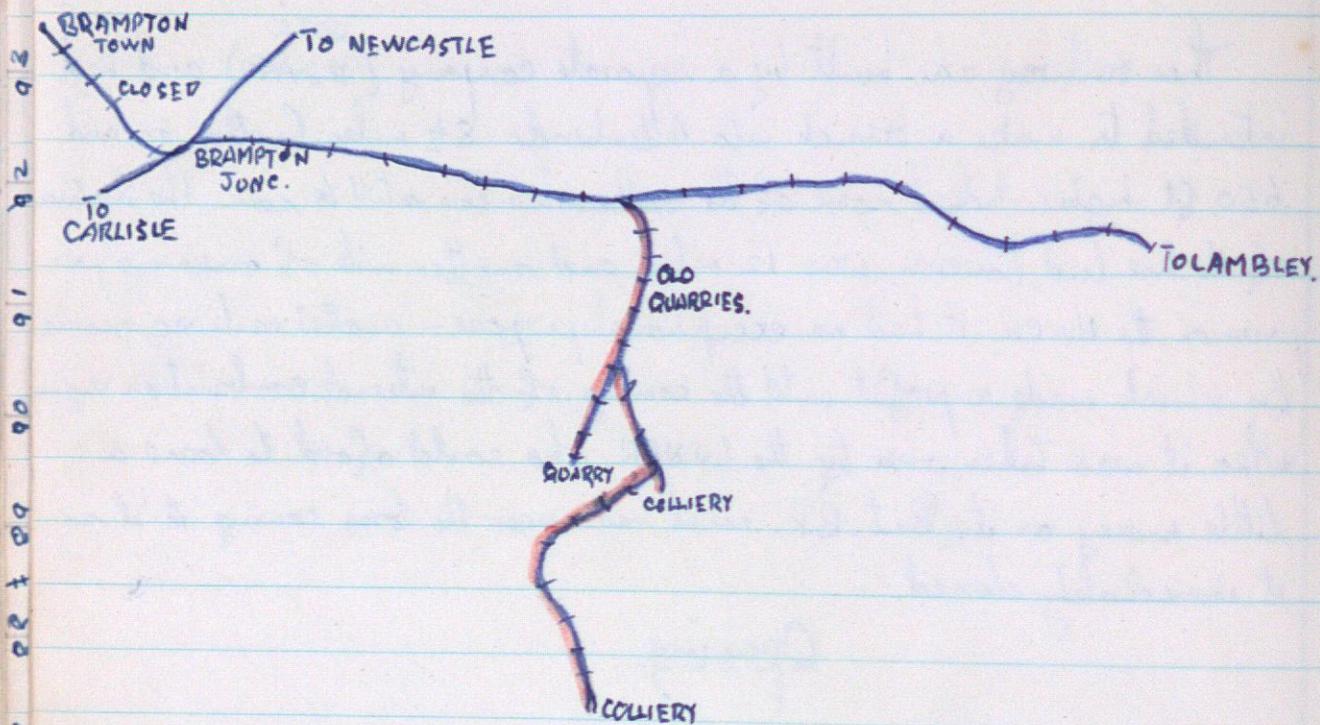


Branch of the Brampton and Hartleyburn railway - Summer 1958.



Description of Exploration.

As this branch begins at Hallbankgate we taken there in the car and set off with some cider as well as our usual "grab." As soon as we got reasonably away from civilization we had something to eat, beside a small riding to some pottery kilns, which we didn't even notice till after our meal in which we incidently discarded the cider which we didn't think was particularly tasteful. There was nothing much to see on the riding so we soon set off again. After a mile or two we came to another riding to a quarry.

This was perhaps one of the great moments in our railway exploring club for we found a old locomotive under the ground with only its side showing. We also found some rails. We didn't bother to retrace steps here but took a short cut back to the main line. Here we came onto a fairly large embankment and found a truck at its near end. At the other end we found a chair and we stopped here for a drink of water from a very small stream. Now we were coming into the hills which later inspired us to paint a water colour with a sunset and mist enveloping a solitary Goods train. It was indeed beautiful country and we were suprised that in fact the line was not very steep. All the way heather covered the track and above us loomed the Pennines with, occasionally, a few crags.

At last we came to an old colliery and on investigation we found inscribed on a wall '1916' so that actually that part of the colliery must have been comparatively recent compared with the evidence of very ancient origin. These were rails of the fishbelly type: -

