

Dunfries - Lochebie branch (Caledonian Rly) Walk from Shieldhill to Lochebie
30/4/61.

The weather was rather doubtful but we drove round to Frank's house and were soon on the way to Shieldhill with Danny + Julian. It rained a bit on the way but it was quite reasonable when we got there. Shieldhill was a typical Caledonian station now all but resting at peace. We had lunch there before setting off. Daddy took Danny + Julian down to Southness, below Creiffell and by the sea. The country on our route was low lying lush land. At Lochmaben we found notices concerning freight travel but on the whole everything was closed up. I think it was after Lochmaben, but I may be wrong, that we came to a long low lying bridge across an ambling river which was obviously inclined to flood (River Annan). There had also been a car crash at Lochmaben. A car had left the road on the embankment up to the railway bridge but nobody seemed to have been hurt. We passed Castle Loch and were soon in the Lochebie district passing a sewer works - rather smelly. We left the railway at a road bridge and it was here that there was a yellow contraption fixed to the middle of a sleeper which looked terribly modern. I left Frank + Jeremy to go and see if I could see any trains on the main line but I had no luck and soon the car rolled up to take us home. On the return journey we discussed plans for the Alnwick - Coldspring full-scale hike.

Photographs and Map over leaf.



The Annan River viaduct or bridge after
Lichminster.



Shieldhill signal box + sidings - a too
familiar sight - The start of our walk.