

Departure from Ashby-de-la-Zouch



The beautiful Ashby-de-la-Zouch railway station was opened by the Midland Railway in 1849 and closed by British Rail in 1964. The site of the station was built on the remains of the horse-drawn Ticknall Tramway, which had carried lime stone from the quarries at Ticknall. As can be seen from the from the above photograph, it was built in a neoclassical Greek style and in the evening sun, it looks awesome. It is a grade 2 listed building. As can be seen, however, from the map on the following page, the Derby train did not depart from this station but from an adjacent platform (station) to its rear.





The route after immediately departing the station seems to have vanished under several modern buildings. But at the point of the blue dot on the above map, its route can still be seen. The following photographs are taken in sequential order from this blue dot point to the red dot location.

Acknowledgements to the National Library of Scotland for allowing the use of the maps.



An alley called Churchside Walk can be found on Wilfred Place quite near to the petrol station. This alley follows the route of the Ashby to Derby line.





The train would have travelled along this route and doubtless, the old bricks on the wall would have 'watched' as it passed by.





The train travelled on until it came, I am told, to a level crossing where the line intersected Kilwardy Street. On the photograph below is the point where the line made this crossing.





Standing at this position on Kilwardy Street, the train would have been coming directly towards you. Having crossed Kilwardy Street, the train travelled a short distance to Burton Road going along, what is now - Trinity Close. The line, I am told, crossed Burton Road via a second level crossing and this can almost be seen on the photograph below.





Here, I believe, is the point where the line crossed Burton Road and with 'a bit' of imagination, one can almost visualise a train passing the building on the above photograph.



After the level crossing on at the red dot on New Burton Road, it is only possible to find traces of the line's route. But at the point where the line crossed Smisby Road, there was a railway bridge, although this has long been removed, it is possible to see remains of the line's route. The following photographs are taken from the blue dot's position.



Along Smisby Road, the remains of the route can be seen. Walking into the opening, an old brick wall can be seen on the left. This probably bounded the line in some way.





As can be seen, it is not far before the line's route has all but been taken over by debris and nature. The brick wall is, however, still visible and at this point, the train would be heading into the beautiful countryside near to Staunton Harold.

