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## Home Counties North Regional Group

### HALF-DAY GEOHERITAGE EXCURSION

Jurassic geology & railway history

### Bradwell to Newport Pagnell Railway Geotrail

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2015, 11.00 to 15.00**

**Meet:** New Bradwell Windmill, Nightingale Crescent, New Bradwell, Milton Keynes, MK13 7UE

**Finish:** The Black Horse, Wolverton Road, Great Linford, Milton Keynes, MK14 5AJ

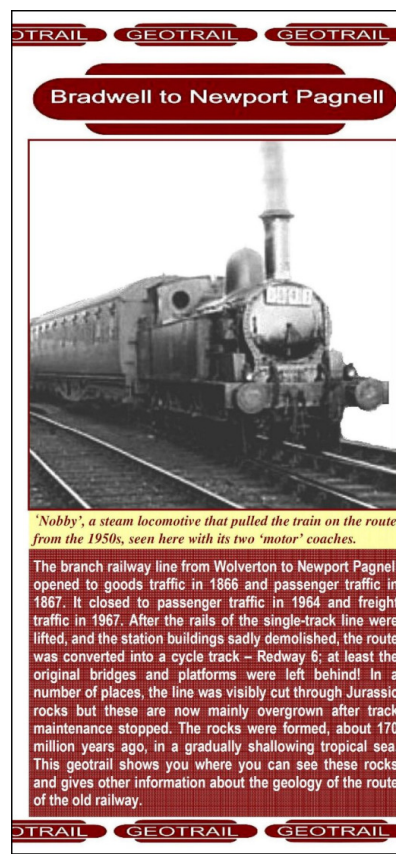
**Leader:** Dr Tom Hose

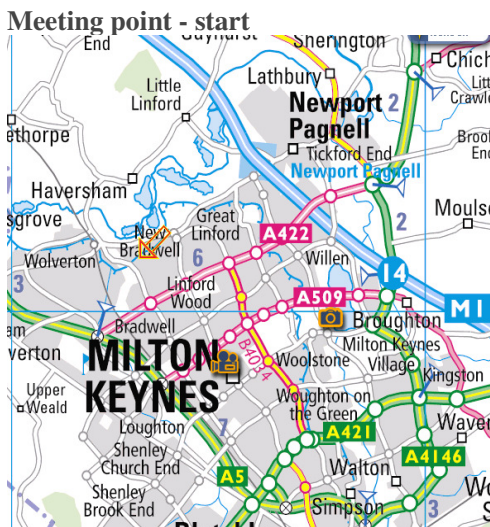
The geology of north Buckinghamshire is dominated by Jurassic age Cornbrash, Blisworth Clay and Blisworth Limestone which will be seen in a series of railway cuttings and old quarries along the route of an abandoned railway line; from this can also be appreciated aspects of local Quaternary geology. The railway engineering and architecture shows the use of these materials and variously imported stones and locally made bricks and lime. The 5.5km walk will look at the interplay between stratigraphy/economic geology and railway/local history over some 150 years.

The Wolverton to Newport Pagnell Line was a branch railway off the old London and North Western Railway, today's West Coast Main Line. It fully opened to freight traffic in 1866 and to passengers in 1867. The line was included in the infamous 'Beeching' report of 1963 and scheduled for closure. The last passenger service was in 1964. The line was closed to freight traffic in 1967 after which the track was quickly lifted; part of the line's trackbed is now incorporated into the Milton Keynes 'redway system', a network of cycle and pedestrian routes.

The Bradwell to Newport Pagnell Railway Geotrail is a self-guided (please download and print off the geotrail leaflet) route using the cycleway built over the old railway trackbed originally developed by the walk leader in 2012. It can be walked or cycled – the leader will be cycling!

There is a maximum of 30 participants for this field trip and priority will be given to Fellows, Candidate Fellows and Juniors of the Geological Society who are members of the Home Counties North Regional Group.





The walk is a mixture of geology, railway engineering and railway/local history. The leader will be using a folding bike (as seen in 5a on the leaflet!), allowing him to get slightly ahead of the party and set up any interpretative material needed, allowing participants time to stroll along and observe the geology and wildlife. No hammers should be brought but cameras and hand-lenses would be very useful.

The best place to start is by the New Bradwell windmill (with adjacent small car park) for the walk into the nearby cutting (SP83241). The best place to finish, with good parking, is The Black Horse - serves a trendy pint and an interesting bite or two! If excursionists could split the parking it would save them time and walking at the end of the day.

Our route (*excursionists must download and print off the geotrail leaflet*) starts at the New Bradwell windmill (above stop 1), then proceeds to stop 8 in a small quarry off the railway route, before retracing our steps to then get to the the Great Linford railway station site. We then partly retrace our steps to finish at The Black Horse, on the canal towpath just north of stop 6.

#### Meeting point - finish



Please book your places on a first-come-first-served basis by e-mail to

[homecountiesnorthregionalgroup@gmail.com](mailto:homecountiesnorthregionalgroup@gmail.com)

Attendees will be asked to sign the usual indemnity form for field trip insurance purposes before the start of the walk.

For more information on the Home Counties North Regional Group visit the website

<http://www.geol Soc.org.uk/hcnrg>