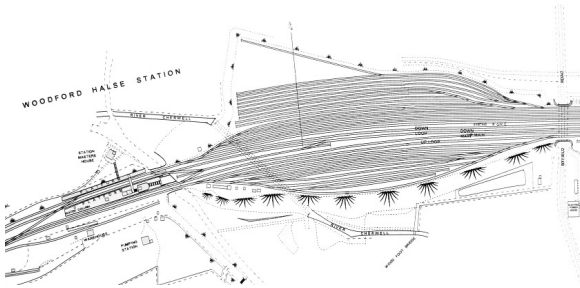


A Railway Memorabilia Walk



Woodford cum Membris

&

The Great Central Railway

A Railway Memorabilia Walk

This walk gives you a chance to see some of the remnants of the days when Woodford Halse was a major railway centre. In this description of the walk I have given page references to the late Jim Anscob's book "**Woodford-cum-Membris and the Great Central Railway**" (available for reference in the Library or to buy (£6.50) from Village Meats) so that you can compare the present with the heyday of the railway.



The walk starts at the Co-op (A). Follow the path over the bank – you are crossing the siding and the main line. To your right as you pass the Memorial Glade, over the bridge, to where the station was. As you leave the Wodland, if you look down Station Road, towards Hinton, where the old railway bridge crosses the road, you can still see the blocked-up doorway behind which steps led up to the platforms.

Walk down Cherwell Terrace and see the rows of red brick, terraced houses built for the railway workers around 1900. At the bottom of the hill you can see how the River Cherwell was diverted and made to pass under the large embankment in two large culverts (B).

The embankment, now wooded (C), once housed the main line and ten sidings (page 35).

Turn right along the track behind the terraced houses. The four newer houses a few yards along mark the site of "the barracks" (D), the overnight hostel and canteen for the railway workers (page 44). The hostel burnt down in 1957 (page 46).

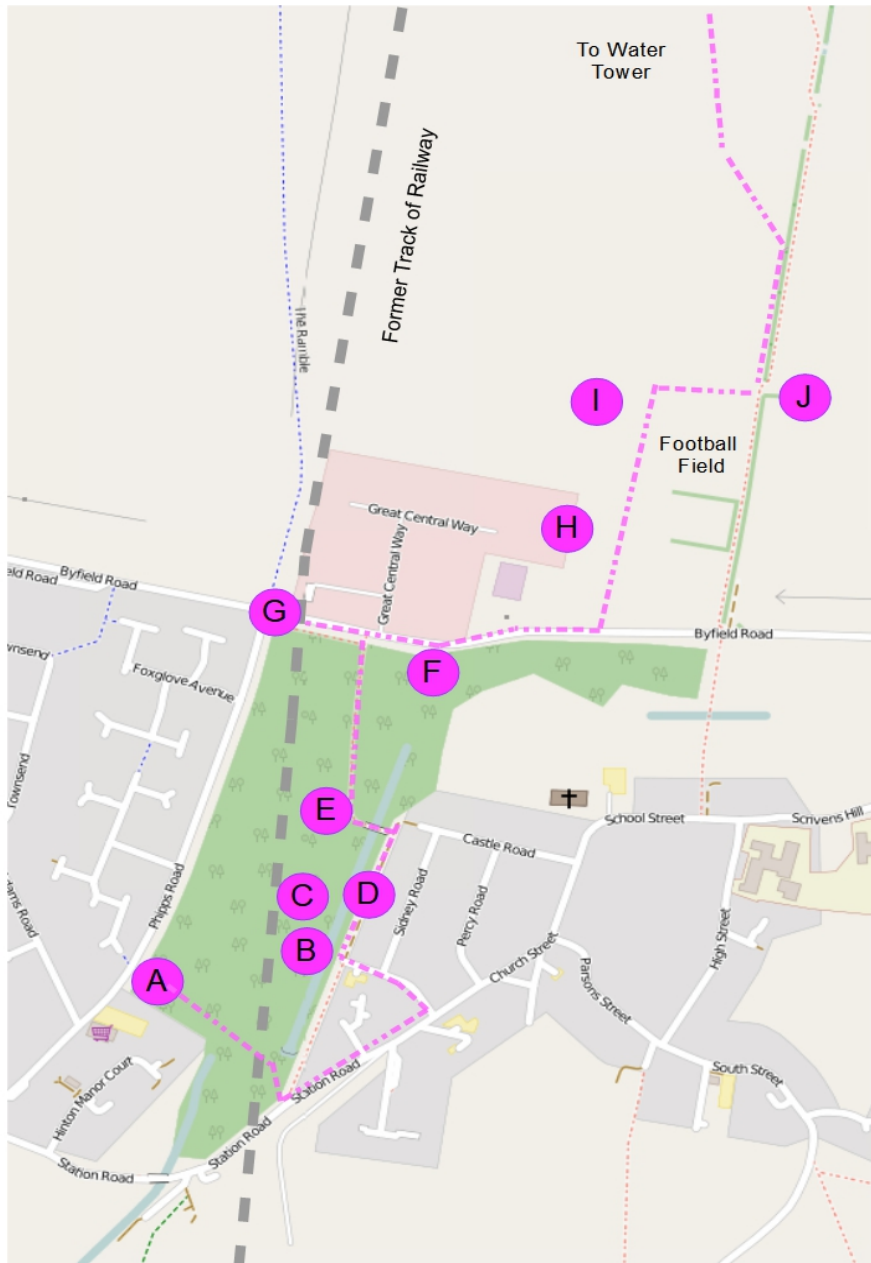
Cross the Cherwell by the wooden bridge and you are now on the Cinder Path (E), the route used by the railway workers to get to the loco sheds and maintenance depot. Follow the path to the Byfield Road. Look back towards the terraced streets and compare with the photo on page 52 (F).

The opposite side of Byfield Rd. is now the Great Central Industrial Estate, where the embankment has been removed.

Look left towards the bus stop where the Byfield Road Bridge once took the line northwards (G). On the embankment were wagon repair shops and extensive sidings, loco sheds, offices and works (pages 35 & 57).



Turn right, crossing the road, till you reach the red dog-litter bin, then turn left past the bin up onto the village playing fields. The industrial units on the left give some indication of the extent of the former works. Continue on, past a second dog bin and onto the grass, and walk straight ahead.



Newer industrial units have recently been erected on the former railway lands. The fencing on the left has the remnants of the railway's border (H). Continue on to the end of the playing fields (I). *Page 60* has a photo taken from the other side of the lines looking towards where you are now standing. Most of this land is now agricultural and nothing remains of the former railway.

If you wish, you can cross to the top right-hand corner of the playing fields (J). and follow the public footpath over three fields to where you can see the water tower, the only relic of the railway buildings still standing. Otherwise, retrace your steps to the village.

Joe Pitt, Footpath Warden, May 2016



You can learn more about Woodford's railway history through the Woodford Halse Archive. Visit WWW.WOODFORDHALSEARCHIVE.ORG to see more railway photographs in File10 of the Village Archive website or find out more in the Library.

Pictures used in this pamphlet came from the archive and their use is gratefully acknowledged.

Layout: John Williams

Map based on Open Street Map: www.openstreetmap.org/copyright