

MARRIOT WAY HERITAGE PROJECT

CITY STN. VISITED AS A YOUNG CHILD, WITH 'DAD' - A RAILWAYMAN.

GOODS YARDS, EMPTY, OVERGROWN, SILENT STATION BUILDINGS. POST-WAR, SINGLE STOREY FLAT ROOF - STEEL WINDOW FRAMES - TYPICAL OF WARTIME MILITARY STYLE

CREAM/RED COACHES

RAILWAY CANTEN - BRICK 'SHED' IN GOODS YARD

MUGS OF TEA - BIG CHEESE ROLLS!

DAD STOPPED TO TALK TO A 'COLLEAGUE' - WHO WAS RECYCLING FIREMAN'S FOOTPLATE SHOVEL SHORTENING 'BLADE' - DAMAGED - CUTTING-OFF END WITH HACKSAW. LOOKED LIKE HARD WORK!

HELLESDON




BRIDGE - CONCRETE 'TANK-TRAP' BLOCKS.

I FOUND THOSE FASCINATING. CROSSING GATES, WERE HEAVY - STRONG LEVER + CHAIN/HOOK FASTENINGS, METAL EMBOSSED PLATES: ADVICE, WARNINGS AND PENALTIES! SLEEPERS CREATED A 'LEVEL CROSSING'!

CROSSED LINE OFTEN TO SWIM IN RIVER. HAVING WALKED DOWN, ACROSS FIELDS. WAVED TO THE ENGINE DRIVER - STEAM STILL IN USE - GOODS ONLY BY THEN. WE SWAM AT WHAT WAS CALLED 'GREEN LANE' - (OPPOSITE BANK). THIS WAS A LOCAL 'BEAUTY SPOT' ON THE LOW ROAD - A FAVOURITE PLACE FOR SWIMMING/PICNICING! NOW COMPLETELY ABANDONED!


DRAYTON.

BRICK ARCH TAKING RAILWAY OVER COSTESBY LANE NOW GONE - AS IS SIGNAL BOX - STILL THERE IN EARLY 70'S?  BRIDGE AS AT HELLESDON - UNDER-

NEATH BRIDGE - SANDY BOTTOM - BIG FISH SITTING IN THE CURRENT! FELL IN RIVER ONCE - REMEMBER WALKING HOME - GREY FLANNEL SHORT TROUSERS CHAFFING MY LEGS! MID/LATE 60'S TAKING COWS FROM CHURCH FARM ACROSS LINE WITH MIKE TODD (NOT THE FILM DIRECTOR - "AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS", FAME)

POETIC? WHEN VERY YOUNG - EARLY EVENING - TIME FOR BED THE SOUND OF THE "DREAMLAND EXPRESS" COULD BE HEARD IN THE VALLEY - THE WHISTLE OF THE STEAM ENGINE, AND THE RATTLE OF THE ~~CARRIAGE~~ ^{CARRIAGE} ~~AND~~ AIRCRAFT FROM WHAT WAS STILL RAF STRAITHEES (NORWICH AIRPORT)

MINGLED WITH SOUND OF

"IDYLIC?" DRAYTON  BRIDGE + EMBANKMENT AS BACK-DROP. PADDLING/NET FISHING IN SHALLOW BEND IN RIVER JUST DOWN FROM COSTESSEY MILL. SUNNY, HOT SUNDAY AFTERNOONS - FAMILIES, PICNICS, COWS GRAZING, HORSES IN MEADOWS BY THE RIVER!

REMEMBER HEARING WHISTLE OF STEAM ENGINE LOOKING UP TO SEE TANK ENGINE? + CARRIAGES CROSSING BRIDGE ON EMBANKMENT, HEADING FOR NORWICH - 'COACHES' CREAM/RED. WINDOWS OPEN 'SLAM DOOR' TYPE. "A SEASIDE EXPRESS" MIXED UP WITH ^{MEMORIES OF} SIMILAR SIGHTS AT N. WALSAW/BRUNDALL JUNCTIONS - TRAINS HEADING FOR CROMER/MUNDSEBY AND ST. YARMOUTH FULL OF FAMILIES/STRANGERS/SCOUTS/GUIDES - ALL LIFE THERE?

FOULSHAM

GRAHAM IRESON'S "ARMY" TRUCK + DAD - SQUEEZED INTO CAB. I WAS VERY YOUNG (5/6?) TRIP TO COLLECT LOAD OF RAILWAY SLEEPERS! RAILS HAD ALREADY BEEN REMOVED. REMEMBER CROSSING GATES AND A RAILWAY SIDING? BIG ADVENTURE - OBVIOUSLY, AS I STILL REMEMBER

UNTIL I LEFT IN EARLY '70S

THE TRACKS, FENCES, CROSSINGS WERE STILL ALL IN PLACE BETWEEN DRAYTON/HELLEDON! THE LINE SPANNED THE YEARS OF MY GROWING UP. AND HOLD MANY MEMORIES !!!