

**The**  
**RUGELEY**  
**to**  
**ABBOTS BROMLEY RAILWAY**

(First draft)

Researched and written by Robin Mathams



## THE RUGELEY TO ABBOTS BROMLEY RAILWAY

The London Gazette of 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1859 reported a proposal for an Act of Parliament for "Construction of Railway from near Rugeley Station to Abbots Bromley". The full transcript is as follows;

### **Rugeley and Abbots Bromley Railway. (Construction of Railway from, near Rugeley to Abbots Bromley)**

Notice is hereby given, that it is intended to apply to Parliament, in the next session, for leave to bring in a Bill to incorporate a Company for making and maintaining the following Railway with all necessary stations and other works and conveniences (that is to say), a line of railway commencing by a junction with the Trent Valley line of the London and North Western Railway in the parish of Colton, at a point 300 yards or thereabouts, to the north of the Rugeley Station, and passing from, through, and into, the parishes of Colton, Colwich, Blithfield and Abbots Bromley, and townships of Abbots Bromley, and Bagots Bromley, both in the, parish of Abbots Bromley, and terminating, in the said parish of Abbots Bromley, in a field, the property of Wm. Lord Bagot, or Ralph Sneyd, his trustee, called Robothams Lower Piece in the occupation of John Meeson adjoining the public road leading from Rugeley to Abbots Bromley, all in the county of Stafford.

And by which Bill power will be taken to deviate from the lines and levels of the said railway to the extent defined on the plans and sections to be deposited as after mentioned, and to cross, stop up, alter, and divert, either temporarily or permanently, all turnpike and other roads, and highways, footways, railways, tram roads, aqueducts, canals, rivers, and streams, sewers, navigations, and bridges, within the several parishes and townships before mentioned, or any of them which it may be expedient to cross, stop up, alter, or divert, by reason of the construction of the said intended railway and works, or any of them: And to purchase lands, tenements, hereditaments, and houses, for the purposes of the aforesaid railway and works by compulsion and by agreement, and to vary, repeal, or extinguish all existing rights and privileges connected with such lands, houses, tenements, and hereditaments, and all other rights and privileges which would in any way impede or interfere with the construction, maintenance, and use of the said intended line of railway, and works, or any of them.

And power will also be taken to raise money for the said purposes by the creation of shares, and by borrowing on mortgage and otherwise; and to levy tolls, rates, and duties on or for the use of the said proposed railway and works, and to alter existing tolls, rates, and duties, and to vary, extinguish, or confer exemptions from payment of tolls, rates, and duties, and to confer, vary and extinguish other rights and privileges. And power will also be taken to the London and North Western Railway Company, and any other company or person, to enter into contracts or arrangements for working and maintaining the said proposed railway and works by the said London and North Western Railway or other company or person.

And it is intended, as far as may be requisite or desirable for any of the purposes of the said Bill, to amend, or repeal, or alter the provisions, or some of them, of the several Acts of Parliament following - that is to say (local and personal) : the 8th and 9th Vict., chap. 36, 37, 105, 111, 112, 123, 156, and 198: the 9th and 10th Vict., chap. 67, 80, 82, 152, 182, 184, 192, 193, 204, 231, 232, 233, 241, 248, 259, 261, 262, 269, 300, 309, 322, 323, 324, 328, 331, 359, 368, 369, 380, 396: 10th and 11th Vict., chap. 73, 107, 114, 118, 120, 121, 131, 132, 139, 159, 161, 178, 188, 228, 236, 270, 278, 294: 11th and 12th Vict., chap. 58, 60, and 130: 12th and 13th Vict., chap. 74: 13th and 14th Vict., chap. 36: 14th and 15th Vict., chap. 28 and 94: 15th and 16th Vict. chap. 98 and 105: 16th and 17th Vict., chap. 97, 110, 157, 160, 161, 205, 216, and 222: 17th and 18th Vict. chap. 201 and 204: 18th and 19th Vict., chap. 172 and 194: 19th and 20th Vict., chap. 52, 69, and 123: 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Vict., chap. 64, 98, and 108; 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Vict., chap. 130 and 131 : and of the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Viet., chap. 2, 88, 113, 126, and 134; and all other Acts of Parliament relating to the said London and North Western Railway.

And notice is also hereby given, that on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> day of November instant, duplicate plans and sections of the, said, proposed railway together with books of reference to such plans, containing the reputed owners, lessees or reputed lessees, and occupiers of the lands and property proposed to be taken, with a published map, showing the line or situation of the proposed railway and works, and a copy of this notice, as published in the London Gazette, will be deposited with the Clerk of the Peace for the county of Stafford, at Stafford and on or before the said 30th day of November instant, a copy of so much of the said plans, sections, and book of reference, as relates to each of the several parishes, in or through which the said railway and works are intended to be made, together with a copy of this notice, as published in the London Gazette, will be deposited with the parish clerk of each parish, at his residence, or in case of any extra-parochial place, with the parish clerk of some parish immediately adjoining thereto.

And on or before the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December next, copies of a Bill for the purposes before mentioned, will be deposited in the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons.

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1859.

Landor, Gardner and Landor, Rugelev,  
Solicitors for the Bill.  
Rugeley, November, 1859



## THE RUGELEY TO ABBOTS BROMLEY RAILWAY

The reason for the branch line is not clear apart from an investment opportunity (the 'Railway Mania') or for the transportation of livestock, farming products and supplies. Whether passenger traffic was intended is open to debate because the terminus was to be in a field beside the Rugeley to Abbots Bromley road approximately 1¾ miles from the village but just within the Abbots Bromley parish boundary, the site now lying beneath the waters of Blithfield Reservoir. One reason for this site is topographical, the land now submerged by the reservoir was the lowest land accessible thus enabling avoiding a steep gradient (hence the reservoir in later years). The line, a distance of 3 miles 5 furlongs and 5 chains, would have been surveyed in early 1859 but who the surveyor was, is unknown but Charles Cheffins is likely as he surveyed other possible railway lines in the area, notably the branch from Armitage to Alrewas.

The line never came to fruition because of strong, effective protest action by the landowners, rallied, it is said, by Lord Bagot of Blithfield Hall. The villagers of Colton and Stockwell Heath would not have been too happy either because the line would have passed through the heart of their villages. Had passenger traffic been intended, that raises the prospect of a station in Colton village, probably unlikely due to Rugeley Trent Valley station being reasonably near.

The Bill makes clear that the London & North Western Railway Company (LNWR) would be contracted to maintain the line, the LNWR owning the main line to which the R&A line would be connected at Rugeley. This raises the possibility that the LNWR was behind the proposal.

### THE ROUTE

The Junction of the line with the London & North Western Railway (LNWR) was 300 yards to the north of Rugeley Station – at the Southern's Cattle Arch (now covered in) and the present Fogmen's Cottages. It would then have curved sharply to the north crossing Colton Road, which would have been deviated, then over Rydal Farm Industrial Estate and on to pass through Colton village at the junction of Bellamour Way and Martlin Lane (where the War Memorial is located) at a right-angle to Bellamour Way. The line would then run parallel to Colton High Street then pass the hamlet of Stockwell Heath, after which it would curve sharply through ninety degrees to run through the land now submerged by Blithfield Reservoir, terminating at the Rugeley-Uttoxeter road causeway, approximately 150 yards from the north shore of the reservoir. It would have consisted of a continuous series of curves and climbed from the main line at Rugeley to its end at Abbots Bromley, making it hard work for steam locomotives.

### THE LANDOWNERS

The schedule of landowners who would have land compulsorily purchased yields evidence of the ownership and occupiers at the time. It accompanied the submission to Parliament with drawings of the survey upon which are marked the reference numbers which appear in the first column. The schedule is reproduced below, *SURVEY MAPS AT BACK.*

<i>SCHEDULE OF LANDOWNERS – PARISH OF COLTON</i>			
Plan no	Description of property	Owners or reputed owners	Occupiers
1	Trent Valley line of railway station, goods warehouse, water crane, tank, switch box and bridge	London & North Western Railway (LNWR)	LNWR
1a	Occupation Road	LNWR and John de Heley Chadwick, Elizabeth Sophia Landor, Catherine Mary Landor, The Rev. Robert Rashleigh Duke and Ellen Savage, his wife	Walter Glenn and Walter John Landor
2	Arable & occupation roads	Elizabeth Sophia Landor, Catherine Mary Landor, The Rev. Robert Rashleigh Duke and Ellen Savage, his wife	Walter John Landor
3	Arable & occupation roads	Elizabeth Sophia Landor, Catherine Mary Landor, The Rev. Robert Rashleigh Duke and Ellen Savage, his wife	Walter John Landor
4	Arable	Elizabeth Sophia Landor, Catherine Mary Landor, The Rev. Robert Rashleigh Duke and Ellen Savage, his wife	Walter John Landor
5	Arable	Elizabeth Sophia Landor, Catherine Mary Landor, The Rev. Robert Rashleigh Duke and Ellen Savage, his wife	Walter John Landor
2a	Pasture, hovel and backyard	John de Heley Chadwick	Walter Glenn
6	Public Road	Surveyors of Highways	
3a	Pasture, drain & culvert	The Right Rev. Thomas George, Earl of Lichfield	Joseph Sharrod
4a	Pasture	Earl of Lichfield	Joseph Sharrod
6a	Cart, hovel & shed	Earl of Lichfield	Joseph Sharrod
5a	Cow houses, stables and fodder bin	Earl of Lichfield	Joseph Sharrod
16	Pasture	Rev. Abdiel Seaton and the Rev. Charles Wilson Landor	John Harland



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16a	Occupation road & footpath	Rev. Abdiel Seaton. Rev. Charles Wilson Landor. Thomas Berry Horsfall & William Hanbury	John Harland, George Tomlinson & Wm. Turner
17	Pasture, brook course drain, culverts and flood gates	Trustees of Colton Poor Land namely, The Rt. Hon Thomas George, Earl of Lichfield. Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot,. Rev. Abdiel Seaton. George Thomas Whitgreave, William Hanbury & Walter Landor	Henry Walter Holland & Rev Abdiel Seaton
17a	Pasture	Rev. Abdiel Seaton and the Rev. Charles Wilson Landor	John Harland
17b	Public footpath	Surveyors of Highways	
17c	Public footpath	Surveyors of Highways	
17d	Footpath & Occupation road	Surveyors of Highways. Rev. Abdiel Seaton. Rev. Charles Wilson Landor. Thomas Berry Horsfall & William Hanbury	George Tomlinson, John Harland & Wm. Turner
17e	Occupation road	Trustees of Colton Poor Land; The Rt. Hon Thomas George, Earl of Lichfield. Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot,. Rev. Abdiel Seaton. George Thomas Whitgreave, William Hanbury & Walter Landor. Thomas Berry Horsfall	Henry Walter Holland, Rev Abdiel Seaton & William Turner
18	Pasture, brook course drain, culverts and flood gates	Trustees of Colton Poor Land; The Rt. Hon Thomas George, Earl of Lichfield. Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot,. Rev. Abdiel Seaton. George Thomas Whitgreave, William Hanbury & Walter Landor.	Henry Walter Holland & Rev Abdiel Seaton.
18a	Public Footpath	Surveyors of Highways	
18b	Brook course	Trustees of Colton Poor Land; The Rt. Hon Thomas George, Earl of Lichfield. Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot,. Rev. Abdiel Seaton. George Thomas Whitgreave, William Hanbury & Walter Landor.	
19	Invigorated Meadow	Earl of Lichfield	William Hislop
19a	Public footpath	Surveyors of Highways	
19b	Public Road	Surveyors of Highways	
20	Pasture	Earl of Lichfield	Thomas Dicken
20a	Bridle road	Surveyors of Highways	
21	Double cottage & gardens & hovel	William Silvester	Joseph Bentley, Joseph Twigg & John Tooth
22	Gardens, pigsties & hovels	William Silvester	William Kendrick, Suzannah Beavan, George Deavall, Ellen Beavan, Ellen Oldham, Samuel Rose, William Hayward, John Tooth & Joseph Bentley.
23	Cottage in three dwellings	William Silvester	William Kendrick, Suzannah Beavan & George Deavall
24	Cottage in three dwellings	William Silvester	Ellen Beavan, Ellen Oldham, Samuel Rose & William Hayward.
30	Public Road	Surveyors of Highways	
31	Public Road	Surveyors of Highways	
32	Garden	Sandford Tatham Davison	John Yates
34	Pasture	Sandford Tatham Davison	John Yates
35	Pasture	William Parker	Henry Parker
35a	Public footpath	Surveyors of Highways	
36	Pasture	Sandford Tatham Davison	John Yates
37	Pasture & Pit	William Parker	Henry Parker
37a	Public footpath & occupation road	Surveyors of Highways. William Parker. George Smith	Henry Parker & Samuel Norman
37b	Occupation road	William Parker & Sandford Tatham Davison	Henry Parker & John Yates
37c	Occupation road	William Parker & George Thomas Whitgreave	Henry Parker & George Harris



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38	Occupation road & footpath	Surveyors of Highways. Sandford Tatham Davison. William Parker. George Smith. George Thomas Whitgreave.	John Yates, Henry Parker, George Harris & Samuel Norman
39	Pasture & Pit	Sandford Tatham Davison. Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	John Yates
40	Pasture	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	John Yates & Henry Walter Holland
41	Pasture & rough pit	Sandford Tatham Davison	John Yates
43	Pasture & water pit	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	Henry Walter Holland
44	Pasture & part water pit	George Smith	Robert Tipper
44a	Pasture	George Smith	Samuel Norman
47	Arable & rough pit	George Thomas Whitgreave.	Thomas Hinckley
47a	Footpath	Surveyors of Highways	
48	Arable	William Parker	Henry Parker
49	Arable	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	Henry Walter Holland
50	Pasture	Henry Walter Holland	Henry Walter Holland
51	Meadow, hovel and brook course	Trustees of Colton Poor Land; The Rt. Hon Thomas George, Earl of Lichfield. Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot,. Rev. Abdiel Seaton. George Thomas Whitgreave, William Hanbury & Walter Landor	James Grant
52	Pasture & brook course	Trustees of Colton Poor Land; The Rt. Hon Thomas George, Earl of Lichfield. Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot,. Rev. Abdiel Seaton. George Thomas Whitgreave, William Hanbury & Walter Landor	Richard Radford
53	Pasture & brook course	Trustees of Colton Poor Land; The Rt. Hon Thomas George, Earl of Lichfield. Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot,. Rev. Abdiel Seaton. George Thomas Whitgreave, William Hanbury & Walter Landor	George Williscroft
53a	Public footpath	Surveyors of Highways	
54	Public road	Surveyors of Highways	
55	Garden allotments	Trustees of Colton Poor Land; The Rt. Hon Thomas George, Earl of Lichfield. Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot,. Rev. Abdiel Seaton. George Thomas Whitgreave, William Hanbury & Walter Landor	Thomas Massey, Sonah Williscroft, Margaret Massey, Ellen Deakin & William Sutton
61	Meadow	Mary Smith Smith. James Gardner. Robert Landor & Walter John Landor	William Hislop
62	Meadow & brook course	Henry Walter Holland	John Till
63	Garden & cowshed	Henry Walter Holland	William Bradbury
64	Arable or garden ground	Henry Walter Holland	Edward Arnold
65	Public road	Surveyors of Highways	
66	Pasture	Trustees of Bamford's Charity namely; Rev. Thomas Dinham Atkinson, Vicar of Rugeley & James Gardner & Thomas James, churchwardens of Rugeley	Lucy Tomlinson
67	Road to house	Trustees of Bamford's Charity namely; Rev. Thomas Dinham Atkinson, Vicar of Rugeley & James Gardner & Thomas James, churchwardens of Rugeley	Lucy Tomlinson
94	Pasture, marl pit & water pit	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	Henry Walter Holland
95	Arable	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	Henry Walter Holland
96	Bowling alley lanes, pasture & rough pasture	Trustees of Colton Poor Land; The Rt. Hon Thomas George, Earl of Lichfield. Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot,. Rev. Abdiel Seaton. George Thomas Whitgreave, William Hanbury & Walter Landor	Thomas Cope
97	Arable	Eli Bowers	Henry Bunting
Lord of the Manor of Little Hay; The Rt. Hon. Lord William Bagot Lord of the Manor of Colton; Thomas Berry Horsfall Esq. Surveyors of highways; Edward Nicholls & Francis Harvey			



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<i>SCHEDULE OF LANDOWNERS – PARISH OF COLWICH</i>			
1a	Double cottage & Garden	James Bamford and Jane his wife, and James Hills and Eliza his wife	Jane Tharme & Thomas Phillips
1	Pasture & water pit	The Rt. Hon. Thomas George, Earl of Lichfield	William Hislop
2	Pasture	Charles Mottram Cox	Elizabeth Buchanan
3	Pasture	William Hislop	William Hislop
3a	Public footpath	Surveyors of highways of the parish of Colton	
4	Pasture	George Smith	Samuel Norman
Lord of the Manor of Little Hay; The Rt. Hon. Lord William Bagot Lord of the Manor of Colton; Thomas Berry Horsfall Esq. Surveyors of highways; Edward Nicholls & Francis Harvey			

<i>SCHEDULE OF LANDOWNERS – PARISH OF BLITHFIELD</i>			
1	Pasture, occupation road, rough pit & water pit	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	Edward Nicholls
2	Arable & occupation road	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	Edward Nicholls
3	Arable & rough pit	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	Edward Nicholls
4	Arable & rough	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	Edward Nicholls
5	Arable & rough pit	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	Edward Nicholls
6	Arable, rough & pit	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	Edward Nicholls
6a	Public footpath	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	Edward Nicholls
7a	Public footpath	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	Edward Nicholls
7	Meadow	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	Edward Nicholls
8	Arable	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	Edward Nicholls
9	Arable	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	Edward Nicholls
10	Half of River Blythe	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	Edward Nicholls
Lord of the Manor of Blithfield; The Rt. Hon. Lord William Bagot Surveyors of highways; Thomas Carrington Smith			



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<i>SCHEDULE OF LANDOWNERS – PARISH OF ABBOTS BROMLEY</i>			
2	Meadow or pasture	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	John Meeson
2a	Occupation road	Rachel Wood, Thomas Brindley, James Heath, Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd, Elizabeth Dorothy Dawson, Louisa Dawson, Louisa Bakewell & Henry Richard Jaggard	John Meeson, James Heath & Henry Fitchett
1	Half of River Blythe	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	William James Emery
3	Meadow, brook course, drain & culvert	Rachel Wood & Thomas Brindley	William James Emery
3a	Occupation road	Rachel Wood, Thomas Brindley, James Heath, Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd, Elizabeth Dorothy Dawson, Louisa Dawson, Louisa Bakewell & Henry Richard Jaggard	William James Emery, John Meeson, James Heath & Henry Fitchett
4	Meadow & drains	The Most Hon. Henry Marquis of Anglesea	Elizabeth Charles & James Loverock
5	Meadow & drains	The Most Hon. Henry Marquis of Anglesea	Elizabeth Charles & James Loverock
6	Meadow, brook course, drain & culvert	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	John Meeson
9	Pasture or meadow	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	John Meeson
10	Pasture or meadow & drains	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	John Meeson
11	Public road called Watery Lane	Surveyors of the township of Bagots Bromley	
14	Pasture & pit	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	John Meeson
15	Meadow & drain	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	William Mendham
16	Arable	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd.	John Meeson
Lord of the Manor of Bagots Bromley; The Rt. Hon. Lord William Bagot Surveyors of highways of the township of Bagots Bromley; Thomas Blurton & Charles Cope			

<i>SCHEDULE OF LANDOWNERS – PARISH OF ABBOTS BROMLEY</i>			
6a	Occupation road	Rt. Hon. William Lord Bagot & Ralph Sneyd. The Most Hon. Henry Marquis of Anglesea	Elizabeth Charles, James Loverock & John Meeson
Lord of the Manor of Abbots Bromley; The Most Hon. Henry Marquis of Anglesea Surveyors of highways of the township of Abbots Bromley; Thomas Brown & Joseph White Surveyors of highways of the township of Bromley Hurst; John Balkin & John Leedham			

***Further research to be undertaken;***

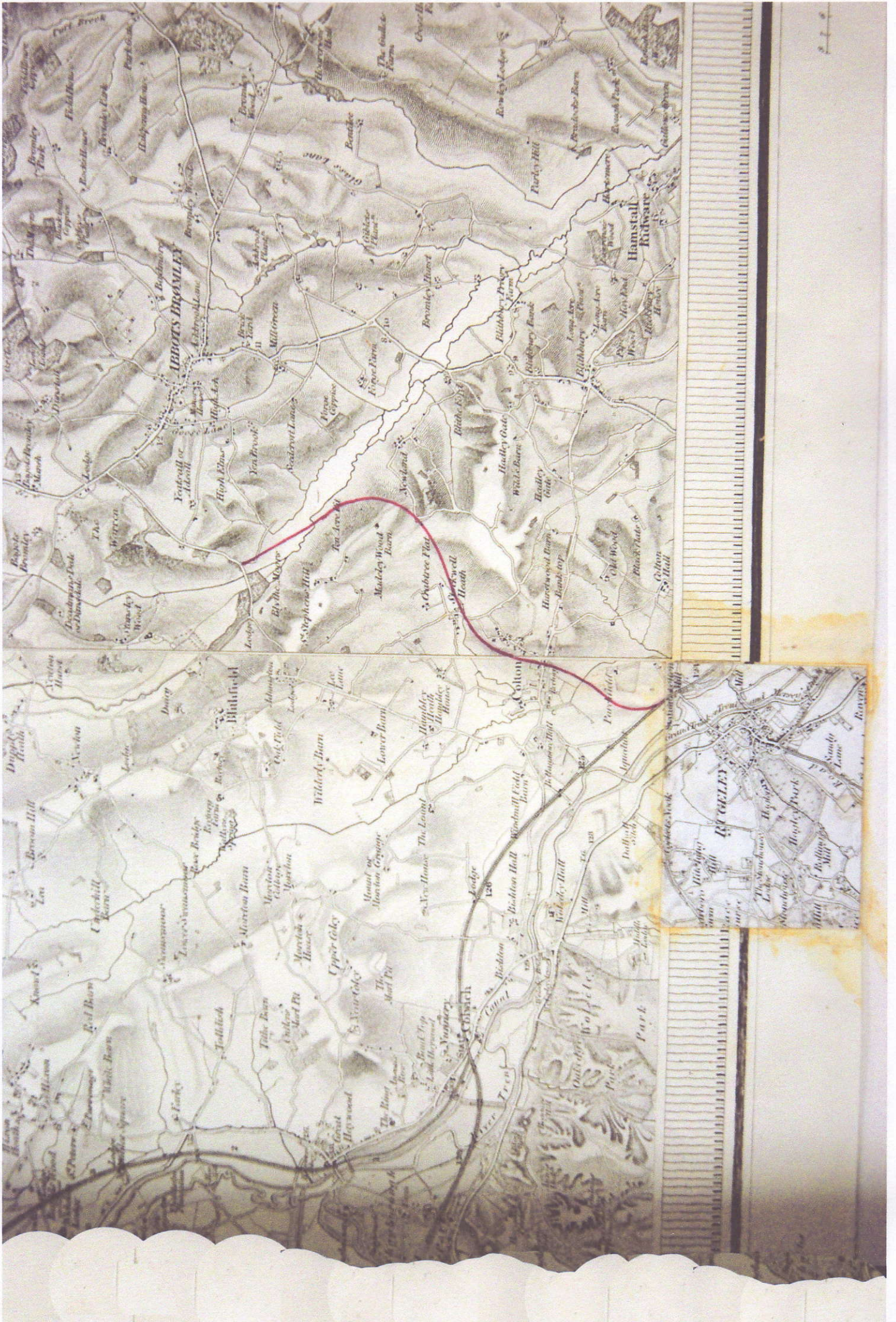
Name and articles of the railway company

Further details about the action taken by landowners and others to force the proposal to be abandoned.

Name of the surveyor.



MAIN MAP





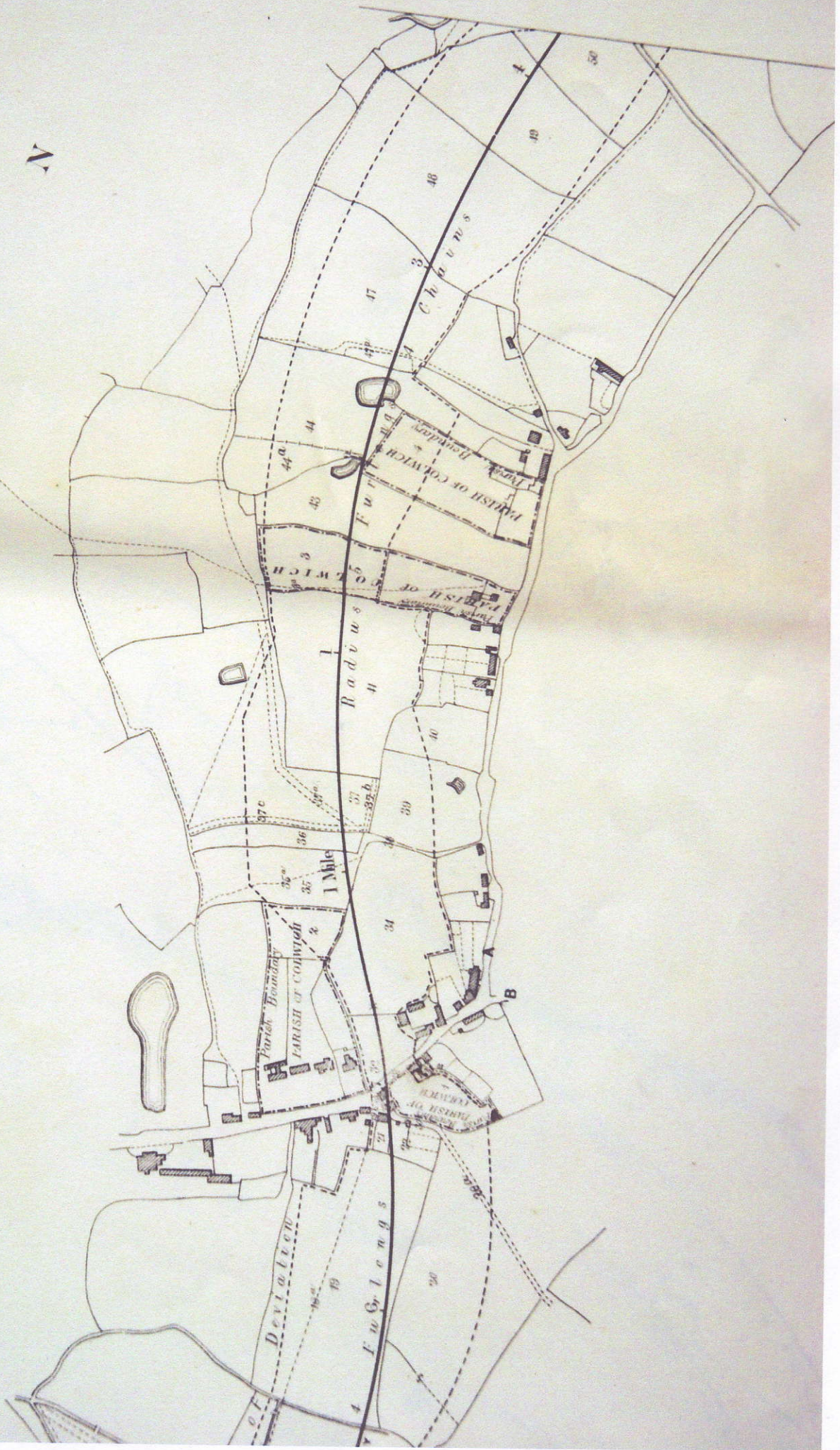
TRR Junction





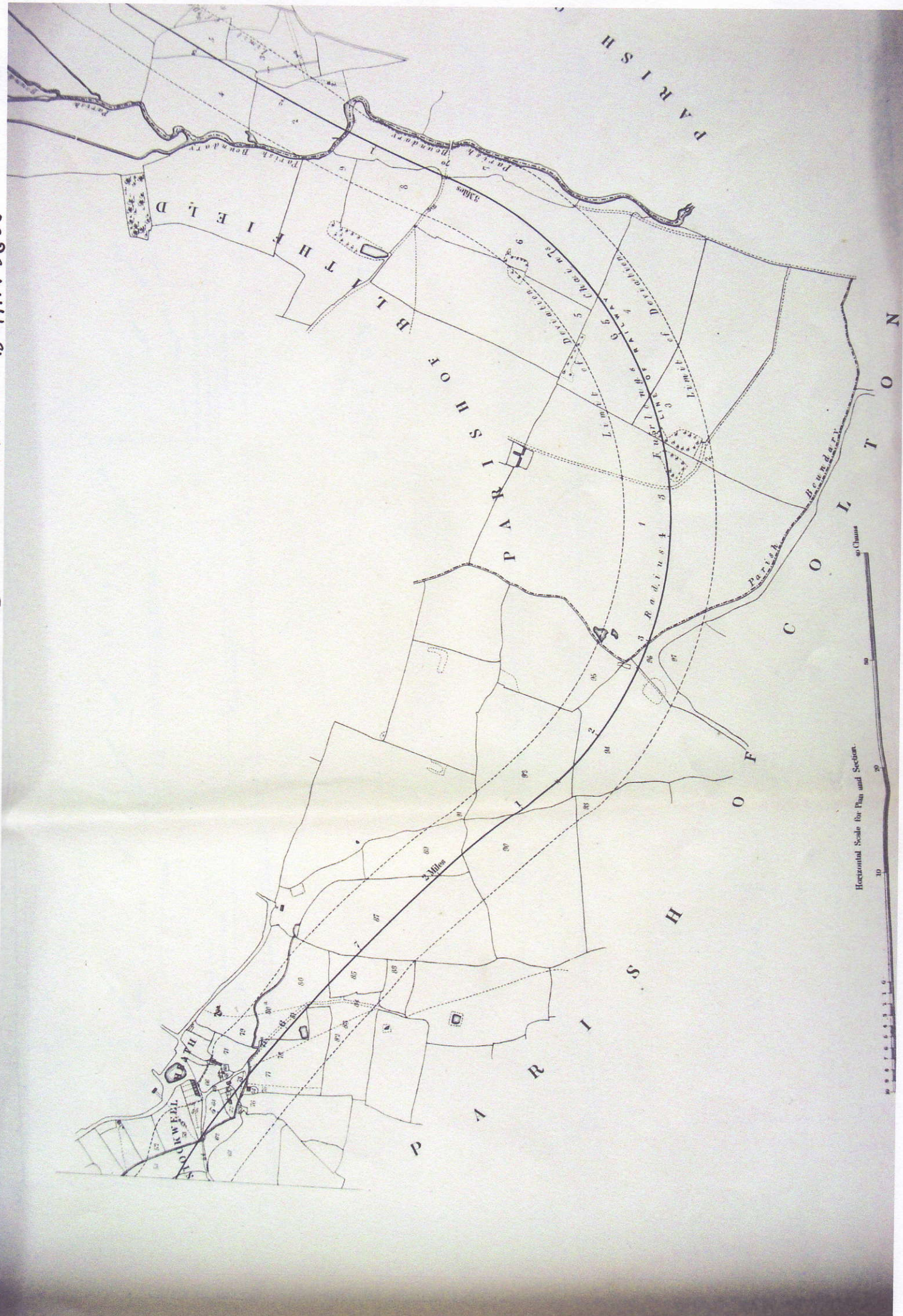
COLTON VILLAGES &

O F C O L T O N





87081 was drawn & written



Horizontal Scale by Plan and Section.





END OF LINE

Sheet 2.

Bugby and Abbots Bromley Rail

To Abbots Bromley

To Burton

To Abbots Bromley

From Bugby

CITY OF STAFFORD.

BROMLEY

OF ABBOTS

PARISH

BLITHFIELD

OF BLITHFIELD

PARISH

