

Thomas Brassey and his link To Heritage Railways No 1



The Llangollen Railway is a preserved line operating between Llangollen and Corwen, North Wales which is a distance of 10 miles.

The line was originally built by Thomas Brassey as part of the Ruabon to Barmouth main line under a separate contract for the Llangollen and Corwen Railway Company.

Work started in 1863 with the construction of Berwyn Tunnel, a length of 689 yards. Two other engineering features were the bridge over the River Dee, consisting of three wrought-iron girder spans on stone piers and a viaduct at Berwyn consisting of six stone and brick arches. The line was opened in 1865.

The old main line closed to passenger traffic in 1965. Goods traffic continued between Ruabon and Llangollen until 1968. The restoration of the Llangollen to Corwen section started in 1975 and re-opened in stages with Corwen reached in 2014, albeit with a temporary station on the eastern boundary of the town. A new station nearer the town centre is substantially complete effectively restoring the original line and operating length of 10 miles. The photograph below shows Berwyn Station and the six arch viaduct taken in 2014.

