Thomas Brassey and his link to Heritage Railways No 11

The Kingfisher Line, Titley Junction, Herefordshire

Thomas Brassey was awarded a contract by the Leominster and Kington Railway in November 1854 for the construction of 14 miles of railway between Leominster and Kington via Pembridge and Titley Junction. The section between Leominster and Pembridge opened for goods traffic in October1855. The second section between Pembridge and Kington opened in August 1857. The line was constructed as single track and there were no tunnels or viaducts.

The peak of the railway operation was during World War II when it served two US Army hospitals. Post war operation declined due to increasing competition from bus transport. The line closed to passengers in 1955 and finally to freight in 1964.

One mile of the original railway track of the Leominster and Kington Railway survives. It runs south-west from Titley Junction to the River Arrow where it abruptly ends because the railway bridge spanning the river was demolished in the 1960's. This section of the line including the station at Titley Junction and the goods yard was privately purchased in the 1980's. Restoration of the station and goods yard was followed by the reinstatement of the trackbed and the relaying of ¾ mile of the track was completed in 2005 by the present owners. The line became known as the Kingfisher Line and the first steam train to travel on the new track was run in August 2005. There are ambitions to undertake further work including relaying of track in the station yard area and the laying of a "run round loop" at Titley Junction.



Titley Junction Station

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The Kingfisher Line and Titley Junction Station are privately owned and entry to the public is strictly forbidden. Private parties are welcome by prior arrangements. Now, there's an idea for a visit by the Thomas Brassey Society in 2023.