

**Manuscript** transcribed at the National Library of Scotland by Prof. Roland Paxton to complement **early railway artefacts** [recovered in 1995 during conservation of Jessop's 1811-built **Laigh Milton Viaduct** near Kilmarnock] now displayed at the ICE Scotland Museum at Heriot-Watt University.

[Ms. NLS 216/125]

John Wilson, [K & T Rly] Engineer & Manager, Troon. Copy letter to, Edinburgh civil engineer and proposer of early railways, Robert Stevenson, dated 10 Jan 1818.

I have this day sent off three castings of rails, one of the originals as cast by Mr. Jessop's order weighing 401bs and of which the Kilmarnock & Troon Railway is laid. The light rail is one of those laid by Mr. Taylor from Fairley and Shewalton Colliery ... I have also sent one of the Ayr Colliery edge ones\* ... Troon Railway (gradient) is about 8ft to the mile ... 2011 broad viz. 4ft 2in for each of the tracking paths, 4ft between and 4ft on each side.

Excavations and embankments cost from 6d to 1/- per cu. yd ... rails were cast and laid down @ £11 per ton ... we are at present getting them done @ £10 per ton (38 to 401bs each single rail).

The stone blocks, about a foot square by 9 inches deep, cost for boring and finding in the quarry 5d each. The laying of the rails and blocks was done for 5d each double yard, that is each pair of blocks all ... to have a cubic foot of oak wood for which we pay about 3/- makes about 11 or 12 plugs and they are made for 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d per dozen. As we have a machine for the purpose, the nails were made including iron for 3d per lb. Now I generally find the barr iron and get them made for 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d per lb which is lower ... [ends]

R.A.P. 21.March 2019

\*significant in the context of the universal adoption of edge rails from the 1820s?

---

Article

## **FARRIERY**

Excerpt from *Encyclopaedia Britannica: or, a Dictionary of Arts, Sciences ... enlarged and improved*. The sixth edition. Vol. VIII, Pt.2. 1823.

Comprising: title, pp 418-573 and plates CCXI-CCXVI 161, with 20 figs finely engraved by V.Archibald & A.Wilson Edinr.

---