

I.C.E.
P.H.E.W.

Institution of Civil Engineers
Panel for Historical
Engineering Works

Newsletter

February 1982

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SPRING PANEL MEETING

Panel Members are reminded that the Spring Meeting of the Panel will be held on Wednesday, 21st April 1982 at the Institution. At the time of writing no decision has been made about a possible site visit preceding the meeting. Members will be receiving details of the meeting from Mr. Morris in due course.

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NORTH OF THE BORDER

Three contributions to this issue of the NEWSLETTER have been received from Edinburgh Panel Member Roland Paxton.

LEADERFOOT VIADUCT

At the last Annual Panel Meeting mention was made that British Rail had applied to the Borders Regional Council for permission to demolish Leaderfoot Viaduct, a slender 123 ft. high 19 arch viaduct dating from 1865. (N.G.R. NT574347). It was understood that some of the Melrose Sandstone had weathered away, giving rise to concern for the safety of the structure. It can now be reported that, following numerous representations for the retention and preservation of the viaduct, British Rail have withdrawn their planning application for the present. This is only a reprieve and it has been suggested that a trust be formed to take over the future maintenance of the structure with support from the Borders Regional Council.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS AND SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDY TOUR OF ENGINEERING MONUMENTS IN THE U.K.

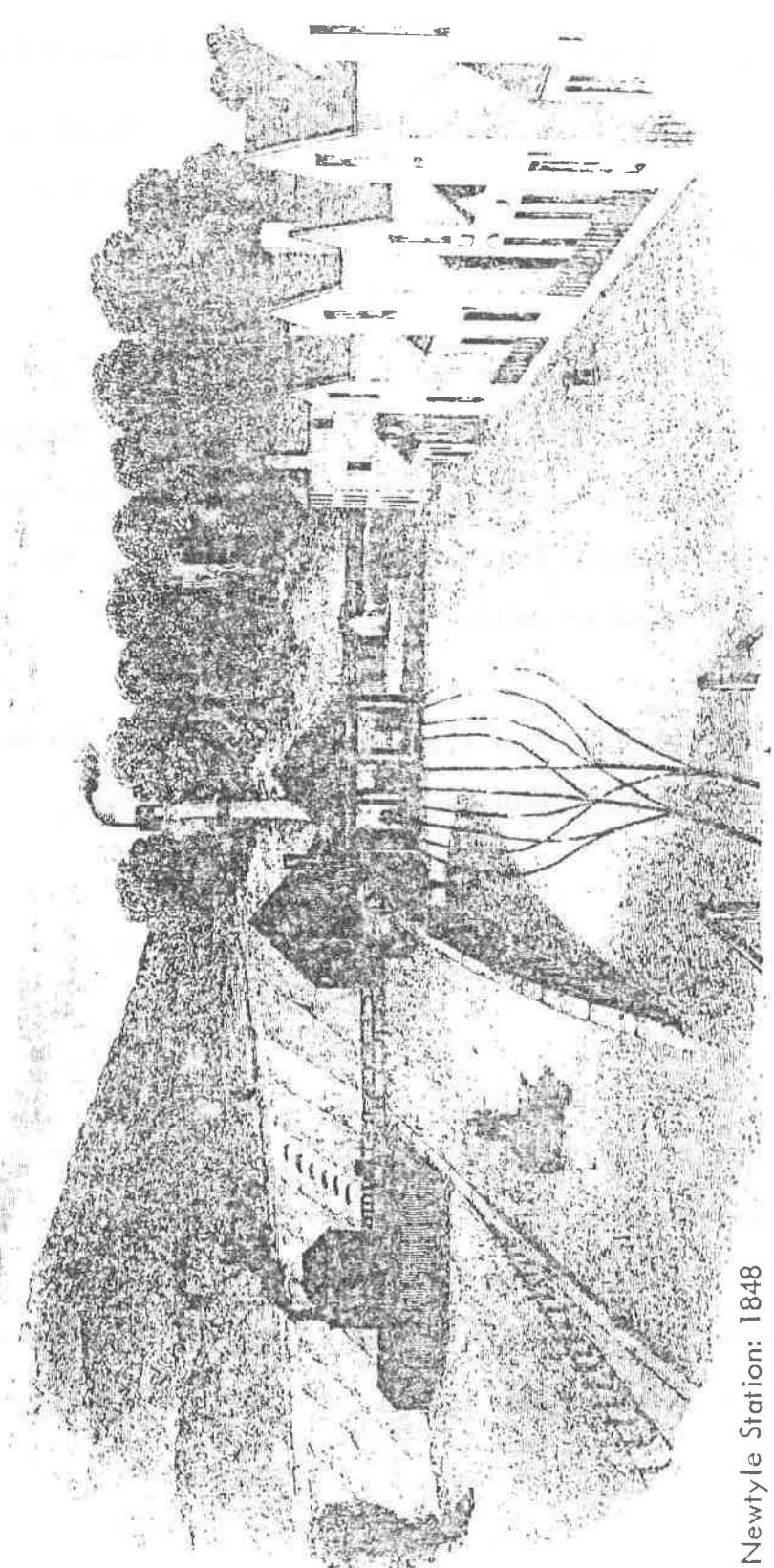
The party on the above tour, which is organised by Professor Alan Prasuhn of South Dakota State University, will be in Edinburgh from 17th until 20th June 1982. Mr. Paxton has agreed to welcome them on 17th June and give an illustrated talk on Scottish H.E.W.s. On the following day, arrangements have been made for the party to walk across the Forth Railway Bridge and for guides to show them interesting H.E.W.s in the area.

For the information of readers of the NEWSLETTER, the complete itinerary is reproduced below. Anyone requiring further details should contact Roland Paxton.

- 13 June - London - Science Museum
- 14 June - London - suggested visits: Kew Bridge Engines and Museum
National Maritime Museum
London Transport Museum
- 15 June - Cambridge, Lincoln to York via Humber Bridge
- 16 June - York - Museums
- 17 June - York to Edinburgh via Newcastle High Level Bridge
- 18-20 June - Edinburgh
- 21 June - Chester - Conwy and Menai Bridges
- 22 June - Chester - Birmingham via Pont Cysyllte Aqueduct
- 23 June - Ironbridge
- 24 June - Birmingham - Bath
- 25 June - Bristol area - Bruneliana
- 26 June - Bath - London

DUNDEE AND NEWTYLE RAILWAY - 150TH ANNIVERSARY VISIT

On 10th October, the local group of PHEW, which included local ICE members and friends visited the site of the historic railway engineered over the Sidlaw Hills to the Vale of Strathmore by Charles Landale in the late 1820s. Most of this railway was originally powered by horses but three long inclined planes were necessary which greatly inhibited its economic viability. The Dundee plane had the unusually steep slope of 1 in 10 and the total lift of the three planes was 679 feet. These were later replaced by deviations on a more circuitous route but with easier gradients, and with



Newtyle Station: 1848
Engraving by Gershom Cumming

a new station at Newtyle, and the line continued in use up to 1955.

The visit commenced at the Dundee Central Museum in Albert Square, where Mr. Chris Dingwall of the Museum Staff introduced a specially mounted exhibition. One fascinating exhibit was a contemporary model of the Carmichael's Stationary Steam Engine of the type installed at the inclined planes.

The railway site visits included the engine house site at the Dundee Law inclined plane; the Law tunnel which adjoins the engine house ruins; the Balbeuchly Incline in the Sidlaw Hills and the attractive little railway town of Newtyle (of which a sketch, showing the inclined plane, original station and adjoining Bone Mill, is reproduced overleaf). The station is scheduled as an Ancient Monument.

The visit was most successfully organised by Dr. Malcolm Horner of Dundee University with the able assistance of Chris Dingwall, who acted as guide.

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CIVIL ENGINEERING HERITAGE - VOLUME 1

Panel Members are reminded of the facility afforded by Thomas Telford Limited whereby they are able to receive copies of "Civil Engineering Heritage" on a sale or return basis. This would enable Panel Members when attending Local Association meetings to take with them a few copies for sale. Would Panel Members who are interested in this arrangement please contact Mr. Graham James (T.T.L), c/o ICE, Great George Street.

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