

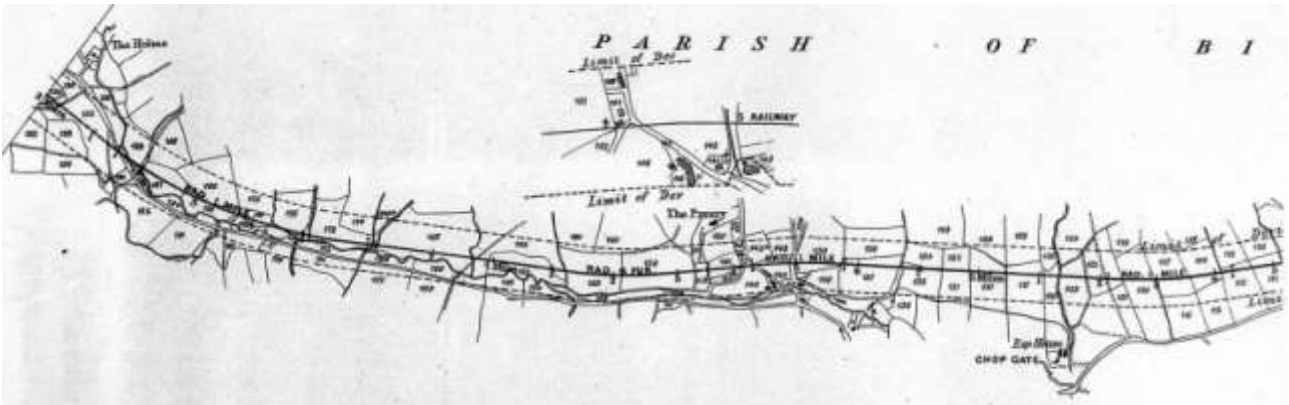
The Ingleby, Bilsdale and Helmsley Railway

Present: Frank Auffret Howard Gaskin, Brian and Marjorie Marsay, Clive Marsh, Geoff Page, Anne Rees, Sue Rutter

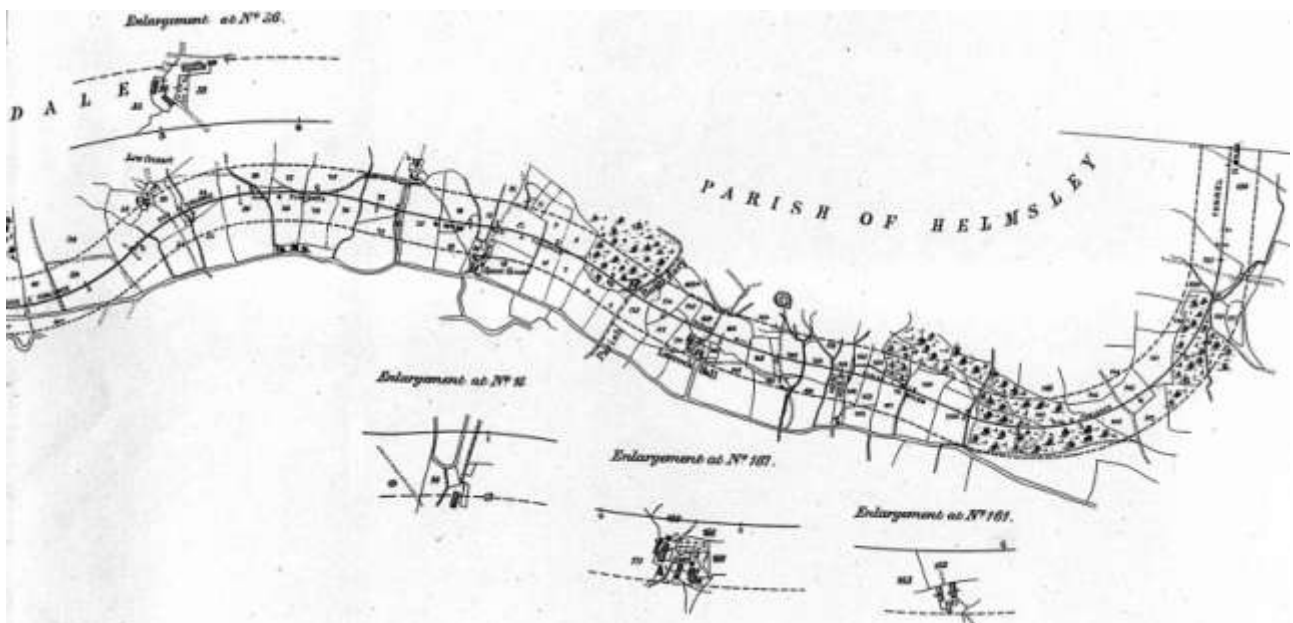
Apologies: Malcolm Bowes and John Rees.

Brian Marsay surprised some of the members talking about the railway that was never built but that had been surveyed, the plans of which are stored in the Records Office at Northallerton. QDP(M)205 mic 2840/76-138

An introduction to the talk was a photograph of Ingleby Station taken around 1912 and reference was made to where the booking office stood as relevant to later information about the suggested route of the railway through Bilsdale from Ingleby to Helmsley. We then saw a photograph of Helmsley Station in pre-Grouping days. .



The suggested route starting at Ingleby station would have tunnelled under Clay Bank car park emerging into Bilsdale roughly near the road that branches off to Urra and followed the hillside down the east side until reaching Lavrock Hall farm and by tunnel through the hillside into Carlton parish and south into Helmsley. A notices dated 12th November, 1874 about the proposed Act of Parliament required to construct the railway was published in the London Gazette a few days later.



A British Transport Film 'A Farmer Moves South' was shown about a local farmer in the 1950's transporting his entire farm and contents, including animals, from Stokesley Station down South by rail. The film contained a rare glimpse of the "Bilsdale Blue" a specific breed of pig now thought to be extinct.

Finally Brian showed "A railway ride from Blakey to Siberia" his video from a head-cam simulating a loco run across the moors with various still photographs, old and new, along the way.

Geoff Page brought a framed photograph of an engine named "Bilsdale" to show us and said that there was a class of engines named after Hunts.

Brian & Marjorie Marsay

Update

Phil Starkey has donated some books, papers and other documents to the group as he has now left the dale. From a brief perusal of the contents of the two boxes, there is a printed version of the St Hilda's Parish Records, an original copy of the 1944 sale auction document with the prices of each lot written on it, a thesis about the population of Bilsdale 1100 to 1900 and book 2 of a survey of the gravestones in St Hilda's cemetery, with an illustration of each gravestone. Does anyone know where book 1 is? . There are numerous other papers.

We received a request from Cheryl Sanderson from Marske for further information about her Bilsdale relatives. She had seen reference to Sarah Sanderson on the Bygone Bilsdale website. Sarah is her husband's gt gt gt grandmother. She lived at Beak Hills in 1826 and 1841. Sarah's parents were George and Sarah and her grandfather, David, was recorded at Beak Hills in the 1871 survey. Her illegitimate child, George had 2 sons, George Henry and Joseph Arthur. According to the Bygone Bilsdale exhibition, Arthur started to collect milk in the dale in 1930. He lived at Broadfields. Can anyone provide any further information, such as when did the family leave Beak Hills and is there any connection with the Sandersons at Stingamires?

WW1 Centenary - at a recent Parish Council meeting it was suggested that the Study Group may wish to take the lead in preparing an exhibition about World War 1 and the people of Bilsdale. We can discuss this at the AGM.

Next meeting

Tuesday 12th November at the Buck Inn – AGM plus a discussion about Bygone Bilsdale. Are there any corrections or minor updates we should make before the next reprint?

Future meetings

10th December – details to be agreed at AGM