

Saturday 18 July

RAILWAY 8

Amerton Railway

Doncaster 1954 via ECML
Peterborough 2046 2100 via ECML to
 Newark, then Pyewipe Junction
Doncaster 2234

17.90 advanced single Up

33.20 First advanced single Down

I am still not quite sure how I managed to chase trains twice in one day! It was an extremely hot day, and we drove over to Amerton, just the other side of Uttoxeter. There were quite a lot of people arriving for the Gala Day, but we had a wander into the engine shed, purchased some books, and did a circular tour - they offered to take a bench out and put the ramp out. They've got about a mile of track, and had three trains on the go. Lots of photographers, and a good atmosphere. There's a café and farm shop there too, which were OK.





After an afternoon of work I was let off the lead again. Gensheet told me that there were engineering works on the East Coast Main Line around Retford and a handful of services were being diverted from Newark to Doncaster via Collingham, Boultham Junction, Pyewipe Junction and Saxilby, rejoining the main line at Decoy North Junction just south of Doncaster. There were cheapish tickets still available when I booked on Friday evening, and it wasn't much more expensive to do the whole stretch down to Peterborough. I drove across to Donny, eventually found a parking space, and was on the platform 45 minutes before I needed to be. I amused myself taking photos, and staying away from people.





I was surprised how full the train was heading south, two of us on a table, and most were masked. It is a very fast run - average speed of over 80 mph. A lovely evening, sun was setting over fields of corn ripe for harvest - "the valleys stand so thick with corn that even they are singing". Lots of engineering works for the new underpass going in at Werrington Junction.



Plenty of time to make my way over the old Royal Mail bridge at Peterborough, and the train north to Newcastle rolled in early. I took up me seat in first class, and was soon offered drinks, then a sandwich and crisps, then cake and biscuits, and tea. Very civilised. Sadly that was spoilt by a bunch of obnoxious teenagers who got on at Newark. I retreated into the next



carriage and let the TTI sort them out - not that my tickets were ever checked at any point. It was pretty dark as we came into Lincoln and I can't say I was really aware of the delights of the rare curve - I had done it once before while living in Lincoln. On that occasion we happened to be on a Newark train which set off towards Doncaster and then reversed. I was dancing up and down, and Hannah retorted "it's not that exciting daddy". The route today meant I haven't got to make a separate trip to do Newark Northgate and the curve onto the Midland, or Trent Junction north to Doncaster.

Doncaster was busy when we got back in, and people off to Night Clubs don't seem too worried about masks. I got in my car and drove home - a good piece of track bashing was complete.