

Sunday 27 August

RAILWAY 87

Tanfield Railway

Andrews House

1425

Sunniside

1431 1438

East Tanfield

1502 1515

Andrews House

1529

A typical very wet Bank Holiday Sunday, but I needed an afternoon out. Not a lot has changed here since we used to visit. Good cup of tea, separate bookshop (five DVDs for a tenner), and lots of people out - despite the rain. The line dates back to a waggonway of 1725, taking coal from the pits to the Tyne. We had loco 49, built by Robert Stephenson & Hawthorns in Newcastle in 1943. She served on the Melbourne Military Railway in Derbyshire and later for the MoD at Shoeburyness in Essex. In 1946 she went on loan to the Ministry of Fuel and Power, working at the Swannington opencast disposal point in Leicestershire, then onto to the National Coal Board. She was withdrawn in 1980, and has spent most of her retirement here at Tanfield. The North Eastern Railway Compartment coach 256 is even older - built in 1878.

Good to ride the line again, but I need to explore the engine shed and the rest of the site. I also need to walk over Causey Arch and remind myself of the history of the site. But it was a good escape for a couple of hours.



