

Wednesday 30 August

RAILWAY 88

Hexham		1055
Middlesbrough via coast	1259	1324
Saltburn	1350	1359
Darlington	1453	1449
Newcastle	1519	1556
Hexham		1639

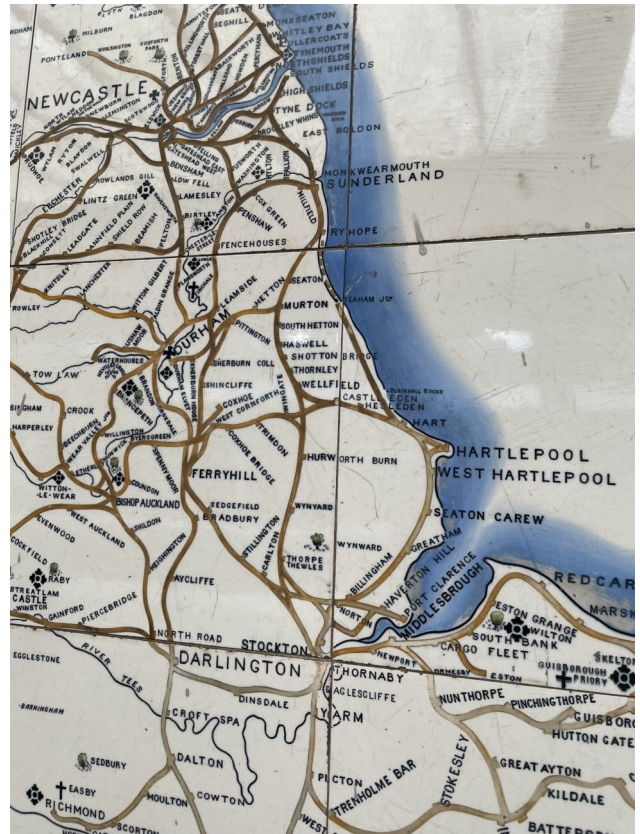
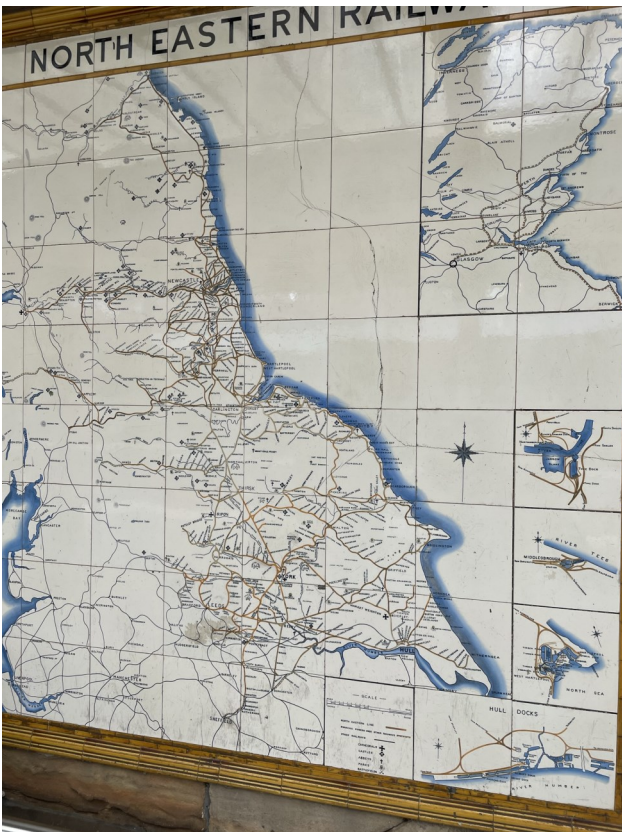
The car needed to go for a service and Michael needed to get back to London - so let's combine the two. Car dropped off, Michael set to Waitrose for supplies, tickets sorted (even though the station is unstaffed again), and time for coffee at the station. £19.30 for an anytime short distance return to Saltburn. The train back to Newcastle (and then on to Battersby) shunts from one platform to the other (late), and the Carlisle train comes in.



New track through to Newcastle, and Michael now knows all about John Wilson Carmichael and George Stephenson. In over the King Edward VII bridge and out over the High Level. Down to Sunderland and south - it is a long way when you go via the coast. The train was well-filled and a lot of people getting on and off at each station. There is a second platform



going in at Hartlepool, then through Stockton and round into Middlesbrough. There wasn't time for coffee as we had not made up any time (no sense of urgency in our trundle), but there was time to admire the NER map before we caught the next train to Saltburn.



Redcar steel works is but a shadow of its former self, but again the branch is busy.



We were back in Newcastle about 1535, so I went over the bridge for the 1540 to Carlisle which went from platform 1 - the bay platform towards Morpeth. There were six coaches parked in that platform, and I watched the front two leave. I think I will need to do some work to get all the curves by the bridges sorted! Back over to platform 7 and back to Hexham the normal route. I collected the car - it had been a good trip.

We had the joy of four minutes at Saltburn and then headed back. Thornaby yard is but a shadow of its former self, Teesside Airport is an empty as it always was, and then we arrived into Darlington station. Michael headed south to London. I had three trains north within about five minutes, so I jumped on the late-running TPE service. It doesn't take very long to get back to Newcastle up the main line, and I waved at Durham Cathedral and Chester-le-Street.



