



## RAILWAY 200 – Proposed Trail Route

### Trail Route with Historical Markers

#### 1. Burgess Hill Station (Start)

- **Historical Marker:**  
**Point of Interest:** A QR code linking to our Website Railways 200 page : *The Birth of the Railway (1843)* :
- **Info:** Burgess Hill Station opened in 1843 as part of the London and Brighton Railway. It was instrumental in transforming the town from a rural hamlet into a thriving commuter hub. Side note - It was also the work place of Pennie Bellas the first female station master.
- **Images:** vintage photos of the station in its early days and information on its original architecture. Picture of Pennie Bellas

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[Follow the Green Circle footpath along the railway line to Franklands Bridge](#)

#### 2. Batchelors Farm and Franklands Bridge

- **Historical Marker:**
- **Point of Interest:** A QR code linking to our Website Railways 200 page : *Engineering Feats: The Railway Bridge*
- **Info:** The Batchelors Farm area offers scenic views and leads to the railway bridge, a vital structure built during the railway's expansion. It showcases the engineering expertise of the Victorian era. View from Franklands Bridge to Clayton Tunnel (info on Clayton Tunnel rail crash 1861). Side note - If you're lucky wave at the trains going under and the driver will toot their horn.
- **Images:** of how such bridges were constructed and their importance in overcoming geographical challenges.

### 3. Saxby's Holt

- **Historical Marker:**

**Point of Interest:** A QR code linking to our Website Railways 200 page : *Art and History: Saxby's Holt*

- **Info:** As you step into Nightingale Meadow stop at Saxby's Holt, an artwork installation celebrating the region's railway heritage. This sculpture honours John Saxby, the inventor of the railway signal interlocking system, who played a key role in railway safety. He is regarded as "the father of modern signalling". Two accidents took place on the London Brighton and South Coast Railway (LBSCR) during the early 1850s due to signalling failures. Saxby became interested in railway safety and invented an improved signalling lamp, giving considerable benefits and savings on the lamps then in use. He also invented a device for interlocking points and signals. In 1856 he was awarded a patent for this invention which was designed to act at once upon all the points and signals at a railway junction. Not only were the points and signals activated, but all the other signals in the system were locked against improper use

- **Images:** of Saxby's innovations and their global impact
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[Loop back along the Footpath upto the station and head down Junction Road](#)

### 4. Junction Road / Junction Inn/ Keymer Junction

- **Historical Marker:**

- **Point of Interest :** A QR code linking to our Website Railways 200 page : *The Crossroads of Connection*

- **Info.** The Junction Road Level Crossing is a historic point on the Brighton Main Line, serving as a vital link between local communities since the mid-19th century. Situated near the site of the former Junction Inn, this crossing has witnessed the evolution of railway travel, from steam locomotives to modern electric trains. The Junction Inn by the level crossing in Junction Road. It was built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century after the Lewes branch line was opened and a little 'Halt' was constructed nearby for users of the line. John Saxby's first "pointlock" was installed here at Keymer Junction.

- **Images:** Image of the original building on the site of Junction Inn
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[Loop back along the Footpath to the](#)

### 5. The Bumpy Bridge

- **Historical Marker:**

- **Point of Interest :** A QR code linking to our Website Railways 200 page : *The Panorama of the Railway*

- **Info:** The Bumpy Bridge offers a unique vantage point where you can see both Burgess Hill and Wivelsfield stations. It highlights the strategic placement of the railway and its integration into the landscape.
  - **Images:** An illustrated map explaining the routes.
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At the end of St Wilfrid's road join the footpath and follow down to:

## 6. Wivelsfield Station

- **Historical Marker:**
  - **Point of Interest :** A QR code linking to our Website Railways 200 page: *A Village Connected (1886)*
  - **Info:** Wivelsfield Station opened in 1886, providing a key transport link for rural communities to access Brighton, London, and beyond. It also became a hub for goods traffic, helping local industries thrive.
  - **Images:** image of historical timetable and passenger stories
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