

I Spy.....

Picture Trail - Notes for Teachers

NB These notes assume that the group is travelling in the direction of Pickering to Grosmont. The pictures of the journey are not in sequential order. (Pencils will be needed for the group if you would like them to cross out items spotted.)

1. Signal box - this picture is of the signal box at New Bridge, the first level crossing after Pickering.
2. Wooden fencing - an easy one to spot as it can be seen in various locations.
3. Whistle sign - the engine driver must blow the whistle near crossings, bends and near habitation.
4. This pond is the nature reserve on the left not far from Pickering. Other ponds can be spotted on the way.
5. This public notice is at Levisham station and can be spotted if facing back towards Pickering. It warns against trespassing on the railway - the fine was 40 shillings (£2)! Other public notice signs can be spotted in other locations.
6. Speed limit sign (any is fine). This one is directing the driver to go at 5 miles per hour. The maximum speed on this railway is 25 mph.
7. Platform sign at Newtondale Halt. This is a request stop located between Levisham and Goathland, and the platform is on the left. The train will only stop here if there is someone on the platform, or if one of the passengers on the train has asked in advance for a stop here. Many people go walking in this area.
8. Skelton Tower - a Victorian folly (not an ancient ruin). This is hard to spot as it can only be seen by those members of the group in seats facing back towards Pickering. It is high on a hill on the right hand side (facing the direction of travel to Goathland) between Levisham and Newtondale Halt.
9. Distance marker (any is fine) - found on the left hand side of the track. There are mileposts along the track showing whole numbers, which is the distance from Rillington Junction, not Pickering. (The line used to extend to Rillington.) There are also posts with $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ on them, which are fractions of miles between mileposts. These posts are used to pinpoint locations.
10. Gradient sign (any is fine). These mark points where the gradient changes - in this case from 1 in 238 to 1 in 104.
11. Workers' hut (any is fine). These huts are made from a variety of materials, including wood, and are in various stages of decay. They were used as shelter for the men working on the railway - somewhere to eat out of the bad weather.
12. Camping coaches are located at various stations. People can rent these and use them as a holiday cottage.

13. Milk churns - on the left hand platform at Goathland Station. These are here to remind people how the coming of the railway transformed the transport of goods. Before the railway arrived in Goathland, farmers would not have been able to transport their milk very far due to the slow methods of transport available at that time (horse and wagon).
14. Semaphore signal (any is fine). When the red and white signals are at right angles to the pole, the train must stop. When lowered below or raised above this point, the train may go forward.
15. Male pheasant. These birds can be spotted alongside the railway track, and are bred as game birds. (Female pheasants are brown.)
16. RAF Fylingdales - listening station. Again this is hard to spot as it can only be seen by those members of the group in seats facing backwards towards Pickering. It can be seen up on the moors shortly before arriving at Goathland - on the right hand side (facing the direction of travel to Goathland).
17. Sheep can be spotted at various locations. The wool of moorland sheep is usually used for carpets, as it is too coarse to use for clothing.
18. Concrete sleepers. There are stacks of these at various points along the journey. They are used to hold the rails in place.

Notes re the question about the speed / rhythm of the train:

The engine struggles to go up the steeper hills and so feels quite sluggish. The group could look out for gradient signs, which show how steep the hill is. The lower the number, the steeper the hill. On downhill stretches the train moves much more freely and faster.

As for the rhythm of the wheels on the tracks, the clickety-click noise is caused by the wheels travelling over tiny gaps in the rails. Modern rails are all welded together, so don't produce the same noise. Older railways had to leave gaps for the metal of the rails to expand when hot.

We hope you enjoyed your journey. If you have any queries or comments, please contact the Education Service on 01751 473799 or email education@nymr.co.uk.