

Underneath the Arches – A Strange Find!



The Mid Norfolk Railway has made a mystery find at their County School station during maintenance work on the railway's permissive footpath that runs alongside the track at the station.

Richard Cullen, the MNR's volunteer Stationmaster, who is overseeing the restoration of this part of the railway said: "As some of our volunteers were carrying out routine maintenance of the railway's Permissive footpath, they found a piece of metal buried. After digging it out, it appeared to us, that we had found the firehole deflector plate from a steam locomotive."

The firehole deflector plate is part of the firebox on a steam locomotive where the fireman shovels coal into the firebox that provides the heat for the boiler. The mystery for the Mid Norfolk Railway, however, is how this came to be buried by the side of the railway near the station. County School station was built by Great Eastern Railway in 1886 and served as a junction between the Dereham to Fakenham Line and the East Norfolk Railway's Aylsham to Wroxham branch.



*County School Station never had an engine shed,
nor any facilities to repair steam locomotives*