

The Railway - Early Records

The Revd. Edward Elton, first Vicar of Wheat fry, looked forward to the coming of the railway because, according to the press, 'He felt quite sure that the character of Wheatley would be raised by the establishment of a railway. 'He must have been pleased to note in his diary, on 4th August 1860, 'Attended at Thame a meeting called to promote the railway extension to Oxford, a line proposed passing just on the south side of Wheatley, through Litteworth by tunnel to Horspath and thence over Cowley crossing river near Iffley and joining the G. W.R. The line seemed much approved. '

That line was eventually adopted but it was not the first proposal. There are records of four previous plans. Our copy of an earlier route is important in that it gives a detailed map of part of the village and the list of owners and occupiers of land in the area throws light on many residents in 1852.