

LIGHT RAILWAY

Branched off by footpath over present railway - sidings both sides at Plum Pudding Island - St Nicholas side - signal box there - the farmer was signal man for the single line from the box to Manston - passed Bedlam - crossed Canterbury Road on the Brooksend side of Hudson's Mill.

Came out by Rose's Farm top of Acol Hill, sea side of the farm - crossed Acol Road - through the fields to Shottendane Road, then to Sparrow Castle - then came up level with road to Manston. No signal box at Manston - used light local engine kept at Manston when not in use - 1917 to 1925.

Alfred Walker

RAILWAY - BIRCHINGTON to MANSTON

From the Margate Civic Society Newsletter January 1971 - by **Miss Muriel Groves** of Sussex Gardens Birchington

The Manston end is still visible and runs into the coal yard there. The Minnis Bay end [omitted] at the junction of Ingoldsby Road, Horsa Road and Old Farm Road.. At this point was a signal box and a hut in which the signalman lived [???

From there the track lay across the fields to just beyond the end of Mill Row and on across the Canterbury Road in the region of the present Sea View Garage (This was built in about 1925-6). It ran across the road - I don't recall any gates - and on across to Acol Hill, passing just below the short tree lined private road outside Quex Park.

Here was another signal box [???] From there, the line continued on to the east side of Alland grange roughly parallel with the present Manston Road. It closed in the mid-1920s.

Alfred Walker

Draft for a letter from Alfred Walker to a query from Mr Dilnot

Written after 1965

Dear Mr Dilnot

There was a single track railway running from Minnis Bay to Manston, to supply the aerodrome with fuel, munitions, building materials for the hangers and other supplies.

It came though the fields across the Acol to Birchington Road just below the fir trees leading from Quex Park onto Acol Hill. 1914-18 - German planes came down near Acol. Some local men were in the Artillery Volunteers and manned a gun in an emplacement and dug out by the now pulled down Bay Hotel.

A Zeppelin did drop a bomb on Acol at Whitsun in 1918.
(Also included note about the Cosmo Balloon came down in Acol in 1888 - see Acol notes in Museum)

The balloon had come from the Irish Exhibition at Kensington.