



Photographic Guide to the GCR

Written by: M Allen - January 2006

Overview:

The following is a list of the spots that I've found. These are mostly accessible without a lineside pass, I'll say if any are lineside. The GCR being double track provides plenty of action, if you're lucky you might get a shot of two steam engines passing each other!

I haven't explored all of the GCR and I'm sure there are plenty of spots I haven't covered. I certainly haven't explored Swithland sidings or anywhere south of Rothley as yet!

Most locos at the GCR face South (Leicester) with the exception of 78019, which currently faces north. North facing locos give a particular problem due to the light, shots are only really possible first thing in the morning.

I have highlighted the locations (where the picture was taken from) on the maps with a "red circle".

Note: This is in no way an official guide and isn't endorsed by the GCR, as always take care when parking and navigating any of these locations. Lineside photo permits are available from the GCR. Enjoy!

Location 1:

Starting at Loughborough.....the station gives a few good opportunities if locos are in the platforms or sidings adjacent, but space is quite tight.

The second bridge (Beeches Rd) south of Loughborough Station has an excellent signal gantry. I've never photographed it myself, but it's probably easiest to walk from the platform (lineside pass only). I've seen some great shots of locos departing Loughborough from here.

Parking: It is possible to park outside Loughborough Station or on Beeches Rd.

Map:



Location 2:

I think the next spot is called the A6004 road bridge, there are a few bridges just south of Loughborough in quick succession that give some good possibilities. This is a real nice spot, shots like



You can just see another bridge (Main St) in the background towards Loughborough.

A slightly wider shot



You can walk along side the road to get many different angles. The bridge where this photo is taken from is actually on the busy ring road bridge, videoing is probably a no go because of the noise. The bridge in the background is "Main St" which is also quite good.

You can also shoot towards Quorn if the light is OK as below:



Be be careful crossing the road it's pretty busy!

Parking: There is a roundabout with a lay by ideal for parking in.. You can also park along Main St.

Map:



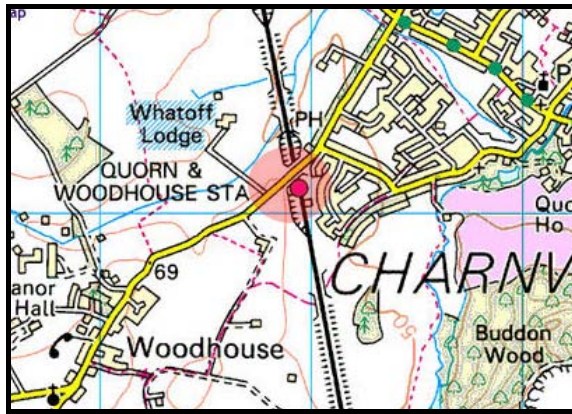
Location 3:

A real favorite of mine is the next spot. The road bridge at Quorn station. You can take pics from either the bridge or lineside if you have a permit. During galas some trains are non stop, so you're pretty much guaranteed some smoke (stopping trains shut off just before the signal). Pics like:



Parking: You can either park in Quorn Station car park or the pub opposite

Map:



Location 4:

The next spot is the infamous "Kinchley Lane", this can get really busy during galas. There is a bank adjacent to the bridge, made especially for photographers! Pics like:



Again a few different angles are possible. I get here via the road alongside the reservoir.

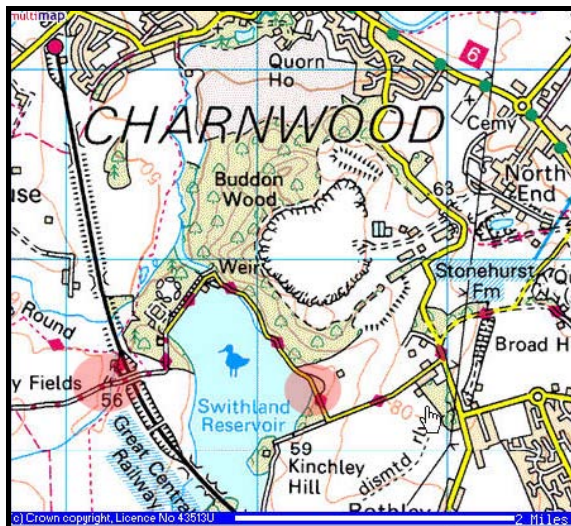
As you drive alongside the reservoir some pics are possible across the reservoir looking towards the viaduct, best during late afternoon, like:



When you drive along the lane, just after the reservoir there is a sign that says "unsuitable for motor vehicles", ignore that as you can drive as far as the railway bridge no problem.
 Note: Kinchley Lane is quite long and it will take a few mins to drive from the main road (driving around the edge of the reservoir) to the bridge.

Parking: There are plenty of parking places all along Kinchley Lane, right up to the bridge.

Map:



Location 5:

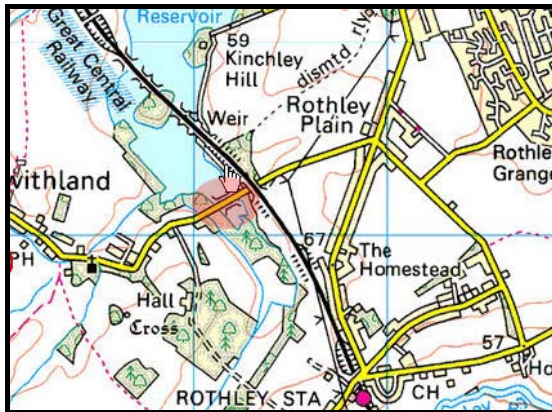
Another picture I've tried, which is OK is the viaduct (although you can't see the loco wheels) like:



Not the best pic, but could be worth trying. I haven't spend enough time at this spot to experiemnt. Note: This shot is taken with a long lens and tripod.

Parking: roadside parking no problem

Map:



Location 6:

The final place is around "Rothley" station. You can take pics from either the bridge over the road or the embankment that runs alongside the line to the north of the station. The light can be an issue for trains heading towards Loughborough. Can be quite a good spot to get trains passing.

Pics like:

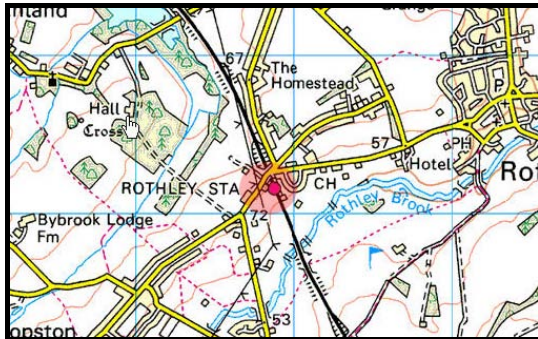


or towards the station



Parking: Either alongside the embankment or at the station

Map:



I'm sure there are plenty of other places, but these are the ones I've found so far! Please feel free to email me with any amendments or suggestions.

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