

THE RAILWAY

The Thetford to Watton railway line was opened to freight on 18th January 1869 and then to passengers on 18th October of the same year, by the Thetford and Watton Railway Company.

J R Valentine was the appointed engineer and the line was built for a total of £57,050.

The line began at Roudham Junction with further stops at the stations of Wretham & Hockham, Stow Bedon and then at Watton.

New goods sheds were built at Wretham in 1876. The company stocks and shares, were bought by the Great Eastern Railway in 1898.

There were five trains every day and two on Sundays, with additional trains for military use.

The line was affectionately known as the "Crab & Winkle".

With the cuts made by Beeching in the 1960's, the line was closed down and the last passenger train ran on 13th June 1964. The last freight train ran in April 1965.

Much of the old line between Wretham and Stow Bedon is now the Pingo Trail.