

These videos were recorded in 2007 and 2011 at the Doon Valley model railway club which was located in Patna primary school where the club had been for about 35 years. This railway, after a number of previous layouts, was built between 2000 to 2011. Work would have continued but for the Council deciding to build a new school which did not have room for the club, much to the head teacher's disappointment. The mobile video was taken using a Swan radio camera, a bit smaller than a golf ball, and a laptop. The other video taken mostly in 2011 shows the layout in operation. Unfortunately in 2011 we had to dismantle the layout and luckily we were able to store it at Langholm farm near Symington.

Today this layout has been rebuilt in an unused shed at the farm and slightly modified to include more through lies. The control and wiring of the layout were updated. This included using bus bars to supply power to all the various sections and isolating sections being controlled with relays. There are four separate running loops, two mainline and two goods loops. They are controlled by three control panels at separate locations around the layout. The loops can all interconnect with various safety devices to prevent crashes etc and a lot of shouting between operators. The layout is quite large at approx 25ft by 12ft (still old school) and is basically a folded figure of eight. This gives it two levels which involves long tunnels at each end. There are about 50 sets of points in the layout and a reasonable number of lies in the two goods lines and quarry. The mainline station has two through lines and two stopping lines. Most of the buildings are Superquick or Metcalfe cardboard models. Lighting is installed in nearly all the buildings along with goods yard, station platform lights and footbridge.

There have been suggestions that some of the loops could be made to operate using DCC. If after the long layoff, due to lockdown, the layout is in a reasonable condition this will be probably carried out by a group known as "The Langholm Loonies".

I hope you enjoy the video.

Charlie Cotchin

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