



JOSEPH LOCKE by Malcolm J Givens & Jim Wigmore 2016. Commemorative plaque at Crediton station.

Joseph Locke (1805-1860) was a notable English civil engineer of the 19th century, particularly associated with railway projects. Locke ranked alongside Robert Stephenson & Isambard Kingdom Brunel as one of the major pioneers of railway development. Locke was involved in the London & South Western Railway along with Robert Stevenson in particular in the Parliamentary Enquiry relating to the Gauge argument with the Great Western Railway for the section of line from Exeter to Crediton. The enquiry ruled in favour of the Great Western and the line was laid as mixed gauge. Joseph Locke was the MP for Honiton from 1847,

Recent update by Jim Wigmore.

Joseph Locke was the Civil Engineer for the London to York Railway and declined the offer to become their Chief Engineer due to his other commitments. When the railway got its Parliamentary approval after many years of wrangle with George Hudson (*the Railway King of York*) it changed its name to the Great Northern Railway and followed the route planned by Joseph Locke with the ground work mostly carried out by William Cubitt. The route now forms the southern section of the East Coast Mainline.