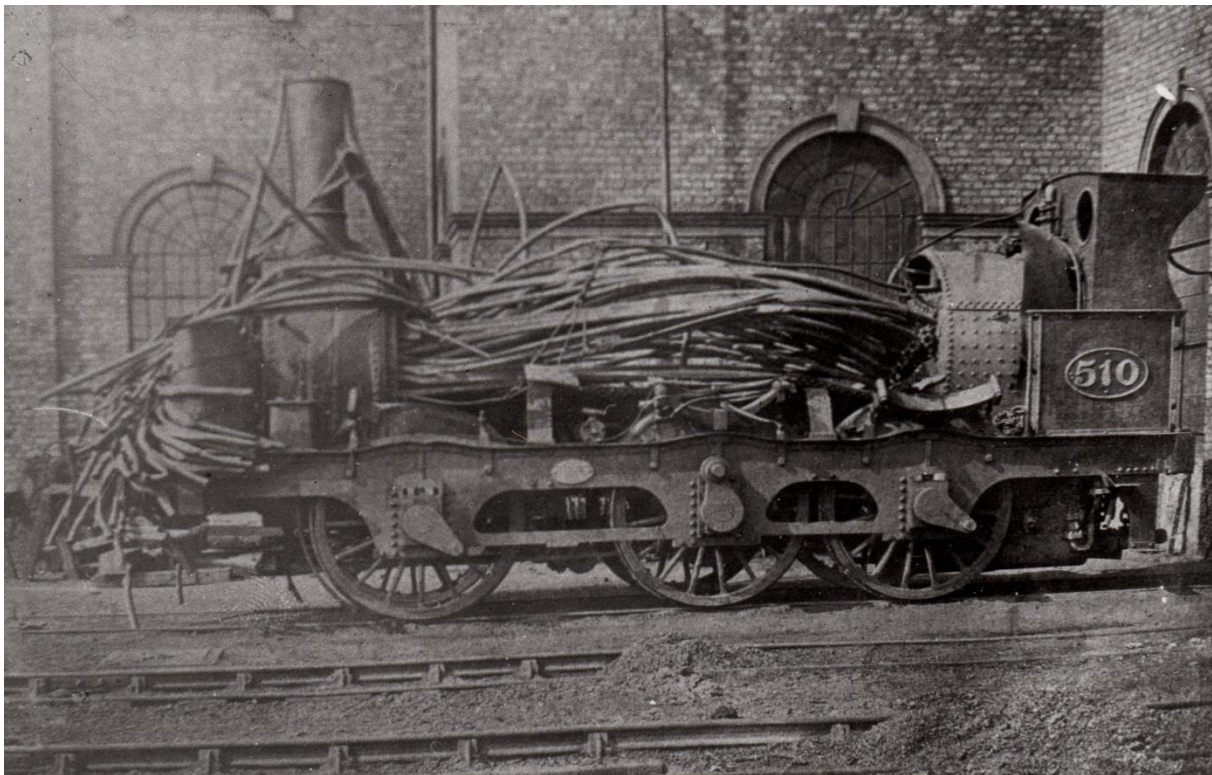
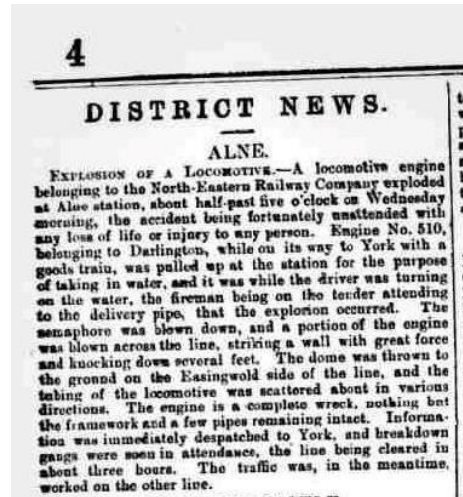


## Alne Steam Engine Boiler Explosion 28<sup>th</sup> March 1877

The Yorkshire Gazette of 31<sup>st</sup> March 1877 (brought to my attention by Ian Bullock of Alne) referred to the explosion on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 1877 as shown in the extract alongside. This is transcribed below:

**EXPLOSION OF A LOCOMOTIVE** – A locomotive engine belonging to the North-Eastern Railway Company exploded at Alne station, about half-past five o'clock on Wednesday morning, the accident being fortunately unattended with any loss of life or injury to any person. Engine No. 510, belonging to Darlington, while on its way to York with a goods train, was pulled up at the station for the purpose of taking in water, and it was while the driver was turning on the water, the fireman being on the tender attending to the delivery pipe, that the explosion occurred. The semaphore was blown down, and a portion of the engine was blown across the line, striking a wall with great force and knocking down several feet. The dome was thrown to the ground on the Easingwold side of the line, and the tubing of the locomotive was scattered about in various directions. The engine is a complete wreck, nothing but the framework and a few pipes remaining intact. Information was immediately despatched to York, and breakdown gangs were soon in attendance, the line being cleared in about three hours. The traffic was, in the meantime, worked on the other line.



I found this photo of the damaged engine on Ebay. Michael Moran, a keen NER modeller who is building a model of Alne in his native Canberra, reports:

“I don't know how I came across the boiler accident, but possibly in researching Alne and reading the Board of Trade report. I have a copy of a diagram from that report that shows the locations of the pieces of the locomotive after it exploded. The diagram is labelled plate 1. That photo of the exploded

locomotive also features in Vol 1 p98 of Bill Fawcett's history; he identifies the photo as coming from the NER magazine. He says that the locomotive sits in front of the NER workshops in Darlington (in front of the east wall, centre range of the south front)."

Ken Hoole features this photo in his book *Trains in Trouble Vol.4* and writes:

"The North-Eastern Railway became notable for the number of boiler explosions that took place involving its engines. This one took place at Alne in 1877 as 0-6-0 No. 510 was working a Darlington-Normanton goods. Parts of the boiler were discovered over a wide area on both sides of the line, the most distant being 539ft from the water column where the engine was taking water."

Robert Brech, Alne.

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27-November-2018