

NRM loan L.M.R. Loco *Woolmer* to Milestones Museum,
Basingstoke - January 2010



Milestones, Hampshire County Council's award winning living history museum, based in Basingstoke is to expect the delivery of a rather early special 10th Birthday gift of the steam locomotive *Woolmer* on Sunday 17 January 2010. The locomotive is currently on display at

Locomotion: the National Railway Museum in Shildon, Co Durham and has been offered to Hampshire County Council's Museum and Archives Service on an initial five year loan.

The steam locomotive originally steamed on the Longmoor Military Railway and is an important part of Hampshire's military and transport history. The Railway was built by the Royal Engineers from 1903 in order to train soldiers on railway construction and operations. The *Woolmer* locomotive was built in 1910 by the Avonside company of Bristol and worked at the Longmoor Military Railway until 1954. The National Railway Museum returned the locomotive to display condition as part of its Learning In Motion project.

The carefully planned move from Locomotion to Milestones Museum will be technically challenging, with the locomotive being transported approximately 90 metres from the back doors of the museum to its display area next to the Victorian railway station. This amazing feat will be achieved by Andrew Goodman of 'Moveright International', NRM's preferred company who are very used to the complex transportation and transfer processes involved in moving 27 tons tare of steam locomotive. Britain's leading heavy haulier, Andrew Goodman will be familiar to many who enjoyed the 'Monster Moves' TV programmes on Five. The move will start on Sunday 17 January at 5pm and the locomotive is planned to be in its display place by approximately 10am on Tuesday 19 January (subject to everything going to plan).

Cllr Snaith-Tempia, Hampshire County Council Executive Member for Culture and Recreation says "The coming home of the *Woolmer* locomotive to Milestones Museum is great news for the residents of Hampshire who will have this unique opportunity to see this historic locomotive being displayed in this inspirational setting. A real treat for all ages who love to learn about Hampshire's railway history, whether they are a railway enthusiast or not."