From Hook Road the new line took a different route going through an underpass under Hook Road into the present day Country Park. The new route went through Butcher’s Grove Wood, where the line branched with lines to Long Grove Hospital and the new central power and pumping station at Sherwood. (See map).

The Horton Light Railway began its operations in May 1913. The railway was not extended to St Ebbas, Horton and Manor Hospitals due to the cost of constructing another underpass. (Underpasses were thought necessary following the death of 65 year old Mary Tobin in March 1906, at the Hook Road crossing. This rather dramatic reaction had been put down to the importance that London County Council attached to its public duty to ensure safety.

In March 1906, 65 year old Mary Tobin was run down and killed by the engine Hollymoor. During the Second World War the engine tried on more than one occasion to bomb the railway and succeeded in damaging it twice. The engine shed which was at the hospitals boiler house complex and known as Sherwood, was badly damaged and a section of track was destroyed by an unexploded bomb which blew up shortly after Hendon had passed by. On a Monday in June 1941 a stick of bombs fell parallel to the track going through Four Acre Wood, Pond Wood and the field in between. Today a large crater can still be seen besides the path in Pond Wood and it is thought that the clay dam of the pond in Pond Wood was breached allowing it to drain. It is also known that anti-aircraft guns were carried along the track during the blitz and apparently when they first fired in the Chessington Road area, they shattered windows in many of the nearby houses.

Several times during the history of the line the local youth managed to derail the engines, fortunately without serious consequences. In another incident of vandalism Sherwood ran full team into an ash truck which someone has pushed under Hook Road underpass, allowing it to drain. It is also known that anti-aircraft guns were carried along the track during the blitz and apparently when they first fired in the Chessington Road area, they shattered windows in many of the nearby houses.

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The pictures were all taken during the 1940s and have kindly been provided by Mr. R Roberts and Mr. N Davenport. With the exception of the engine Hendon passing Four Acre Wood in January 1938 (courtesy of Greater London Records Office). Map taken from 1933 edition Ordnance Survey.