The Sheppey Light Railway was a railway on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent, England which ran from Leysdown to Queenborough, where it connected with the South Eastern and Chatham Railway. It was built to the designs of Colonel Stephens, who was the engineer of this railway from its inception in 1896 through its operation to 1950.

### Historical Context

- **1896**: The Light Railway Act was authorised.
- **1899**: Construction began.
- **1901**: The railway opened on 1 August.
- **1950**: The railway closed on 4 December.

### Key Features

- **Light railway**: Using only 2 ft narrow gauge tracks.
- **Steam trams**: Operated by the South Eastern and Chatham Railway.
- **Electricity supply**: Unlike the Sheppey Light Railway, which ran from August 1901, the Isle of Sheppey Light Railway used electricity to operate its trams.

### Location and Connectivity

- **Queenborough**: Connected via the South Eastern and Chatham Railway.
- **Leysdown**: Where the Sheppey Light Railway connected with the Isle of Sheppey Light Railway.
- **Sheerness**: The railway connected with the Isle of Sheppey Light Railway.

### Engineering and Operation

- **Colonel Stephens**: The engineer of the railway.
- **Light railway engineering**: Notable for its use of narrow gauge tracks and steam trams.

### Related Resources

- **Books**: "The Sheppey Light Railway" by Brian Hart, "The Sheppey Light Railway" by Peter A. Harding.
- **Websites**: [Sheppey Light Railway - The Bluebell Railway](https://www.bluebell-railway.gov.uk/)
- **Videos**: [Sheppey Light Railway - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Sheppey+Light+Railway)

### Conclusion

The Sheppey Light Railway played a crucial role in the development of steam trams on the Isle of Sheppey, offering an alternative mode of transport to the South Eastern and Chatham Railway. Its closure in 1950 marked the transition to an era of more modern transportation technologies.