

# WEST LANCASHIRE'S HISTORICAL COMMUNITY STATIONS

## BURSCOUGH JUNCTION



Burscough Junction in the 1950's - photo courtesy of Lancs & Yorks Railway Society



Burscough Junction in the 1950's - photo courtesy of Lancs & Yorks Railway Society



Burscough Junction in 2009 - photo courtesy of Simon Clarke

The Liverpool, Ormskirk and Preston Railway Company received parliamentary authorisation to build the line on the 18th August 1846. At this stage the East Lancashire Railway acquired the company and responsibility for the construction of the new line. It accepted a tender from McKenzie, Brassey and Stephenson for £200,698 on the 20th January 1847 and the first sod was cut near Maghull on 16th March 1847.

Construction proved more difficult than anticipated especially with embankments disappearing into the moss! As a result the hoped for completion date was not met. The line was finally completed by March 1849 and after inspection was opened to the public on 2nd April 1849. Trains could now complete the journey between Liverpool and Preston in just fifty five minutes.

Burscough Junction was a busy station with thriving passenger and goods traffic. There were two main through platforms and bays used by local trains to Liverpool and Southport. The latter destination used the Burscough South Curve to join the Wigan to Southport line.

By 1904 the station was catering for passenger and goods traffic, horse boxes, prize cattle vans, furniture vans and livestock. A five ton crane was available in the goods yard. The large goods yard also contained no less than seven private sidings, reflecting the local industry, namely Abbey Mill siding, Ainscough siding, Birchfield siding, Brickfield siding, Burscough Abbey siding, Ordnance stores siding and Platts siding.

Today the station is a shadow of its former self and is now a single platform its bay platforms now overgrown.

A proactive Friends of Station group working with the train operator helps to keep the station and its environs tidy and litter free their colourful flower displays admired by passengers.

GRADIENT PROFILE

