

# WEST LANCASHIRE'S HISTORICAL COMMUNITY STATIONS

## CROSTON STATION



Croston Station in the 1930's - photo courtesy of Lancs & Yorks Railway Society



Croston Station in the 1980's - photo courtesy of Brian Haworth



Croston Station in 2009 - photo courtesy of Brian Haworth

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.

Sturgess Meek the resident engineer during the construction of the line ran into major problems whilst building the embankments across Croston Moss. Slippage of the embankments due to the nature of the moss was a regular occurrence. Meek overcame the problem by constructing significant drainage channels and heavy tipping with materials gleaned from cuttings along the line.

Croston station opened on 2nd April 1849. By 1904 the station was equipped to deal with passengers, goods, horse boxes, prize cattle, furniture vans and livestock. Its goods yard contained a five ton crane. As well as having a reasonable sized goods yard at the station the Littlewood Brick and Tile Company had their own sidings at the Rufford side of the station. Crompton and Company also had private sidings situated between Rufford and Croston. All these private sidings brought valuable traffic to the line.

Just beyond Croston the Royal Ordnance factory at Ulnes Walton had its own private sidings connected to the main line. These sidings were worked by two 0-4-0 Diesel locos built by John Fowler of Leeds in 1942 numbered 22971/42 and 22987/42 they were a familiar sight in the sidings.

Croston Station is now served by one platform, as the line between Ormskirk and Farrington Curve Junction has been singled. The station is a shadow of its former self but a very active Friend's of Station group operates here and with their help the station and its environs are kept in good condition.

