

# WEST LANCASHIRE'S HISTORICAL COMMUNITY STATIONS

## ORMSKIRK STATION



Ormskirk Station in the 1950's - photo courtesy of Lancs & Yorks Railway Society

Ormskirk station opened on 22nd April 1849 as part of The Liverpool, Ormskirk and Preston Railway. This company became part of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway in 1859. Ormskirk was the most important station on the line at which express trains from Liverpool to Scotland once called.

The station formally consisted of two running lines with a bay at each end, one for the Skelmersdale branch the other for Liverpool stoppers. Railmotors were used on the Skelmersdale branch which ran through to Rainford Junction. By 1904 Ormskirk Station was listed as dealing with goods, passengers, furniture vans, livestock and horse boxes. The goods yard was equipped with a five ton goods crane. Today the station has been much reduced in size and is an end on junction between the electric and diesel passenger services.



Ormskirk Station in the 1960's - photographer unknown

Between Ormskirk station and Town Green was located Joseph Crook's sand quarry and sidings whose red open wagons were once a familiar sight on the line.

The electric services from Liverpool expanded in stages along the line reaching Maghull, Town Green and finally Ormskirk where a partial service commenced on 1st April 1913. A full electric service started a month later on the 1st May 1913. Now branded as Merseyrail's Northern Line electric trains operate at 15 minute intervals to Liverpool for most of the day. Services to Preston are less frequent and are operated by Northern Rail diesel units.



Ormskirk Station in July 2009 - photo courtesy of Simon Clarke

To the north of Ormskirk station, between the Preston line and the Skelmersdale branch, stood a four road engine shed numbered 29 in the Lancashire and Yorkshire lists. This was built in 1893 and was equipped with a fifty foot turntable and coaling stage with a water tank located above. Three railmotors were allocated to the shed along with other locomotives in 1930. The engine shed closed during September 1935. The signal box covering the station was also located at the Preston end of the station.

Ormskirk station is grade 2 listed and was fully refurbished during the spring of 2009 when Lancashire County Council, Merseyrail, Merseytravel, West Lancashire District Council, NWDA, the DfT, the Railway Heritage Trust and the West Of Lancashire Community Rail Partnership worked together to finance the project.

