

# A history of the route

## 1845

The branch line from Todmorden to Burnley was proposed by the Manchester and Leeds Railway Company and authorised to be built on 30 June. It was planned to be built as a single line. Railway engineer and contractor Mr Faviell was awarded the contract to build the line on 20 October at a cost of £140,000 and construction began almost immediately.

## 1846

By October it was decided to build the line double track at an extra cost of £66,000.

## 1847

Work on building the line stopped abruptly on 16 October due to financial problems and hundreds of manual workers were discharged.

## 1848

Work re-started in early May to build a single line to reduce costs.

## 1849

On 26 June Mr Faviell was dismissed and the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company took over the contract to complete the works. A single line railway was completed and opened on 12 November.

## 1850

The line from Burnley Thorneybank Station was extended to meet the Colne branch at Gannow Junction for £10,000. Work commenced to double the line which was completed on the 1 July 1860.



## 1866

Burnley Thorneybank was closed and a new station named Burnley Manchester Road was built on the opposite side of the road which opened on 1 November. Burnley Thorneybank station was demolished and the area turned into a goods yard dealing with goods to and from local mills as well as coal and stone.

## 1961

Burnley Manchester Road station was closed to passenger traffic by British Railways on 6 November.

## 1986

The station reopened for passenger use on 29 September. The old station stone buildings which had been left unused since the closure of the station were used by a local dairy distribution company.

## Today

Unfortunately, the now empty building had to be demolished due to irreversible damage but the stone has been used to construct the new station you see today, acting as a gateway to the wider rail network and on into Europe via the channel tunnel.



## Further Information

**Manchester Victoria - Blackburn** train times can be found in: **Northern Rail Timetable 36**.

Available from any staffed railway station.

For train times, fares and to buy tickets visit **[northernrailway.co.uk](http://northernrailway.co.uk)** or any staffed station.

For service information contact

National Rail Enquiries: **[nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk)**

Telephone: **03457 48 49 50**

For more information on the line and the latest news visit **[communityraillancashire.co.uk](http://communityraillancashire.co.uk)**

# Explore

## East Lancashire by train



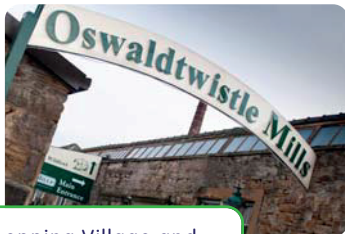
[northernrailway.co.uk](http://northernrailway.co.uk)



Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery houses a fascinating collection of art, Egyptology and manuscripts. The King Georges Hall hosts hugely popular soul nights, comedy clubs and a monthly Afternoon Variety Show.

The town's stunning architectural, Anglican Cathedral contains a fantastic religious art collection and holds regular musical events and recitals.

Blackburn's Ice Arena is the North West Regional Centre of Ice Skating Excellence. Star skaters from 'Dancing on Ice' are resident onsite, and you can cut the ice yourself as the ice arena is open to the public seven days a week.



Oswaldtwistle Mills Shopping Village and Garden Centre has something for everyone. With over 100 retailers, Five Restaurants, Ice Cream Parlour, Extensive Home, Garden & Lifestyle Centre, Mill Grounds, Aquatics Specialist, Craft Centre, Textile and Heritage Museum and Wildfowl Reserve. Located only 300 yards from the station Northern Rail customers can benefit from a 10% discount sheet\*

(\*on selected retailers) when they show a valid train ticket at the Shopping Village reception desk.

Adjacent to the University of Salford Campus which opened in 1896 as the Royal Technical Institute, a regular City Connect 50 bus service links the train station with Media City. For details visit [tfgm.com/journey\\_planning/RouteMaps/50.pdf](http://tfgm.com/journey_planning/RouteMaps/50.pdf)

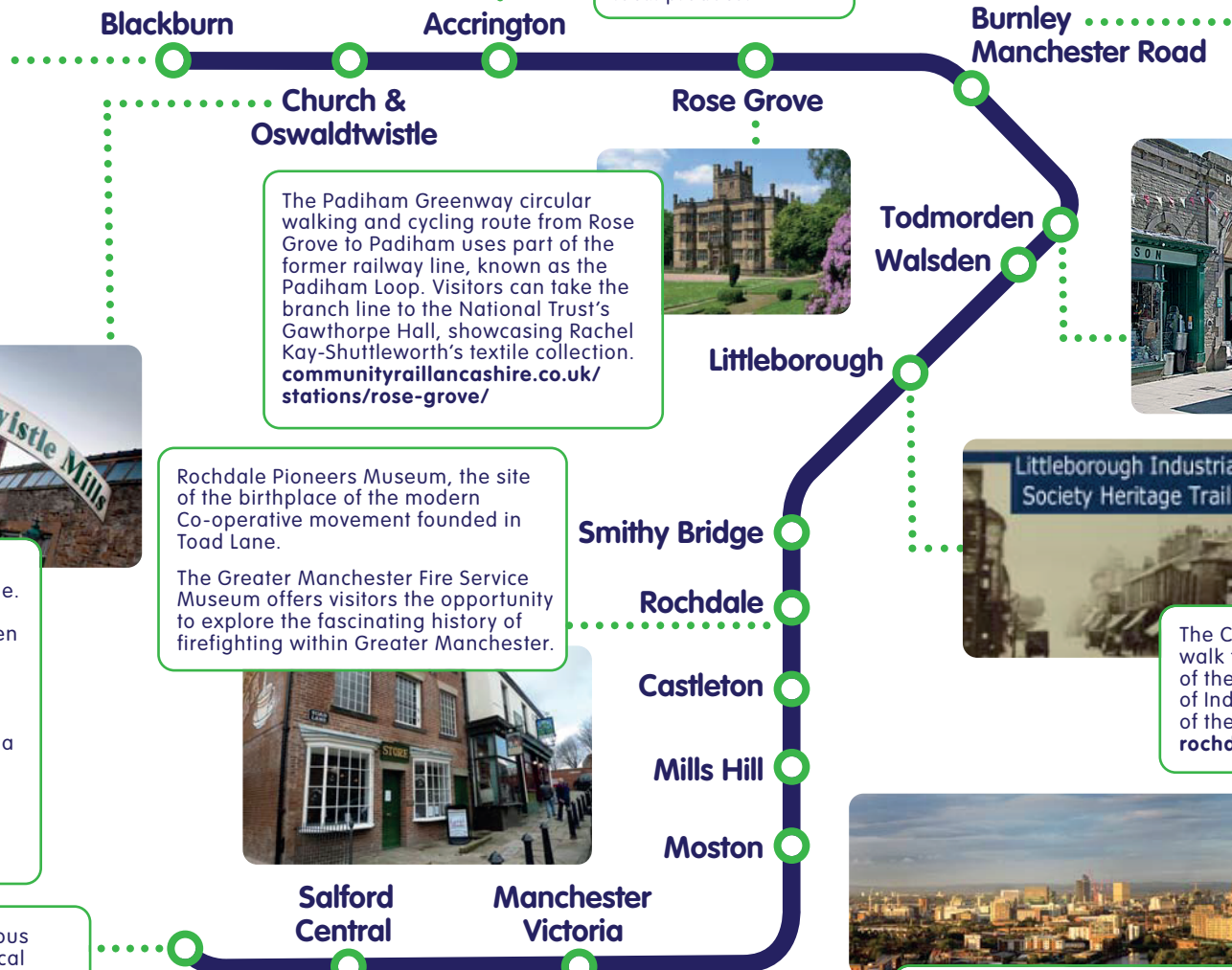


Dating back to the Victorian era, the Accrington market has many stalls selling local produce.



Towneley Hall, a family home for nearly five centuries where today their triumphs and tragedies are brought to life. Designed by architects Tonkin-Liu the 'Singing Ringing Tree' is one of the most iconic artworks in Lancashire.

Walking enthusiasts and other visitors can take in the beautiful setting at the Forest of Burnley. Weavers' Triangle, an area of unique canal side heritage is one of the most important Victorian industrial districts.



**Church & Oswaldtwistle**

The Padiham Greenway circular walking and cycling route from Rose Grove to Padiham uses part of the former railway line, known as the Padiham Loop. Visitors can take the branch line to the National Trust's Gawthorpe Hall, showcasing Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth's textile collection. [communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/stations/rose-grove/](http://communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/stations/rose-grove/)

**Rose Grove**



**Todmorden Walsden**



Trading since 1879, there is a vast array of unique shops on quaint cobbled Water Street at the Todmorden market.

**Littleborough**



The Co-operative Heritage Trail is a short walk taking in the history and development of the Littleborough Co-operative Society of Industry. A leaflet provides full details of the trail available at [rochdalepioneersmuseum.coop](http://rochdalepioneersmuseum.coop)

**Smithy Bridge**

**Rochdale**

Rochdale Pioneers Museum, the site of the birthplace of the modern Co-operative movement founded in Toad Lane.

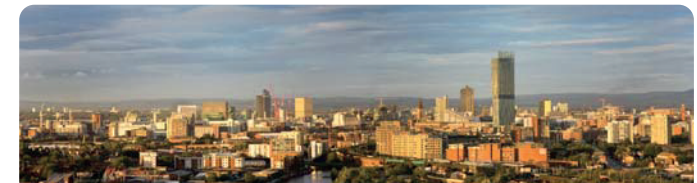
The Greater Manchester Fire Service Museum offers visitors the opportunity to explore the fascinating history of firefighting within Greater Manchester.



**Castleton**

**Mills Hill**

**Moston**



A city rich in industrial heritage with an abundance of art galleries and museums including the National Football, Science and Industry and Great Manchester Police Museums. There are fantastic shops, restaurants, bars to keep you entertained and just a short walk from the station are the Printworks and the Royal Exchange Theatre.

**Salford Central**

**Manchester Victoria**

**Salford Crescent**