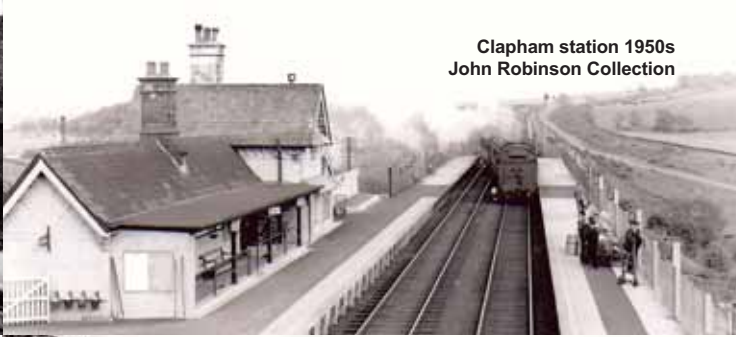


Bentham Station 1890s  
Gerald Townson Collection



Clapham station 1950s  
John Robinson Collection



# The Bentham Line

## A brief history of the route

- 1845** The original proposal, in 1845, was that the 'Little' North Western Railway should link the Leeds & Bradford Railway at Skipton to the Lancaster & Carlisle Railway at Tebay. The route would be via Hellfield, Clapham, Ingleton and Kirkby Lonsdale with a branch line from Clapham to Lancaster Green Ayre and Morecambe, by way of Bentham, Wennington and Hornby.
- 1849** The construction of the route from Skipton was halted temporarily, on reaching Ingleton in July 1849, and the new focus became the completion of the Clapham to Lancaster Green Ayre branch, which was finished by June 1850. The line between Wennington and Carnforth, completed in 1869, was a joint venture between the Midland and Furness Railway Companies.
- 1870** The 'Little' North Western was incorporated into the Midland Railway in 1870 which in turn became part of the larger London, Midland and Scottish Railway in 1923.
- 1948** British Railways took over on nationalisation in 1948.
- 2004** After privatisation in 1996, and a few short-lived operators, Northern Rail provided the services from 2004 until 2016.  
The line between Clapham and Tebay, and the route from Wennington to Morecambe, via Lancaster Green Ayre, were closed in 1966. Although a number of stations closed in the 1950s and 60s, some have reopened, such as Cononley, and new ones have been built, for example Crossflatts.
- 2016** Arriva Rail North became new franchisee for the Bentham Line and services throughout the North.



Wennington Station 1960s  
John Robinson Collection

Bentham Line train times can be found in:  
**Northern Timetable 7**  
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.

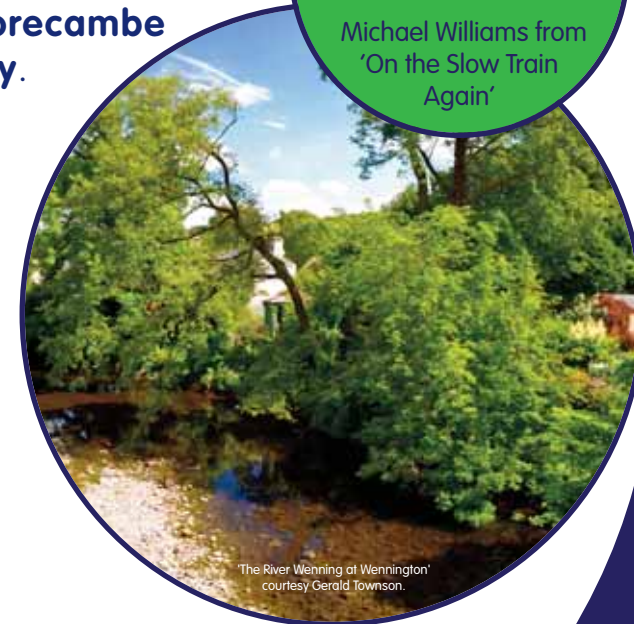
For service information contact  
National Rail Enquiries:  
**[nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk)**  
Telephone: **03457 48 49 50**

For more information about the Bentham Line and the latest news visit:  
**[leedslancastermorecambecrp.co.uk](http://leedslancastermorecambecrp.co.uk)**

A spectacular 75-mile journey from Leeds in the industrial heartland of **West Yorkshire** through the magnificent **Yorkshire Dales** to the picturesque shores of **Morecambe Bay**.

**"One of the most glorious train journeys in Britain"**

Michael Williams from 'On the Slow Train Again'



The River Wenning at Wennington  
courtesy Gerald Townson.



Leeds - Lancaster - Morecambe Community Rail Partnership

**LASRUG**  
Lancaster and Skipton Rail User Group



Image courtesy The Telegraph

The station, now a heritage centre, was the setting for the 1945 romantic film 'Brief Encounter'.



Image courtesy flickr

Livestock-market town on the River Wenning and close to the northern edge of the Forest of Bowland.



The line passes through the mighty Pennines. 'The Three Peaks'- Whenside, Ingleborough and Pen-y-gent all lie to the north.



Image courtesy Panoramio

As the line crosses the river Ribble, Settle and the copper dome of Giggleswick School Chapel can be seen.



Image courtesy flickr

**Settle Junction**  
A restored, working Midland Railway signal box.



Image courtesy Robin Barbour

Once a locomotive depot in the days of Steam. The grand station building has been restored and houses a café with railway-themed displays.



Image courtesy KWWVR

The Keighley and Worth Valley Heritage Steam Railway connects with the line.

Ingleborough dominates the view, rising high above this charming Yorkshire Dales village.

**Wennington**  
**Carnforth**  
**Bentham**  
**Clapham**



Image courtesy Matt O'Brien

**Giggleswick**  
**Long Preston**  
May Day is celebrated in traditional style around the maypole.

To the south is Pendle Hill, home of the famous Lancashire witches.



Image courtesy Welcome to Skipton

With its Medieval Castle, Skipton 'Gateway to the Dales' is a bustling market town.

**Hellfield**  
**Gargrave**  
**SKIPTON**



The 'high-rise locks' climb away to the north.

Image courtesy Visit Bradford

**Cononley**  
**Steeton & Silsden**  
**Keighley**

Site of the Victorian working community built by Sir Titus Salt, which became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2001.

**Crossflatts**  
**Bingley**

**Saltaire**  
**Shipley**

Vibrant city with Victorian architecture, galleries, museums and shopping.

**Frizinghall**

**BRADFORD**  
**Forster Square**

The route passes the majestic ruins of Kirkstall Abbey.

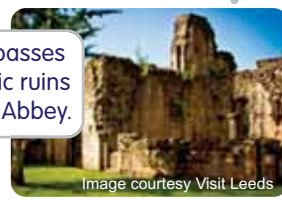


Image courtesy Visit Leeds



Image courtesy Visit England

Spectacular views across Morecambe Bay towards the Lake District peaks.



Image courtesy Visit England

**MORECAMBE**

**Bare Lane**

A striking vista of the city, its castle and priory church, whilst crossing the River Lune.



Image courtesy Lancaster University

**LANCASTER**



Image courtesy Visit Lancashire

The route boasts striking views of Lancaster castle and priory church.

**Heysham Port**  
for the Isle of Man

The service for Heysham Port arrives at the quay adjacent to the Isle of Man ferry.



Image courtesy Ships of Man