

EAST LANCASHIRE'S HISTORICAL COMMUNITY STATIONS

BAMBER BRIDGE



Bamber Bridge circa 1950s - photo courtesy Lancs & Yorks Railway Society



Bamber Bridge circa 1950s - photo courtesy Lancs & Yorks Railway Society



Bamber Bridge circa 2008 - photo courtesy Simon Clarke

BAMBER BRIDGE RAILWAY STATION.

Bamber Bridge Railway Station was constructed as part of the Blackburn and Preston Railway. The line was surveyed in 1843 to run between Blackburn and Farington where it would join the North Union Railway line into Preston. The act authorising the construction was passed on the 6th June 1844 and Terence Woulf Flanagan was installed as Chief Engineer. John Stephenson was awarded the contract for constructing the section of line from Houghton to Farington, which included Bamber Bridge Station. The line was inspected on 30th May 1846 and opened for passengers on 1st June 1846.

The Blackburn and Preston Railway Company amalgamated with the East Lancashire Railway Company on 3rd August 1846 and it is part of this company's building that survives today.

A shorter route to Preston from Bamber Bridge was surveyed in 1846 and an act passed authorising its construction on 22nd July 1847. This line via Preston Junction Station (later named Todd Lane Junction) opened on 2nd September 1850.

Bamber Bridge Station is 8¼ miles from Blackburn and boasted facilities for passenger, freight, livestock and horseboxes. The original goods shed was adjacent to the station at the west end of the Preston platform but a larger goods shed, complete with a 10-ton crane, was later constructed lower down the yard.

In 1887 the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway agreed to provide a short branch and private sidings for G. R. Dewhurst cotton manufacturers. The line branched from the goods yard head shunt running parallel with the yard before curving away from the station across the old tramway and through the fields to Dewhurst's Cuerden Mill. Once in the mill confines sidings branched out one of which led to the engine shed where the mills private locomotive rested between duties. This loco, an 0-4-0 outside cylinder saddle tank built by Peckett in 1892, painted green and named "Monarch" served the mill until its closure in 1934.

The station area once boasted two signal boxes Bamber Bridge Junction and Bamber Bridge Station.

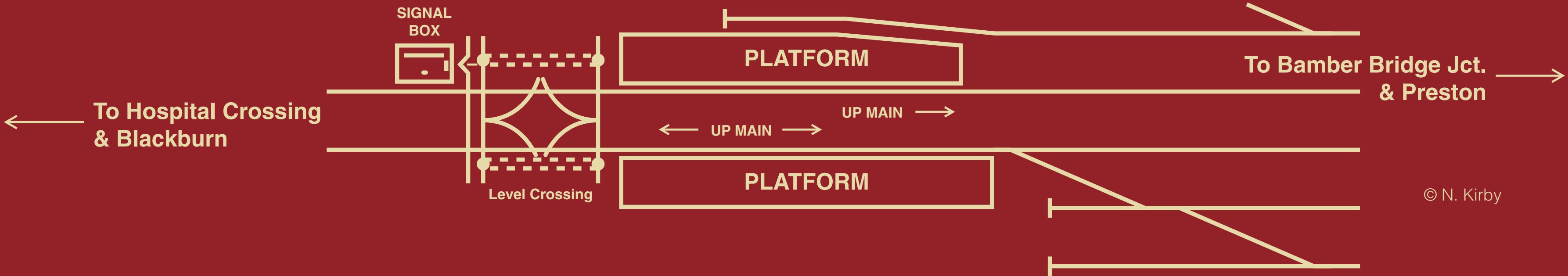
The junction box closed after being destroyed by fire on 22nd May 1972.

Bamber Bridge Station Box is a unique flat roofed three-storey building constructed by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. It was opened on the 7th October 1906. It became Bamber Bridge Crossing Frame on the 5th November 1972. At this stage a six-switch panel replaced the signal box frame. The crossing gates were replaced by full lifting barriers on the 11th November 1973. This box survives today and is a historical link to the East Lancashire Railway Station.

The shorter 1850 route to Preston closed on 1st May 1972.

The former East Lancashire Station building had fallen into disrepair and during 2008 has been sympathetically restored by a partnership including Lancashire County Council and the Railway Heritage Trust. The refurbished station now serves as a base for the South Ribble Pensioners Association and the restoration has secured the future of this unique East Lancashire Railway building for future generations to appreciate.

BAMBER BRIDGE STATION



Bamber Bridge track diagram circa 1958

