

BROMLEY CROSS



Bromley Cross Station - photo courtesy LYRS



Bromley Cross Station - 1978 - photographer unknown



Bromley Cross Station - 2010 - photo courtesy Brian Haworth

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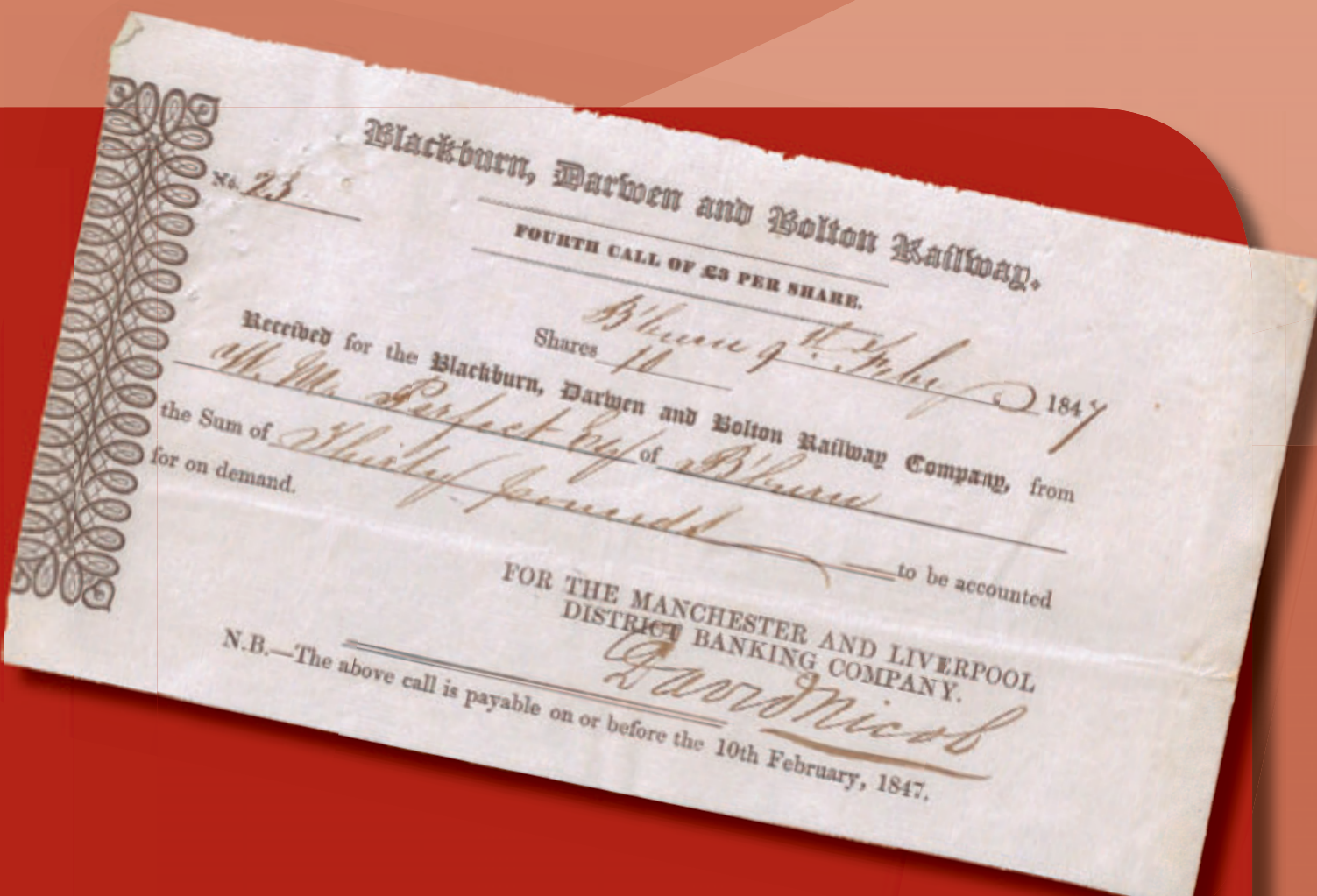
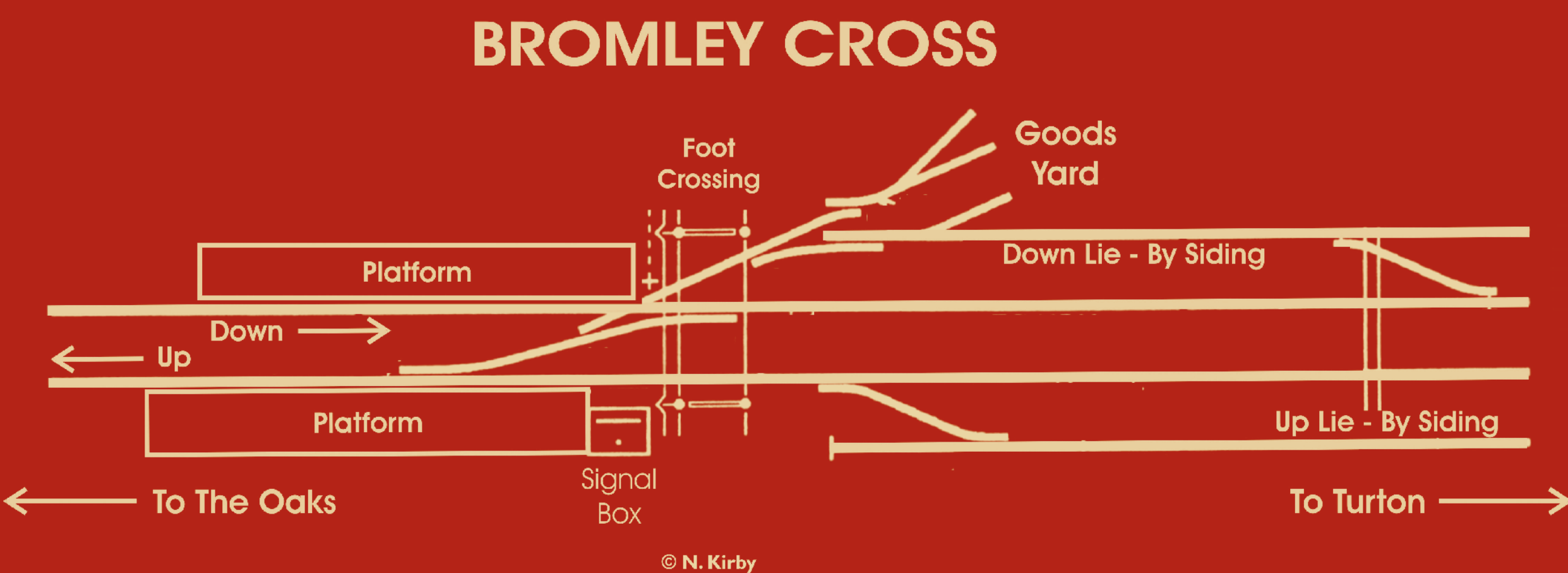
In September 1844 the Blackburn, Darwen and Bolton Railway Company held its first meeting in Blackburn to look at surveys carried out on behalf of the company to build a line between Blackburn and Bolton. After agreeing on a double line the company appointed Charles Vignoles as Chief Engineer and John Lister as Resident Engineer. Later in the year it was proposed that a line from Blackburn to Clitheroe should be constructed in conjunction with the Blackburn and Bolton line.

The first sod for the Blackburn to Bolton route was cut at a ceremony held at Darwen on 27th Sept 1845. Shortly after work started John Lister was sacked and replaced by Terence Flanagan who had been the Resident Engineer on the Blackburn to Preston Railway. On 25th May 1848 Terence Flanagan was asked to construct temporary stations at Whittlestone Head, Chapel Town and Bromley Cross and on June 6th 1848 the first passenger train stopped at Bromley Cross station.

Situated 11 miles from Blackburn, Bromley Cross was a typical single storey country station using locally quarried stone in its construction. Today the booking office survives and has recently had work done to it. The station also has a public clock.

By 1904 the reasonable sized goods yard contained a goods shed equiped with a ten ton crane and was listed as being able to deal with livestock, prize cattle as well as other general freight.

Of interest is the original signal box which controls the footcrossing as well as signals, the road crossing here closed in 1966. Built by Yardley and Smith this type one brick box opened on the 2nd December, 1875 and contained a 20 lever frame. The box received a Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway 28 lever frame in September 1902 but is now reduced to a fringe box controlling the foot crossing. Its appearance has been marred somewhat by the ugly steel cage erected over the entrance steps in recent times. Bromley Cross is now a very busy commuter station and has a ticket office manned by Northern Rail. Passenger information screens have recently been installed as part of a project funded by GMPTE.



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