

# EAST LANCASHIRE'S HISTORICAL COMMUNITY STATIONS

## NELSON STATION



Nelson Station in the 1950's - photo courtesy of Noel Coates



Nelson Station in 1963 - Photographer unknown



Nelson Station March 2009 - photo courtesy Simon Clarke

### NELSON STATION.

The town of Nelson was originally made up of two small villages Little Marsden and Great Marsden but the advent of the railway resulted in the new town of Nelson being granted its town charter by Queen Victoria. A Marsden Station already existed in Yorkshire so the station was given the name of Nelson after an adjacent public house The Admiral Lord Nelson Inn. The name stuck and the town of Nelson was born.

The contract for constructing the railway line from Hapton to Colne was awarded to William Hattersley who had just completed work on the first Woodhead Tunnel on the 8th December 1845. The resident engineers were J S Perring and JA Donaldson. The line was inspected on the 16th September and after some remedial work to bridges was eventually opened to passenger traffic on 1st February 1849. The fine stone and brick built station boasted facilities to deal with passenger and goods traffic, parcels, furniture vans, livestock and horse boxes. A large goods yard was built with a ten-ton capacity crane and there was also a small yard at Chaffers which came under Nelsons control. A rather fine station canopy with ornate cast iron pillars still survives sheltering the platforms.

Nelson had a reputation for producing fine weaving which along with raw materials for the numerous mills provided a plentiful source of traffic through the goods yards for onward distribution. There were two signal boxes around the station and a smaller signal box at Chaffers sidings. Chaffers sidings signal box was a Saxby and Farmer design built in 1876 and lasting until 1991, albeit as a crossing box.

Nelson Goods Yard signal box was built in 1876 and furnished with a 23 lever frame. This box closed on 7th October 1934.

Nelson Station signal box a Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway 30 lever box opened in 1893 and survived until 15th June 1969.

Nelson station was refurbished in 2008 to form part of a new bus and rail interchange for the town. Among the new facilities provided is a booking office, located in the travel centre and is operated by Lancashire County Council staff. The development of the interchange marks the start of a new era for the provision of public transport in East Lancashire.

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Circa 1957



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