

EAST LANCASHIRE'S HISTORICAL COMMUNITY STATIONS

RAMSGREAVE & WILPSHIRE



Ramsgreave & Wilpshire circa 1855 - photo courtesy Ken Roberts



Ramsgreave & Wilpshire circa late 1950s - photo courtesy Ken Roberts



Ramsgreave & Wilpshire circa 1994 - photo courtesy Ken Roberts

RAMSGREAVE & WILPSHIRE RAILWAY STATION

The railway arrived at Wilpshire on 21st June 1850 although at this stage the line was single track. The station was originally called Wilpshire for Ribchester and coal delivered by rail for the mills of Ribchester was transferred to horse and cart for the five mile journey to Ribchester. The station served a large local farming community and its thriving goods yard equipped with a three ton crane could deal with freight, coal, cattle and horse boxes.

The main station buildings were on the up line some of which survive today in private ownership.

A cast iron lattice footbridge connected the up line with the wooden down platform. The wood platform was replaced by a concrete structure in 1954 which still survives today. On the left of the down line just before the station Wilpshire signal box could be found perched rather precariously high above Wilpshire Bottoms. This 14 foot x 12 foot x 8 foot Saxby and Farmer box contained an 18 lever frame in 1873 but by 1958 this had been reduced to 16 levers. Wilpshire station closed to passengers in 1962.

In 1994 Wilpshire station reopened but not on the original site which had been sold off. A new station was built adjacent to Ramsgreave Road Bridge closer to Blackburn. The station reopened to passengers on 30th May 1994 on its new site and with a new name Ramsgreave and Wilpshire. The attractive cast iron road bridge adjacent to the station was cast by the Blackburn company Yates later to become the famous Foster Yates and Thoms. The cutting beyond the station towards Clitheroe gave the contractors problems during the construction of the railway due to very wet boulder clay. Wilpshire tunnel about a quarter of a mile from the station is three hundred and seventeen yards in length.

