

SOUTH FYLDE'S HISTORICAL COMMUNITY STATIONS

SALWICK STATION



LYRS 5380 - Salwick Station looking west in 1969 – Photographer unknown.



Jubilee class 45643 RODNEY passing Salwick on 18th May 1964 on a Leeds-Blackpool special – Photographer Peter Fitton.



Inside Salwick No.2 Signalbox on 14th April 1995 – Photographer Peter Fitton.



Salwick Station without roof as a class 180 passes on 3rd June 2010 – Photographer Peter Fitton.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SALWICK STATION

Salwick station was first constructed by the Preston & Wyre Railway, opening on the single track line to Fleetwood in June 1840; as traffic built up, the track required doubling in 1846. Little is known about the station.

After the Lancashire & Yorkshire and London & North Western Railways had bought out the PWR in 1849, and with trains becoming more popular and frequent with the developing holiday traffic, it became necessary to quadruple the lines from Preston to Kirkham, which was done in a massive scheme in 1888/9.

It is presumed that Salwick's present station was constructed at that time, along with Lea Road and the replacement Kirkham & Wesham one. The island platform contained narrow passenger and staff flat-top buildings beneath an attractive roof made to a standard L&Y design. Oil lighting was needed, there being no gas supply. A photograph exists showing that several staff were employed.

East of the bridge was a small goods yard with cobbled roads and hand crane, with new sidings to the WW2 factory being added in 1941. The Constable Lane water troughs were located one mile nearer Preston. Salwick station in fact did close between May 1938 and April 1940, re-opening for the new factory

A reduction in rail use by the 1960s resulted in the two fast line tracks being closed, and as an economy measure the station buildings were demolished around 1975, oddly leaving the roof standing for a further ten years. It was then carefully removed for use on a preserved railway. Recently, during the electrification work, the spartan platform has been improved.

Text by Peter Fitton, July 2020

