

WEST OF LANCASHIRE'S HISTORICAL STATIONS

HOSCAR HISTORY



Hoscar crossing looking East



Hoscar LMS ARP Box 42287 with the 3pm Manchester-Southport, June 1st 1954



Hoscar LMS ARP Box Interior Signalman Tom Kelly, 1960's



Hoscar Station



Hoscar Station, 1968



Hoscar Station, circa 1960s



Hoscar Station, 1968



Northern unit 156452 approaching the down platform, 7th July 2022



A BRIEF HISTORY OF HOSCAR STATION

On 9th April 1855 the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway opened the line through Hoscar Moss to Southport. Hoscar Moss Station (now just Hoscar) opened on 1st November 1870 and all that was here until 1870 was the level crossing and its crossing keeper.

The first signal box (1878), at the east end of the Southport-bound platform, controlled the level crossing, a goods yard on the Wigan side behind the Station House and two neighbouring crossings. The goods yard for local farmers lasted until 1964. A London Midland & Scottish Railway Air Raid Precaution (ARP) box replaced the original during WW2 and is pictured.

In August 1967 automatic half barriers were installed at Hoscar and the signal box closed. The building survived for six weeks in case of teething troubles with the new barriers after which it was demolished and the rubble, according to a local signalman, was buried in an adjacent field.

A 1949 newspaper article on display at Parbold Station focuses on their Station Master Dick Taylor's dog Jack, a Lancashire Heeler. Jack would supervise each train that passed through Parbold and board the 10:20am train with his master to Hoscar and return on the 11:00am. Hoscar then being under the supervision of Parbold. If his master was unable to attend, Jack would board the train on his own to make the inspection and return either on the next train or run down the track back to Parbold.

The popular Railway Tavern, now a private house, was in the hands of Audrey and George Halton for 30 years from October 1963. Two fatal accidents happened during their tenancy when customers ran across the track and were hit by the train.

Manned until 1975, there are now no facilities for purchasing tickets at the station and these must be obtained online or on the train. In 2020 Hoscar Railway Station had the (dubious) honour of being the least used station in Lancashire with only a two-hour service in either direction.

HOSCAR MOSS STATION TRACK DIAGRAM, circa 1879

