

NORTH RODE'S RAILWAY

In the development of the railway systems in Cheshire, the village of North Rode in the 1830s had a pivotal role in the development of the railway network, not only in south and east Cheshire and in Staffordshire, but also in the development of the national railway system.

The reason for this was the location of the village on potential railway routes that formed the most direct and shortest line from Manchester to London. The earliest scheme to be promoted was in 1836 with the Manchester South Union Railway detailing, firstly, a route from Macclesfield to Congleton, Harecastle, and up the Trent Valley to Chebsey (Colwich), where it would ultimately link with the emerging national routes to Birmingham and to London, and secondly, a route to Leek which would connect with the Leek Canal.

These schemes were not proceeded with, and, after abortive schemes in 1840 and 1841 which promoted a route from Manchester to Derby, and in 1844 with the promotion up the Churnet Valley to Derby and Burton, the passing of separate Acts of Parliament on 26th June 1846 authorised the construction of railway lines from Macclesfield to Chehsey and from North Rode, via Leek and Uttoxeter to Burton and Derby.

The Station, which was located 4 miles 78 chains south of Macclesfield, opened for passenger and goods traffic on 18 June 1849 and was described at the time as a "neat station". Charles Hawkins was the first station master. The railway house and cottages were approved in the autumn of 1850. A horse dock was installed in the autumn of 1854. The signal box was installed by 1871, closed on 20th March 1965 and finally demolished on 2nd May 1965. In the autumn of 1874 a milk slide on the Macclesfield platform was installed and one on the other platform during the summer of 1901. An additional siding was put in during the summer of 1902.

The station was closed for passenger and goods traffic on 7th May 1962, and on 22nd July the down platform to Macclesfield was removed and the junction to the Churnet line was removed on 26th July 1964.

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