

A Brief History of the Route

1845	The original proposal, in 1845, was that the "Little" North Western Railway Should link the Leeds & Bradford Railway at Skipton to the Lancaster & Carlisle Railway at Tebay. The route would be via Hellifield, Clapham, Ingleton and Kirkby Lonsdale, with a branch from Clapham to Lancaster and Morecambe,, by way of Bentham, Wennington and Hornby.
1849 - 1850	The construction of the route from Skipton was halted temporarily, on reaching Ingleton in July 1849, and the new focus became the completion of the Clapham to Lancaster Green Ayre branch, which was finished in June 1850.
1869	The branch line between Wennington and Carnforth, completed in 1869, was a joint venture between the Midland and Furness Railway Companies.
1870	The 'Little' North Western was eventually incorporated in the Midland Railway in 1870.
1923	The Midland, in turn, became part of the larger London, Midland & Scottish Railway, on the formation of the 'big four' companies
1948	British Railways took over on nationalisation of the railways
1966	When Beeching made his swathing cuts to the railways the parts of the lines from Wennington to Morecambe via Hornby and Morecambe, and Clapham and Tebay were closed and removed.
1996	After privatisation the line had a few unsuccessful short-lived operators.
2004	Northern Rail provided the services for the next 12 years, increasing the summer Sunday service to year round.

2016	Arriva Rail North become new franchisee for theBentham Line and propose an increase in services tonight trains each way Mondays to Saturdays and five each way on Sundays.
2019	Launch of the Bentham Line as a dementia-friendly railway. Planned increase in services completed.
2025	Joint Railway 200 and Bentham Line 175 anniversary celebrations.

The Bentham Line Timetable and a guide to the scenic station-to-station walks along the Bentham Line, 'Rail to Trail'. is available from local staffed railway stations, it can be downloaded from: **thebenthamline.co.uk** or scan the QR code below.

Bentham Line rail services are operated by Northern Trains Ltd. Visit: **northernrailway.co.uk**



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The Bentham Line

A spectacular 75-mile journey from the vibrant city of **Leeds** through the magnificent **Yorkshire Dales** to the picturesque shores of **Morecambe Bay**.



"One of the most glorious train journeys in Britain"

Michael Williams,
'On the Slow Train Again'

To download the Bentham Line timetable visit: **thebenthamline.co.uk** or scan the QR code.

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