

New Clee Station and Sidings.

New Clee station lies about halfway between Cleethorpes and Grimsby Dock stations. A visitor today would be surprised to know that this was once a thriving and busy railway location. Today they would find a single platform in use, with a small waiting shelter, on the single line linking Grimsby and Cleethorpes. The station is little used and is a request stop (during daylight hours only, trains do not stop during the hours of darkness), and is served by the two hourly Cleethorpes to Barton-upon-Humber service.

Originally the line here was double tracked, and one is struck by the length of the existing platforms which would have been able to cater for a fifteen coach train. A clue for one reason for this is there for all to see; looking towards Cleethorpes about 400 yards away can be seen the floodlights of Blundell Park, the home of Grimsby Town Football Club, which incidentally is not in Grimsby but Cleethorpes. Far back in the hey-day of Grimsby Town's footballing history, Grimsby was a top division team drawing large crowds. Many fans arriving by train at New Clee. Between the station and the football ground were rows of terraced houses, most of which have now disappeared.

The station was opened in July 1875 following the doubling of the track between Grimsby and Cleethorpes the previous year. The station was staffed and had all the amenities of the period; waiting rooms, toilets, and booking office. On the West end of the now disused platform stood a large Signal Box. All this disappeared in the 1960s following the Beeching cuts and the decline of the fishing industry.

By 1900 because of the increase in fishing traffic to Grimsby Docks, a large 40 track siding complex was laid down on waste land (now covered by cold stores and factory units), between New Clee Station and the Humber Bank. This complex stretched as far back as Suggitts Lane at Cleethorpes. The sidings were used for the marshalling of fish trains and for providing coal for the fishing fleet. As many a forty fish trains a day left this siding for destinations all over the country. In fact the sidings were so busy that a bridge was built over the railway linking Cleethorpes Road with the Fish Docks, which is still in use today. The only clue to the existence of the sidings is one solitary wooden light pylon close to Suggitts Lane which somehow escaped the land clearance.



