

# ANCIENT IFIELD



*The surviving platforms of the original Crawley Station (left)*

In 1848 the first section of the Arun Valley railway line, between Three Bridges and Horsham, opened, carving it's way through the parish, splitting the

millpond in two and giving the parish it's first railway station by way of Crawley. Lyons Crossing Halt, later Ifield Halt and now Ifield station, did not open until 1907.

The original plans for the railway showed a different course, with the track leaving the mainline at Gatwick and entering the Parish at County Oak, passing close to Martyrs & Ewhurst farms. How different might the Parish have looked had these plans been implemented? There would have been no Gatwick Airport and it's quite possible that Crawley New Town would have been Ifield New Town, encompassing the settlements of Rusper & Crawley.

*Ifield Station (right)*



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