

# Belper



Belper's [mill-owning](#) Strutt family were supporters of and investors in the [North Midland Railway](#) but they worried it would affect their mill's water supply, so proposed a route avoiding Belper in 1835. The eventual route as built through Belper required the building of [Milford Tunnel](#) and the excavation of a long gritstone-lined cutting with 11 bridges in a mile.

The original station was built to the south of Belper, just before the cutting south of Derby Road. It was designed by [Francis Thompson](#) in an Italianate design. A coach ran regularly to the Lion Hotel in Bridge Street, however the station was seen as inconvenient and the [Midland Railway](#) built a new station within the cutting next to King Street in 1878.

“The Line crosses Belper Pool, a beautiful expansion of the Derwent, by two long bridges.”

The North Midland Railway Guide, 1842.

These station buildings were demolished in 1973. The station is mostly used for the Derwent Valley Line between Matlock and Newark, with some Midland Main Line trains stopping there also.



Lithograph of the North Midland Railway's 1840 Belper Station, drawn by Samuel Russell from the plans of architect Francis Thompson. *Courtesy of the Midland Railway Study Centre*