

## **Construction of the railway line to Horsley, 1883-1885**

The London & South Western Railway company (LSWR) opened a branch line between Hampton Court and Guildford in 1885 after two years of construction. The following photographs capture the scale of activity involved in its construction, which required making substantial railway cuttings and embankments.

The photographs below are reproduced by the kind permission of Mrs. Valerie Thompson of West Horsley.



A total of 1,200 men were employed in the construction work, much of it involving physical digging by 'navvies', as illustrated in the photograph below:





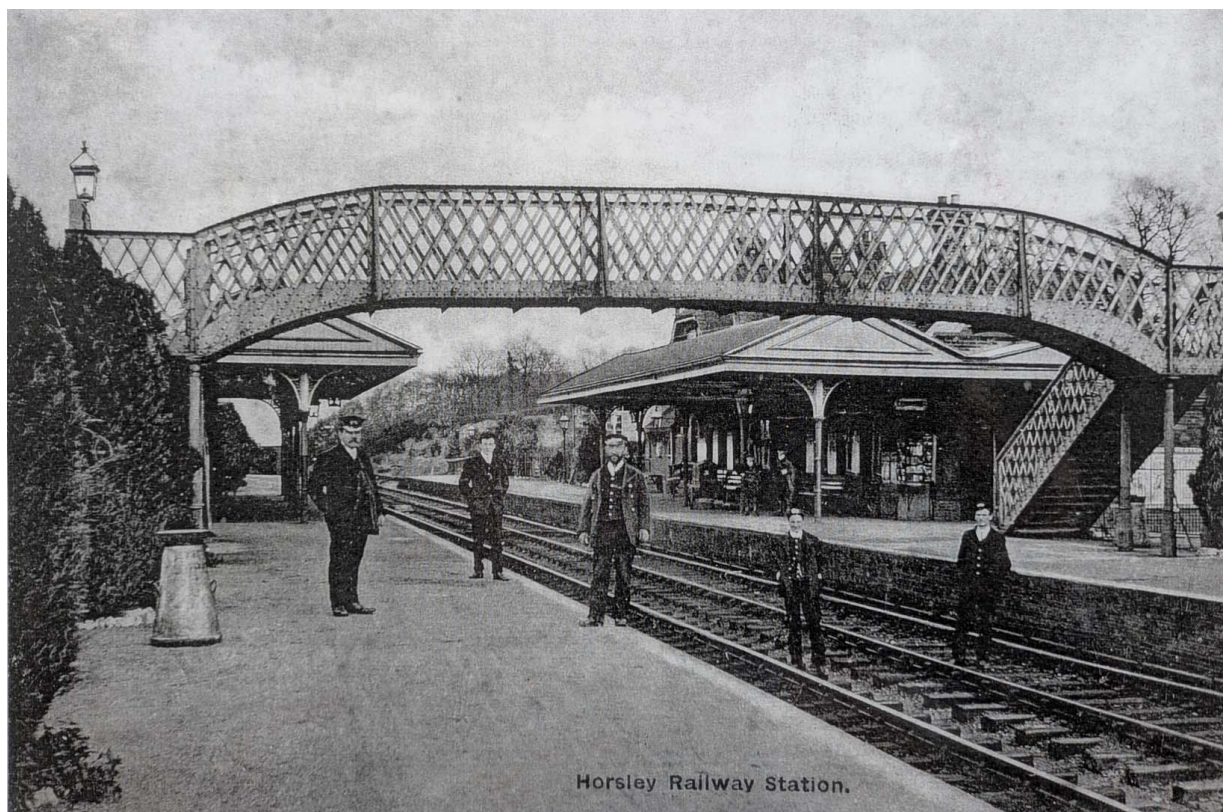
Not all if the physical work was done directly by navvies. The LSWR also made use of five 'steam navvies', one of which is illustrated below.



The station building itself was opened in 1886, built in the same style as neighbouring stations up and down the line. There was a total staff of 18 persons, including six uniformed men and 12 of the 'pinafore brigade', as illustrated in the photograph below. The first station master was a Mr Haywood.







Further information about the creation of the railway and Horsley Station can be found in Pam Bowley's book, 'East Horsley: the history of a Surrey village' on Pages 95 to 99.