

GREAT WESTERN SOCIETY DIDCOT RAILWAY CENTRE ACCESS STATEMENT

Welcome to Didcot Railway Centre, home of the Great Western Society, where we aim to recreate the golden age of the Great Western Railway. Didcot Railway Centre warmly welcomes all visitors with physical, sensory and learning disabilities and our staff will do all they can to ensure that your visit is both comfortable and enjoyable.

We recognise that the steps leading to our current entrance limit access to the Centre. We ask visitors to contact us in advance of their visit to discuss access needs. We have our own wheelchairs for visitors' use if they can climb the stairs.

Once inside Didcot Railway Centre, we have a network of concrete paths and access to most areas is on level ground. However, because the Centre is a working museum it is not always possible to make all parts as accessible as we would like and our aim is to provide as much access as possible within those constraints. We can provide guided tours on major opening days and for booked parties of visitors.

While visitors with disabilities pay the normal admission charge, their necessary companion is admitted free. However, if the companion wishes to pay to defray our costs, this would be welcome. We have an accessible toilet and welcome assistance dogs. We have also developed a talking newsletter, GWS Voice, for our own visually impaired members.

We are currently considering options for improving access as the steps restrict us as well; everything has to come into the Centre either up the steps or in a railway wagon. We have designed a ramp and are exploring funding options but finding such a large capital sum is a challenge.

We are continuing to explore the options for providing suitable access and would welcome any suggestions you may have.

Ann Middleton
Access Officer
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