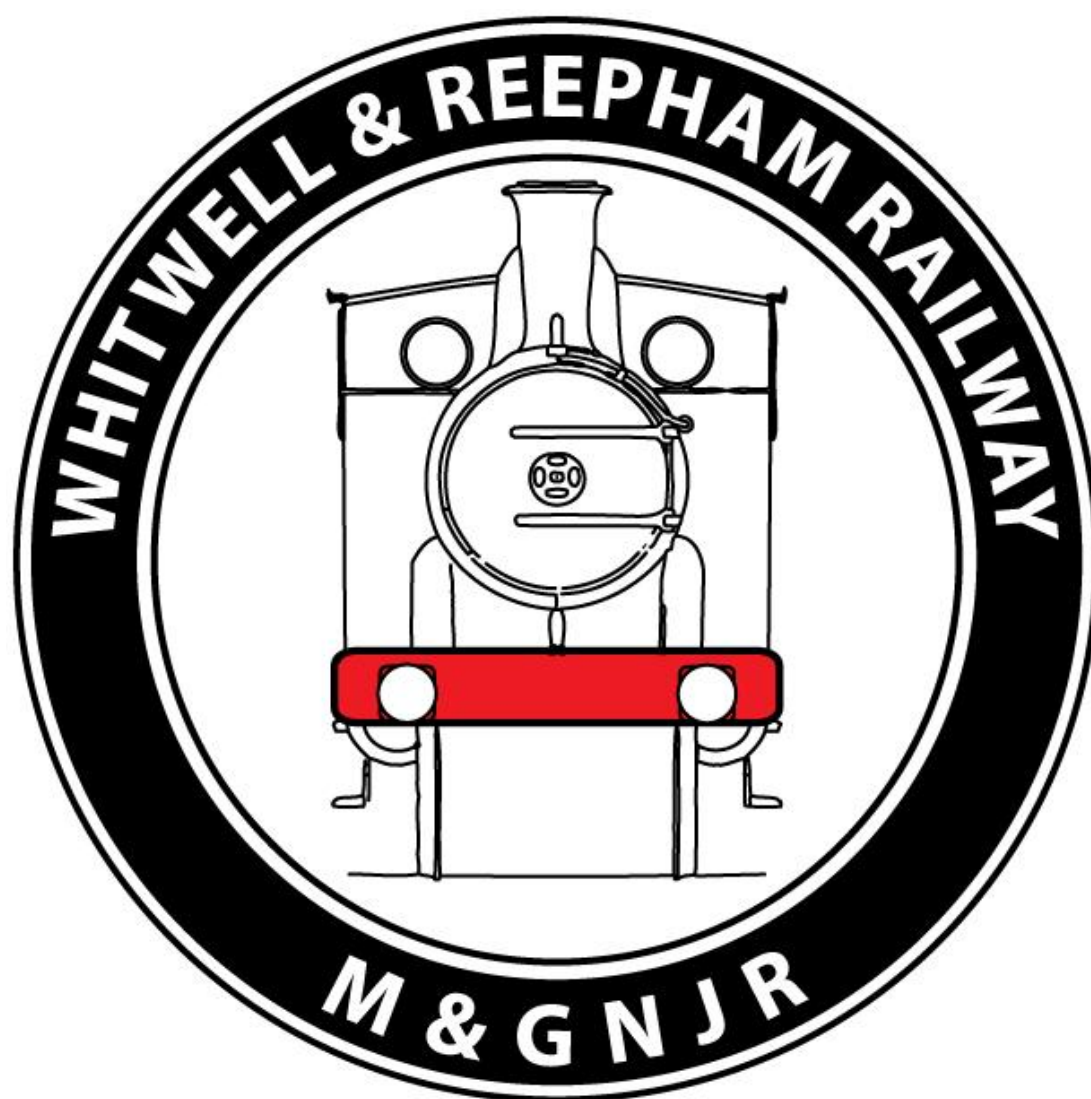


# Access Statement for Whitwell & Reepham Railway



This access statement does not contain personal opinions as to our suitability for those with disabilities, but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that we offer our visitors

## Introduction

Whitwell & Reepham Railway is being developed as a Heritage Railway Site by volunteers and members of Whitwell & Reepham Railway Preservation Society.

In order to raise funds for the Railway. A separate company, WRR Leisure, has been established to run the catering on site, and organise and run functions in the new function room. The profits from this company fund the railway. WRR Leisure employ a small number of people, but the site is mainly run by volunteers.

The Station is situated about 1 mile from the Georgian Town of Reepham, and is an old M&GN (Midland & Great Northern) Joint Railway Station. It was on the M&GN line between Melton Constable and Norwich City Stations. The Station closed to passenger traffic in 1959 and freight passing through the Station ceased in the mid 1980's, after which the track was lifted.

## Pre-Arrival

- For full details and maps of how to reach us please see the contact information section of our website, alternatively, for those with a Sat Nav you can use our postcode which is NR10 4GA to get directions. The nearest bus stop is in the town of Reepham, but from there it is approximately 1 mile to the Station along a narrow country road. There are no buses that directly pass the Station.
- The Railway Station is on a mainly level site, with a concrete driveway and areas with a layer of very small granite chippings, that do not significantly impair mobility. Access to some areas is by ramps or steps.
- The site may be accessed by walkers or cyclists along Marriotts Way, which is the long distance footpath/cycle way, which follows the original track bed from Norwich to Aylsham.



Main Entrance



Marriotts Way Entrance

## Car Parking and Arrival

- Car parking is normally available onsite. On entering the site follow the concrete drive way to the right and parking is either side of this drive way.
- Disabled parking, 2 spaces, is on the concrete pad, on right adjacent to the station building.
- On busy days overspill parking is on the area immediately in front of you as you enter the site.
- On special gala days, such as the annual steam gala, then there is no parking on the site, other than limited disabled parking, and general parking will be at the local schools in Reepham from where a free mini-bus shuttle will operate.
- There is a second pedestrian access to the site, up 2 steps of 15cm and through a gate of 100cm wide. This entrance is from Marriotts Way foot path and cycle way, which forms part of the original track bed through the station.



Front Gate



Car Park

## Main Entrance, Reception and Ticketing Area

- There is not an entrance fee to the site except on special gala days when the site is closed to parking, and entrance fees collected at the main gate.
- On normal days when the Diesel Engine is running and on our Monthly Steam Sunday, tickets to ride on the train may be purchased from the ticket office in the Station Building, or at any till.
- There are two entrances to the Station Building, one via steps from the main drive way, and the other from the platform via a ramp.
- The stepped entrance to the Station is up 3 steps each about 20cm high and then over a 4cm threshold. There is a double door way with a single

door opening of 65cm, but this can be increased to 130cm if the second door is opened by a staff member.

- The station platform entrance is up a 1 in 7 ramp, then over a 4cm threshold through a double door way with a single door opening of 65cm, but this can be increased to 130cm if the second door is opened by a staff member.
- The shop and ticket office is off the main station room through an opening 80cm wide and the counter is 100cm above floor level.
- The Station Buffet servery is off the main station room through an opening 80cm wide, with counters 90cm high.
- The library is off the main station room up a 7cm step. (Currently awaiting completion).
- Model Railway is on the opposite side of the site to the station and is approached through a 120cm opening gate and a slope of 1 in 15 up to the cattle dock platform. Then up 3 steps of 18cm through a door 80cm door way into a 80cm passage way.



Main Station Entrance



Station Entrance from Platform





Model Railway Entrance



Platform Access

## **Attractions (displays, exhibits, rides etc.)**

- The Main attraction is to ride in a Brake Van behind our Diesel Engine “Georgie” or Steam Engine “Victory”. Access to the platform is up 7 steps of 16cm and 95cm wide. A small gap has to be negotiated, then through the Brake van door, 65cm wide. Staff assistance is given when required.
- We have other Engines on site in various stages of restoration, which will be brought into service on completion of restoration.
- The Diesel Engine runs on Saturdays and Sundays to Customer Demand. On the first Sunday of each month, instead of the Diesel, we run the Steam Engine to a time table.
- Driver Experiences on both the Diesel and Steam Locomotive are available, but must be booked and paid for in advance.
- On weekdays the Diesel Train will run on customer demand, subject to availability of driver and guard.
- We are slowly collecting museum items and memorabilia of M&GN and Railway interest to display in the main station room.
- We have a collection of railway books that will form a library, which is housed in a room off the main station room. These may be viewed and will eventually be available for loan to Members. (room currently awaiting completion)
- We have a model railway being developed by our younger members and this may be viewed on Sundays from March to November, or at other times by arrangement.

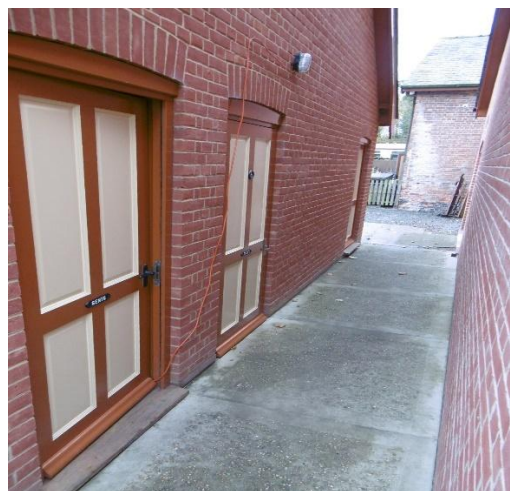
- We currently have two Steam driven Traction Engines stored on site which are often steamed on our Steam Sundays, first Sunday of each month.

## **Public Toilets**

- Our toilet block is situated between the Old Station Building and the New Function room and comprises of three separate toilets, male, female, and disabled.
- There are two ways of approaching the toilets, one provides a level access and the second, from the platform, requires descending two steps of 15cm, both to a passage way 125cm wide.
- Entry to the male and female toilets is up a 5cm step whilst to the disabled toilet is level
- The Disabled toilet door width is 80cm and opens outwards.
- The sinks in the male and female toilets are fitted with lever taps, liquid soap, mirrors, and hand dryers. The sink height is 90cm from the floor.
- A baby changing area at a height of 90cm from the floor is located in the disabled toilet.
- The disabled toilet has a twist lock, lateral transfer space, and fitted grab rails (both fixed and drop down varieties). An emergency alarm is provided to alert staff if difficulties are encountered. There is wheel chair access of 100cm to the left of the WC. The WC height is 50cm above the floor. The light automatically comes on when entering and remains on until after the toilet is vacated.



Function Room Entrance



Toilets

## **Catering**

- On site catering is by WRR Leisure with assistance of volunteers.
- The Station Buffet servery is off the main station room through an opening 80cm wide. This serves hot & cold drinks cakes etc. and hot items that are produced in the function room kitchen, which can be collected from the function room or delivered to your table.
- The sidings bar in the function room provides both soft and alcoholic drinks. Hot food may be ordered at the bar.
- The function room is open for general use when not in use for a private function, and even then the bar is available.
- Entry to the Function Room is level access through two sets of double doors, each 80cm wide. After the second set of doors a ramp down to the Function Room temporary floor level.

## **Shops**

- The shop and ticket office is off the main station room through an opening 80cm wide.
- The shop has a number of quality items bearing the station logo, as well as second hand items such as books and jig saw puzzles.
- The ticket office deals with general enquiries as well as membership details, drivers experience booking, Santa specials booking, etc.

## **Grounds and Gardens**

- Spread around the grounds are tables and chairs to enable one to sit and enjoy any drinks and food purchased, and the site atmosphere.
- The gardens behind the Function Room provide seats and tables which are available for use on days when the function room is not being used for Private Functions.
- Access to the formal garden is through the Function Room over a 15cm step onto a paved patio and lawn.
- A second access is down 3 steps of 16cm from the Marriotts Way platform through a 110cm wide gate.



Entrance to Garden from Function Room



Entrance to Garden from Platform

## **Future Plans**

We are continuously carrying out works and improvements on the Railway trackside. Our immediate major plan is to obtain permission and construct railway track on the old track bed, Marriotts Way, in order to run trains into the original platform. This will help provide wheelchair access to the trains. In the longer term we would hope to extend the line.

Meanwhile WRR Leisure continue to improve the Function Room and arrange various events to fund the Railway expansion.

## **Contact Information**

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NR10 4GA

Telephone: 01603 871694

Email: [info@whitwellstation.com](mailto:info@whitwellstation.com)

Website: <http://www.whitwellstation.com>