

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

Access Statement for Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway



Introduction

The Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway is a volunteer-run heritage railway offering a round trip of some 26 miles. It operates between Cheltenham Racecourse in Gloucestershire and Broadway in Worcestershire through some of the most spectacular scenery in the Cotswolds.



**Visitors enjoying a day out
at the Gloucestershire
Warwickshire Steam Railway**

The railway has four main stations. These are Cheltenham Race Course at its southern end, Winchcombe, Toddington and Broadway. There are also short platform halts at Gotherington and Hayles Abbey Halt with no facilities other than a small shelter at each of them. Gotherington is located about halfway between Winchcombe and Cheltenham Race Course stations. Hayles Abbey Halt is situated between Toddington and Winchcombe stations and operates as a request stop.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01242 621 405 or email info@gwsr.com.

Pre-Arrival

- For full details and maps of how to reach us please see the Planning your visit/Finding Us section of our website. Alternatively, you can plan your journey by car or public transport using the Google Maps website <https://maps.google.com>: in the search box simply enter your postcode, then 'to' and the postcode for one of our stations to get directions. Our postcodes are GL50 4SH for Cheltenham Race Course station, GL54 5LD for Winchcombe station, GL54 5DT for Toddington station and WR12 7DF for Broadway station.

- Local buses serve the four main GWSR stations. You are advised to check with the relevant transport operator before planning your journey. These are [Marchant's Coaches](#), phone 01242 257585 or 01242 257714, [Stagecoach](#), phone 0871 200 22 33, [Johnsons Coaches](#) phone 01564 797 070 and [NN Cresswell](#) phone 01386 48655 (8am - 5pm Mon-Fri)
- All our station booking offices are at road level.

Directions to Cheltenham Race Course station

- The nearest mainline railway station to the GWSR is Cheltenham Spa. It is over 2.5 miles/4km from Cheltenham Race Course station (a walk of at least 1 hour). However, Stagecoach service D operates up to every 10 minutes from Monday to Saturday from the forecourt of Cheltenham Spa mainline railway station, running to the Racecourse Park & Ride site. On Sundays and Bank Holidays, Stagecoach service D operates up to half-hourly. See the bus timetable [here](#).
- The GWSR Cheltenham Race Course station is then about a half mile/0.8km walk from the Park & Ride site. The walk is along the racecourse internal road and is sign-posted, but you may be directed by racecourse security to take the footpath adjacent to the main road which will involve climbing over a style to gain access to the station. Our booking office is at road level, whilst the platforms and main station buildings are reached by a slope. Visitors travelling by public transport who prefer not to walk a long distance are advised either to use a taxi or to use Winchcombe or Toddington stations instead. Taxis are available at Cheltenham Spa mainline railway station. If you require an accessible taxi you can approach a member of the mainline station staff. Alternatively call a taxi company such as Dial-a-Cab – 01242 242424, Central Taxis – 01242 228877 or Spa-Tax – 01242 807666. Remember to book the return taxi ride as there is no taxi rank at the GWSR Cheltenham Race Course station.

Directions to Winchcombe station

- Winchcombe station is situated in the village of Greet and is served by Marchants Coaches 606 Cheltenham to Willersey bus service Mondays to Saturdays, the 606S on Sundays and bank holidays, and the Winchcombe W1 and W2 services. See the bus timetables by clicking [here](#) and going to the Bus Services link. The buses depart from the Royal Well bus station, Cheltenham Spa. Passengers should get off next to the bridge over the railway in Greet or Becketts Lane stop, and walk back to Winchcombe Station, a distance of about 250yds/220m, approximately 3 minutes away.

Directions to Toddington station

- Toddington station is located a 5-minute walk east of the B4632/B4077 roundabout. Toddington is served by Marchants Coaches 606 Cheltenham to Willersey Monday to Saturday bus service and the 606S Cheltenham to Stratford-upon-Avon Sunday and bank holiday bus service. Buses start from the Royal Well bus station, Cheltenham Spa. See the bus timetables by clicking [here](#) and going to the Bus Services link. Buses stop near the B4632/B4077 roundabout at Toddington which is 170yds/155m from Toddington station.

Directions to Broadway station

- **Broadway station opens to the public on 30 March 2018. There are no public train services to or from Broadway before this date.**
- Broadway station is located on the western edge of the village, a 15 minute walk from the centre. Broadway is served by the NN Cresswell's Rural 4 bus service from Evesham Bus Station (Stand E), Mondays to Saturdays, Johnsons Excelbus Service 1, and Marchants Coaches 606S Service from Stratford-Upon-Avon and Chipping Campden. Please check the bus companies' timetables for details.

Car Parking and Arrival

- There is ample free car parking at both Cheltenham Race Course and Toddington stations and limited free car parking at Winchcombe station. There are signed Blue Badge parking spaces close to the station entrances at both Cheltenham Race Course and Toddington stations. Toddington and Winchcombe car park surfaces are tarmac. Cheltenham Race Course car park surface is loose stone.



Blue Badge parking spaces at Cheltenham Race Course station (left) and Toddington station

- Toddington station car park is accessed off the B4077, 170yds/155m east of the B4632/B4077 roundabout at Toddington.
- Winchcombe Station car park is accessed off the B4078 Greet Road at Greet just north of Winchcombe.
- Cheltenham Race Course Station car park is within the grounds of the racecourse and accessed off the A435/B4075 roundabout via the sign-posted racecourse internal road system.
- On Sundays and certain race days, the entrances to Cheltenham Racecourse can be crowded so allow extra time when planning your visit. Also, if your visit coincides with a large event at Cheltenham Racecourse you may be required to park in the designated car park on the north side of the station, with a signed access off the A435 Evesham Road.
- **There is currently no car parking at the station other than a very limited number of spaces for 'Blue Badge' disabled users.** We would encourage disabled visitors to travel to Toddington to board our trains, where ample facilities are available.
- The nearest long stay pay and display car park is an approximately 10 minute walk away at the Broadway Milestone Ground Car and Coach Park (WR12 7HA) off Childswickham Road. The cost of parking a car there for the day is £4.
- There is no parking at Gotherington or Hayles Abbey Halt stations.

Main Entrances, Reception and Ticketing

- The GWSR is committed to making everyone's visit to the railway as enjoyable as possible. To this end all of our stations (with the exception of Gotherington and Hayles Abbey Halt which are accessible only on foot) have good access for passengers with physical disabilities.



**Access ramp to
Cheltenham Race Course
station platform**



**Access to Cheltenham
Race Course station
platform for passengers
with physical disabilities**

- The platform at Cheltenham Race Course is normally accessed via a 125yds/115m long slope which some visitors might find difficult, and so we now have flat access from the car park at the opposite end of the station, available on request for passengers with physical disabilities.
- [Fares](#) vary according to nature of the ticket required. Please note that tickets for normal running days are not usually valid for special events such as Day Out With Thomas or Santa Specials which are coloured gold on our [Calendar of Events](#).
- Tickets can either be bought [on-line in advance](#) via our website, or on the day of your arrival from one of the booking offices at Cheltenham Race Course, Winchcombe, Toddington or Broadway (from 30 March 2018) stations. There are normally no station staff at Gotherington or Hayles Abbey Halt stations and there are no booking offices there.
- One necessary carer of a fare-paying disabled passenger is entitled to travel free in order to accompany the disabled passenger during the visit. The disabled passenger will need to purchase the appropriate Adult, Senior or Child Ticket or be included in a Family Ticket. The carer must obtain a complimentary ticket from the booking office before boarding the train.
- The railway welcomes all well behaved dogs to ride with their owners on the trains in standard class carriages (but dogs are not allowed on the seats or tables and not allowed on any dining trains or in buffet cars (assistance dogs excepted). Well behaved dogs travel for a flat-rate fare of £2 in standard class carriages and compartments (assistance dogs excepted). As we have fitted carpets in first class carriages and compartments, dogs are not allowed in them (assistance dogs excepted).

Train Rides

- Trains are hauled by steam locomotives except where indicated on the timetable. Some services are provided by a diesel railcar and occasionally a heritage diesel locomotive is used to haul trains. Check the [Calendar and Timetables](#) to see the different services that are operated.
- The locomotives, carriages and diesel railcars used are all lovingly restored heritage equipment. Trains mostly consist of British Rail Mark 1 coaches from the 1950s and 1960s. Most steam and diesel hauled trains include a buffet car.
- The standard doors into the carriages have an open width of about 2ft 5in/58cm. There are two steps up into the carriages from the platform and each step is about 7in/18cm high. Our volunteers will always be happy to provide a ramp to enable passengers in wheelchairs and anyone who cannot climb the steps to board the trains via the double doors – just ask.

Please note that the maximum width of wheelchair that can be accommodated on these ramps is 79cm/2ft 7in).



Standard single carriage door with steps (left) and ramp access to double doors



Specially converted accessible carriage with space for people in wheelchairs in the main body of the carriage

- The locomotive hauled trains have compartments which have been specially adapted for wheelchair passengers and their helpers. However the spaces in these adapted carriages are allocated on a first come, first served basis and so availability cannot be guaranteed.
- The railway is particularly proud of the specially converted accessible carriage attached to the chocolate and cream carriage set. This carriage has space for people in wheelchairs in the main body of the carriage.
- In the heritage diesel railcars, wheelchair users need to use the Guard's section, where visibility through the windows is restricted. Access is achieved via double doors and a 79cm/2ft 7in wide ramp.
- Carriage doors are designed to be slammed shut. Most doors are opened via the handle on the outside. Passengers inside the carriages have to lower the door window to gain access to the handle. The door handles have strong springs inside them to make sure they cannot open accidentally and anyone experiencing difficulty in opening a door should ask a member of the volunteer staff to open it for them.

- Both Toddington and Winchcombe stations have two platforms in regular use. Platform 1 is the one nearest to the booking office and toilets. However, some trains will depart from Platform 2 on the opposite side of the tracks. Platform 2 is normally accessed via a footbridge. For anyone with problems using a footbridge, a member of the station staff will be more than happy to show you where you can cross the line via the barrow crossing at the end of the platform.



Toddington station footbridge (left) over to platform 2 and barrow crossing at the end of the platform

- Cheltenham Race Course and Broadway stations normally have one platform in use located on the same side of the tracks as the booking offices. A second platform has been constructed at both Cheltenham Race Course and Broadway stations and is occasionally used at special events. Station staff will be more than happy to show you where to cross the line via the barrow crossings at the end of the platforms.
- Gotherington and Hayles Abbey Halt stations have one short platform each and no facilities for people with disabilities.
- There is a fully accessible Heritage Trail around the yard at Toddington station giving details of the history and background of various parts of the grounds. Ask for a free copy of the leaflet available at Toddington station booking office. The leaflet gives the location viewing points and the route of the Heritage Trail.

Public Toilets

- There are separate gents, ladies and fully accessible toilets for use by the public at all stations except Gotherington and Hayles Abbey Halt. The accessible toilets all have lateral transfer space and grab rails. There are also baby's nappy changing facilities within the fully accessible toilets.



Toddington station accessible toilet. There are similar toilets at our other main stations

Catering

- The large Flag and Whistle Restaurant, open 30 min before the first train until late on operating days, is located at Toddington railway station. You will find it on the opposite side of the road to the booking office building. The wide entrance allows access for wheelchairs. The Restaurant offers homemade cakes, light bites, afternoon tea and freshly cooked lunches using local ingredients as well as a selection of hot drinks, locally produced fruit juices and cold drinks. It also offers the Railway's exclusive locally-brewed Rail Ale as well as wine and cider to accompany your meal. Bookings for birthdays, wedding anniversaries and special events are available - please contact the franchisee Lynne Tiddy for bookings or any other queries:

email: LynneTiddy@aol.com

mobile: 07717787378 or

telephone 01242 621903.

- If you have a little more time to spare, another option for a light snack is to break your journey at the 1950s style Coffee Pot Café. This is located at Winchcombe next to the Booking Office on Platform 1 and is the ideal spot for morning coffee, a filled roll or afternoon tea with home-made cake or toasted tea-cake. The double doors allow access for wheelchairs. Refreshments may be eaten inside the 1950s style café or at tables under the platform canopy whilst watching the trains come and go. The Coffee Pot Café also stocks biscuits, crisps and speciality ice-creams.

- Refreshments are normally available from our restored Buffet coaches on steam and diesel hauled trains and from a trolley on the railcar services. The refreshment coaches are usually located near the middle of the train. Hot beverages and cool drinks in cans or cartons as well as a wide range of snacks and sweets are on sale, or if you prefer we have a selection of wines, beers, lagers and ciders including our very popular locally brewed "Rail Ale". On our chocolate and cream carriage set, we can also normally provide hot bacon rolls and toasted teacakes. Wheelchair access is not possible through the narrow corridors between carriages to the Buffet coaches. Instead, our on-train catering staff can normally deliver ordered items to people in other carriages.

Shops

- The railway has two shops selling souvenirs, toys, gifts and railway related items of interest.
- One is at Toddington station near the north end of the line and the other is at Cheltenham Race Course station at the southern end. Toddington station shop is located next to the Booking Office. The entrance door is 2ft 11in/90cm wide and inside there is plenty of room for wheelchairs. It is the larger of the two shops and has a wide selection of new and out of print second-hand books covering the GWSR and LMS regions. New publications relevant to our area are also offered. The titles available cover every aspect of railway operations - locomotives, sheds, stations, carriages, etc. The latest issues of periodicals are always in stock. There are big ranges of Bachmann and Dapol rolling stock for OO Gauge Modellers - always with the latest releases.
- The other shop is at Cheltenham Race Course station on Platform 1. The door is 2ft 9in/84cm wide with a short ramp up of about 2½in/6cm. There is plenty of room inside for wheelchairs. The shop is mainly aimed at younger visitors with a range of toys and Thomas diecast models and accessories. It sells light snacks, and you can purchase a hot drink from our drinks machine while you wait for the train.

Winchcombe Discovery Coach

- Leave the train at Winchcombe to visit our new Discovery Coach. You will learn more about the history of our railway as well as seeing a fabulous model of Toddington station and lots more. Wheelchair and pram friendly.

Additional Information

- Speak to a volunteer member of staff if you have any queries. Safety is our primary objective.

Future Plans

- We are making major improvements to the railway and have extended the line nearly 5 miles/8km northwards from Toddington to the historic Cotswold town of Broadway. We are rebuilding the station and signal box there. We have recently finished our new Function and Education Centre at Winchcombe Station. We have also recently provided a second platform at Cheltenham Race Course station to enable us to provide a greater frequency of trains. Your comments are welcome.

Contact Information

Address: Registered Office: The Railway Station,
Toddington, Glos GL54 5DT

Telephone: 01242 621 405

Email: info@gwsr.com

Website: www.gwsr.com

Hours of Operation: See website for [timetables](#) and [special events](#)

Local Taxi:

Dial-a-Cab 01242 242424
Central Taxis 01242 228877
Spa-Tax 01242 807666

Local Public Transport:

[Marchant's Coaches](#) 01242 257585 or 01242 257714
[Stagecoach](#) 0871 200 22 33
[Johnsons Coaches](#) 01564 797 070
[NN Cresswell](#) 01386 48655 (8am - 5pm Mon-Fri)