

Devon Libraries Railway Studies collection

Factsheet 16

The collection, which opened in 1991, is housed on the first floor of Newton Abbot Library. Newton Abbot was chosen because of the town's historical significance as a railway centre. Newton Abbot has a main line station and was the site of a large locomotive shed, engine repair depot and carriage/wagon works.

What is available

All aspects of railways are covered by the collection, with material of interest to railway and social historians, writers, modellers, researchers and people concerned with the contemporary railway scene.

There is comprehensive material on Westcountry railways from the GWR and LSWR periods up to the present day. In addition there is a substantial amount of information on the remainder of the UK railway network with limited material dealing with railways in other countries.

As well as providing information on standard gauge railways, the collection caters for other key areas of interest such as:

- Broad gauge
- Industrial lines
- Underground
- Narrow gauge
- Miniature
- Preserved railways

This wealth of data is arranged according to a classification scheme based on that devised by George Ottley for his Bibliography of Railway History. A guide to this scheme is available in the library.

Items in the collection form part of the Devon Libraries catalogue on the web, where a list of periodical holdings is also available.

The Railway Studies Collection contains:

- Books
- Pamphlets
- Timetables
- Photographs
- Postcards
- Slides
- Drawings
- Maps
- Magazines

Friends of the Railway Studies Collection

Set up in 1992, the "Friends" support the Collection by fundraising, volunteering and giving specialist advice. Details are available from the library, on the Railway Studies webpage at www.railwaystudies.org.uk or via the Community Directory at www.devonline.gov.uk/community

Access

The Railway Studies Collection is located on the first floor of Newton Abbot Library (address below). There is a passenger lift to all floors.

By Road: There is a large pay and display car park (entrance in Totnes Road) opposite the library.

By Rail: Newton Abbot is served by British Rail main line services between Exeter and Plymouth.

By Bus: Newton Abbot is served by local buses and is a regular stop for national coaches.

Opening Hours

Wednesday: 10.00am – 1.00pm
2.00pm – 5.00pm

Thursday: 10.00am – 1.00pm

Saturday: 10.00am – 1.00pm
2.00pm – 4.00pm

Enquiries in person or by telephone are most welcome during Railway Studies opening hours. Postal enquiries may also be made to the address below. Photocopying facilities are available at the library subject to the provision of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988.

Contact details

Address: Railway Studies
Newton Abbot Library
Market Street
Newton Abbot
Devon
TQ12 2RJ

Phone: 01626 206422

Fax: 0626 206428

Email: railway.library@devon.gov.uk

Different formats

If you would like a summary of this in a different format such as large print, Braille or tape, or in a different language, please contact our Customer Service Centre on 0845 155 1015 or email customer@devon.gov.uk

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