

Devon Libraries Railway Studies collection

Factsheet 16

The collection, which opened in 1991, is housed in Newton Abbot Library, currently in temporary accommodation in Teign House. 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.

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, or on the Friends of the Railway Studies Collection website at www.railwaystudies.org.uk

Access

The Railway Studies Collection is currently located in Newton Abbot Library's temporary accommodation in Teign House (address below).

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

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

While Newton Abbot Library is in its temporary accommodation at Teign House, access to Railway Studies material is by appointment only, as the stock is stored in a non-public area, so staff have to get specific items out for people in advance on request.

Requested material can be viewed:

Monday: 10.00 – 13.00

Wednesday: 10.00 – 13.00 14.00 – 17.00

Saturday: 10.00 – 13.00 14.00 – 16.00

Postal and email 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: Newton Abbot Library
Teign House
Kingsteignton Road
Newton Abbot
Devon
TQ12 2QJ

Phone: 01392 384700

Fax: 01392 384027

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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