

# **BODMIN & WENFORD RAILWAY ACCESS STATEMENT**

The Bodmin & Wenford Railway is a popular and successful heritage railway, the only standard gauge (full size) railway in Cornwall still regularly operated by steam locomotives and one of the county's finest leisure attractions, and operates predominantly steam-hauled trains over 6½ miles of track between Bodmin Parkway to Boscarne Junction via its main station at Bodmin General.

We attract a wide variety of visitors and welcome all in society irrespective of age, gender or disability. Wherever possible, the Bodmin & Wenford Railway strives very hard to provide access for people of all ages who have a variety of mobility or other special needs. We are committed to making everyone's visit to the railway as enjoyable as possible.

We very much welcome passengers with disabilities and recommend Bodmin General Station as the best starting point for your visit.

## **Parking**

Free parking is available on the forecourt at Bodmin General, immediately at the front of the station, for mobility impaired passengers, with level access through the booking hall and onto the platform.

There is no road access to Boscarne Junction station, and parking at Bodmin Parkway station is normally restricted to passengers travelling on the main line railway network.

## **Trains**

Our historic railway carriages are restored to reflect their original construction, and therefore access is via stepping up to board from the platform and down to alight.

Facilities for wheelchair bound visitors are available on the majority of our daytime trains, with purpose built accommodation for passengers and carers, and a ramp to ease boarding from the platform. Up to four wheelchairs can normally be accommodated at any one time.

Passengers who are sufficiently mobile are welcome to travel in any part of the train, with their wheelchair stored elsewhere on the train or at Bodmin General Station.

You are advised to check the availability of this accommodation in advance, as occasionally they are booked by visiting groups.

The majority of our carriages were built in the 1950s and, whilst fitted with toilets, access to them is not possible in a wheelchair as they are fitted with traditional narrow doors.

On our special trains (on which pre-booking for all passengers is required) wheelchair accommodation is available on our Steam Beer & Jazz and Fish, Chip & Quiz specials. Our Luxury Dining Train and Murder Mystery specials do not have access for wheelchair bound passengers as the doors of the carriages (both external and internal) are narrower than the width of standard wheelchairs. However, we can provide a ramp that reduces the step into the train and eliminates the gap between the platform and the train. Upon request when booking, we will also endeavour to ensure that passengers who have restricted mobility are sat as close to as possible to both the external doors and the on-board toilets.

## **Stations**

**Bodmin General:** There is level access from the station forecourt, into the booking hall (from where your train tickets are purchased) and onto the platform for wheelchairs. There is a wheelchair accessible toilet and baby change facilities at the station. The Booking Office is fitted with an induction hearing loop. The Refreshment Room, Shop and Exhibition Coach have level or ramped access from the platform and can all be accessed by a standard-width wheelchair, although circulation/turning space is rather limited. Access to the workshop viewing area (when open) is not suitable for wheelchair users.

**Colesloggett Halt:** This is a very rural station, to which access can only be gained on foot via a rough track/ footpath. Access by wheelchairs is not recommended.

**Bodmin Parkway:** This is a station on the main line railway network (between Plymouth and Penzance), operated by First Great Western Trains, to which Bodmin & Wenford Railway trains have exclusive access rights to Platform 3. Access between the main line platforms, from the car park to the BWR platform, and from the platform to inside our Signalbox Cafe and the FGW ticket office is normally via a footbridge, which has steps. Wheelchairs can cross the tracks to access the platform at ground level, but this must be arranged with, and accompanied by, a member of the FGW station staff who are trained in the use of the crossing.

**Boscarne Junction:** Access to the platform is via a ramp off the Camel Trail. The Trail can be used by wheelchairs, but the nearest car park is approximately ½-mile away from the station (adjacent to The Borough Arms public house, just off the main A389 Bodmin-Wadebridge road at Dunmere). The station waiting room, which is open when daytime trains are operating, can be accessed by wheelchairs. There are no toilet facilities at the station.

## **Fares**

Generous discounts are available to disabled passengers on our daytime trains, amounting to 50% off the fare (for both adults and children). We do not normally give discounts to carers except when part of an organisation, when booking in advance is highly recommended.

**Dogs:** We welcome assistance dogs in all our carriages and station buildings. No charge is made for any dog, though we respectfully ask that dogs do not travel in the Buffet Car (assistance dogs excepted) and are kept on a lead and on the floor, keeping the central aisles and corridors clear.

## **Staff**

Our staff are very willing and always happy to provide help and assistance whenever we can.

## **Further Information**

In addition to a comprehensive website [www.bodminrailway.co.uk](http://www.bodminrailway.co.uk) we publish a variety of leaflets (including our main annual timetable and guide) that are available to explain our various activities and special events/trains.

If you have any questions as to how we can help you further, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do our best to help you to plan your visit - telephone us on 01208 73555.

*General Manager*

*01 Feb 12*