



Scruton Station



Leeming Bar Station House



Project Background

The award-winning Wensleydale Railway Education programme has been running since 2015, immersing students in the history of rural railway life. The two authentically restored railway stations invite students to explore and learn what life would have been like through tactile, hands-on curriculum-linked activities. Scruton Station, set to the Edwardian period, is one of the best examples of a small wayside station in the country and features a Signal cabin, a Ticket Office and Ladies Waiting Room. Leeming Bar Station moves through time to the 1920's, a time of great change in the railways. This larger station was a village hub to its community, with a Parcels Office and Tickets Office, as well as the Station Master's parlour and kitchen to explore. Both Stations have been restored thanks to the generous support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund and a Railway Heritage Grant, with an emphasis on using traditional materials and techniques with a painstaking attention to detail. Schools are invited to come and interact with the stations, to learn about their local history and the importance of railways to rural communities in the past.

Our Heritage Education Programme

Our award-winning programme, now in its seventh year of running, offers schools the opportunity to explore and experience what life was like on a rural line in the past, through interactive storytelling and a series of curriculum-linked activities. The 'Step Back in Time' visits, which are available to pupils from Reception to KS2, provide multiple opportunities for hands-on, learning in an authentic period setting. Our 'Lost Luggage' Loan Box Programme can be used as a brilliant addition to station visits or used independently and allows students to explore the lives of local people in the past through enquiry-based learning and exploration. We have received excellent feedback from the schools who have visited to date, and we are delighted to be able to offer this outstanding programme again this year.

Our 2023 Programme

Our ‘Step Back in Time’ visits are a full day experience and can be undertaken at either station. They begin the same way, with a short train ride from Bedale Station. Groups will be met by costumed volunteers and introduced to the idea of stepping back in time. On arrival, pupils and staff will be given period costumes, and will then step off the train into a bygone era. Pupils will then engage in a series of interactive, curriculum-linked activities, facilitated by our costumed volunteers. You can choose to visit either station depending on your school’s focus. Subjects covered at each Station can be seen below.

Scruton	Leeming Bar
Life in a Rural Station	Domestic Life
People who lived & worked on the line	The Railway's Impact on Local Life
Edwardian Period	The 1920s Period



In the afternoon pupils will have the opportunity to travel further on the line to take part in a creative afternoon, based around railway heritage activities.



Scruton

Visits for Reception/KS1 groups.

Reception/KS1 visits let pupils explore the Station through enquiry and exploration based activities. Here, they will learn about the history of Scruton through a short interactive play, revealing the lives of the real people that lived and worked at the Station.

See It! Stamp it! Explore the station and it's story with this colourful pictorial trail.

Pictures, Posters and Postcards Discover the different types of places you could have travelled to on the railway and design your own poster.

Pass the Parcel An interactive weighing activity using original parcel scales, stacks of mystery parcels and real stamps.

Now and Then Investigate life at the station in the past and contrast it with how we live today using artefacts, photographs and archives.

Tickets Please! A role-play activity with costumes and props to engage pupils through interaction and play.

Where's Albert? An interactive story-telling session about life on the railway through the eyes of the station porter, Albert.





Visits for KS2 groups

Our KS2 activities provide a wealth of opportunities for pupils to use their enquiry skills to find out more about how the railways worked and the impact they had on life in Edwardian Britain. Pupils will meet a host of characters that lived in Scruton through a short piece of drama

Parcel Weighing Using original scales, pupils weigh a series of parcels, attaching the correct stamp values according to weight and deciding who they need to be sent to.

Locating Luggage Labels Investigating local travel destinations using an old NER map, pupils discover how the railways changed people's lives and create their own luggage labels with original ink stamps.

Document Detectives How do we know who lived and worked here 100 years ago? Pupils are encouraged to find out for themselves using the clues found in census returns and old photographs.

Picture Postcards Using vintage postcards and old railway posters, pupils will work out who travelled where and why, and write their own postcards home.

Timetable Challenge Using original North Eastern Railway timetables from a century ago, pupils can challenge themselves to answer tricky timetabling questions!

Hands-on History Matching clues to objects, this hands-on activity explores railway artefacts and encourages pupils to work out how and why they were used.

Leeming Bar

Visits for Reception/KS1 groups.

Our Reception/KS1 visit option provides younger pupils with the opportunity to come and explore the station, and meet some of the people who worked here long ago, such as the Stationmaster and his wife, the station porter and the railway labourer. Interactive activities for these groups will include:

Parcels Office Learn all about the importance of letters and parcels at the railway station. Pupils will discover the way that post was processed and managed at the station in the 1920s, whilst learning about their local area.

Ticket Office/Waiting Room Passengers have got their luggage all jumbled in the waiting room. Learn all about travelling on the railway and 1920s holidaying, as pupils sort through objects and items in their suitcases.

Parlour The Parlour allows pupils to experience playing in times past in the 1920s. Pupils can learn new puzzles and games, and play with toys that would have been used to entertain young children 100 years ago.

Kitchen A 1920s kitchen would look a little different to the one that pupils experience at home today. Pupils will learn about how food was prepared, clothes were cleaned, and houses were maintained back in the 1920s.





Visits for KS2 groups

Our KS2 activities provide a wealth of opportunities for pupils to use their enquiry skills to find out more about how the railways worked and the impact they had on life in early 20th Century Britain. They include:

Parcels Office Here, pupils will learn all about the logistical side of railway communications and the postal delivery systems. Through hands on activities, children will experience the hustle and bustle of the Parcels Office and learn about historical methods of operating a busy railway hub in the 1920's, using imperial money and measures.

Ticket Office/Waiting Room These rooms provide an opportunity for students to explore the station through enquiry led puzzle solving. Along the way they will learn more about travelling on the railway in the 1920's, solving puzzles and riddles to piece together clues.

Parlour In the Parlour pupils will get a fascinating look into how the Station Master and his wife would have relaxed after a long day or when entertaining guests. Pupils will get to see how people of this period enjoyed their free time.

Kitchen The station house kitchen might look a little different to that of the present. Pupils will learn about how food was prepared, clothes were cleaned, and houses were maintained back in the 1920s.

Lost Luggage Loan Boxes

Our 'Lost Luggage' Loan Box programme provides schools with an opportunity to learn about the history of the railway and the local area through a carefully curated collection of objects, activities and curriculum-focused lesson plans. 'Lost Luggage' allows pupils to explore the life of real people from Leeming Bar in the 1920s. The Loan Boxes provide a hands-on multi-sensory learning experience that teachers can use in the classroom. The boxes can also be used in conjunction with schools' own lessons plans. Along with a variety of themed objects, the boxes also include a digital bank of activities, resources and PowerPoint presentations.

Please note that these Loan Boxes are available **free** of charge for schools that book one of our educational visits.

KS1: Emily Plews' Trip to the seaside

Inside Emily's luggage pupils will find an array of toys and games from one hundred years ago. They will learn about how the railways allowed normal families to travel further than ever before and how they spent their leisure time. Hope you've packed your bucket and spade!



KS2: The Station Master's Big Day



Mr. Newton has a busy day at the Station, he has an important visitor at Leeming Bar. Through this loan box pupils will learn about the Station Master's responsibilities and how a train station operated in the 1920s. Looking at map reading, creative writing, and maths-based timetable skills - there's a lot to unpack!

Your Visit Availability & Timings

Visits can be facilitated with a maximum number of 30 EYFS-KS1 pupils or a maximum number of 36 KS2 pupils. If your group size exceeds these numbers, please contact us to discuss alternative arrangements.

Wensleydale Railway have set aside Thursdays for school visits throughout the year. Other days may be available upon request. Schools are asked to arrive at Bedale Station no later than 0930 where they will be met by costumed volunteers who will show you to your train and introduce pupils to the visit.

Half-day visits can be arranged. Please contact us via email to arrange this.

Event	Timing
Arrival at Bedale Station	09:30
Train Departs Bedale	09:45
Arrive at First Station	10:00
Morning Activities	10:00-12:00
Lunch	12:00
Train Departs for Second Station	12:30
Afternoon Activities	12:45-14:15
Train back to Bedale	14:15
Depart to School	14:30

All times are approximate and are flexible to the needs of your school.

Facilities

Toilets are available at both Leeming Bar and Scruton Stations, including additional needs toilets at Leeming Bar, and hand washing facilities at both sites. Picnic benches are available on the platform at both stations but are weather dependant. In case of rain, an undercover eating area can be made available. Ample coach parking is available at both Leeming Bar and Bedale stations.

Access

All platforms and buildings are accessible by wheelchair. Trains have ramped access for wheelchair users. Please advise us at the time of booking if there is anyone with additional requirements in your group.



Safeguarding

Visits will be delivered by the Heritage Education Team, overseen by our employees who are DBS-checked by North Yorkshire County Council. Please see staffing requirements below.

Risk Management

A Risk Management Summary and risk assessment for the visit are available upon request. We encourage Teachers to conduct a free pre-visit where they can undertake their own risk assessment. Please contact us at schools@wensleydalerailway.com

Staffing

We ask you to bring a ratio of one responsible adult for every six pupils in years 1 to 6. Please note: Under 5s/Reception classes should have a ratio of one adult to four pupils.

The Heritage Education Team will be on hand at the stations to facilitate the visit and there will be a minimum of one volunteer supporting each group activity. As part of your visit, you can bring up to six adults for free with KS1 & KS2 groups, and up to 8 adults for free with Under 5s/Reception groups. There will be a charge for any additional adults, not including any one-to-one carers supporting SEND pupils.

Costings

Prices for education visits are listed as follows:

A school group of up to and including 20 EYFS-KS2 students: £200

Additional pupils: £10 per pupil.

Additional Adults: £10 per adult.

Prices for Loan Box hire are listed as follows:

Two-week hire per Loan Box: £20

Additional hire: £5 per week.

PLEASE NOTE: A complimentary two-week hire of one loan box is offered to all schools who book a Station visit.

Booking

If you would like to arrange a booking, or would like to know more, then please get in touch with us at schools@wensleydalerailway.com.

We look forward to hearing from you.

