



# North Yorkshire Moors Railway School Visit Guide

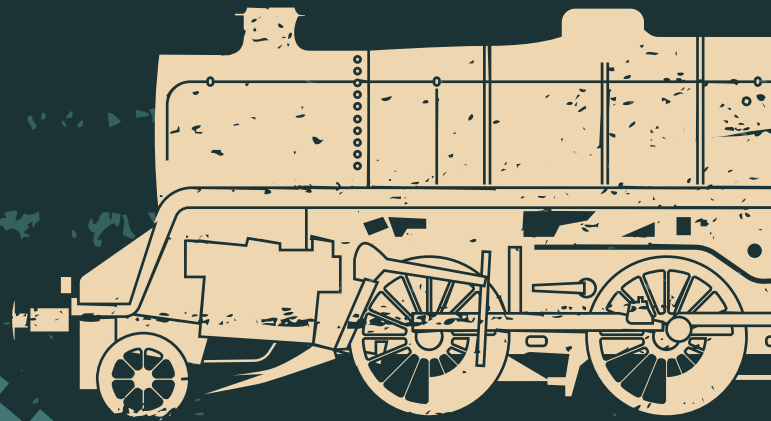
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# Welcome

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This pack supports school visits to the North Yorkshire Moors Railway. We hope it provides all the information you need to make the most from your visit to the NYMR, but please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Whether you wish to include a short journey or spend a whole day, you will find journeys and activities to please all.

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## North Yorkshire Moors Railway

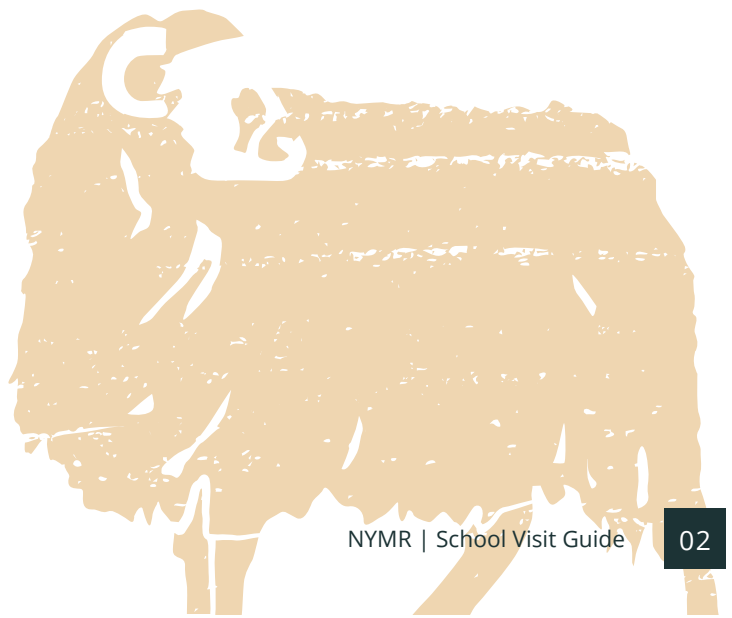
The North Yorkshire Moors Railway is a preserved historic railway stretching for 23 miles through the heart of the North York Moors National Park, from Pickering to Whitby.

The original Whitby & Pickering Railway was built by George Stephenson, opening in 1836. Originally built as a horse-drawn railway, it carried both passengers, livestock and freight, such as coal and whinstone across the moors, and significantly changed the lives of the local community. Today, passengers can travel the line by steam train throughout the summer with the option to hop on and off at stations along the route.

The moment you step on to the platform it is as if you have stepped back in time.

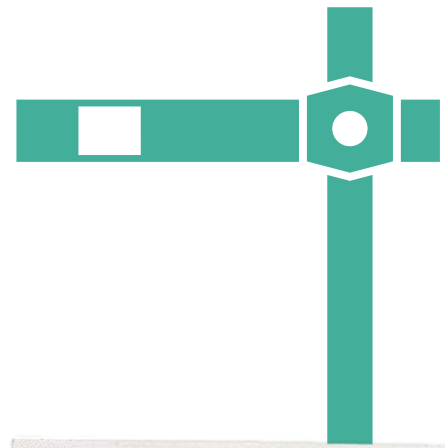
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# About our Stations

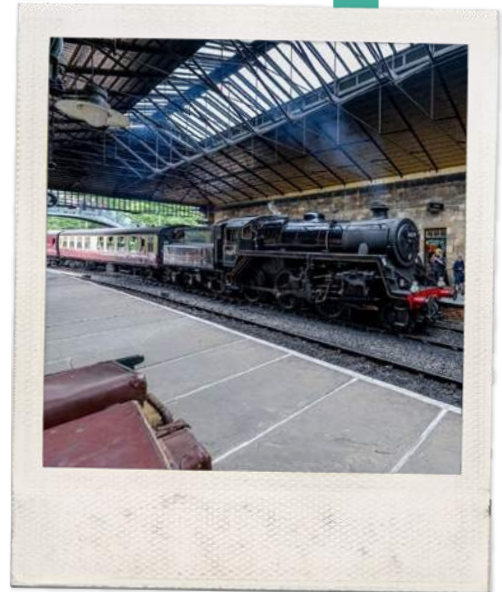
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## Pickering Station

A 1930s themed station that will transport you back in time to the steam era.

Built in 1845 and designed by architect George Townsend Andrews, this large sandstone building has been restored over time. Work began in 2009 to develop the learning centre and in 2011 the magnificent new roof structure was completed with 8,700 tiles that were sourced from the same quarry as the originals. In true 1930s style, you can purchase tickets from our authentic Booking Office which has iron railings at the windows and weighing scales outside for heavy luggage. Look out for special events taking place throughout the year.



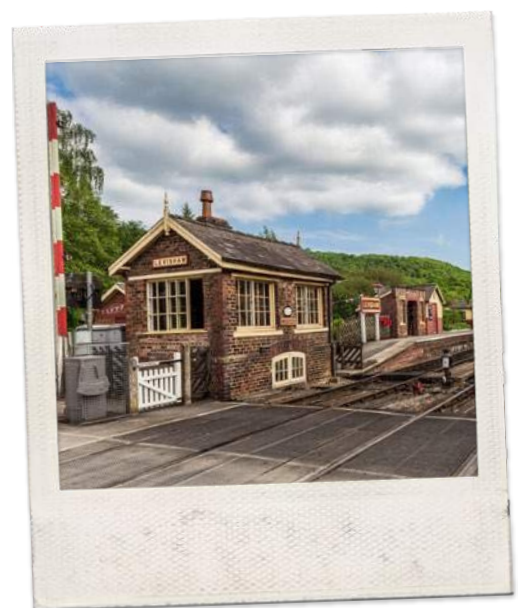
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## Levisham Station

You will find this rural 1912 themed station surrounded by the stunning North York Moors National Park.

Here you can take a trip back in history and there are so many things for visitors to see and do. With Levisham village over a mile away from the station, the track across Levisham Moor runs through a landscape that is rich in archaeological remains. Having had many starring roles in film and television and with many scenic walks close by, Levisham is a place for peace and seclusion.

There's just one solitary access road therefore, unsuitable for coaches.





# Goathland Station

Goathland is our 1960s themed celebrity station! Recognisable as Hogsmeade Station from the first Harry Potter film, it also featured in the ITV programme Heartbeat.

Originally named Goathland Mill, the station was built in 1865 and retains its Victorian charm. The Station consists of stone buildings in the design of a classic country station. The Station Master's home housed both passenger facilities and accommodation for the station master. The goods shed now hosts the Station's café complete with original wagons. The coal and (covered) lime cells, water tank feeding two standard NER water cranes and a wooden cattle dock are all remnants of the industrial role of the railway. The two wooden buildings on Platform 2 were built later as the demand for passenger travel increase - an 1871 petition for a waiting room at Goathland even exists in the National Archives!

## Goathland Learning Coach



For 2023, a special learning coach has been added to the Station, providing a unique space for schools to engage in workshops developed to fit with the National Curriculum and tell the story of this special place. Our workshops are delivered by a dedicated team of knowledgeable volunteers. All of our workshops give opportunity for pupils to access artefacts from our accredited museum collection and take part in hands-on activities.

The carriage also houses a fascinating display detailing the story of a rural railway with industrial roots - and how the railway changed the lives of local people.



# Grosmont Station

Home to our 1950s themed station and the operating and engineering world of the NYMR, you may catch a sneaky peak at the work taking place on our engines!

With a fleet of over 20 locomotives, Grosmont is home to our engine sheds where both steam and diesel locomotives are maintained and restored. You'll arrive at Grosmont Station where the heritage railway ends and the main rail network begins. Head through the George Stephenson tunnel built in 1835 and you can visit our Shed Shop or take in the sights from one of our viewing areas.



In addition, the 5.5 km Rail Trail runs along Stephenson's original railway line from Grosmont, via Beck Hole, to Goathland. You'll need appropriate footwear and waterproof clothing. A guidebook to the trail for self-led visits is available to purchase from our station gift shops.

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# Whitby Station

Overlooked by the striking ruins of Whitby Abbey, you can visit this stunning seaside town with its narrow streets and bustling harbour.

With a fascinating past and steeped in history, there are many visitor attractions in Whitby to explore. From the 199 steps to Whitby Abbey, to the Captain Cook Memorial Museum in this beautiful port town, there are countless learning opportunities. Trains depart daily from Whitby Railway Station throughout our operating season.



# Preparing for a Visit

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The team at the NYMR look forward to welcoming you and making your trip run as smoothly as possible. Here are a few points which may be useful ahead of your visit.

- Guidance risk assessments for the stations are available on the NYMR website.
- Accessibility guides and group visit risk assessment can be found on our website. We strongly recommend you check the stations will be accessible for your pupils.  
[www.nymr.co.uk/Pages/Category/school-visits](http://www.nymr.co.uk/Pages/Category/school-visits)
- If you have booked a workshop you will be sent a risk assessment with your booking confirmation.
- Supporting classroom materials for pre and post visit are available.
- In case of emergency, we recommend you bring a register of the pupils attending on the day, this will enable all pupils to be accounted for if any building needs to be evacuated.
- We recommend bringing enough adult helpers to have a minimum supervision ratio of 1:6 and would always advise you to travel in accordance with guidelines.
- When travelling on the train, do not lean out of the windows, keep fingers away from door hinges and never open the doors or touch the handles when the train is moving.  
You can contact us by email if you need to discuss any element of your visit:  
[learning@nymr.co.uk](mailto:learning@nymr.co.uk)

# Learning Opportunities for Schools

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Both Pickering and Goathland Stations make for a unique and memorable school visit, with engaging activities available linked to the National Curriculum.

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## Pickering Station

### The Signaller's Challenge

■ Suitable for KS2

■ approx. 1 hour

This is a design challenge against the clock, promoting team working as pupils are tasked to build their own working model of a fixed signal. The session begins with an introduction to the original Railway Bobbies and the methods of communication used on the railway before fixed signals, before exploring the role of the Signaller and how important they are in ensuring safety on the railway. We will discuss how codes can be used to quickly send messages and how this has been used by railway signals. Pupils have chance to examine some artefacts from the museum collection linked to communication and safety. In small teams, pupils will plan and build their models with the materials provided, and devise their own method of communicating with engine drivers. Can they rise to the challenge?

National Curriculum Links:

Design & Technology, Computing, History

### Pickering Station Trail

The Just the Ticket school trail is available for KS2 and KS1. In small groups, pupils can explore the station and solve puzzles in this cross-curricular trail to discover an anagram and have their ticket stamped! Guidance notes are available in this pack. Pupils will need a pencil, the 'tickets' are provided.

### Signal Box Experience

Suitable for small groups, this hands-on activity with NYMR session leaders will determine if you have what it takes to be a Victorian Signaller. Learn about the history of communication and signalling, as well as having a go at operating signal levers in our unique demonstration Signal box.

# Goathland Station

## Interactive Stories

There are a number of interactive resources for visitors to discover more about the station and local community while exploring. Film presentations *Connecting a Community* and *Journeys* can be viewed in the Learning Coach. These films give a fascinating introduction to the development of Goathland Station and the stories of its passengers. An app-based Hotspot trail gives access to more detailed information about the key points of interest and the fascinating stories of local people associated with the station, making an ideal guide for exploring the station.

There are also bespoke app-based games aimed at children, based on learning more about station platforms, the cargo which was carried by the railways and local natural habitats.

## School Trail

The Just the Ticket school trail is available for KS2 and upper KS1. In small groups, pupils can explore the station and solve puzzles in this cross-curricular trail to discover an anagram and have their ticket stamped! Guidance notes are available in this pack. Pupils will need a pencil, the 'tickets' are provided.

## Formal Education Workshops

### Running on Time

■ Suitable for KS2

■ approx. 1 hour

Pupils investigate the jobs performed at the Station needed to keep the railway running on time. The workshop challenges pupil to examine a range of primary sources and think critically to discover as much as they can about a photograph of station staff from the late nineteenth century. Pupils analyse the evidence, which includes examining archive photographs, museum objects and census records, before a special chance to

dress up as the Victorian station staff - if their deductions are correct! There is also an interactive tour of the station to find out more about the roles of the Station Master, Porter, Platelayers and the Signaller. To check we are keeping to railway time, pupils will try an activity based on reading train timetables and the importance of checking the station clock!

[National Curriculum Links:](#)

History, Maths, Design & Technology

### King Coal

■ Suitable for KS2

■ approx. 1 hour

This session explores the importance of coal and steam in the development of the railways and the importance of the railway to the local economy in transporting and selling mined natural resources. Pupils will examine Victorian bun pennies to introduce the concept of the Industrial Revolution and the role of the railways in helping open up new markets. There is an interactive story of the development of Goathland Station, covering the role of George Stephenson in the building of the Whitby & Pickering line and with chance to look at some of the NYMR's archive. Pupils will explore the station with archive photographs and sensory clues to help find the key parts of the station's industrial past and think about how natural resources are used, including the coal and lime drops and the whinstone crusher. A hands-on demonstration of a model steam engine will further explore the role of coal and its uses, linking to states of matter and changing states. With a chance to look at coal and coal fossils, the session will finish with a discussion – do pupils think coal deserved the title of 'King Coal'?

[National Curriculum Links:](#)

Geography, Science, History



## The Signaller's Challenge

■ Suitable for KS2

■ approx. 1 hour

This is a design challenge against the clock, promoting team working as pupils are tasked to build their own working model of a fixed signal. The session begins with an introduction to the original Railway Bobbies and the methods of communication used on the railway before fixed signals, before exploring the role of the Signaller and how important they are in ensuring safety on the railway. We will discuss how codes can be used to quickly send messages and how this has been used by railway signals. Pupils have chance to examine some artefacts from the museum collection linked to communication and safety. In small teams, pupils will plan and build their models with the materials provided, and devise their own method of communicating with engine drivers. Can they rise to the challenge?

National Curriculum Links:

Design & Technology, Computing, History



## Rail Trail

On arrival at Goathland take time to explore Goathland Station (Hogsmeade Station in the first Harry Potter Film) and learn about the history of this beautiful country station. You can then head off along the Rail Trail and your mission is to follow the trail all the way to Grosmont Station where you will discover George Stephenson's original 1836 tunnel. The Rail Trail is best walked one way and combined with rail travel between Grosmont and Goathland. The trail is clearly signposted along its full length, you'll just need to follow the finger posts, signs and markers.

Following the original route of one of the country's earliest railways, are you a real Rail Trail Adventurer?

**Please note:** The Trail is 5.5km long, and from Goathland is downhill through the leafy surroundings of the North York Moors National Park. Taking approx. 2.5 hours at a leisurely pace, appropriate footwear and waterproof coats should be worn.

A guidebook to the trail for self-led visits is available to purchase from our station gift shops.

## Supporting Pupil's Learning

A Supporting Materials Pack for Goathland Station is available with resources and ideas for follow up activities for the classroom.



# On the Day

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The Learning and Engagement Volunteer team will be happy to welcome you to the station, please let them know if you need assistance with anything on the day.

- All stations are working stations with a timetable of trains passing through all day. Please therefore ensure that pupils are always supervised by school staff and helpers.
- Learning activities are provided by NYMR staff and volunteers.
- Space can be provided for bags and coats, subject to availability. Please ask pupils to only bring what is necessary as this space is limited.
- Although available to the public, we do have spaces that could be used as a quieter space if required.
- If visiting the shop or tearoom, please do so in small groups.
- If you are running late or might arrive earlier than expected, please contact us on [01751 472508](tel:01751472508) as this can help us prepare.

## Schools travelling directly to Pickering Station

- The bus lay-by on The Ropery is the nearest and only drop off point at Pickering.
- The coach park is situated in Eastgate on the Scarborough side of the A169/A170 roundabout (charges apply)

## Schools travelling directly to Goathland Station

- Coaches must use the car park in the centre of the village (YO22 5LX).
- When travelling from Pickering please use the second road (Cow Wath Bank Road) normally used by coach operators.
- If you have booked a learning activity, you will be met at the Learning Coach by the NYMR staff/volunteer delivering the activity.

## Lunch

- All groups can bring packed lunches however, stations have tea-rooms available for hot and cold drinks and snacks.
- Areas are available for lunchtime use however, not all are indoor spaces and many are open to the general public.

## Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding all our visitors, should you have any concerns please raise with the workshop lead or by emailing

[learning@nymr.co.uk](mailto:learning@nymr.co.uk)

## Terms & Conditions

Group travel is subject to our general terms & conditions: [nymr.co.uk/terms](https://nymr.co.uk/terms)