



Access Statement for the Swanage Railway – Trains and Stations

Introduction

1. This document describes the Access Statement for the Swanage Railway Company the registered office of which is Station House, Swanage, Dorset BH19 1HB
2. The Railway has four stations and one halt along its six-mile route, all of which have level access.

The Stations

Swanage

The station has a level tarmac platform that is accessible on the level at the town end of the station and directly through the booking hall. There is a town council-operated car park next the station with three disabled parking spaces. There are two steps from the car park to the platform at the Wareham end of the station building. The booking hall and shop are accessible to wheelchairs and on the same level as the platform. The Bird's Nest buffet is located in a converted British Railways MK1 carriage and is not accessible to wheelchairs as there are steps. However, there are tables underneath the canopy on the platform that can be accessed.

There is no public access to the locomotive shed, coal dock, good shed or signal box except for some special events when there may be accompanied access. This may not be suitable for disabled access although access is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

The public toilets at the station are operated by Swanage Town Council. They are not designated for disabled people. The nearest disabled toilets are in Shore Road, about 200 yards from the station. These require a RADAR key for access.

The Wilts & Dorset Bus Company shares the Transport Interchange for two routes that terminate in Swanage:

- Service 50 to Bournemouth
- Service 40 to Poole

In addition, the main coach drop-off and pick-up is adjacent to the station and requires no steps to reach the station. The Swanage Railway is not an agent for any Wilts & Dorset Buses, National Express or any coach company.

Herston Halt

Herston Halt is a request stop about one mile from Swanage. It serves primarily the housing on this side of Swanage and a local large camping and caravan site. The station is situated on a narrow road where there is no parking. Access to the station is for pedestrians only.

There are two access routes from the road, one of which is a sloping gravel path and suitable for wheelchairs. There is a single platform that is served by up and down trains. There is no covered accommodation and no toilets on this platform although there is limited seating.

Trains are hailed from the platform by raising one arm. Passengers on board the train are told to inform the guard if they wish to disembark at Herston Halt.

The nearest bus stop is on the main Swanage to Wareham road (A351) about 200 metres from the station entrance. This is served by the Wilts & Dorset 40 service.

Harmans Cross

The station is located just off the A351 Swanage to Wareham Road. The station serves the village of Harmans Cross, several local camping & caravan sites and is situated next to the Village Hall. There is no regular service bus running on this section of the A351. Car parking operated by Worth Matravers Parish Council is located opposite the station but there limited room here. There is a small charge for use of this car park.

Both platforms are accessed via a sloping path of about 75 metres with no steps. The Railway is crossed on the road bridge which has no pavements. There is also a crossing at track level at the Wareham end of the platforms which is not normally available for public use.

Both platforms have a covered waiting shelter. There are no toilets on the station.

There is no public access to the signal box except for some special events when there may be accompanied access. This may not be suitable for disabled access although access is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Corfe Castle

Corfe Castle station is located off the A351 Swanage to Wareham road. It can be reached by the number 40 bus from Swanage. There is no car parking available for Swanage Railway passengers at Corfe Castle station. There is also no coach access to the station. Pedestrian access is via Station Road from the A351 about 100 metres from the village centre.

Corfe Castle station has two platforms, the up platform located through the booking hall or to the side of the station building. These are level access points. There is a footbridge to the



down platform. Disabled and wheelchair-bound passengers are able to cross using a barrow crossing at either end of the station platforms with the help of station staff and with the permission of the signalman. Crossing will not be allowed when a train is due.

There are toilets on the station in the main station building on the up (trains to Norden) platform. These have level access but are not suitable for wheelchairs or mobility scooters.

There is no public access to the signal box except for some special events when there may be accompanied access. This may not be suitable for disabled access although access is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Norden (Park & Ride)

Norden is the northern limit of the Swanage Railway for passenger services. The car park is reached along a short road from a roundabout on the A351. There is an attended car park with parking for 350 cars. There are twelve disabled spaces. There is a charge for parking. Coaches are able to park free of charge at Norden if they are booked in advance. There is a gently sloping path of about 100 metres to the platform which is suitable for wheelchairs.

Toilets are located adjacent to the Park & Ride office including a toilet suitable for disabled people.

The Purbeck Mineral & Mining Museum is under-development at Norden. As this is not yet open to the public it is excluded from this Accessibility Statement.

There is a ramp access to the single platform that is served by trains from and to Swanage.

The Norden Nest buffet is located in a converted British Railways MK1 carriage and is not accessible to wheelchairs as there are steps. However, there are tables outside the Norden Nest on the platform that can be accessed.

Norden Park & Ride is served by the 40 bus from Swanage to Poole. There is a walk of about 300 metres from the closest bus stop to the station. There is no pavement along this section of road.

Swanage Railway Rolling Stock

Our operating carriages are accessible to disabled passengers although there may be some limitations for wheelchair bound or limited mobility passengers. Most of the carriages in use on the Swanage Railway are former British Railways carriages built in the 1950s. Access is not possible for wheelchairs through most of the doors due to the width and the step access from the platform. However, there are wider doors to luggage areas in brake coaches. Diesel multiple units (DMUs) and the single diesel unit have similar restrictions with access available to the Guard's compartment only. All stations are equipped with modern wheelchair ramps to enable access into these areas.

Train guards vans are corridor-connected to other coaches making access easy for walking passengers.

One carriage SK(O) S24127 has been specially adapted for wheelchair use. This has extra wide doorways, a large open area and a disabled toilet. There are no wheelchair clamps. These are not necessary due to the maximum line speed of 25 mph operated on the Swanage Railway. Seating is also available for non-wheelchair passengers. This carriage is also able to carry mobility scooters although owners of large mobility scooters should check first that they can be accommodated. Swanage Railway hopes to use this carriage most days (subject to operational constraints) but we do advise passengers to check if and which train it is operating on. On some days when we are operating two steam trains (our yellow timetable) we advise checking on which train the SK(O) is operating.



Other Areas of the Swanage Railway

Areas of the Swanage Railway such as workshops and signal boxes as well as trackside areas are not normally available for public access. There may be supervised access provided during some special events. In these cases the provision of disabled access is reviewed on a case by case basis. This will also be dependent on prevailing weather conditions.

Assistance Dogs

Swanage Railway allows all dogs to travel. Dogs are normally charged a travel fare but this does not apply to guide or assistance dogs. Dogs are not allowed in our dining trains, station and on-train buffets and the shop. These restrictions do not apply to guide or assistance dogs.

Hearing-Impaired Passengers

Swanage Railway booking offices at Swanage, Corfe Castle and Norden Park & Ride are equipped with hearing loops. The same loops are provided in the Bird's Nest Buffet, Norden Nest and the Railway Shop at Swanage. These are clearly visible so that hearing-impaired passengers and visitors know to switch on their hearing aids.

Swanage Railway
March 2012

Photographs courtesy Andrew PM Wright