

Railway 200 Open Day

Frequently Asked Questions

About the Event

What is the Hitachi Railway 200 Open Day?

The Railway 200 Open Day is a celebration marking 200 years since the birth of the modern railway.

Hosted at Hitachi Rail's Newton Aycliffe factory, the event will offer the first-ever opportunity for the public to step inside one of the UK's most advanced train manufacturing facilities.

The event will feature:

- ▶ Locomotion No.1 replica – the world's first steam locomotive to carry passengers on a public railway, returning to the North East where it made history in 1825
- ▶ The Railway 200 Exhibition Train – an interactive travelling showcase highlighting careers and diversity in the modern rail industry
- ▶ A self-guided walk through Hitachi Rail's factory floor, featuring battery and digital train technology, supported by marshals at key locations
- ▶ Interactive exhibits, heritage displays and food stalls
- ▶ Family friendly activities including a funfair, land train, bouncy castle, face painting and character walk-arounds
- ▶ Live talks from guest speakers including local leaders, rail historians, and industry experts

More details about the timing of the Open Day and the programme of events will be provided to ticket holders closer to the event.

When is the event taking place?

Saturday 4th October 2025.

The event will begin at 10:00 and finish at 18:00. Last entry will be at 16:00.

Where is the event being held?

Hitachi Rail, Merchant Park, Millennium Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6UG.

Is this a ticketed event?

Yes. Tickets are required for entry and are available to purchase via the event page - www.ticketsource.co.uk/hitachirail

Lead booker must arrive with all the attendees on the ticket.

We have limited space for certain activities therefore we recommend arriving early to have the best experience.

Entry to the site and the factory will be denied without a valid ticket.

What does my ticket to the event provide?

The ticket grants visitors access to the Open Day and programme of events outlined above.

How will factory tours and train visits be arranged?

The factory route will be self-guided. Visitors will follow a clearly signed path. Marshals will be stationed throughout the route to explain the production process, provide assistance and manage access into the factory and selected train cars.

Can I ride on Locomotion No.1 replica?

Yes. Locomotion No.1 replica rides will be available once per hour.

Capacity is limited to 16 people per ride, and spaces will be allocated strictly on a first-come-first-served basis.

Due to limited availability, rides on Locomotion 1 replica train are not included in the ticket price.

Will more tickets be available at a later date?

This will be dependent on demand and returns. There will be further communications if resale tickets become available.

Is Hitachi Rail making any profit from ticket sales?

No. All ticket proceeds are being used to support costs of running the event.

About Railway 200

What is Railway 200?

Railway 200 is a nationwide programme celebrating 200 years since the Stockton & Darlington Railway, famously the world's first passenger railway, opened in 1825. The campaign recognises the impact of rail on society and the economy, while looking to the future of clean, smart and inclusive transport.

Why is Hitachi Rail involved?

With deep roots in the North East and a commitment to the future of sustainable rail, Hitachi Rail is proud to be part of the Railway 200 celebrations and sponsor of S&DR200.

The Open Day is a chance to highlight the region's historic role in rail innovation and showcase how Hitachi Rail brought train manufacturing back its home in the North East.

About Newton Aycliffe

Why is Newton Aycliffe important to rail?

Newton Aycliffe sits in the heart of the North East's railway heritage, just a short distance from the original Stockton & Darlington Railway. Today, it is home to Hitachi Rail's state-of-the-art train manufacturing plant, continuing the region's legacy of railway engineering.

Can I visit the town centre before or after the event?

Yes, visitors are welcome to explore Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding area, including local heritage sites such as Locomotion in Shildon and the planned S&DR Discovery Trail.

Visitor Information

How do I get there?

Details on public transport options, shuttle buses and parking will be provided closer to the event.

Is there parking available on site?

We have parking for around 300 cars adjacent to the factory. You can also park at our Grindon Way site, the UTC college and GLOW. All are only a short walk away from the Newton Aycliffe factory.

Is the event accessible?

We have plans to make the site as accessible as possible but please be aware that this is a manufacturing site. Therefore, full accessibility cannot be guaranteed.

More information on accessibility will be provided ahead of the event.

Can I bring children?

Absolutely.

Due to this being a manufacturing facility, children need to be accompanied by an adult.

Our terms and conditions specify one adult to a maximum of two children.

Lead booker must arrive with all the attendees on the ticket.

Will food and drink be available?

Yes, food and drink stalls will be available throughout the day selling a variety of refreshments, including vegetarian, vegan and gluten free.

Will there be toilets and baby changing facilities available?

Yes.

Can I buy merchandise on the day?

Yes. Limited edition merchandise will be available to purchase at the event. Any proceeds made by Hitachi Rail will be donated to charity.

**Safety
and Entry
Information****Will there be bag checks or security at the event?**

Yes. All visitors will be subject to routine security checks including bag searches upon entry. Please avoid bringing large bags where possible.

A list of prohibited items and security measures will be provided to ticket holders closer to the event.

Are there any event rules or terms of entry?

Full terms of entry, including conduct, safety guidance and prohibited items, will be available on the ticketing page. For safety, barriers will mark visitor areas and marshals will be present throughout the event to provide support and ensure everyone stays within designated routes.

Is photography allowed?

Photography will be permitted in designated areas only. Please follow signage and marshal guidance on the day.

Are animals or pets allowed?

Service dogs only.

Will there be first aid or medical support on-site?

Yes, there will be a first aid station and trained first aiders on site.

**Ticketing
FAQs****Will I receive a e-ticket?**

Yes. E-tickets will be sent via Ticket Source. The e-ticket will include a QR code which can be scanned from your phone or via a printed copy.

Our external ticket supplier, Ticket Source, provides an option to send a paper ticket to the lead bookers billing address. This will require an additional £2.50 fee.

Can I get a refund if I can't attend?

Our terms and conditions mean our tickets are non-refundable and non-transferable.

What if I lose my ticket or need help with booking?

Please contact events@hitachirail.com

Where can I book tickets and find more details?

www.ticketsource.co.uk/hitachirail