



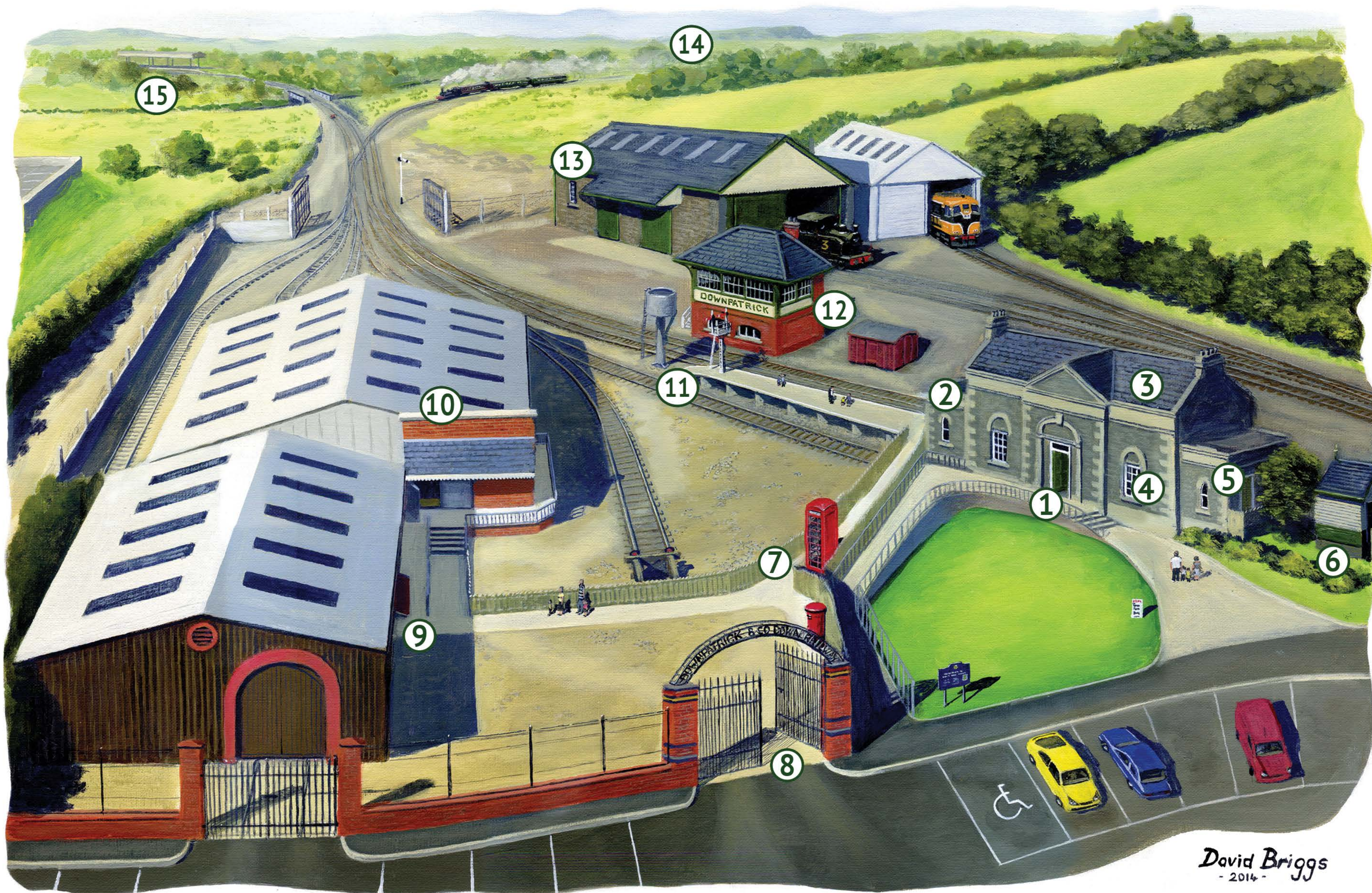
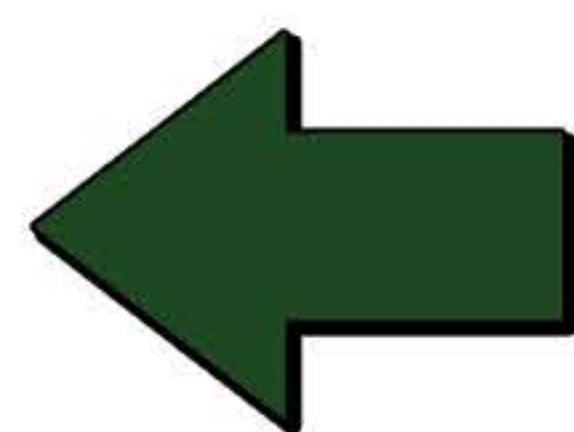
DOWNPATRICK AND  
CO DOWN RAILWAY

# Your Guide to the Railway

There's plenty to see on your visit to our railway - use this map to make sure you don't miss anything

- 1. Station Building ★
- 2. Model Railway
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- 9. Carriage Workshop
- 10. Carriage Gallery ★
- 11. Water Tower & Bracket Signal
- 12. Main Signal Cabin ⚡
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- 14. Inch Abbey Line ★
- 15. Loop Platform

Turn over for more  
information



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# What to see and do - your guide to the railway

## 1. STATION BUILDING ★

The original Belfast & County Down Railway station in Market Street was demolished in 1972 to make way for a supermarket. Our current building was the old gasworks manager's house that was originally across the road near the petrol station.

The station foyer is modelled on the BCDR's station at Saintfield and the shop bears the name 'Eason & Sons' in homage to the Eason's book stalls that could be found in every major station in Ireland.

## 2. MODEL RAILWAY

Visit Dessie's model railway, where you can see all sorts of model trains running round the layout - including a miniature version of one of our diesels! For a small donation kids can drive the trains as well.

## 3. MUSEUM ★

Located upstairs in the station building, our museum tells the story of the old Belfast & County Down Railway from the early days until its closure, along with a fascinating selection of artefacts from tickets to track laying tools. There's even a working original BCDR signal.

## 4. GIFT SHOP

Before you leave, be sure to have a look in our shop. You can buy railway themed gifts and souvenirs, and have a browse through our collection of new and second hand books.

## 5. TOILETS

We have two toilets available on our station platform, one of which is accessible and has baby changing facilities.

## 6. EAST SIGNAL CABIN ★

See how a typical small signal cabin would look, with signal levers, original fittings and interpretive displays.

This is an original signal cabin from Bundoran Junction, which was near Kilskeery in County Tyrone. It was brought to our railway in 2012, was fully restored and is now open to the public. It is possibly the only genuine original signal cabin in the country that is also wheelchair-accessible!

## 7. PHONE & POST BOXES

See two examples of once-common street furniture, both dating from around 1936. The telephone box was designed to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V. The pillar postbox was donated by Royal Mail and bears George V's cipher.

## 8. ENTRANCE ARCHWAY

The impressive lattice archway gracing the front of the station is inspired by a real archway from Cookstown station on the former Great Northern Railway (Ireland). The brickwork is similar to that used at BCDR stations like Tullymurry, just outside Clough on the main road from Downpatrick to Newcastle.

## 9. CARRIAGE WORKSHOP

This is where all the restoration work on our vintage carriage fleet takes place (and sometimes other railway vehicles too). There are also interpretive displays showing the development of railway carriage design and projects being undertaken by our volunteers.

The general proportions of this building are based on the Goods Shed at the BCDR station in Newtownards.

## 10. CARRIAGE GALLERY ★

Visit Ireland's only dedicated Carriage Gallery, showing the development of railways in Ireland from the 19th century to the present day. Our spectacular building harks back to the great Victorian termini and contains carriages and locomotives from all over Ireland, with informative displays and a children's play area.

Kids can dress up in period costumes, explore the inside of beautifully-restored carriages, and get up close to some vintage locomotives as well.

## 11. WATER TOWER & BRACKET SIGNAL

The double bracket (or doll) signal was salvaged from Bangor station during resignalling of the Belfast-Bangor railway line in 1988.

The Water Tower was recovered from the former Northern Counties Railway station at Antrim in 1992. You might see the crew using this to top up the tanks on the steam locomotive.

## 12. MAIN SIGNAL CABIN ⛔

This signal cabin was built by the Northern Counties Railway (NCC) at King's Bog level crossing where the Belfast-Ballyclare road crosses the Belfast-Antrim (via Bleach Green) railway line.

It was dismantled in the early 1990s and re-erected here by our volunteers. The lever frame inside it was recovered from Bangor and will eventually control all our tracks and signals.

## 13. LOCOMOTIVE SHEDS ⛔

The main shed building is actually an old goods transhipment shed from Maghera on the Derry Central Railway, which ran from Coleraine to Magherafelt. There's also a modern shed behind this which is a storage and workshop facility.

## 14. INCH ABBEY LINE ★

Our North Line heads out from Downpatrick station, turns to the right and travels in a long curve to Inch Abbey Station. Along the way, you pass through scenic countryside with views of the Mourne Mountains and cross the River Quoile. Look out for wildlife in the fields and hedges, and also the course of the original line to Crossgar and Belfast veering off before Inch Abbey.

At Inch Abbey you can walk to the Abbey itself - a Game of Thrones filming location! You can then visit our buffet carriage before you take the train back. There is also a toilet available in the carpark.

## 15. LOOP PLATFORM

The South Line is used at Halloween and Christmas, when trains travel out to Magnus Grave station and back. Merlin and Santa are based at the Loop Platform on these days.

We are the only heritage railway in the British Isles with an original triangular layout. The canopy here is also the only original BCDR railway structure left in Downpatrick after closure of the railway in the 1950s.

The Loop Platform allowed passengers on Newcastle-bound trains to change trains for Downpatrick or Ardglass without the train having to access the main station, making journeys shorter.

★ Star attractions - you **must** see these!

⛔ Sorry, these areas are not accessible to the public