

**Great Western Society Limited
Didcot Railway Centre**

Cycling Policy – Issue 6.1, April 2025

1. The Great Western Society's Vision is to recreate the golden age of the Great Western Railway (GWR) at Didcot Railway Centre. To this end, the Great Western Society does all it can to retain the image and atmosphere of a GWR locomotive depot and other period railway scenes. This Cycling Policy aims to balance the cycling needs of staff and volunteers with maintenance of an historic atmosphere and the safety of staff and visitors.
2. Cycling by members of the public, i.e. paying visitors, is not permitted at any time at the Centre. Visitors will be encouraged by GWR gate staff to store bicycles in the cycle racks provided at the front of Didcot Parkway Station. If visitors bring cycles to the site entrance, they will be asked to return to the front of Didcot Parkway station to use the bicycle storage provided. Only in exceptional circumstances will Ticket Office staff allow bicycles to be secured at the entrance.
3. No volunteers or members of staff are permitted to cycle at the Centre until briefed by their line manager on the provisions of this Policy.
4. Cycling by staff and working volunteers should not normally take place when the Centre is open to the public. Any cycling of especial importance to the execution of work when the Centre is open to the public should be kept to a minimum, be with the specific permission of their line manager and be subject to the requirements set out in paragraphs 5 and 6 at all times.
5. When a shunting operation is taking place, cycling is not permitted in the vicinity of the shunting operation. 'Vicinity' means on any path or area adjacent to the operation and in areas in sight that are likely to be approached during the operation. Cycle users must dismount immediately when in sight of an approaching operation.
6. Cycle users must respect the safety, convenience and wellbeing of visitors at all times, be sensitive to the limited awareness that others may have of them and, when near visitors, should dismount, pass visitors cautiously and act courteously. All bicycles must be fitted with an audible device, ideally a bell, to warn of a cycle user's presence if necessary.
7. In order to maintain a steam era atmosphere across the Centre, cycles other than those of the pre diesel era (1960s) should be concealed from public view whenever possible and particular care taken not to spoil photographic views.
8. This policy applies to all staff, volunteers and contractors working at Didcot Railway Centre.
9. This Policy was approved by the SMT on 24 April 2025 and will be reviewed every five years.

Ann Middleton
April 2025