



#### BRIEF LAYOUT DESCRIPTION

Situated in North East England, Fence Houses station was opened in 1844 and closed in 1964. The station was part of the original main line route to 'The North' until 1872, when the present ECML through Durham City was opened. Our chosen period is British Rail 1952 - 1962, using steam and diesel locomotives. Many mainline workings operated through Fence Houses, due to engineering works and diversions taking place on the 'new' main line. Two miles north of Fence Houses is Victoria viaduct (see photograph below), some 800 feet long and 135 feet high. Built between 1836-1838, it is today a listed structure, though not currently in railway use...we live in hope! Our model is built to 2mm finescale standards, 2mm to a foot (1/152 scale), 9.42mm track gauge. 2mm scratch and kit built models are employed, along with converted 'N' gauge stock.

**DIMENSIONS** including operators working area within the layout & external Demo/maintenance space required. 12.2m x 3.3m (40'-0" x 11). Actual layout sizes are 11.7m x 2.75m (38'-6" x 9'-0"). See plan on page 2. Fence Houses is one of, if not the largest 2mm Finescale layout in the world (2.5 scale miles in total, half with scenery)!

**SET UP & TESTING TIME** for the layout is 4-5 hours. Strip down & pack up time is 2 hours. We would specifically point out our requirement with regard to hall availability times! Fence Houses is BIG, and we need the times involved to ensure everything is correct and in working order **THE DAY BEFORE** the event!

**VENUE ACCESS and ALLOTTED TIMES** (see also 'Location and positioning in the hall' on page 2) The layout is contained in three large heavy wheeled cases (2.8m long x 0.75m wide), requiring suitable LEVEL access. Where times for unloading/loading are allotted, we need the cases adjacent to the layout **DURING BOTH** operations.

**OPERATORS** Eight minimum are required.

#### ACCOMMODATION

Dependent on which operators are available at the time, most of us require single rooms at Travelodge, Premier Inn or similar establishments of this standard. We regret we are unable to stay in club members private houses. Where travel is of 150 miles or more, we sometimes require final night accommodation to be provided for 2 van drivers, increasing to possibly all of us where travel is 200 miles & over. A full weekend's operation is very tiring!

#### TRANSPORTATION

We use a 'Luton' van with tail lift. Cars and also fuel expenses will be charged. As a rough guide for a 500 mile round trip in The UK, the transportation cost would be around £600 - £800 depending on how many cars are required (and how much fuel cost are at the time!). Given these restraints a more accurate estimate would be made closer to the event.



Our model of Victoria viaduct over the river Wear, 1.6m (scale 800 feet) long. The real structure is straight!

## Page 2 (Fence Houses)

### LOCATION & POSITIONING IN THE HALL

Due to the overall size of the layout, along with the weight and length of individual base boards (up to 2.6m), we can only exhibit the layout in a ground floor position. We note that even where lifts are available, most are too small, and we cannot stand the baseboards on end! Note the additional WORKING SPACE required (in addition to layout sizes) (see 'DIMENSIONS' on page 1), especially if we are to be against a wall, or another layout is to be backed on to us.

### SEE THE LAYOUT PLAN BELOW

Note viewing side / end requiring an 'external corner' position, and access required for operators at rear & end.

### RAIL HEIGHT

Ground to rail level is approximately 1.35m. We think our very small scale lends itself to 'eye level' viewing!  
We carry a periscope & some small stools to assist viewers if required (at viewers own risk!).

### OPERATIONAL DETAILS

Precise control of a layout the size of Fence Houses is critical to its successful operation. Locomotives & all of the layout's 150 turnouts plus signals and uncouplers can be activated remotely (see below). We use 'Megapoints' control equipment along with the 'ECoS DCC Command unit' This is the data base station but it is enhanced by connecting to a PC running 'Traincontroller' and 'Smarthand' software. This enables very complex routes and timing sequences to be set up. A dedicated Wi-Fi router for the PC is how we are able to use smart phones and tablets to control everything.

### INSURANCE VALUE

Total layout, Stock, and control apparatus value is £75,000.00. Individual item values will be given as required.

### POWER & LIGHTING

We require two 13 amp power sockets (one for each end of the layout - see layout plan).  
The layout has its own lighting, Maximum power consumption of 8 amps.

### MAINTENANCE

Four chairs are required. We do not require any tables.

### CROWD BARRIERS

It is essential that robust protection barriers are provided by the show organisers for the two viewing areas.

### CONTACT DETAILS

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### CURRENT EXHIBITION COMMITMENTS

Workington 19th & 20th November 2022  
Newcastle 13th & 14th November 2023

### PUBLICATIONS

Model Railway Journal Nos 198, 207, 217, 219, 222, 226 & 264 have featured articles on the early to current stages of the layouts construction and development since it's beginning in 2004.  
Railway Modeller July 2021 'Railway of the month', then in August & September follow up issues.

### THE 2mm SCALE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

<http://www.2mm.org.uk>

