

Your testing made easy!

Railway Testing



The Great Central Railway in Leicestershire is the ideal location for your next railway test project. With 9 miles of main line configuration, of which 6 miles are double-track, it is the UK's only double track private railway.

Conveniently located in the central UK, only 10 minutes from Junction 23 of the M1 motorway, we can offer a wide variety of environments, gentle gradients, curves, extensive straight sections, over, and under bridges, and even a viaduct. We also have a separate one mile branch line section with tighter curves and steeper gradients to offer a wide range of requirements.

The Railway can offer booking slots at very short notice and flexible possessions during daytime or at night. The Great Central is rated for higher speeds of up to 75mph and for axle loading up to 25 tonnes.



Locomotive Testing

Whether diesel, hybrid and "yellow plant", or steam, the Great Central can accommodate a wide range of motive power with speeds up to 75mph for diesel and hybrid, and 60mph for steam.

Over the last few years, the Railway has been particularly successful in attracting projects for hybrid multiple unit development with clients such as Brush, Porterbrook, and Angel Trains.

Roads in our fully equipped locomotive works with inspection pits are available for hire as is a 60-foot turntable. With extensive concealed sidings and a four-road, 430 feet long rail vehicle storage shed, your project's confidentiality can be easily maintained.



Rolling Stock Testing

The Great Central has extensive experience in hosting test projects for all types of rolling stock from passenger accommodation to freight wagons and multi-purpose vehicles.

A fully equipped carriage and wagon works with pits and rope access is available for hire, as it our undercover and secure, newly-built carriage storage shed.

The Railway can offer a wide selection of motive power for hire, diesel, steam, or DMU and extensive sidings for trackside fitting and modification of vehicles on test.





All types of testing

The Great Central Railway offer a host of convenient locations for all types of railway testing, whether it be vehicle modification, development, mileage accumilation, speed, acceleration or braking testing, emissions test, noise and vibrations tests or verification and comparitive assessment.

Our friendly and experienced technical and operations staff pride themselves in offering the most flexible of client experiences and always try to say "yes" to the needs of test clients.

Driver training or "train the trainer" are also a regular feature of our offering, as are training packages for the armed forces and emergency services.



Equipment Testing

Whether you wish to bring your own vehicle or use one of the Railway's locomotives, or wide variety of rolling stock, the Great Central Railway is an ideal location for railway equipment testing. Recent successful projects have included points mechanisms, signalling assemblies, cab-mounted location systems and brake and axle temperature monitoring equipment.

Your equipment can be fitted or adjusted either trackside or under cover in our works, and our workshops are available for use for any onsite modifications you need to carry out to your equipment.



Unrivalled facilities

In addition to fully equipped works, storage sheds, and secure sidings, the Great Central also offers classrooms and meeting rooms, excellent catering, washing, changing and messing facilities on site, and we can even provide a number of luxuriously appointed inspection saloon carriages for your clients, senior staff, or the industry press to view your project at the Railway.

With excellent road access, vehicles can be very easily unloaded from road to rail at our Quorn site which doubles as an ideal location for product launches and demonstrations.

All this at a fraction of the price you may need to pay at other locations.

"It was reassuring to deal with people who consistently demonstrate a can-do approach" - Network Rail

For your next railway test project - make tracks to the Great Central Railway Europe's only double-track private railway

