



ROMSEY SIGNAL BOX

The signal box site was re-opened to the public in 2015 after being closed for almost two years. Anybody who has not visited in the last couple of years will note significant changes and developments on the re-opened site.



◁ Romsey Signal Box is now part of a working museum in the Hampshire market town of Romsey. Originally opened c1870 at the junction of lines from Romsey to Eastleigh and Redbridge, the box was closed in 1982.

▷ Fortunately the Romsey & District Buildings Preservation Trust rescued the signal box, which was moved down from its original site to its own dedicated plot of land immediately below, which the Trust had purchased, arriving there in 1987.



◁ Since 1987 the Friends of Romsey Signal Box have restored the inside of the box to operational order, with various signals and a point connected to some of the levers. Visitors of all ages are encouraged to pull the levers and see the results of their efforts!



△ A simulator downstairs enables visitors to be given demonstrations of the signal box in operation. It also enables enthusiasts and professional signalmen to operate the signal box to a full timetable as if for real, without the risk of crashing any real trains.



△ Elsewhere on the site there is a miniature lever frame with full size instruments which is based on the signal box at Cowley Bridge Junction, just outside Exeter. On Open Days this can often be seen being operated by a trained signalman (subject to available volunteers).



KEY FEATURES

- Original railway signal box from c1870, restored to full working order
- Demonstrations of the signal box in operation
- Visitors can pull levers, operate points and signals, and ring the bells
- Flexible visits, including self-guided tours
- Visitor centre with displays, interactive items and railway artifacts
- Miniature signal box in operation to a timetable
- Outdoor landscaped site with railway track, signals, and other railway items to operate and view

FACILITIES ON SITE

- Children welcome
- Light refreshments available in the Buffer Stop Café (tea/coffee/soft drinks/cakes)
- Picnic tables in attractive landscaped surroundings (you are welcome to bring your own food and drinks)
- Small souvenir and book shop
- Facilities for disabled visitors include wheelchair access around much of the site, and into the indoor visitor facilities, with live CCTV of activity in the signal box. (Access to the operating floor of the signal box is by a steep open stairway)
- Accessible toilet available for all visitors



◁ Past travellers by train in Hampshire were familiar with the lineside 'Strong Country' signs, promoting Romsey's famous brewery. An example has been preserved at the site.

◁ Other working exhibits include a small ground frame connected to two signals, and a small museum with a range of historic items and equipment for visitors to enjoy, some being interactive. The whole site has been landscaped and provides for a relaxing visit which can easily last an hour or more.

