

Redevelopment of Buckley Wells for the East Lancashire Railway.

Summary Description of Works (Rev A)

The East Lancashire Railway (ELR) is the award-winning premier visitor and heritage attraction in the Boroughs of Bury and Rochdale, and the wider Irwell Valley in Rossendale, attracting over 200,000 visitors a year and has its main workshop facilities located within Bury at Buckley Wells. The Buckley Wells locomotive and carriage works houses over 250 heritage locos, carriages and wagons, and forms the essential locomotive and carriage operational, maintenance and restoration facilities necessary to successfully operate the rail services/events on the heritage railway.

In brief given the growth and success of this acclaimed visitor attraction the proposals are designed to secure a managed expansion and enhancement of the operational, maintenance and restoration capacity of the site to facilitate the further managed growth of the ELR as a premier visitor and heritage attraction on a long-term sustainable basis.

Therefore, to enable the above, and within the planning application are five key components of the Buckley Wells site redevelopment.

1. A comprehensive programme of restoration and repair to the Grade II Listed historic Buckley Wells Locomotive Works/Carriage Shed building – currently housing the full extent of the locomotive engineering restoration and maintenance facilities for the ELR. The Listed Building is a fine example of a Victorian working railway shed and one of the oldest in Europe maintaining this single continuous use. The carriage shed will continue to be used for the restoration of locomotives / general railway engineering including workshops and stores for spare parts etc. There will be new offices located at the north end of the building (within the existing two storey buildings facing onto Baron Street) supporting the various training, skills and operations located within the overall site.
2. A new locomotive running shed and heavy maintenance workshop – to be located on the site of the original Buckley Wells engine shed (demolished by British Rail in the 1970's). Constructed from simple portal framed structures built on the east side of the Listed Building and includes classroom / workshop areas, stores, and other ancillary facilities, including ablutions and a canteen.
3. A new green energy carriage shed (solar panels) and carriage restoration workshop to house, restore and repair the ELR's fleet of historic railway coaches (including ELR's 'Red Rose Diner' pullman set) – to be located on an area of sidings to the south of the Listed Building. An essential building as this will be used to restore and maintain ELR's collection of historic carriages, including garaging to protect them from the elements and vandalism, thereby extending required maintenance periods and increasing longevity of the rolling stock.
4. Within the site is an amended track layout to facilitate rail access to the proposed new buildings.
5. The proposals include a range of external site works to facilitate the expanded operational capacity of the site including areas of hardstanding, new motor vehicle access routes, designated parking areas for full time staff and volunteers, rationalised external storage facilities.