

STOKE SUMMIT

An Exhibition Main Line (In The Diesel Period)

The Location

Stoke Summit is the top of the famous bank in Lincolnshire where trains begin their descent, achieving the fastest speeds on record. Indeed, it was down this stretch of line in 1938 where Mallard achieved her ultimate record for steam traction, 126 mph.

Situated between Peterborough and Grantham, this very fast stretch was the final part (before the Selby diversion) of the East Coast Mainline to be opened, bypassing the original Peterborough - Boston - Lincoln - Doncaster section of the old Great Northern Railway.

Passing through gentle, rolling Lincolnshire countryside it is still very rural today, though all the beautiful mechanical signalling has gone, the signal box has been demolished and overhead catenary infests the scene. Stoke Tunnel and the Burton Coggles farm overbridge are still extant, reminding us of the vernacular building styles adopted by our original independent railways.

The Diesel Period

Though still popular on the exhibition circuit as a steam/early diesel period layout, Stoke Summit can now be presented with trains operated entirely by diesel locos.

Unlike the West Coast Main Line (Euston – Manchester and Liverpool originally) the East Coast Main Line was not electrified in the sixties, thus retaining much of its LNER/BR(E) infrastructure until the late seventies. This included overbridges, other associated structures and mechanical signalling. Indeed, at Stoke the signalling remained intact until 1975, with the box lasting a little longer. Thus we can present Stoke Summit entirely accurately with blue TOPS numbered diesels and air-braked blue/grey corporate-image stock together with the survivors of the maroon period.

What can be seen is a succession of diesel loco-operated trains, mostly specially constructed new trains, along with a few from the late steam era. These range from prototype one-offs representing the beginning of dieselisation, moving on to green locos and the maroon stock right through to production deltics in blue, present at the end of our timescale. The full period depicted will be from 1961/1962 until 1975 – slightly anomalous we know, but all the locos haul appropriate stock and an attempt is made not to have two trains passing of inappropriate time periods.

The loco stock in the main is detailed and altered ready-to-run with a few kit built examples. The rolling stock is principally kit built with some ready-to-run items suitably detailed and modified.

The Model

Main line - four tracks reducing to two to pass through the tunnel, designed for 'Watching the Trains Go By'.

Dimensions 30' x 11', the scenic section is along one side as shown on the attached plan, though it can be presented in the round if necessary.

4mm scale - 00 Finescale.

The fiddle yard can accommodate 38 scale-length trains, made up from over 60 locomotives, over 200 coaches and over 500 items of freight stock. All stock is kit built, scratch built or modified proprietary, each piece being a faithful reproduction of its prototype.

A representative sequence is operated, consisting of 40+ trains in approximately 35 minutes.

Exhibition Information

Travel	The layout is transported by Sprinter van (approx £240 hire charges for a two day weekend), plus diesel and petrol for 2 cars, cost dependent on distance.
Operators	A minimum team of 6 operators is needed, but for long exhibitions more may be required.
Insurance	The value of the layout and stock is £100,000 for the diesel period.
Setting Up	Setting up time is usually 3 – 4 hours from arrival.
Electricity	A single 13 Amp socket is required.
Size	Overall size is 30' x 11', the layout comes complete with drapes and is fully illuminated.

Regular updates on the layout, locomotives and rolling stock appear in the model railway press. One can regularly be arranged to coincide with your show.

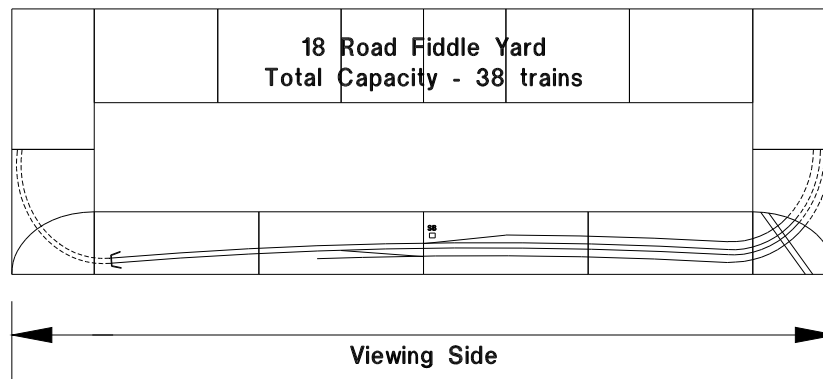
The Stoke 'Team'

The layout and stock was built and is operated by members of Wolverhampton Model Railway Club. The layout is exhibited under the club banner.

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STOKE SUMMIT (Overall size 30 feet x 11 feet)