

*HARRY POTTER PLACES*  
NEW SITE

# King's Cross Station Footbridge



[www.HarryPotterPlaces.com](http://www.HarryPotterPlaces.com)

## *Harry Potter Places*

### King's Cross Station Footbridge Has Apparated to a New Home



<http://friargatebridge.blogspot.com/2011/11/footbridge-at-kings-cross-railway.html>

Once upon a time, an incredibly elegant Victorian overhead footbridge spanned the main train shed of King's Cross Railway Station in London, stretching between platforms 1 and 8. The bridge was built in Derby by renowned iron founder Andrew Handyside in 1892, and installed at King's Cross in 1893.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew\\_Handyside\\_and\\_Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Handyside_and_Company)



[*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* screenshot (enhanced)]

Scenes for the first Harry Potter movie were shot on this footbridge in 2000. Here was where Hagrid gave Harry his very first Hogwarts Express ticket. The unsightly plywood lining installed sometime in the 90s (presumably to prevent debris from falling onto the tracks below) was removed for filming, then immediately replaced.

## Harry Potter Places: King's Cross Station Footbridge



[*Order of the Phoenix* screenshot (enhanced)]

In 2006, Harry was filmed again crossing the King's Cross footbridge on his way to Platform 9 & 3/4, this time in the company of Sirius (as Padfoot), the Weasleys, and Order of the Phoenix members Mad-Eye Moody and Tonks.



[©2008 (October) C.D. Miller] [©2009 (July) Tara Bellers]

Alas, the massive King's Cross Railway Station modernization project that was launched in 1997 caused the footbridge to be dismantled and removed in December of 2008.

"The bridge had been abandoned by passengers over many years as they found the steep steps hard to scale. By the time plans to redevelop King's Cross station were being made, only Harry Potter fans and station staff ever used it."

<http://www.networkrail.co.uk/Handyside-Bridge-donation.aspx>

Potterites the world over were deeply saddened at the loss of such an iconic Harry Potter landmark. As it happens, however, the bridge was not lost—it was disappeared!

## Harry Potter Places: King's Cross Station Footbridge

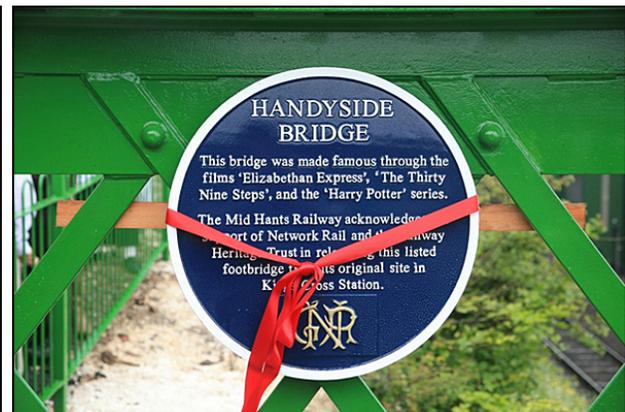
Because King's Cross Railway Station became a Grade 1 listed historical building in 1954—a listing that included its interior Victorian features—the English Heritage agency and the Camden planning authority insisted that the footbridge be preserved, and a new use found for it.

Thus, in 2011, Network Rail donated the bridge to the Mid Hants heritage railway station in Ropley, East Hampshire. Network Rail also made a substantial contribution toward the cost of shot-blasting centuries-old layers of lead-based paint from the bridge's structure, repainting it, and transporting the footbridge to its new home.



“It took eight lorry loads to move all the components, weighing perhaps 200 tons, from Network Rail’s storage in March, Cambridgeshire to Eastleigh, Hampshire where the shot blasting and painting were done. Construction at Ropley started in November 2011.”

<http://www.watercressline.co.uk/article.php/963/the-kings-cross-footbridge>



[©2011 Watercress Line]

The freshly renovated and relocated footbridge was formally opened at Mid Hants Railway Station on Tuesday, June 11th, 2013. Its Blue Plaque historical marker reads:

“This bridge was made famous through the films ‘Elizabethan Express,’ ‘The Thirty Nine Steps,’ and the ‘Harry Potter’ series. The Mid Hants Railway acknowledges the support of Network Rail and the Railway Heritage Trust in relocating this listed footbridge from its original site in Kings Cross Station.”

Harry Potter Places: King's Cross Station Footbridge

<http://www.watercressline.co.uk/article.php/251/harry-potter-footbridge-opens-at-the-watercress-line>



[Internet-posted pic, ©unk] [Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone screenshot (enhanced)]

Happier still, it looks as though Padfoot's Victorian staircase accompanied the footbridge to Ropley!



[©2011 Watercress Line]

Soon after the famous footbridge's installation, the Watercress Line began offering an annual Harry-Potter-related event at Mid Hants Railway Station. Their Potter event in 2015 was held on October 30th and 31st—Halloween weekend.

"It's time to board the Wizard Express! Watch the Watercress Line transform into a place of magic and mischief on Halloween! Walk in Harry Potter's footsteps over the railway footbridge where he received his Hogwarts Express ticket; the famous film location from Kings Cross station that is now at the Watercress Line! Come dressed as a witch, wizard or Halloween spook and find out about bats, owls and all things magical! With craft activities, face painting, Mr Wizard shows, handmade witches Besom brooms and daily shows from the Falcon High display team. It's great value too as fares give you all day unlimited travel!"

<http://hampshireattractions.co.uk/events/wizard-weekend/>

## Harry Potter Places: King's Cross Station Footbridge

### Fares

Adult £17    Child (aged 2-16 yrs) £9    Child under 2 FREE  
Family (2 Adults and 2 Children - 1 child effectively travels for FREE) £43

Advance tickets include all booking fees and tickets cost the same on the day.

Please note: Entry to this special event is by travel ticket only. Once tickets are purchased they cannot be changed or cancelled for any reason. Site/platform tickets, intermediate fares and discount vouchers, including Tesco Clubcard vouchers, are NOT VALID for this event.

### Parking

We advise that you park at either Alton station, where there is an additional large new car park at the station behind the Waitrose store, or at Alresford station where there is overflow parking at Perins School; levels 2 and 3 are open on school holidays and weekends, just 2 minutes walk from the station. PLEASE NOTE that the free parking at Ropley is NOT available for this event. [Please click here for directions and parking information.](#)

The 2016 Mid Hants Railway Station Potter event is scheduled for the weekend immediately preceding Halloween—October 29th and 30th.

<http://www.watercressline.co.uk/product.php/34/wizard-weekend>



Potterites who wish to visit the King's Cross Station Harry Potter footbridge at Mid Hants Railway Station can do so at any time in the year, when traveling between *Harry Potter Places Book Three's* Site #24 (Number 12 Picket Post Close in Martins Heron—aka Number 4 Privet Drive), and Site #40, Lacock Village and Abbey.

Stopping at Mid Hants Railway Station adds only an hour and 9 minutes to your itinerary when driving between these two sites. Be sure to schedule an additional 30–60 minutes to visit the bridge.

Alresford Station is the closest car park to Mid Hants Railway Station.

**SatNav/GPS Coordinates:** 51.088835, -1.161874

**Address:** Station Road, Alresford SO24 9JG

It is only a 2 minute walk between Alresford Station car park and the Mid Hants Railway Station.