

Vale of Glamorgan Railway

The **Vale of Glamorgan Railway Company** are a [Welsh railway](#) preservation society originally called the **Butetown Historic Railway Society**.

In 1979, the **Butetown Historic Railway Society** was formed at [Bute Road Station](#) in the [docklands](#) area of [Cardiff](#). The aim was to restore the then derelict [Taff Vale Railway](#) station, and establish a steam hauled passenger service to [Cardiff Queen Street station](#). By 1994, a short section of track existed, and the steam locomotive *Sir Gomer* hauled short passenger trains. ^[1]

By 1997, the [Cardiff Bay Development Corporation](#) was in charge of the redevelopment of [Butetown](#), and dismissed the idea of a rejuvenated steam railway as part of their plans.

Even prior to 1997 the railway started negotiations with the [Vale of Glamorgan Council](#) and moved in during 1998 to its new base at [Barry Island Railway](#). It renamed itself the **Vale of Glamorgan Railway Company** and were based there till early 2009 operating heritage services both steam and diesel over an expanding network of lines.

Following the December 2007 decision by landlords, the [Vale of Glamorgan Council](#) to terminate the £65,000 funding of the Barry Island Railway, the society maintain a service. However less than six months after withdrawing financial support, the council without warning decided to put the railway site out to [tender](#) under a long term lease. There were three bids submitted^[2] with the successful bidder being the commercial company Cambrian Transport who have been the council's railway adviser and contractor^[3] since the Barry Railway Project started.

The other bidder NEWCO was submitted by Graham Lee owner of the LH Plant, Hunslett Engine Company, Statfold Barn Railway^[4] and Mike Thomson owner of Arrowvale who make black boxes for the rail industry. NEWCO had spoken to the VGR in advance and agreed a method of working together. Had this bid been successful the VGR would have continued operating at Barry.

The Railway has recently sold assets following the break down of talks with Cambrian Transport which has been forced to leave Barry. It is now the intention for the railway to relocate to the Bridgend Valleys Railway, with some stock also going to the Dean Forest Railway and further afield.

The Railway is now working with the Bridgend Valleys Railway to develop the 4.5 miles of line in place north of Bridgend.

References

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1. [↑](#) ["Vale of Glamorgan Railway"](#). *www.trackbed.com*.
2. [↑](#) ["notfound"](#). *www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk*. Archived from [the original](#) on 2019-03-01. Retrieved 2019-02-13.
3. [↑](#) ["Cambrian Transport Limited"](#). *cambriantransport.com*. Archived from [the original](#) on 2020-07-13. Retrieved 2019-02-13.
4. [↑](#) ["Statfold Barn Railway - Family Days Out, Kids Days Out, Steam Trains in Staffordshire & Midlands, Things to do in Tamworth Staffordshire -Statfold Barn Railway | Narrow Gauge Trust"](#). Archived from [the original](#) on 2020-08-10. Retrieved 2022-01-13.

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