

B

ballast A layer of broken stone laid as a base for the railway track

boiler An enclosed cylinder like a giant kettle used to boil water and make steam for a locomotive

brake van (guard's van) The last van of a train where the guard travelled and applied the hand brake

bridge spans The short sections of a bridge between the piers which carried the track

buffer A spring at the front or back of an engine or carriage to absorb the shock during coupling or a collision

buffet car A carriage on a train with a counter where food and drinks could be bought

C

cab The covered shelter of a locomotive protecting the driver and fireman

class (engine) A group of the same type of locomotives

compartments The spaces or rooms in a railway carriage

corridor attendant Staff who looked after passengers in a carriage

coupled Joining engines, carriages, trucks, wagons or vans to form a train

coupling rods Steel rods that connect driving wheels to each other

cutting An excavation dug into a hill so that the railway line could be laid flat

cylinder A hollow chamber in which the piston of an engine operates

D

derailment A train or part of a train that runs off the tracks in an accident

diesel locomotive An engine powered by diesel oil instead of steam

dome The place where steam collects at the top of a boiler

driving wheels The wheels on a locomotive that propel it

E

embankment A ridge of earth and stone built up so that the railway line could be laid flat

F

fire box The rear part of a steam locomotive that contains the fire which heats the boiler

fire hole The opening where coal is shovelled into the fire box

fishplates Rectangular metal plates used to join pieces of railway track together

fitters and turners Workers in an engineering workshop who put together the locomotive parts

footplate The platform at the rear of a steam locomotive where the driver and fireman stand

funnel The part of the locomotive through which smoke leaves the boiler

G

galley The kitchen where food is prepared on a train

gang A group of railway maintenance workers or fettlers

guard A worker who stopped and started the train

guard's van (brake van) The van at the end of a train where the brake is located. The guard travelled in this van

H

horse box A railway van to transport horses

J

jib crane A crane which can swing its load up and down and side to side

L

leading wheels The first set of wheels on a locomotive

P

piers Supports for a bridge

piston A round metal plug which moves to and fro in the hollow cylinder of a locomotive engine

points Moveable rails used to change a train from one track to another

R

regulator A handle on a locomotive cab used to control the steam supply to the cylinders. It regulates the train's movement.

S

semaphore signals A post with wooden arms that could be moved up and down to give a message to passing train drivers

signal box A building or room beside the railway track which housed the levers to operate the signals and points

signals Moveable arms (see semaphore signals) or lights on a post beside the railway track to give information to engine drivers from a distance

sleepers Timber (later concrete) supports set in the ballast to hold the rails of the railway track

smoke box The front part of a steam locomotive below the chimney

soot Burnt specks in the smoke from a steam locomotive

spikes large, thick nails that secure rails to the sleepers

stationmaster The person in charge of a railway station

steam The vapour made by boiling water

steward Worker who serves food and drink to passengers on the train

T

tender The container behind the engine which carries the water and coal

trailing wheels The last set of wheels on a locomotive

train A collection of carriages, trucks, vans, wagons or tankers coupled together with a locomotive at the front and a guard's van at the back

tricycle A three-wheeled vehicle for transporting railway workers along the track

V

viaduct A bridge made up of a number of small arches carrying a railway across a wide valley

W

wheels The rolling parts of the engine that sit on the tracks

wheel arrangement A way of telling locomotive types apart by the arrangements of their wheels