

A Socially Distanced ReRailed

Preamble

This document aims to demonstrate the changes needed to accommodate social distancing on the Bala Town station site in order to operate ReRailed safely. The current presumption is that the event will go ahead on the planned date as long as we aren't in lockdown (or living with restrictions that are too severe to allow enough people and volunteers to travel).

It is assumed that the current 2m rule will be in place, with other restrictions being similar to summer 2020 while the railway was operating. I understand from David Jones that the Llanuwchllyn platform area allows for 25 bubbles and that this was the basis of the re-opening planning last year. The Bala Town station site is much larger, so even with exhibits in place, accommodating a larger number should be possible.

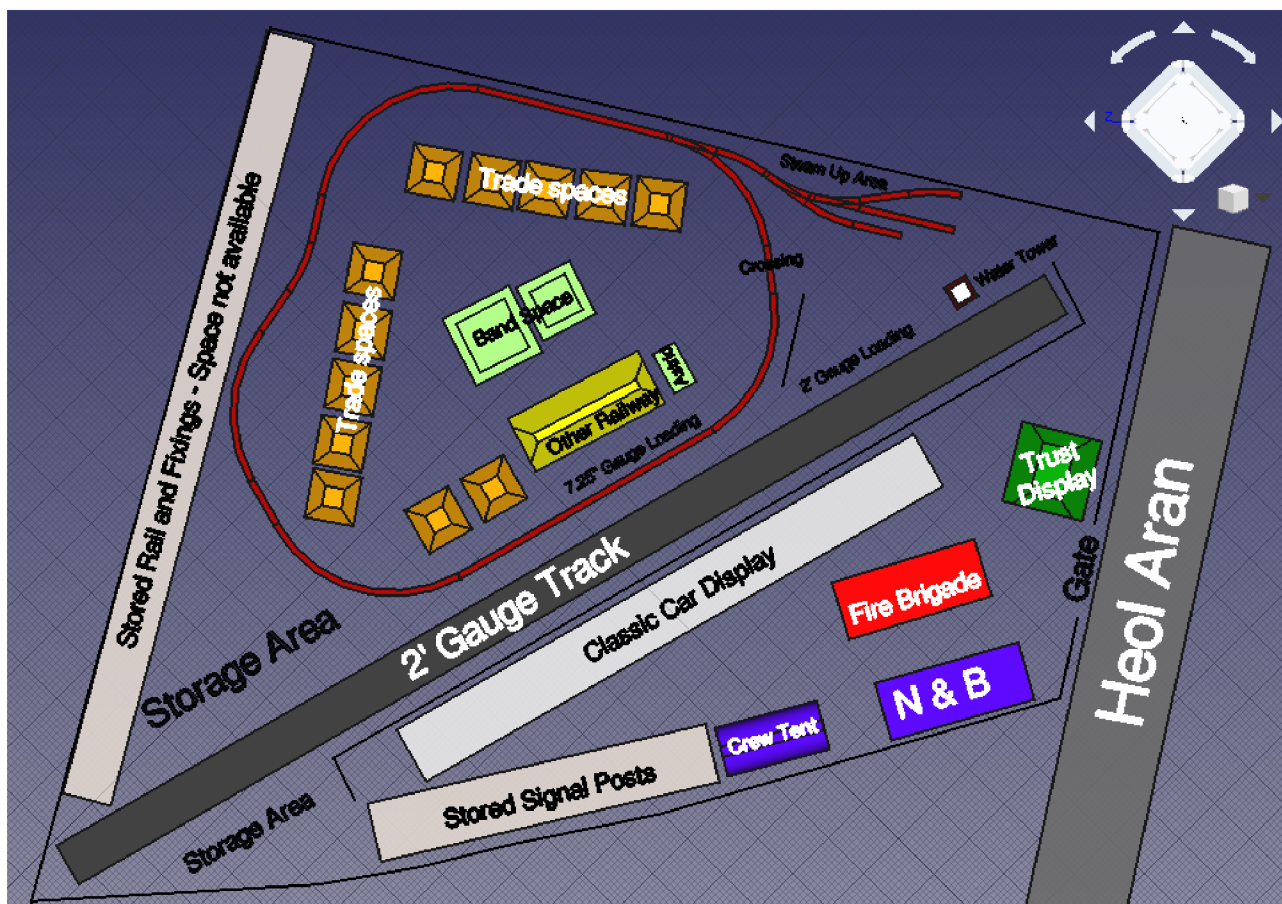
Plans

All plans in this document have been drawn to scale, however getting each one to the exact same size for direct comparison isn't that easy, so they are presented with a grid background to provide scale. The bold grid squares are 10'x10', with 1'x1' sub divisions. In true modelling style the actual CAD drawing has been done to a scale of 1mm to 1'!

Executive Summary

This document will demonstrate that with some compromises, additional fencing, one-way systems and queueing areas a compelling event which keeps much of what was originally planned (and potentially adds some new less problematic elements) can be achieved, with a site capacity of 120 people (approx 70 bubbles) at any one time. In my view that should be sufficient to make the event successful, especially when you consider the lowered expectations that most people will have for events in 2021. Diagrams to demonstrate this are presented on page 5 of this document.

Original Concept

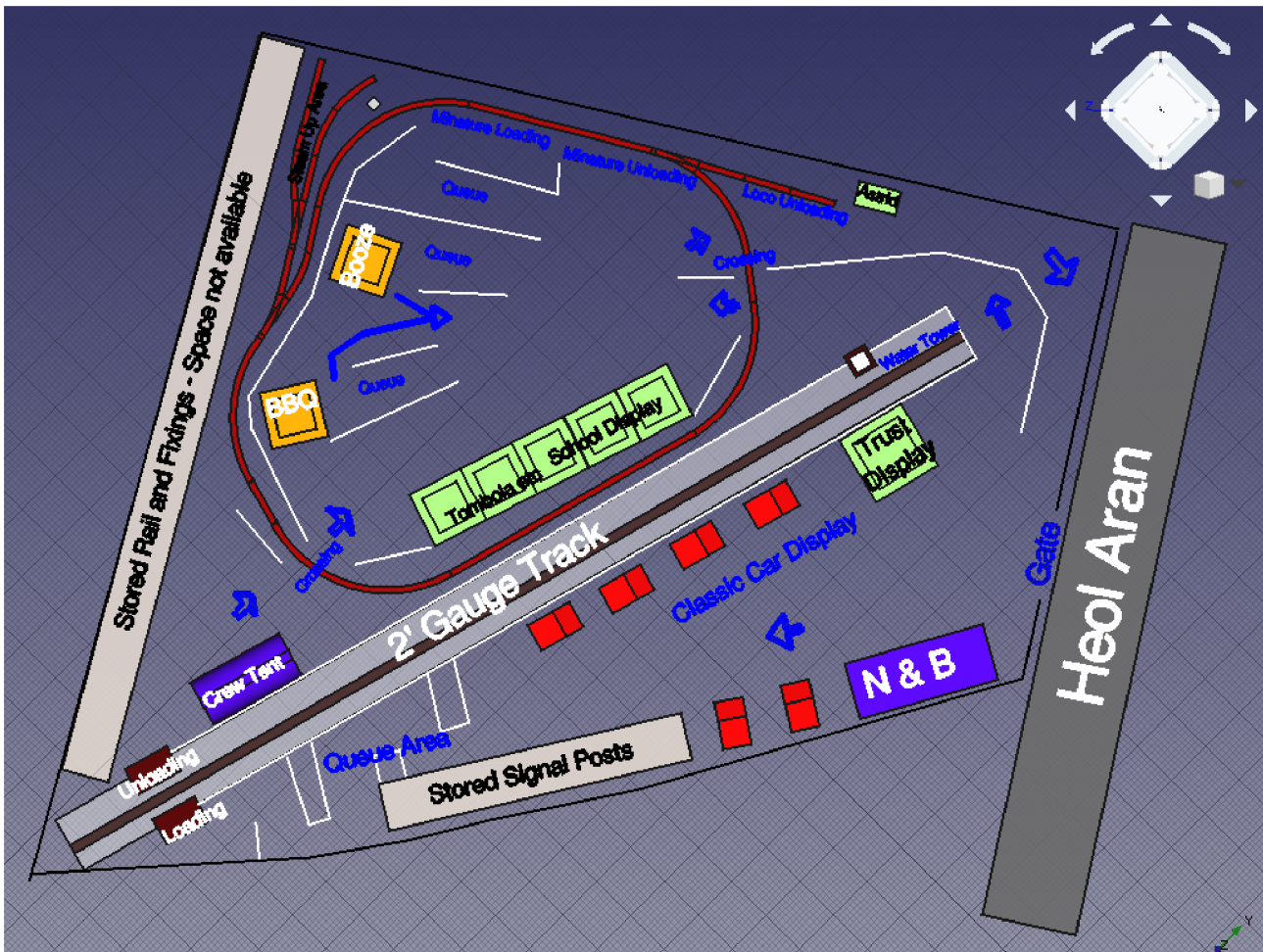


Presented above is the original plan for ReRailed. The intent of this site plan was to confine visitors to the trade area and car display, to simplify marshalling issues, with only one route between. The bottom left of the site is left unused and available for storage, it was anticipated we may need to accommodate James Milner's Lorry here, this will no longer be used.

This is incompatible with social distancing in it's current form so the following has now been changed:

- The classic car display has been shrunk a bit and spread out to allow easier circulation.
- The fire-brigade will be asked to park on the road by the gate if they wish to attend.
- The trade stands have been cut back to just food + drink.
- I have also been advised that the signal posts don't take up as much space as I allowed for them, so this has been shrunk a little.

The Updated Version



Presented above is the updated site plan. Additional renderings are at the end of this document and an alternative design which retains the full length of the 2'.

Notes in no particular order:

- Queue areas have been marked out for the 2' line, miniature railway, BBQ and Booze stalls. Simple post and rope fencing will be used for this.
- The Railway's tombola stand has been incorporated into a covered display area alongside the miniature railway.
- It is proposed to fill the rest of the display area with a schools display, we can ask local schools to encourage children to provide art work to go on display here, with each school being given a display space. If the space is inadequate we could potentially add notice boards with waterproof covers. It is hoped that this will draw families in to see their children's artwork on display. We could also get local traders to sponsor some prizes.
- The cars are now side on, instead of end on and spaced for easier viewing.
- The 2' loading area has moved to the back of the site, this was the easiest place to put a socially distanced queue line.
- With 2' loading and unloading on different sides, a natural anti-clockwise flow is created around the site.

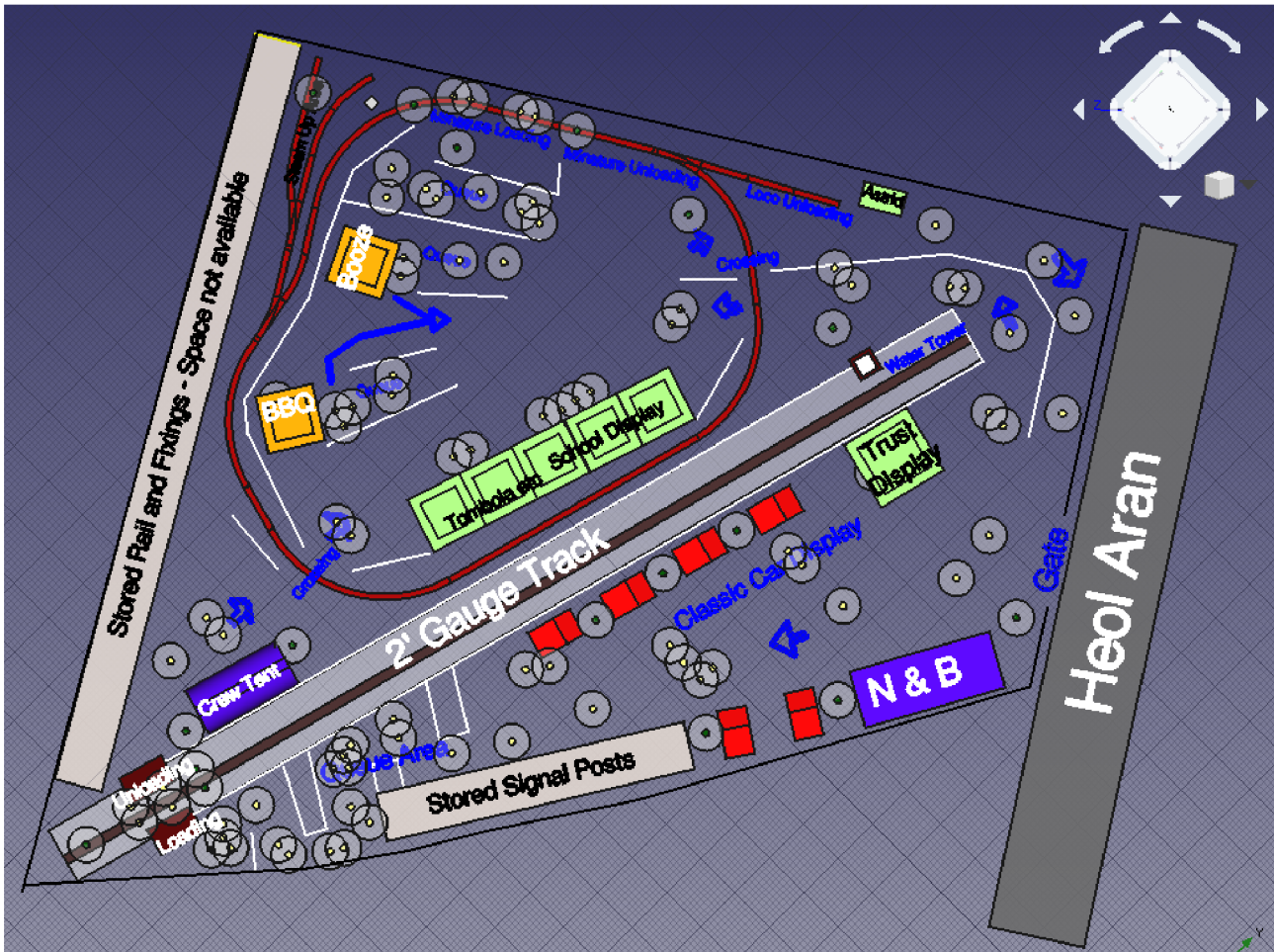
- The additional crossing point on the 7.25" line is primarily for exit from the 2' line, so is considered one way.
- The 2' line has been shortened by 15' and is now 215' long, this is to allow for a fenced one way system around the town end of the line. Creating a walking route around the other end of the line is impractical due to the acute angle of the fencing and the space needed for the queue area.
- The water tower is retained at the town end of the 2', despite this no longer being the loading point. This is to keep it as close as possible to the likely water supply by hose.
- A separate water supply will be needed for the 7.25" steam up area which has now been moved to isolate it from the public space.
- A spur has been retained on the 7.25" in the former location of the steam up area to allow for easier loading and unloading.
- Astrid has been placed to try and make sure she can heard as clearly as possible from the high street, without making it difficult to talk in the areas where there are stands. I'm hoping for the "Ice Cream Van" effect.
- Winifred will be facing towards the town.
- N & B is the Coopers Security Company Inc (aka Norman and Barbara's Caravan).

Event Shelters

All shelters in the plan are open sided, most are 12x12', the Trust is 15x15'. Gwynedd CC had some of this type nominally available for use, but I had little luck contacting the people who could provide them. BBQ+Booze will be expected to provide there own shelters. Where possible we should borrow shelters from volunteers/supporters (the TR offered a 9x3m marquee). However, if all else fails, 3mx3m Gazebos can be purchased for around £50 online. 3x4m for £55. The side walls are detachable,



Site Capacity



Getting an estimate of the site capacity is particularly important in these times, since it will be necessary to have somebody on the gate with a clicker to count people in and out. The above rendering shows site populated visitors, volunteers, car owners and traders (etc) on site. Each visitor is shown with an approx 1m ring surrounding them, so in order to maintain a 2m distance the rings must not intersect. I have shown a mix of family groups, couples and individuals in the rendering above, so where rings intersect it is assumed that people are in the same social bubble.

The above diagram has 105 people in total (some hidden under shelters, 25 "crew" and 80 visitors), there is still plenty of free space with this number of people so more could be accommodated without causing many problems. These people are split into 66 bubbles (I think, counted by hand!).

On this basis a site limit of 120 seems well within the safety margin I haven't counted the number of bubbles present, but the crew are mostly set as individuals, the only exceptions being the traders and loco crew who are allowed to be in close proximity under normal working arrangements.

Minimum Volunteer Requirements

- Trust Stand : 2 (Julian + 1)
- Tombola (2, probably Barbara Cooper + Hilary Moorhouse)
- Miniature Railway: 1 platform marshal, who can double up to supervise the main crossing point when the train is in motion.
- Do we need a miniature railway guard?
- Marshal for the 2nd miniature railway crossing (exit from 2' unloading). If the Tombola is placed here, Barbara or Hilary could double on this during quiet periods.
- 2' Platform Marshall
- 2' Guard ? (I have been advised this may not be necessary)
- 2' Driver + Fireman (Could we single man?)
- Gate clicker

Total 7 - 12 depending on the options above. A few spare people are desirable to allow for breaks.

It was indicated last year that the Rotary club were willing to provide help, they could provide some marshals, this would be very helpful and reduce the pressure on the BLR volunteer pool.

Other Crew, not from the BLR "pool"

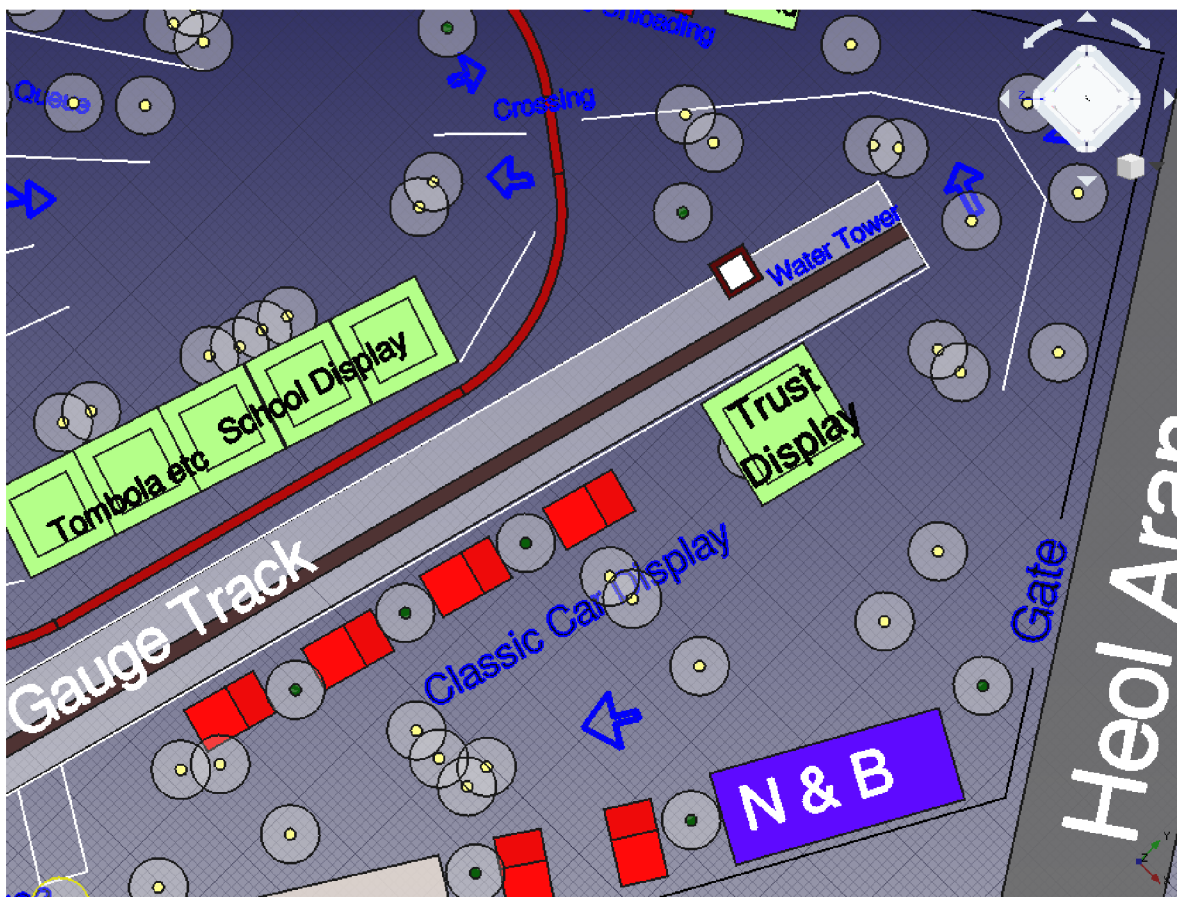
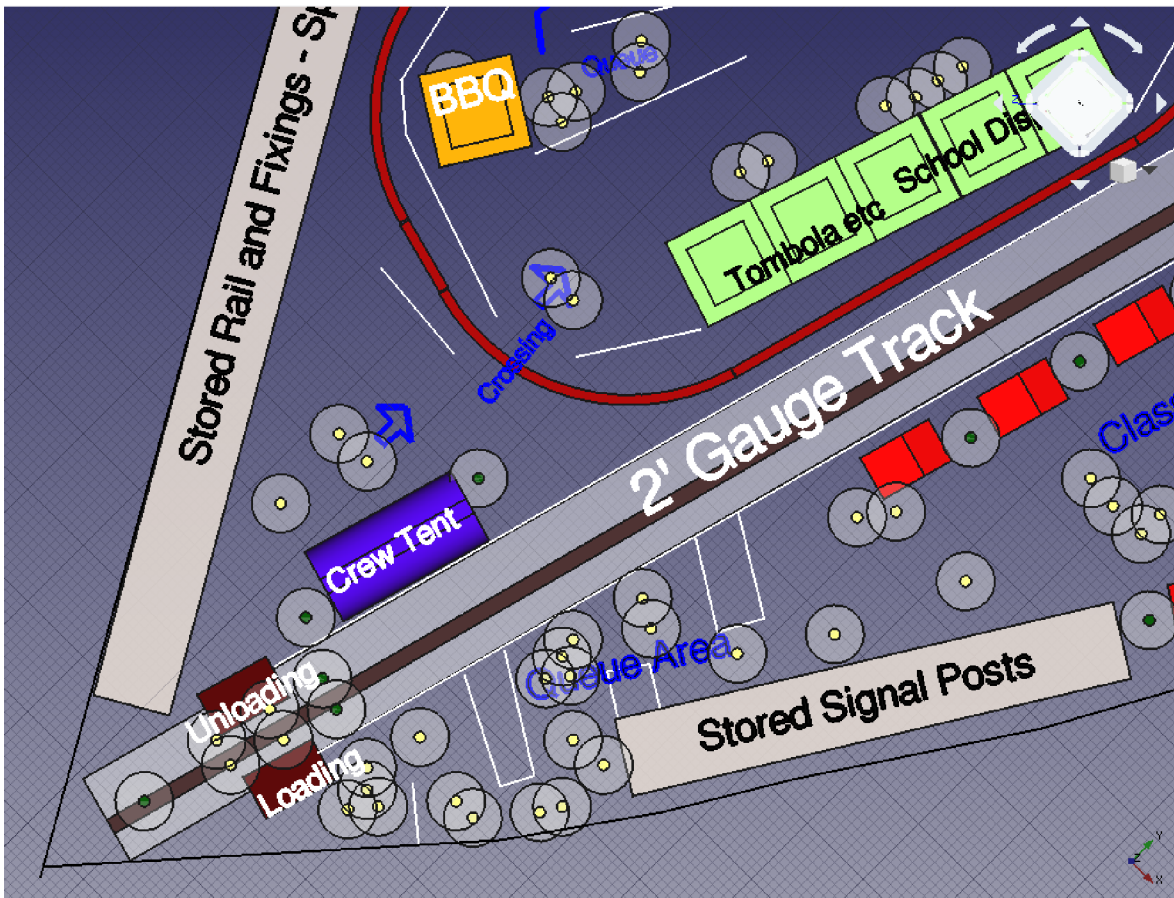
- Miniature Train drivers, assume these come with the locos. Probably 2+
- Classic car owners 5+
- Traders 4+

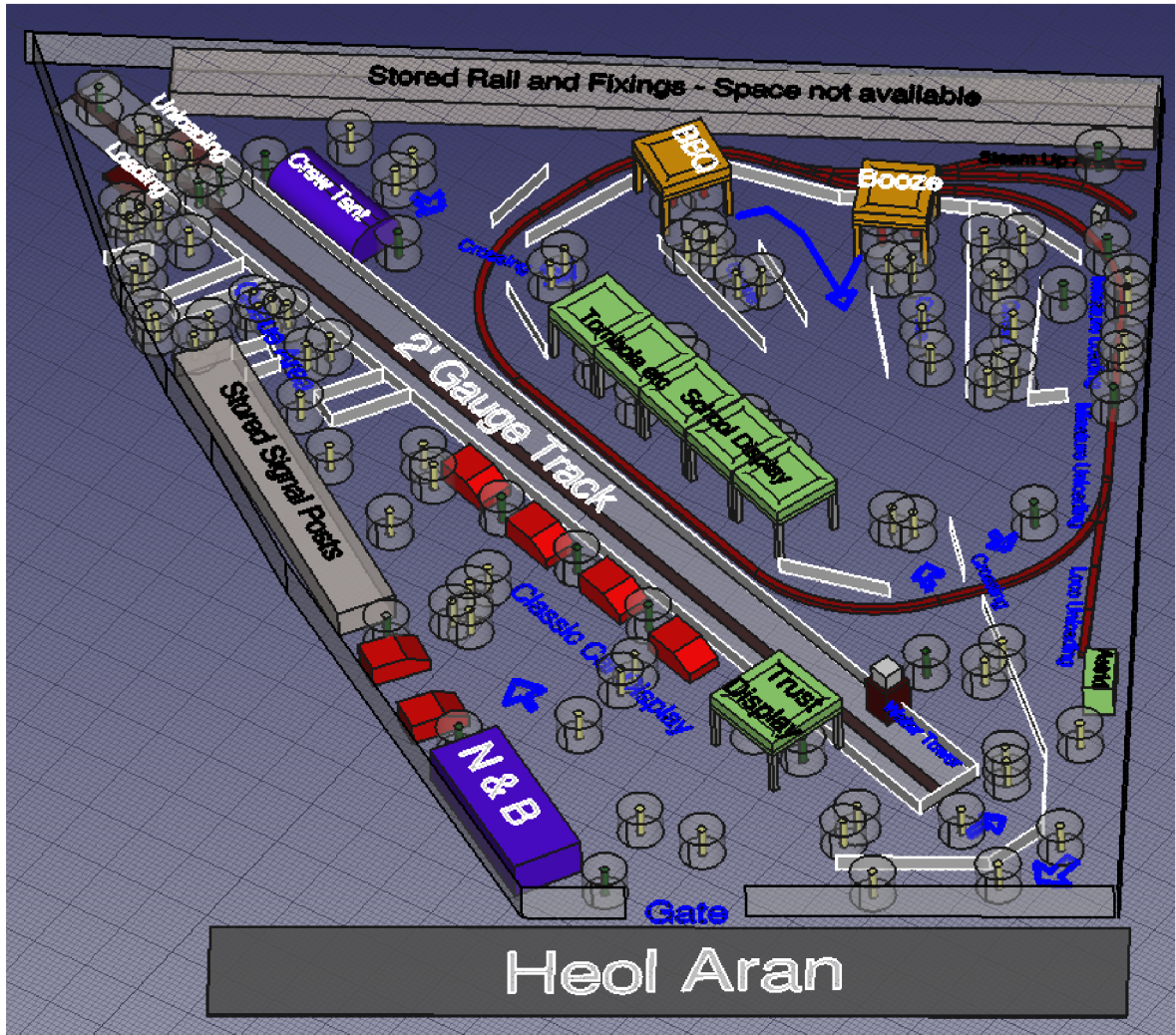
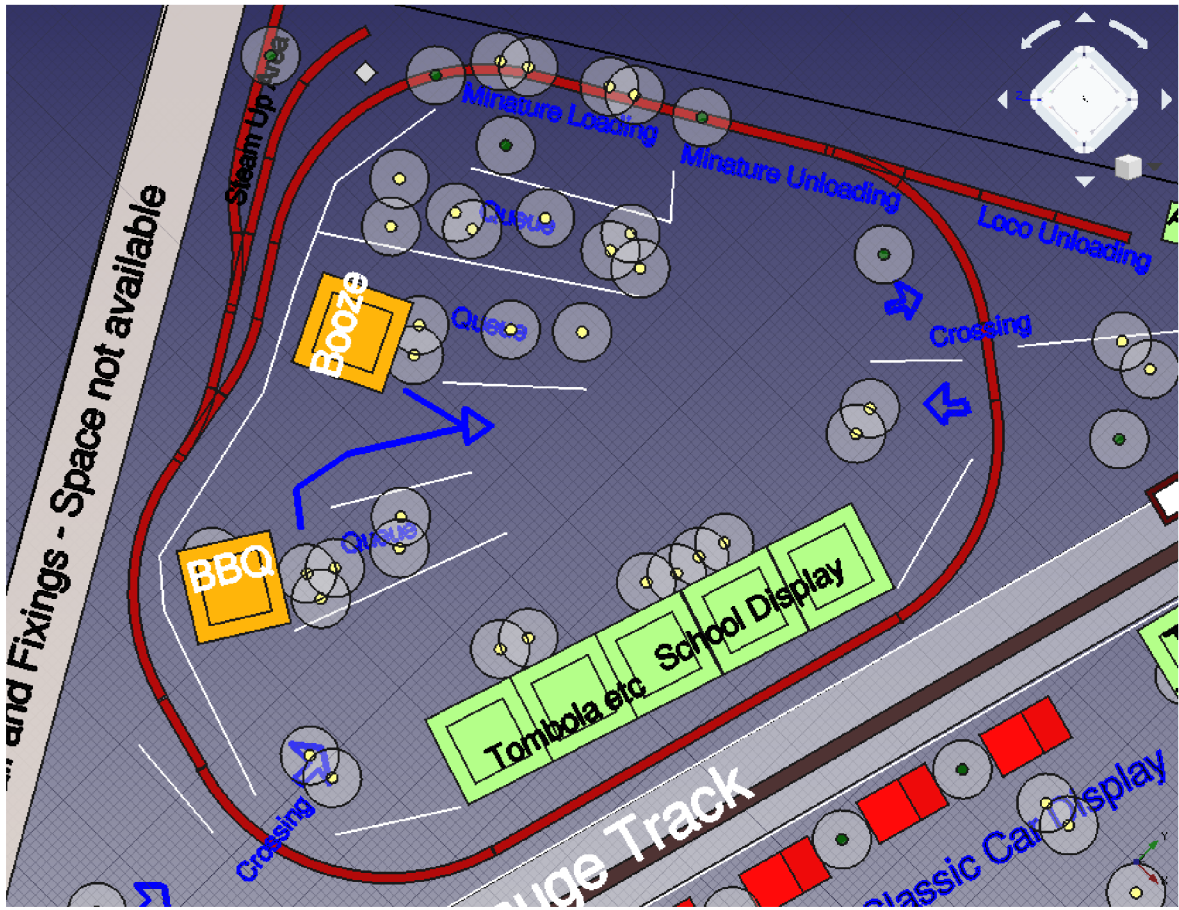
Total 11+

Further options to consider

- Waterproof posters on the fences with historic photos of the original standard gauge station.
- Take Dan's pump trolley for some additional interest on the 2', it could be stored at the water tower end and (if necessary) lifted off when not in use. Operation may need to be by a single person and not when there is a big queue for the 2'.
- There was a suggestion at the ReRailed meeting that a slate wagon could be used for the 2' guard. I understand that having a guard may not be needed in these circumstances, but this could be retained as an option for the public to ride in. A post could be attached to the back of the wagon so the driver can see where it is, otherwise the coach blocks the view of it.
- The 2' could be extended to the boundary fence with a crossing point to get a slightly longer run. The loco would run forwards into the crossing, but stop on it so would never be reversing through a space where visitors might be standing.
- Business advertising, banners on the fences perhaps or in the queue lines?
- Sponsorship of some event shelters (I had no luck with GCC getting the ones they have last year).

Additional Views of the plan





Heol Aran

Alternative Site Plan

Presented below is an alternative site plan that retains the full length of the 2' track and provides a complete anti-clockwise walking route but requires a crossing point on the 2' gauge track.

