

WTU3A SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY TRIPS 2026

WHEN	3 rd and 17 th September 2026
WHERE	A tour along the Elizabeth Line.
WHAT	Elizabeth Line (Crossrail) - An east-west railway Formal plans for a railway across the middle of London were first proposed in the 19th century, but never realised. Just after World War II, another attempt under the Abercrombie Plan also came to nothing. It wasn't until the 1974 London Rail Study that 'Crossrail' got its name. Sixteen years later, in 1990, British Rail and London Transport got Government permission to start making plans for the east-west railway, including a section built under Central London. However, cost concerns kept the project on hold for another decade. The real momentum behind the project started in 2001 when what was to become Crossrail Ltd. was formed under a joint sponsorship between TfL and the Department for Transport. In May 2009, Crossrail marked the formal start of construction with an event at Canary Wharf attended by the then Mayor of London and the Rail Minister. 2022: HM Queen Elizabeth II formally opens the line on 18 May 2022. Elizabeth line service starts on Tuesday 24 May 2022, bringing together a brand new section with 10 stations under central London with existing TfL Rail services to create the new railway. <u>The itinerary.</u> From Slough station we Travel to Paddington. We then Ride the train to Westbourne Park sidings. From there we visit the Canary Wharf station and Roof Garden for lunch and a talk about the environmental policy and practises of the CAW(?) management to reduce carbon emissions and introduce zero waste in an urban city area. There will also be a behind-the-scenes tour at Canary wharf.
LOCATION	Start at Slough Station
FACILITIES	<u>Maximum number will be 35 for each trip.</u> <u>Can all members bring a packed lunch as obtaining food on the first tour proved to be very complicated.</u>
TIMING	Coach pick-up in Weston Turville at Chandos for 8:45am and the shops at 9-00am for arrival by 10-00am at Slough to catch the train into London. For return we expect to leave Slough at 2-30pm on the coach.
COSTS	The train trip will be free. Coach fare will be £18. (You are required to fill in a 5 minute questionnaire after the tour as part of it being free)
OTHER ACTIVITIES	None

WTU3A SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY TRIPS 2026

WHEN	1 st October 2026
WHERE	Museum Of Berkshire Aviation
WHAT	Museum Of Berkshire Aviation: Berkshire's dynamic contribution to aviation history is graphically recaptured at the museum. Run as a charitable trust, the museum is at the historic site of Woodley Airfield, near Reading, U.K. - once the centre of a thriving aircraft industry. Miles and Handley Page aircraft built at Woodley are being re-constructed and exhibited along with fascinating pictorial records and priceless archives. Details of some of the Exhibits. In a time when industry leaders claim British entrepreneurship is being suffocated by red tape and low investment, it is a joy to visit a museum which celebrates a boom time for inventiveness. The Museum of Berkshire Aviation, in Mohawk Way, Woodley, is crammed full of memorabilia and aircraft hardware from the heyday of aviation. It focuses on Miles Aircraft, which was based in Woodley Airfield – then called Reading Aerodrome – from 1932 until the late 1940s and ML Aviation (MLA), based in White Waltham from the late 1930s until recent years. Many of the projects worked on by MLA were for the Ministry of Defence and classified top secret. These included black boxes, ejector seats, pressurised helmets and a remote-controlled flying surveillance unit, called the Sprite – Surveillance, Patrol, Reconnaissance, Intelligence, Target designator, Electronic warfare. The Sprite is a jaunty child of the Sixties – a spherical creation, straight out of an episode of The Invaders, and powered by a lawnmower engine.
LOCATION	Mohawk Way (off The Bader Way), Woodley, Nr. Reading, Berkshire, RG5 4UE, U.K.
FACILITIES	<u>Maximum number</u>
TIMING	The tour will start at 11-00 am and travel to the site will be by own transport. Meet at The 5 Bells for shared transport to leave at 9-30am
COSTS	The cost of entry will nominally be £6-50
OTHER ACTIVITIES	None