Dounreay

A Far North of Scotland terminus circa 1970 in H0 Scale

Alan Monk
325 Gosbrook Road, Reading, RG4 8DY
07500 736091
alanmonk@gmail.com
1 operator (vegetarian)
Layout travels by public transport (train/bus)

Total operating area: 2m x 1.4m
Support - 2m/6ft Table, 2-3 chairs
FRONT OPERATED and NOT Free-standing.
A 2m/6ft table is required
1 x power socket (optional)
Insurance Value: £1000

The *(fictional but quite plausible)* **History**
Built at the turn of the 20th Century by the Highland Railway to serve the small fishing town of Dounreay. The line was retained during WW2 to serve the RAF Coastal Command base, which post-war was taken over by the UK Atomic Energy Authority and the MoD for a joint facility to develop and test experimental nuclear reactor technology and thus ensuring the line's survival at least into the late-1960s and early-1970s, when the layout is set.

The Model
Dounreay is one of a series of layouts built on the Ikea 'LACK' 110cm x 26cm floating shelf. The track is Peco Code 75, worked by wire-in-tube operation to the front fascia. Most of the structures are scratchbuilt in card and/or plasticard, including the typical HR signal cabin and the overall roof.

I deliberately chose H0 scale to set myself a decent degree of modelling challenge with the bonus of fitting slightly more into the space than I could with OO.

This means that the stock is all either modified from the limited Lima and Jouef H0 rtr offerings from the 1970s or scratchbuilt – luckily, a micro layout such as this requires minimal stock – 3 passenger coaches, a couple of parcels vans and an assortment of 12t vans, Fish vans, 16t minerals, bogie bolsters, plates and a brake van or two

Many thanks to various members of the British 1:87 Society for their help in working in this niche scale, also to Ken Gibbons, whose Port Pennan EM micro layout provided much inspiration.