



Respecting cultural history and rail heritage

Why does it matter?

Network Rail has a responsibility to respect and protect historical features of cultural significance, and to promote the heritage and history of the railway network and its people.

Britain's railways represent over 200 years of engineering innovation and the people of Britain – especially the railways past and present employees – have a fantastic knowledge of the social history of the railway. It is essential that their memories and knowledge live on for future generations to learn and benefit from.

This theme encourages you to take an active role in self-preservation, carefully considering the approach to working on or near archaeological features, ancient monuments, listed structures and/or heritage and conservation sites.

Suggested activities

Below are some suggested activities you could deliver to demonstrate respect for Britain's cultural heritage and rail history.

- Engage the local community to understand the areas of local culture significance and consider investing resources or funds in supporting conservation initiatives.
- Use the opportunity to create viewing platforms on under-utilised land or run public tours of rail heritage and historical sites, as this may be of interest to the general public.
- Support the operation of heritage railway lines and volunteer for local heritage trusts.
- Develop a conservation management plan with the assistance of the Railway Heritage Trust.
- Contact the Conservation Officer at the local authority to check further considerations that may need to be taken locally.
- Contact the Network Rail archive to consider how railway heritage issues may be relevant to your project or area of work.

How do you measure success?

Implement and monitor activity that results in the demonstrable preservation and/or enhancement of recorded heritage associated with the railway.

Key performance indicators

- Number of volunteer days focused on 'Respecting cultural history and rail heritage'
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- Number of compliments gained from passengers, lineside neighbours and local communities in relation to 'respecting cultural history and rail heritage'.