

Respecting Cultural Heritage and Railway History



Network Rail's commitments

- ✓ [Working with railway heritage](#)
- ✓ [Wellbeing: Promote community integration and enhance people's physical and mental wellbeing](#)
- ✓ To dispose of redundant assets in ways that achieve best value for the taxpayer.

This guidance note is about respecting cultural heritage and rail history in the context of sustainability.

It is additional to, and does *not* replace, specific requirements and guidance that contractors and supply chain partners may be provided with when working on specific heritage assets.

Examples of how Network Rail, our contractors and our supply chains can respect cultural heritage and railway history

Carry out works so that there is no disturbance to: scheduled monuments; archaeological sites and deposits; and buildings of historical and architectural interest (both statutorily listed buildings and important non-listed above ground features and structural elements).

When designing assets:

- Consult your local authority.
- Create an Archaeological Management Plan and a Heritage Management Plan and include in your Environment and Social Management Plan
- Develop a conservation management plan with the assistance from the Railway Heritage Trust
- Consider creating viewing platforms for members of the public. Contact Property Planning and Land Services around how to proceed.
- Engage local communities through public information events. Use these to initiate collaborative actions so that we work with local people to preserve and maintain features.
- Consider [donating heritage assets to museums, heritage railways or local community rail groups](#). Contact RedundantAssets@networkrail.co.uk to identify assets and agree process.
- For architecturally significant schemes that require planning consent/ listed building consent or are within a conservation area, request architectural layout acceptance by submitting NR/L2/CIV/003/F004.

When constructing assets:

- Research your local site before beginning construction works, to reduce damage to surrounding archaeological, ancient monuments or heritage/conservation sites.
- Contact the Conservation Officer at the local authority to check further considerations that may be specific to your local area;
- Contact the Network Rail archive at askthearchivist@networkrail.co.uk to consider how railway heritage issues may be relevant to your project or area of work

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- When working within, or near, sites of historic archaeological features, ancient monuments, conservation sites and listed buildings, take careful consideration of how to integrate active preservation of these features.

Allow any local planning authority and any nominated employee and/or archaeologist appointed by the Employer's Representative access to the site to monitor archaeological evaluation and mitigation work.

In the event of unexpected archaeological finds such as remains or artefacts, suspend work until further instruction and inform the Employer's Representative.

Embrace and optimise the historic features of local infrastructure. Consult with local communities on how they would like to see that done.

Use paid volunteer leave to become involved in activities of UK registered charities supporting cultural heritage and railway history.

Use paid volunteer leave and/or any surplus materials to contribute to community rail projects supporting cultural heritage and railway history. For example, movement and preservation of redundant signal boxes that they've acquired.



Glasgow Central Station colleagues provide [tours](#) around and under this iconic, landmark building

Following are examples of projects that have been completed in partnership with the [Railway Heritage Trust](#) (RHT)

Respecting Cultural Heritage and Railway History



Leeds Station

- The long-hidden Dark Arches on the south side of Leeds Station, were transformed by the opening of the new south side entrance to the station, and Trust-funded lighting.
- The new lighting produces multi-coloured waves moving up and down the arcade.



Doncaster Station

- An under-utilised room on the northern part of Platform 3B was discovered to have previously been a catering facility in the 1800's. Virgin Trains East Coast decided to advertise it as a potential let for such use again.
- It was leased by Russ Thompson, whose father had worked in the railway's Doncaster Works as a draughtsman. Russ redeveloped the room into a bar and named it 'The Draughtsman Alehouse' in honour of his father.



Commemory of the centenary of the Great War

- The RHT has developed a consistent design for a series of plaques to recognise the award of the Victoria Cross to seven railway men, for valour during the Great War.



Castleford - Wakefield Viaduct

- RHT has sponsored a scheme to put a pedestrian and cycle route over the bridge, as part of a larger scheme to create a link between Methley and Castleford. While the work is largely concerned with surfacing and fencing, a small length of the original coping was missing. Railway Paths Limited made and installed new copers to maintain the original appearance of the viaduct.

What can be measured using the [Rail Social Value Tool](#)

| Impact | Sub-impact | Stakeholder Group / Unit of Measurement | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Community & Charity | Community use of space & facilities | Users (general) | Number of people using space and facilities, through community groups |
| | Charitable & community volunteering | Community Volunteering hours | Number of community volunteer hours |
| | | Workforce volunteer hours | Number of workforce volunteer hours |
| Economic development | Non-residential space | Leisure Centre & Cultural Attraction | Squared meters of space created |

Indicators in green text (above) are monetised in the RSVT, using values that have been calculated in a way that applies OECD and UK Treasury Green Book principles.

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Additional sources of information

Heritage, Care and Development - NR/GN/CIV/100/05

Network Rail has established an independent Design Advisory Panel (DAP) to review schemes with a heritage impact. Guidance on the Design Advice Project is available - NR/GN/CIV/100/01.

[National Railway Museum](#)