

Volunteering spotlight

Nathan Thomas (Technical Services) volunteered for Mountsorrel



I'm Nathan...

I am a Business Support Manager within Technical Services, Supply Chain Operations at Network Rail. My role is to support teams with any commercial, project or customer service requirements.

I wanted to volunteer my time by participating in something that I felt part of, utilise my skills and see my input positively improving the local community.

What did we do?

Within Technical Services we wanted to introduce a sustainable volunteering program that enabled employees to utilise their time to deliver real local community value.

We developed a partnership scheme with [Mountsorrel Quarry and Heritage Railway](#) which, over 100 years ago, quarried and transported stone for the Grand Central Railway.

The project involved relaying track, switches and crossings, building stone huts, vegetation work, and creating nature trails in and around the quarry. This in turn supported local tourism, had a positive environmental impact, and brought value to the community through promoting local heritage and cultural history.

What did we give and get?

The impact of our volunteer work has been amazing. The site is now 80% complete and fully open to the public. The engine sheds and the track feeding them is now complete and two new nature trails have been developed. The site has seen a footfall of 34,000 people visit already in October 2016, against a forecast of 35,000 for the entire year. Visits from local community groups and schools are also now taking place.

The benefit to us as a team is that we used our expertise to support the local community and we have time outside of the office which brought the team closer together.

What have I learned?

If you are planning volunteer activity, make the information for how to utilise volunteer leave clear and easily accessible. I would also advise you give volunteers options around activities to help them choose 'where', 'when' and 'how' to volunteer. Encourage volunteering as teams, as this was a benefit we overlooked initially. Work on a project where everyone can work together to deliver local value.

For more information please get in touch...

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