

## 1 Purpose

This document provides information on how to respect cultural heritage and rail history. At Network Rail, we believe it is of great importance to respect and promote the legacy of rail for the service and enjoyment of present and future generations. This guidance is to support the *Level 2 Environment and Social Minimum Requirements – Design and Construction (ESR-DC) standard NR/L2/ENV/015* and helps to promote longevity of the railways and minimise risk of damage to nearby protected sites.

“Social value” is the term used to describe the social and economic benefits created as a result of a project or piece of work. This guidance note shows how we can go above minimum requirements to deliver social value. Relevant volunteer opportunities can be found at the end of this guidance note.

## 2 Optimise your asset

Respecting cultural heritage and rail history encourages employees to embrace the historic features of their local infrastructure that make it unique to other infrastructure around the country.

Such infrastructure may include assets such as stations, bridges and viaducts. Below are a few case study examples of projects that have been completed in partnership with the Railway Heritage Trust (RHT).



## 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.

This diagram shows the recommended ways Network Rail employees can replicate previous projects that have been completed in partnership with the RHT.



## 2.1 Design

The design of a project holds huge responsibilities in how cultural heritage and rail history is respected and maintained, particularly in relation to stakeholder engagement and planning. During the design stage:

- Consult your local authorities to create an Archaeological Management Plan and a Heritage Management Plan – this should be included in the Environment and Social Management Plan;
- Develop a conservation management plan with the assistance from the Railway Heritage Trust;
- Contact Property Planning and Land Services about creating viewing platforms for construction or final infrastructure on under-utilised land;
- Engage local communities through public information events to communicate our considerations for respecting features of national heritage. This additionally gives us the opportunity to initiate collaborative actions that would enable us to work with local people to preserve and maintain such features.
- Donate heritage assets to museums, heritage railways and the Network Rail redundant asset scheme. Contact [RedundantAssets@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:RedundantAssets@networkrail.co.uk) to identify assets and agree process.

## 2.2 Construction and commissioning

Doing some research around your local site before beginning construction works can help to reduce damage to surrounding archaeological, ancient monuments or heritage/conservation sites. During the construction stage:

- 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](mailto:askthearchivist@networkrail.co.uk) to consider how railway heritage issues may be relevant to your project or area of work;
- 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.

### Case study – ‘Open House London 2012’ at London Bridge

As part of the free annual event ‘Open House London 2012’, which allows visitors the chance to visit some of London’s landmark buildings that are normally closed to the public, Costain and Network Rail provided the opportunity for members of the public to meet archaeologists working on the London Bridge Station Redevelopment Project.

A total of 45 pre-booked members of the public took the opportunity to attend the open day where presentations were given. One discussed the works being carried out as part of the London Bridge Redevelopment Scheme, and the other provided a unique insight into the archaeological dig that was being undertaken, led by Peter Moore, Site Archaeologist.

Since the archaeological digs began within the arches, a number of artefacts have been found such as human remains, various pottery and clay, brick culverts and parts of historical buildings including walls, flooring and basements.

Overall, the day was a great success and the attendees asked a variety of questions on both the archaeology and rail improvement plans

## 3 Example activities and volunteering

Volunteering in your local community and promoting rail heritage and history is an effective way to preserve Great Britain’s rail culture. Some of the most highly recommended volunteer opportunities are listed below:

Sign up for volunteer opportunities with **Friends of the Railway Museum**

Encourage enthusiasm of rail heritage by promoting **local rail fairs** at your station

Conserve and restore features of historic and cultural significance - discover local opportunities through the **National Rail Museum**

Initiate **community engagement** and host talks in local schools to promote rail history and its importance

**Host tours of rail heritage** and historical sites, open to the general public

For longer projects, find a local charity to **partner** and **share professional skills** with for the duration of works

**Network Rail employees:** You are entitled to up to 5 days volunteer leave. This can be taken for any UK registered charity or one of the three types of community engagement activity:

(i) Community Safety, (ii) Early Engagement or (iii) Community Rail.

For more details, visit <http://connect/volunteering>.

To view all environment and social KPIs, please refer to the *KPI Guidance Note NR/GN/ESD23*.