

Swanage Railway Company

Trustee Director (Rolling Stock & Diesel Engineering Oversight)

Role Description

Role Overview

The Trustee Director for Rolling Stock & Diesel Engineering Oversight will provide strategic leadership and governance in the stewardship of Swanage Railway's historic fleet of railway vehicles. This includes diesel locomotives, carriages, wagons, and other heritage rolling stock.

While not involved in day-to-day operations, the Trustee will offer independent oversight, guidance, and challenge to ensure rolling stock policies, restoration priorities, and long-term fleet planning reflect the organisation's mission, regulatory requirements, and financial sustainability.

This role is central to safeguarding Swanage Railway's collection for future generations while ensuring it remains operationally viable, historically authentic, and aligned with the visitor experience.

Key Responsibilities

- Provide strategic oversight of the care, restoration, and utilisation of rolling stock and diesel assets.
- Contribute to the development of a long-term rolling stock strategy, balancing operational needs with heritage and financial considerations.
- Advise on compliance with heritage, safety, and regulatory standards relating to rolling stock and diesel engineering.
- Engage with engineering, operations, and workshop leads to understand priorities, risks, and volunteer requirements.
- Champion authenticity and historical accuracy in restoration and presentation of heritage vehicles.
- Promote investment in the sustainability, interpretation, and relevance of the fleet to enhance visitor experience and educational value.
- Ensure rolling stock decisions are effectively integrated with wider operational and strategic planning.

- Support succession planning, training, and the development of heritage engineering skills within restoration teams.
 - Review risk assessments, asset condition reports, and engineering updates, providing constructive feedback to the Board.
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Person Specification

- Knowledge and understanding of rolling stock maintenance, restoration, or heritage vehicle management.
 - Familiarity with the heritage railway sector and relevant regulatory frameworks for rolling stock operation.
 - Demonstrable experience of strategic planning and governance, ideally within asset-intensive organisations.
 - Strong communication, analytical, and advisory skills, with the ability to interpret technical information.
 - A clear commitment to the preservation of historic rolling stock and to the mission and values of Swanage Railway.
 - Ability to work collaboratively with fellow Trustees, staff, and volunteers, supporting a culture of inclusivity and respect.
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Working Conditions

- This is a voluntary, non-executive Trustee position.
 - Attendance at regular Board meetings is expected, with participation in relevant engineering or operations sub-committees as required.
 - Site visits to depots, workshops, and operating locations are encouraged to maintain engagement with teams and assets.
 - Trustees are expected to uphold the highest standards of governance and act as ambassadors for Swanage Railway.
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Summary

This is an exciting opportunity to play a key role in shaping the future of Swanage Railway's historic rolling stock and diesel fleet. We welcome applicants who are passionate about railway heritage and who can bring expertise, strategic insight, and commitment to the governance of one of the UK's leading heritage railways.

