

**Derwent and Wye Valley Railway Trust**  
**– Bridging the Past Project. Darley Dale Station, Matlock. Derbyshire**

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## **Brief for Project Officer**

### **1. Introduction**

#### **Background**

This two-year project is built around the restoration of the now unique former Midland Railway footbridge (which the Trust acquired) to its original location spanning the two platforms at the station. In addition, there are many memories and stories about the bridge from the people who watched trains, used the bridge to safely cross over the railway from platform to platform or to carry on their journeys on foot up Station Road. These oral histories will be captured as part of the community engagement programme.

This part of the project will need to:

- Develop interpretation for the local community, visitors and heritage railway volunteers to learn about the station and its history from its heyday until its closure (1967).
- work with people through intergenerational events
- work inclusively – e.g. with schools, older adults, bme groups, volunteer learning opportunities
- produce a 'timeline' history of the station through a variety of media.
- deliver 'show and tell' events (i.e sharing memorabilia, stories/memories).

Research will focus on:

- The station buildings – links with Paxton (earlier station buildings and in context with other stations along the Midland line)
- The unique double staircase footbridge from 1911.
- The importance of Darley Dale Station/Goods Yard on the Midland line
- Whitworth Park – links with Sir Joseph Whitworth, Victorian inventor, engineer/ philanthropist

Produce a booklet and oral history archive: by training volunteers how to conduct interviews (oral histories) around memories, research historical documents, record information, present work for interpretation panels and create publicity materials.

Volunteers will be supported in basic learning and IT and will signpost to the WEA. Other training opportunities for oral history collecting and transcribing will be incorporated in the project.

### **2. Outcomes/Outputs**

The project will focus on:

Heritage:

This type of bridge (double staircases) with its original smoke guards will be unique. The unique feature of the story of Darley Dale station is that not only has a genuine Midland Railway footbridge been acquired to once again link the two platforms, it is

the original bridge designed for this location and which served the station from 1911 to the 1960s.

Main beneficiaries:

All members of the community, by exploring this untapped area of heritage, especially:

- People who are isolated; elderly; suffering mental health issues; in isolated rural locations in the area
- Local farming community who would have sent their produce via the Station and Goods Yard
- Residents and former workers able to tell their stories;
- Young people working inter-generationally;

Overcoming barriers:

- Publicise via traditional media (local newspaper, talking newspaper, radio, leaflets, Parish magazines) as well as social media
- Workshops in accessible locations, both in Matlock, Darley Dale, Rowsley, Bakewell and rural venues where the line ran will bring the community into the project to learn about it.
- Design affordable activities to appeal to wide age ranges and backgrounds.
- Deliver sessions catering for people with mental health issues to support health and well-being.

Increasing participation:

- Publicity including press and radio coverage, pull-up banners, leaflets
- Open days and Research events, in Matlock, Darley Dale, Rowsley, Bakewell, and appropriate rural areas, through e.g. senior citizens lunch clubs in the area.
- High-profile themed days to help develop people and their stories
- Using the railway arts to bring the heritage of the location to life: with participants able to participate from mental health organisations /charities and in public workshops
- Developing a touring exhibition and booklet using the artwork, photos, writing etc.
- Enabling volunteers to learn new skills including IT, reminiscence, and research methodologies.
- Visits to archives and places of interest associated with railway.
- Work with local schools to raise the awareness and understanding of the railway heritage.
- Ditto local community

Numbers:

Development of new and supporters and volunteers from the locality. Core group of 10-20 including potential volunteers with 200+ dipping into different events and opportunities

Overall reach 1,000+ individuals throughout the project.

Sustainability:

This project aims to re-use as much of the original structure as possible. Much responsibility has been placed on the Trust to restore and use items that were original to the location. Use of local industry and services to provide local jobs and goods has been looked at to reduce mileage and sourcing. This also includes use of community facilities to engage with the community and visitors. Careful consideration

of the project including items such as reducing paper, heating etc has been carefully thought about to reduce costs and impact on the environment.

### **3. Project Management**

Tasks will include:

- a. attending steering group/ project meetings,
- b. managing the project budget,
- c. reporting to and communicating with the designated NHLF Investment Manager to prescribed deadlines and formats.
- d. providing advice and guidance,
- e. organising the range of events and activities in the project plan,
- f. managing other contractors such as trainers, educationalists, and designers.
- g. organising the outputs identified in the project plan including exhibitions.
- h. organising public events to promote the project.
- i. assist and support volunteers.
- j. liaising with schools, local organisations, members of the community.
- k. evaluating the project with stakeholders and partners.
- l. Supervising the work of the Interpretation and education officer and the Team Leader (Bridge work) who is a volunteer and trustee.

### **4. Timescales**

1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 – end February 2026

Fixed fee of £16,800 payable pro rata monthly (24 x £700)

### **5. Selection procedure**

We will select the candidate who appears to be match the skills and experience requirements; our decision is final.

Interested individuals should forward a concise CV (to include two referees) to David Lathrope (Chair of Trust) at [dwwrtrust@gmail.com](mailto:dwwrtrust@gmail.com) together with a covering letter specific to the post by 5.00pm, Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Appointment of the contract will be on a fixed fee as quoted.

### **6. Terms and Conditions**

The project is to be completed within the specified fixed fee.

Payment will be made on receipt of official invoice.

There is no holiday entitlement, pension scheme or other benefit associated with any appointments.

### **National Lottery Heritage Fund Contract Approved Purposes for Bridging the Past:**

- *Reinstall the original double staired footbridge over the Midland train line at Darley Dale Station.*
- *Create a STEM schools pack for Primary school age children on the railway's social and economic history. Run schools' visits to the station to trial the new material.*
- *Train and involve at least 15 volunteers in heritage conservation skills such as riveting and metal work for the footbridge, collecting oral histories, heritage research and interpretation, and digital media.*
- *High visibility acknowledgement of the National Lottery Heritage Fund on site, online and in all activities as well as using your project to acknowledge and thank National Lottery Players.*
- *Record at least 20 oral histories telling stories of the bridge and its connection to the railway. Share podcasts showcasing the stories.*
- *Take proactive measures to be inclusive, remove barriers to access and reach new and diverse audiences through the delivery of this project.*
- *Install three new interpretation panels and three hand wound listening posts at the station. Create an exhibition to be toured locally which explores the heritage.*
- *Partner with local homelessness support services to organise pastoral visits.*
- *Share regular updates of the project's progress and heritage outputs online and via a programme of at least three public talks.*
- *Host five 'show and tell' sessions on the heritage as part of the site's public heritage offer.*
- *Print booklets which share the heritage research and memories of the bridge.*

**This project has been made possible with Heritage Funding and thanks are due to National Lottery players.**

