



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Celebrating 40 years of preservation in 2009

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RAISING THE ROOF AT LEICESTER NORTH

Great Central Railway secures five figure grant to complete canopy works at southern terminus

Passengers waiting for trains at the Great Central Railway's Leicester North station will soon be able to wait on the platform in the dry. Biffaward, a multi-million pound environment fund which utilises landfill tax credits donated by Biffa Waste Services, has given £26,000 to the railway's supporting charity, the David Clarke Railway Trust, to complete a glazed canopy at the site.

The steel structure of the canopy was built in January. The generous grant means the roof can be glazed and finished in full traditional railway style over the summer, ready for the worst the autumn weather can throw at it.

Canopy project co-ordinator Tony Sparks said, **"We're delighted to have received a grant from Biffaward. The canopy project will transform Leicester North station and make our southern terminus a welcoming and inclusive destination. Not only that, but the look of the site will be improved beyond measure – a real improvement for the local community. Our visitors have naturally noticed the steel work built early in the year and now we can tell them the job will be finished soon!"**

The canopy is a £50,000 investment at the station. Phase one was funded through a planning grant following work on a local housing scheme. The Biffaward grant will complete the project with full glazing and a decorative valance around the edge. Some money was provided by the Great Central Railway's supporting charity, The David Clarke Railway Trust.

Gillian French, Biffaward Programme Manager, commented **"Biffaward is pleased to support the completion of the Great Central Railway canopy, which will**

BRITAIN'S ONLY DOUBLE TRACK, MAIN LINE HERITAGE RAILWAY
Great Central Railway, Great Central Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 1RW
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help ensure the preservation of this important heritage attraction and make using the station more comfortable for all its visitors.”

Contractors will move onto site within the next week. When the work is finished it's hoped to stage small events on the platform.

Leicester North station opened in 1991. It was built on the site of the old Belgrave and Birstall platform. The station building was constructed in 2001. The railway hopes to steadily develop the location to encourage more visitors to use it as a gateway to the railway.

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NOTES ABOUT THE GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

Voted number 12 on the list of the 50 greatest railway journeys in the world the Great Central Railway is the UK's only double track, main line heritage railway. It's the only place in the world where full size steam engines can be seen passing each other – just as it was when steam ruled the rails. The preserved railway has been operating for over 36 years, and is manned by around 700 volunteers and a small team of permanent staff. Preservation of this section of the Great Central Railway began in 1969. The route was originally part of a main line from Sheffield to London. The 8 mile preserved section between Loughborough and Leicester is fully operational and the 4 stations reflect a different period of the railways 110 year history.

Trains run every weekend of the year, bank holidays and daily in the summer. In addition, First Class Restaurant Car Services provide 4 or 6 course meals, whilst travelling between Loughborough and Leicester or childhood dreams can come true with a Drive a Train Experience. We also run a number of family events, including “Days Out with Thomas the Tank Engine”, Bonfire Night and Santa Specials. The railway has won a number of awards including “independent railway of the year”, and a gold award for the East Midlands best visitor experience and is a quality assured visitor attraction as designated by Enjoy England.

NOTES ABOUT Biffaward

In 1997 Biffa Waste Services agreed to donate landfill tax credits to the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) to administer under the fund name **Biffaward**. Grants made from the fund currently amount to £100 million, supporting many worthwhile projects.

Biffa Waste Services Limited is one of the largest single suppliers of waste management services in the UK. It collects, treats, recovers and disposes of municipal, commercial and industrial waste nationwide. It is ultimately owned by a private equity consortium comprising Montagu Private Equity, Global Infrastructure Partners, Uberior Co-Investments Limited and other co-investors.

The **landfill tax** came into operation in 1996. Its purpose is to reflect the impact of landfill on the environment and also to help achieve the targets for more sustainable waste management. The tax, levied on the tonnage of all material disposed of in landfill sites and collected by Biffa on behalf of HM Revenue and Customs, aims to encourage recycling and reduce waste by raising the cost of disposal.

The regulations allow landfill site operators to direct approximately 6% of the tax they have collected

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towards approved environmental projects. However, any approved project can only receive 90% of its desired funding from the landfill tax. The remainder must come direct from the landfill site operator or from a third party organisation or company.

www.biffaward.org

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