

DONATE
BY TEXT!

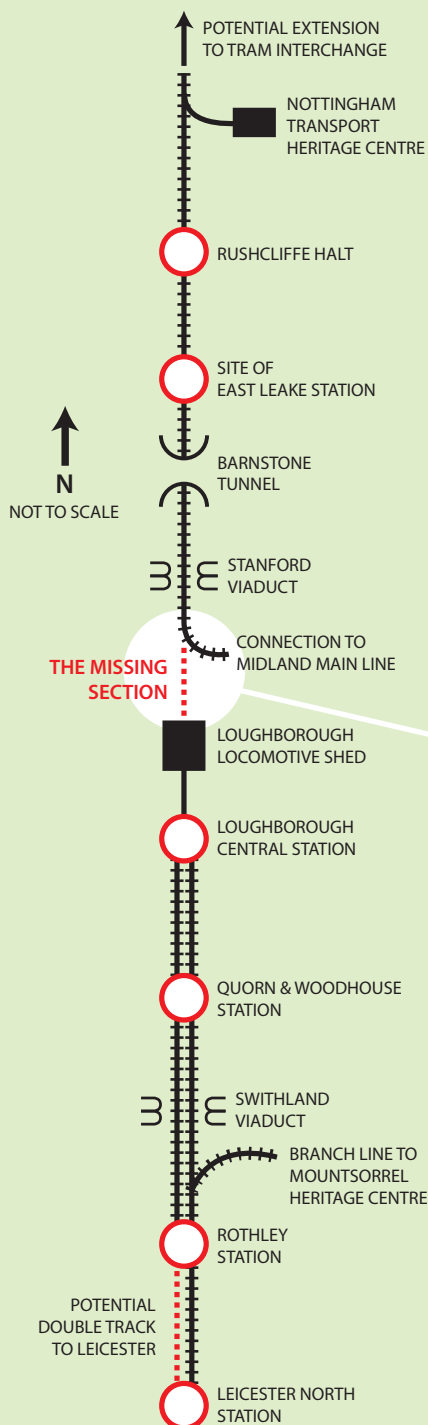


THE UK'S BIGGEST HERITAGE RAILWAY PROJECT

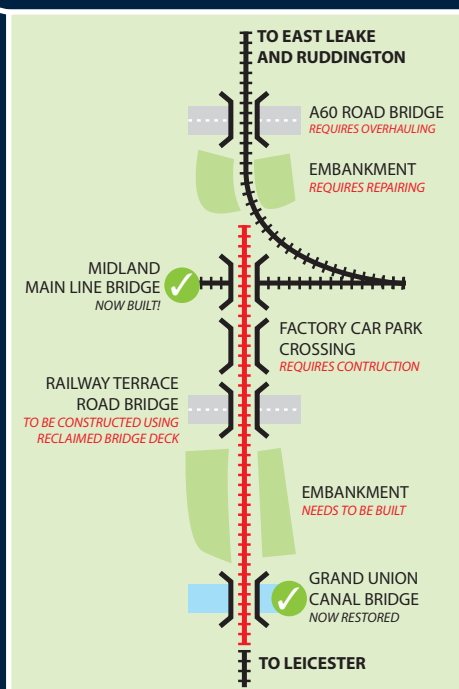
**Reconnecting two halves of the
Great Central Railway and joining them
to Network Rail**

Supported by
David Clarke Railway Trust
Friends of the Great Central Main Line
East Midlands Railway Trust

www.gcrailway.co.uk/unify



By replacing five hundred metres of missing track between two sections of the Great Central Railway, we can create an eighteen-mile heritage line complete with a main line connection. This is no impossible dream - work is underway, but we need your help to get the next sections built.



REUNIFICATION

Moving Forward

An exciting adventure is underway. Following the global pandemic, we're picking up the pace to build an exciting future for the Great Central, the East Midlands and UK Railway heritage.

Reconnecting two halves of the line is more than a long term ambition - it's essential. We can share volunteers and engineering resources and be an even more exciting attraction, connecting East Midlands communities together.

Just as important, the line will have a junction with the national rail network. We can look forward to welcoming charter trains full of visitors and large locomotives that can't be moved by road. Commercial businesses who want to use the GCR for testing, training or filming can get their rolling stock to us so much more easily than relying on road transport.

Two sections of the work have been completed already, which you can read all about here. Now we're raising money for the next two phases and we hope you'll join the tens of thousands of people who have already donated.

Delivering the main line connection and reunifying the railways opens up a wealth of possibilities. It's also a unique legacy for the next generation. Together we're delivering a project with incredible potential.

"Push, push, push... get the link with Midland Main Line as soon as possible."

**Michael Gregory,
Great Central Railway
President**





Reunifying and Connecting to Network Rail

Completing Reunification brings the two halves of the line together and creates an extraordinary eighteen-mile railway with the strength to survive and thrive.

VISITING LOCOMOTIVES

The GCR has a strong reputation for quality engineering work. With a main line connection owners of large locomotives will be able to access us so much more easily for servicing and also stay to run on the line.

"We're looking forward to the GCR getting connected to the national railway network. We try to minimise the use of road transport with our locomotives and the connection will mean that we can bring Tornado – and in future Prince of Wales – to visit either at the head of a railtour or for a gala."

MARK ALLATT,
A1 Steam Locomotive Trust

TESTING AND TRAINING AND FILMING

Our independent main line railway can handle testing at speeds of up to 75mph. Using the connection companies who want to try new technology, train their staff or film on the railway will find it much easier to bring rolling stock to us. The combination of the two railways will mean businesses can find everything they need in one place.

"There are benefits all round from a reunified GCR. We can get to you quicker and more cheaply. As a combined railway you'll have long straights and speed - an ideal testing venue."

JEZ YARNALL, Managing Director,
Data Acquisition and Testing Services Ltd.

CHARTER TRAINS

Bringing excursion trains filled with passengers from Network Rail to the GCR will be a huge economic boost to the railway but also the surrounding area. The full eighteen-mile railway will tie together numerous local attractions, connecting communities that have been divided since the line closed.

AN EIGHTEEN-MILE INTERCITY HERITAGE LINE

Running between Leicester and the southern outskirts of Nottingham, the reunified Great Central will be an international tourist attraction, connecting local communities and numerous attractions. Steam and diesel locomotives can make their home on the line, pulling heritage carriages and wagons, calling at period stations.

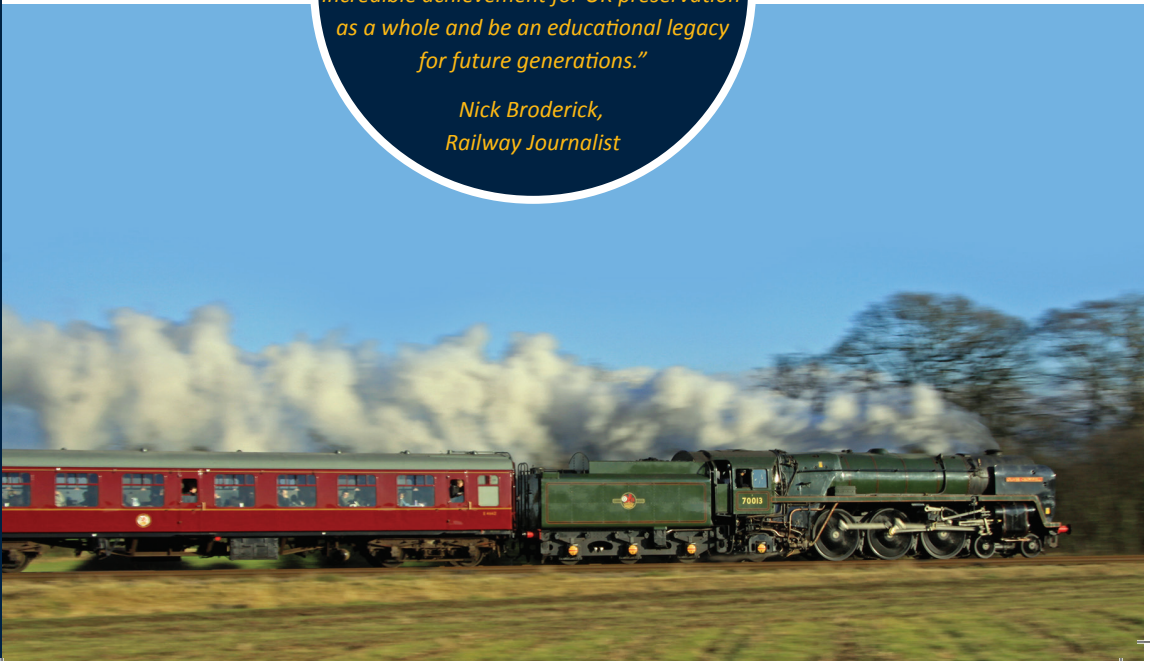


"Everyone at Steam Dreams wishes the GCR success and look forward to being able to visit the railway when it is joined to the main line".

CLAIRE NEWTON, Sales and Marketing Manager, The Steam Dreams Rail Co.

"The reunified Great Central will be an extraordinary place complete with authentic trains, locomotives and infrastructure. It will represent an incredible achievement for UK preservation as a whole and be an educational legacy for future generations."

Nick Broderick, Railway Journalist



Real Progress

This is no pipe dream - it's happening! To make it easier to deliver we have split the job into seven phases. Two have already been completed.

The first to be finished was a new multimillion pound bridge across the Midland Main Line. To reunify the two halves of the GCR and make a connection to Network Rail, first of all, we have to cross their metals! Built in 2017 the new structure will carry our heritage trains above the very latest motive power at work on the busy main line below. It's sure to be a well-photographed spot! The bridge was funded by your donations and a grant from the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership and now stands ready to serve. Getting it in place now has 'unlocked' the rest of the Reunification project.





Most of the project requires new infrastructure but we're also caring for our heritage when it can be reused.

An original, elegant Great Central bridge across the Grand Union canal has been completely refurbished. This unlikely survivor was built in 1897 and last carried a train fifty years ago. At the end of 2018 work began to transform it from a rusty derelict state to a handsome landmark. Ready for two tracks to be laid on it, one day passengers in trains will be able to wave to pleasure boaters below.

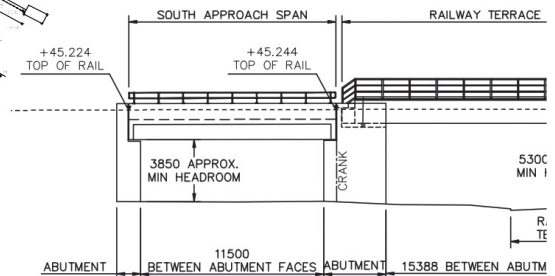
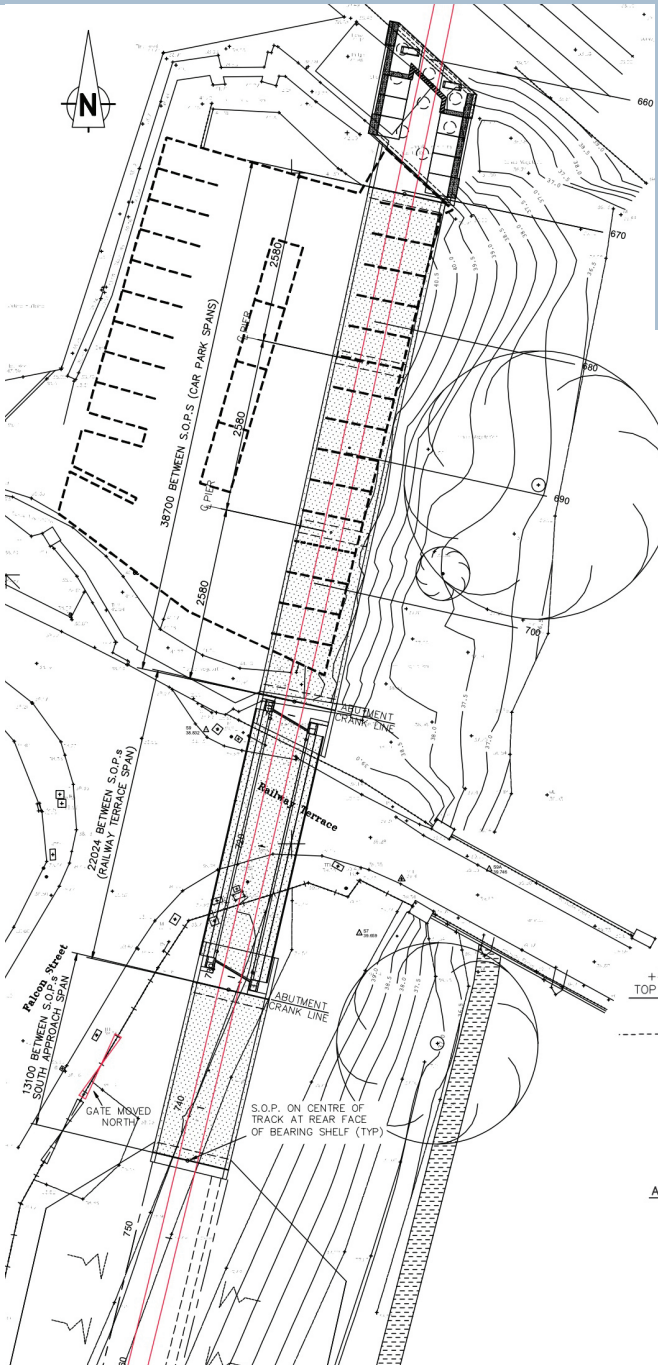
The total cost of these two phases alone was more than £3 million and attracted the attention of railway enthusiasts around the world.



What next?

We're making substantial progress behind the scenes. Working with internationally renowned partners, engineering consultants Cass Hayward, the initial design work for the rest of the project has been completed.

While the route of the railway is protected in the local plan we will need to get planning permission to continue building, which we hope

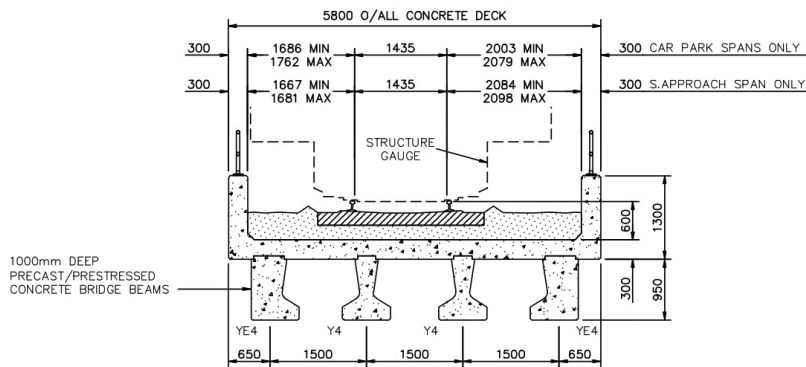


DEVELOPED ELE

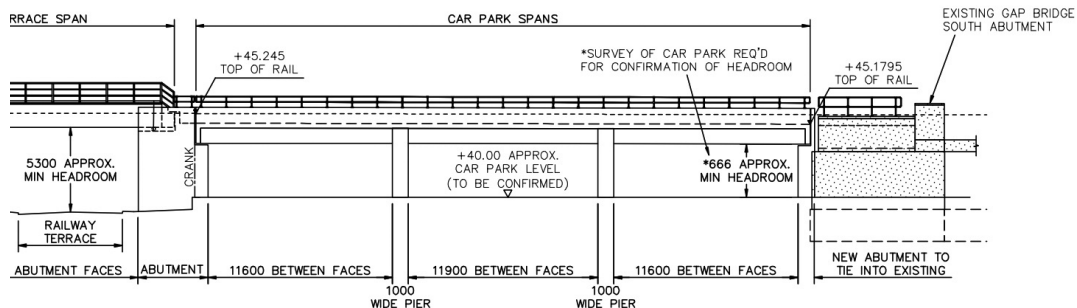
to achieve by Spring 2023. We're already in pre-planning application discussions with Charnwood Borough Council who are our landlord, plus other local stakeholders.

Phases three and four are next; a bridge across Railway Terrace Road and another over a local factory car park. We're calling it 'The Factory Flyover' and it will use a combination of brand new prestressed concrete bridge beams and a more traditional metal bridge deck. In total it's another sixty one metres of new railway.

Building these two phases together will save money in the long run but we still need to find two and a half million pounds, so we can put shovels in the ground as soon as we have permission to build. Meanwhile, when we make our planning application it will be for the rest of the required infrastructure: the Factory Flyover, the small section of embankment needed north of the new Midland Main Line bridge and the remaining connection between the Factory Flyover, south to the refurbished canal bridge.



SECTION THROUGH SOUTH APPROACH SPAN AS NOTED LOOKING NORTH
SECTION THROUGH CAR PARK SPANS AS NOTED LOOKING NORTH
SCALE 1:50



ELEVATION ALONG EAST EDGE OF DECKS
SCALE 1:200

£3,000,000

**Northern
Embankment
unlocked**

£2,750,000

£2,500,000

**Factory Flyover
unlocked**

£2,250,000

£2,000,000

£1,750,000

£1,500,000

£1,250,000

£1,000,000

**£905,000
at 1st June
2021**

£750,000

£500,000

£250,000

£0

PLANNING AHEAD

The good news is, thanks to your support, we already have more than a third of the funding in place to unlock the Factory Flyover. If we can fill the totaliser all the way to the top, we'll have almost all the funds for the northern embankment section too.

The project's momentum is undeniable but when - and how much we can continue to build - is in your hands.

We welcome all donations, online, through the post and now via text message! However, hundreds of people are now giving by standing order. A small gift every month soon adds up. For example, just £3 a week (the price of one fancy coffee) works out as £12 a month or £144 a year!

Standing orders mean our funds regularly grow which could get us building faster. Cut the caffeine and let's make tracks instead.

Introducing the David Clarke Railway Trust

The new line is being built by the GCR but the finances are handled by its official supporting charity, The David Clarke Railway Trust.

The DCRT is led by volunteers. Apart from the usual standard financial reporting costs it has tiny outgoings, which means well over ninety nine percent of every pound given, goes to the cause you intended.

Also a charity it can claim gift aid on your donations. Gift aid is a government scheme that adds another 25% to your donation at no extra cost to you! Give £20 and it becomes £25 with gift aid.

If you use the forms in this booklet to make a donation, please make the gift aid declaration if you can, by ticking the box.

You can also make a donations online at **www.gcrailway.co.uk/unify** using a credit/debit card and we can collect gift aid that way too.

**And now, there's a brand new way to give
- with a text message!**

Text UNIFY to 70970 to give £5

Text UNIFY to 70191 to give £10

For full terms see

<http://platform.nationalfundingscheme.org/terms-and-conditions>

*"The Great Central
Railway contributes to
our local economy in terms of
tourism, leisure and hospitality and
Reunification would increase this,
which is good for all of us."*

**The Rt Hon Baroness Morgan
of Cotes**





Keep in touch

The Friends of the Great Central Main Line is the membership organisation supporting the GCR. It's also spreading the Reunification word! The latest news is always in their house magazine *MainLine* which is published every quarter. Important news updates can be found on the project website

www.gcrailway.co.uk/unify

We also have a stand as often as we can at the GCR, including all the major gala events. Come and check out the project model and chat with us for the very latest news.

Book A Talk

Are you in a club or society looking for guest speakers? The Friends of the GCR can help. We offer illustrated talks about the railway and reunification, either in person or online! If you're interested please drop us an email to andy.fillingham@gcrailway.co.uk

Check us out on YouTube

The Great Central also has a YouTube channel. Join the hundreds of thousands of viewers from all over the world! Search for GCROFFICIAL (all one word). You'll find films about the railway, news from the line and special Reunification updates so don't forget to subscribe so you will always be up to date.





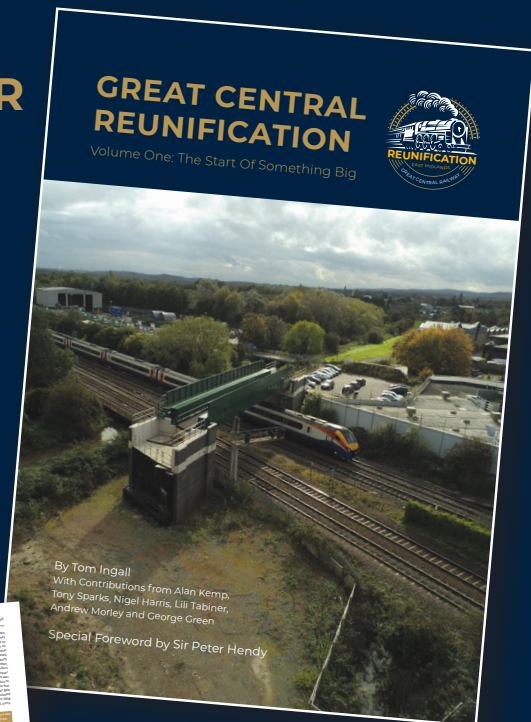
A brand new book telling
the continuing story of
the UK's biggest heritage
railway project...

**SELLING
QUICKLY!**

REUNIFICATION - THE STORY SO FAR

You can read the whole
story in our brand new
book: Reunification
Volume One.

At just £10 (plus postage and
packing) this 60 page book, with
special foreword by the chairman
of Network Rail, Sir Peter Hendy
is a great way to support the
appeal.



GREAT CENTRAL REUNIFICATION

Volume One: The Start Of Something Big



By Tom Ingall
With Contributions from Alan Kemp,
Tony Sparks, Nigel Harris, Lili Tabares,
Andrew Morley and George Green
Special Foreword by Sir Peter Hendy

**"A first class,
informative book.
Worth every penny."**

Order via email: blycett.gcr@gmail.com

Sponsored by Friends, all proceeds go to the
Reunification appeal.



HOW TO GIVE

By working together we can deliver this exciting future even faster. It's easy to donate by any one of these four methods.

You can give online using a credit or debit card. Go to www.gcrailway.co.uk/unify and click on the donate button.

You can give by text message:

Text **UNIFY** to 70970 to give £5

Text **UNIFY** to 70191 to give £10

For full terms see <http://platform.nationalfundingscheme.org/terms-and-conditions>

Or you can use either of the forms in this booklet. **Form A** is for setting up a standing order donation which we really hope you'll chose to do. You can chose the amount you want to give every month.

Form B can be used to make a one off donation using a cheque through the post.

If you are a higher rate taxpayer you can claim tax relief on your donations. Please talk to your accountant when completing your tax return.

Please note, as the country recovers from the pandemic it might be taking us a little longer to reply and get standing orders activated. Thank you for your patience and understanding.



Scan this QR code with your phone to go straight to the Reunification website where you can donate.

Together we are finishing a dream once called impossible. Thank you for all of your support.



JUNE 2021



Use this page to set up a standing order.



Name:

Address:

.....

..... Postcode:

To the manager of (your bank/building soc):

Branch address.

My / our account name.

My / our account number

My / our account sort code

Please pay to Yorkshire Bank plc (Sort code 05 03 81, Account number 49363819,

The David Clarke Railway Trust) the sum of (tick as applicable)

☐ £12 ☐ £15 ☐ £20 other £

commencing on _____ / _____ / 20 _____ and every calendar month until I give further notice.

Signed: Date:

We'll complete the standing order arrangements.

Please make the gift aid declaration by ticking the box if you can.

☐ **Gift Aid** I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to The David Clarke Railway Trust. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

We ask for your name and address so we can process the gift aid on your declaration, thank you for your donation and also so that we can write to you with news about the project's progress. If you do not wish to be contacted, please tick this box ☐

Send this completed form to: Bridge to the Future Appeal, The David Clarke Railway Trust, Lovatt House, 3 Wharnccliffe Road, LOUGHBOROUGH, LE11 1SL

The David Clarke Railway Trust is a registered charity supporting the Great Central Railway.

Registered Charity No.1104839

If you're already giving three pounds a week, would you consider making it five pounds? Most banks will accept changes to standing orders via online banking.

JUNE 2021



B Use this page to make a one-off donation.



Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Donation amount: £

Please make cheques payable to 'The David Clarke Railway Trust' or pay directly to Yorkshire Bank plc (Sort code 05 03 81, Account number 49363819)

Signed: Date:

Please make the gift aid declaration by ticking the box if you can.

☐ **Gift Aid** I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to The David Clarke Railway Trust. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

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Registered Charity No.1104839

As DCRT is a volunteer led organisation, please allow us around 28 days to receive, process and acknowledge your donation.

Photographs courtesy of:

Pictures courtesy of Tom Ingall, Mike Spencer, Rick Eborall, Steven Taylor, Ian Walmsley, Andy Bennett

Leaflet production sponsored by the Friends of the Great Central Main Line

Leaflet design by Leisa Sherry