

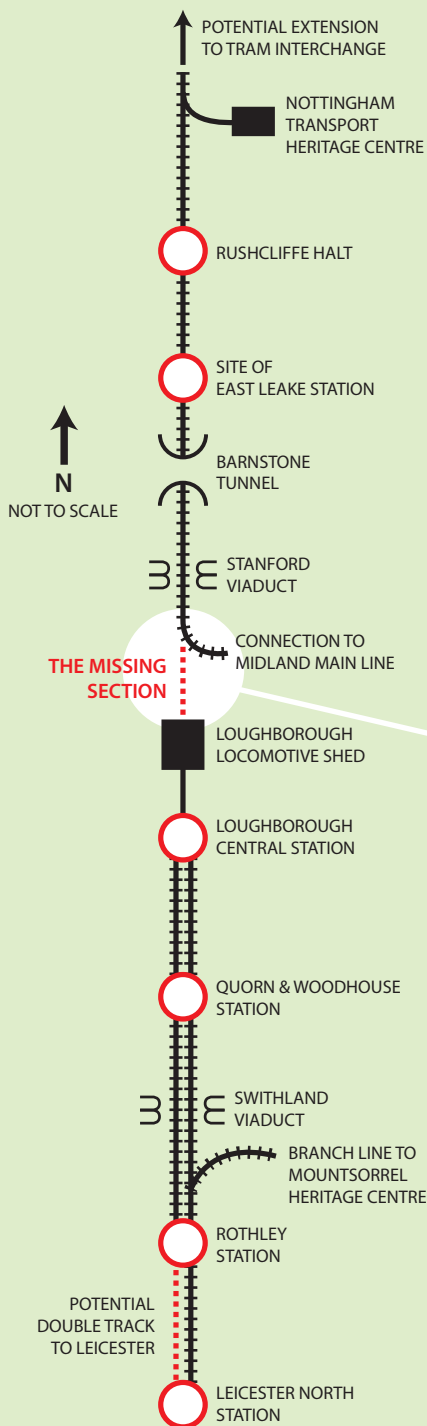


# THE UK'S BIGGEST HERITAGE RAILWAY PROJECT

**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 • LNER (GC) Heritage Trust

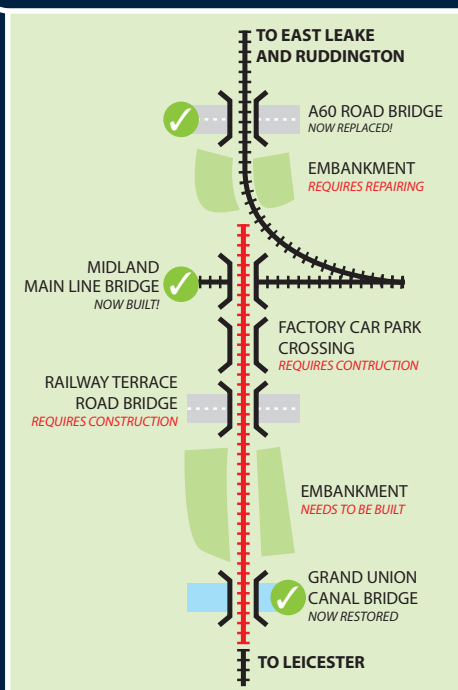
[www.gcrailway.co.uk/unify](http://www.gcrailway.co.uk/unify)



By rebuilding five hundred metres of track between two halves of the Great Central Railway, we can create an eighteen mile heritage line, complete with connection to the main line.

This is no impossible dream. 3 parts of the project are ready for track and there's £1.9m raised and ready to spend on the next sections.

But we need your support please to keep moving forward. The more of us who can donate, the sooner we'll finish the job.



# REUNIFICATION

## The adventure gathers speed!

We're making great progress on our Reunification project - reconnecting two halves the former Great Central Railway Main Line. We know everyone wants to see the whole job completed, but we can only go as fast as our funding allows.

Reconnecting the railways is a long term ambition but it's also essential for the entire GCR to thrive in the future. We'll be able to share locomotives, rolling stock, volunteers and engineering resources.

Charter trains and visiting locomotives will be able to arrive via the main line connection. Together the railway's are greater than the sum of their parts. They can offer every possible facility to commercial businesses that want to use the GCR for testing, training or filming.

It will be a premier heritage railway, connecting local communities and attractions, promoting sustainable tourism in the East Midlands.

Together we are making what was called impossible happen. We want to get building again as soon as we can and that means getting all the right paperwork in place first. Your support is essential so we hope you'll consider a donation.

*"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**



# It's happening!

Reunifying the two railways means rebuilding railway taken away after the Great Central was originally closed in the 1960s. We've split the project into seven phases. Once written off as an 'impossible pipe dream' three are now complete and 'track ready!'

The first to be finished was a new multi-million pound bridge across the Midland Main Line. It will carry heritage trains above the national rail network and is 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 more than fifty years ago. Both bridge decks have been restored ready to carry trains again. Soon passengers will be able to wave at pleasure boaters below.

In 2022 the condition of another original GCR bridge - the one which crosses the A60 road - began to cause concern, so it was moved up the 'to-do' list. It wasn't possible to economically repair this structure, so it was replaced with a brand new one. Again, it will carry two tracks and is key to connecting the two halves of the GCR together and linking them to the main line.



More than four million pounds have been invested in the project so far. It's attracted the support of stakeholders and the community in the East Midlands and progress is being keenly watched around the world. We want to push forward as quickly as funds allow.

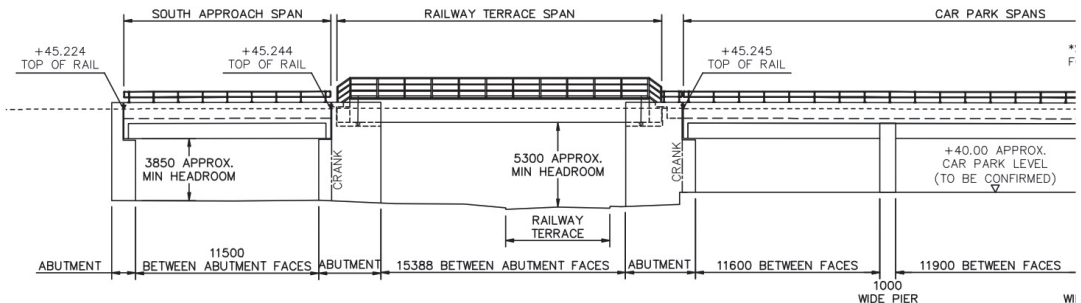
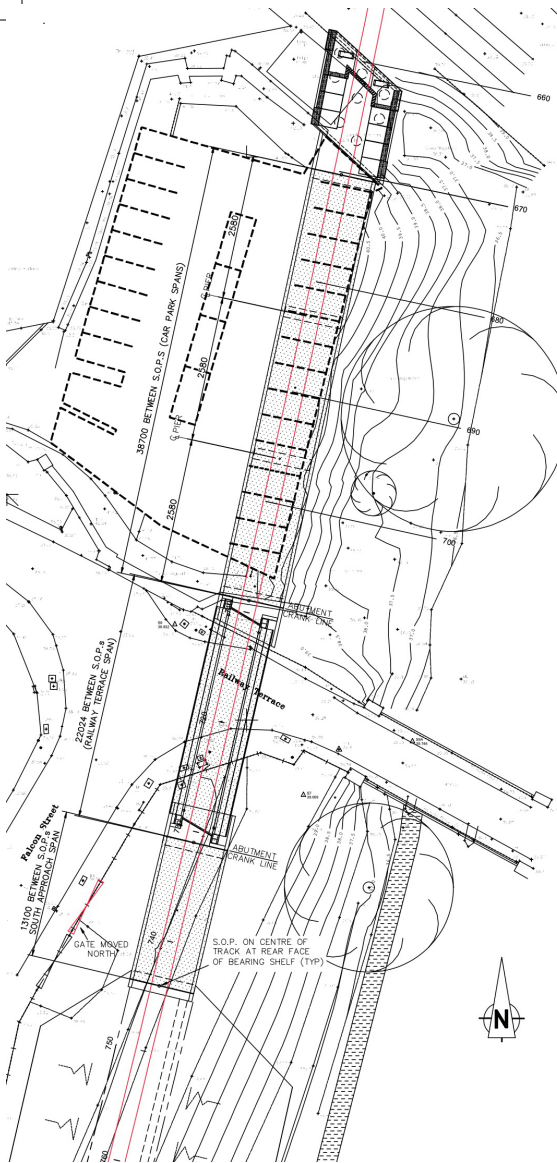
**We really hope you'll consider a regular small donation once a month which will unlock more progress.**

# What's next?

The next two sections we want to build involves crossing a factory car park on a short viaduct and then a road called 'Railway Terrace'. It's another 61 metres of railway and will connect the new main line bridge to the main section of embankment we need to rebuild.

We've already had pre-planning application discussions with our local authority and prepared designs.

With your generosity, we completed the recent work on the A60 bridge without dipping into our funds for these two pieces of the jigsaw. Even better after a successful fundraising drive we now have close to £2 million ready to spend, around two-thirds of what we need to get going again.



DEVELOPED ELEVATION ALONG EAST EDGE OF DECKS  
SCALE 1:200



### Our plan is in three stages.

First, invest in obtaining planning consent.

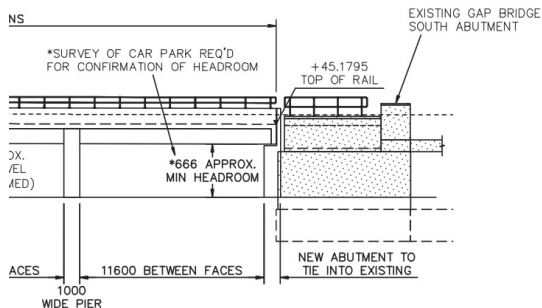
Second, continue fundraising.

And finally begin construction of the Factory Flyover section when funds allow.

We want to get building again for two reasons.

First, it locks the money you've raised into concrete and metal and protects it from inflation. Just as important though is it demonstrates forward progress and keeps us all focussed on the goal - the Greater Great Central Railway.

How far we can get with these two sections depends entirely on your support.



£3,000,000

£2,750,000

£2,500,000

£2,250,000

£2,000,000

£1,750,000

£1,500,000

£1,250,000

£1,000,000

£750,000

£500,000

£250,000

£0

**£1.9m  
raised by  
AUGUST  
2023**

# Your donations

We know choosing to donate to a cause is a personal matter and you want to have confidence your gift will be spent as intended.

The Great Central Railway is the lead company for managing construction but we can't make this happen without two important partners.

## Friends of the Great Central Main Line

The Friends membership club support the project by (when possible) covering the cost of our appeal materials. This means your donation goes to the project - not to publicity. You'll also meet the Friends team out and about at railway events. Do please ask them for the latest news!



## David Clarke Railway Trust

DCRT is the official supporting charity of the Great Central Railway and managing the project funds. It's run on voluntary basis which means well over 99% of every pound given is spent as you intend - DCRT's costs being kept to a bare minimum.

As 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.

When you donate to Reunification please make the gift aid declaration if you can by ticking the box.

DCRT also receives bequests for the project. We'd always recommend talking to your solicitor about a will or specific gift to David Clarke Railway Trust but we hope you will consider us when making arrangements. Your passion can live on to inspire another generation.

There are lots of ways to donate and you can choose the one that's right for you. Please see the section at the end of the booklet.





## Stay on track with the latest

2023 marks fifty years since the Great Central Railway started running heritage trains again. There's no better time to look forward to an exciting future but remember, it can only happen if we all take part.

You can see the latest news about the project on the GCR website [www.gcrailway.co.uk/unify](http://www.gcrailway.co.uk/unify) or in MainLine magazine (the house journal of the Friends of the Great Central Main Line).

### 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](mailto:andy.fillingham@gcrailway.co.uk)

*"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,  
Trackside Magazine*

### 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.



# HOW TO GIVE

There are four ways you can support us.

## VIA CREDIT CARD / DEBIT CARD

Go to [gcrailway.co.uk/unify](http://gcrailway.co.uk/unify) and click on the donate button. You can fill out your credit / debit card details there to make a single donation online.

## VIA TEXT MESSAGE

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>

## SET UP A STANDING ORDER

This is what we hope you will choose.

Use **FORM A** in this booklet to set up a standing order.

Give a small amount every month and it soon adds up to a generous contribution. Standing orders give us a regular cash flow which helps us manage the project more smoothly.

For example, sacrifice one frothy coffee a week and make a donation of £3 (or £12 each month). If everyone with a copy of this leaflet made this pledge we'd have Reunification completed in no time.

Don't forget to make the gift aid declaration if you can.

## WITH A CHEQUE USING THE FORMS IN THIS BOOKLET

Use **FORM B** to make a one-off donation through the post using a cheque. Every donation is gratefully received and every pound counts. 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.



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

We are very grateful for your support. Together, even in tight financial times, people power can deliver a truly transformational project, protecting our heritage and regenerating our region.



AUGUST 2023



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 Virgin Money plc (Sort code 05 03 81, Account number 49363819,  
The David Clarke Railway Trust) the sum of (tick as applicable)*

☐ £12 ☐ £15 ☐ £20 other £ .....

*Please start your standing order on the 1st or 15th of the month as it helps us to more efficiently process your donation*

*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.**

AUGUST 2023



**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 Virgin Money plc (Sort code 05 03 81, Account number 49363819)*

Signed: ..... Date: .....

We are also grateful for electronic transfers to the same account. If you'd prefer to do this, rather than send a cheque, please state 'REUNIFICATION' as the transfer reference so we can make sure your donation is spent as you intend.

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 Tom Ingall, Andy Bennett, Graham Wignall  
Leaflet production sponsored by the Friends of the Great Central Main Line  
Leaflet design by Leisa Sherry*