

Swanage Railway Company

Trustee Director (Steam Engineering Oversight) - Role Description

Role Overview

The Trustee Director for Steam Engineering Oversight will provide strategic guidance and governance to ensure Swanage Railway maintains and develops its historic steam locomotive fleet to the highest operational, safety, and heritage standards. While not responsible for day-to-day operations, this Trustee will support the Board by overseeing long-term engineering strategy, compliance, sustainability, and the preservation of heritage steam assets.

Key Responsibilities

- Provide strategic oversight of the care, restoration, maintenance, and operation of Swanage Railway's steam locomotive fleet.
- Support the development of a long-term Steam Engineering Strategy balancing operational needs, heritage authenticity, financial sustainability, and volunteer capacity.
- Ensure compliance with railway safety regulations, engineering standards, and statutory requirements relating to steam operations.
- Promote a culture of safety, competence, and continuous improvement in steam engineering practices.
- Champion historical authenticity and heritage value in locomotive restoration and presentation.
- Liaise with engineering managers, boiler inspectors, workshops, and volunteer teams to understand priorities and challenges.
- Support succession planning, skills development, and training for staff and volunteers in steam engineering.
- Provide Board-level assurance on risk management relating to steam engineering operations.

Person Specification

- Professional or voluntary background in engineering, ideally with experience in steam locomotive maintenance, restoration, or operations.
- Understanding of statutory and regulatory requirements governing steam engineering, railway safety, and boiler operations.
- Commitment to heritage values and the preservation of historic railway engineering.

- Strategic thinking with the ability to balance heritage, operational, and financial considerations.
- Strong communication skills, with the ability to engage with volunteers, staff, regulators, and external partners.
- Commitment to the charitable aims and values of Swanage Railway.

Working Conditions

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