

Volunteer Role Profile



Role title:	Footplate Crew: <i>Cleaner</i> <i>Fireman</i> <i>Engine Driver</i>
Department:	Operations
Responsible to:	Operating Superintendent
Hours:	From 06:00, to ensure the locomotive is ready for use
Purpose:	To ensure the smooth running of the fleet of historic steam and diesel locomotives. Ensure service for passengers is safe with minimal disruption or incident.
Conditions:	Volunteers wishing to become Footplate Crew must be 18 or over. You will undertake a rigorous training programme and must pass a short exam at each stage. It can take up to seven years to pass all stages to become a Driver. Medical checks will be made prior to application to ascertain suitability for these roles as they are safety critical.

Main duties and responsibilities:

- Ensure the relevant locomotive is prepared at the start of the day, reporting any defects found. Ensure it is ready at the allocated time.
- Undertake safe and timely operation of the locomotive during the day, working with the other footplate crew to ensure a smooth operation. Maintain the running timetable to ensure trains arrive and depart on time.
- Liaise with the Guard, Responsible Officer and Duty Manager as appropriate.
- Undertake shunting duties at the start or end of the shift, working with others to ensure safe movements whilst on the mainline and in the yard.
- Provide a welcoming presence to visitors during the day, especially whilst at stations.
- Ensure the locomotive is disposed of safely at the end of the day. Complete end of day procedures to ensure the train is left safe and secure overnight

Training:

You are not expected to have all the skills that you will require to carry out this role. Training will be provided, to enable you to carry out your role with confidence and to the standards set.

- Full induction and ongoing support, including Health and safety
- How to complete relevant paper work
- Rules & Regulations of working on the railway
- Hand signals whilst working on and around the railway
- Personal Track Safety
- The use of Personal Protective Equipment
- Basic knowledge of steam and diesel locomotives.

However, we do expect you to;

- be of tidy appearance, wearing black trousers and white or blue shirt plus tie
- adhere to all health & safety and fire procedures
- adhere to all railway regulations
- be physically fit to climb from ground level to the footplate and shovel coal into the boiler.
- not report for duty under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- be friendly, polite and helpful
- be reliable and responsible
- work well with the team and well as on your own initiative
- be confident when meeting new people

Benefits of volunteering:

All of our volunteers are members of the Avon Valley Railway Heritage Trust and whilst this costs a nominal subscription fee, it gives you access to a number of benefits, including:

- Discounted travel on our usual steam and heritage diesel train services
- Discounted purchases from the Gift Shop and Buffet (Buffet only when you're on duty)
- Access to great social activities, including away days and social evenings
- The chance to support us in keeping your railway heritage alive in the Avon Valley