

PRESS RELEASE

Ecclesbourne Valley Railway Launches Critical Appeal for 2026

The directors of the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway (EVR) — a heritage railway operating between Wirksworth and Duffield — have recently launched their 2026 track renewal appeal: Foundations of the Future.

The campaign has an ambitious target to raise £30,000 that will safeguard the foundation of the railway, its trackbed, which requires 400 new sleepers and hundreds of tons of ballast, to ensure the railway continues to operate to the highest safety standards.

Time and weather are relentless adversaries of heritage railways; even the best hardwood sleepers eventually deteriorate and ballast shifts over time. Without renewal, the line will gradually deteriorate to the point that it is deemed unfit for service.

To guarantee the future of the line, which dates back to 1865, the directors are keen to engage with local residents and businesses, alike, who they hope will share in the future success of the railway by making manageable contributions.

Although any amount donated will be gratefully received, the directors are hoping that each donor contributes a minimum of £25, which is the cost of one ton of ballast that will provide stability and drainage; new sleepers are £35 each and those wishing to donate £60 will be contributing a new sleeper and the ballast to bed it in.

Commenting on the appeal, Simon Scott, general manager of EVT said: “This isn’t glamorous work — it’s heavy, gritty and essential.

“Without it, the trains simply cannot run, and everyone’s donation isn’t just buying wood and stone, it’s securing the line for future generations and to ensure a safe journey for everyone who loves the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway.”

Donations, which are already starting to come in, can be made via the GoFundMe fundraising portal, which can be accessed on the EVR’s website.

ENDS

For more information visit: <https://www.e-v-r.com/foundations-for-the-future/>

Notes for Editors

About Ecclesbourne Valley Railway

The Ecclesbourne Valley Railway is a captivating nine-and-a-half-mile heritage railway, offering a unique journey through Derbyshire's rural Ecclesbourne Valley.

Operating between Wirksworth and Duffield, it provides a nostalgic experience aboard heritage carriages pulled by steam and diesel locomotives, reminiscent of a bygone era.

With its picturesque scenery, the railway has become a sought-after location for film and television, featuring in various international productions and TV dramas.

On the days when no services are operating, the railway is used by a wide range of rail engineering companies for training and the testing new rolling stock.

The railway offers various on-board fine dining experiences and special events throughout the year on the Derbyshire Countryman service.

Conveniently accessible via connections to the mainline rail network at Duffield Station and offering free car parking, the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway is a perfect destination for a memorable day out.

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