

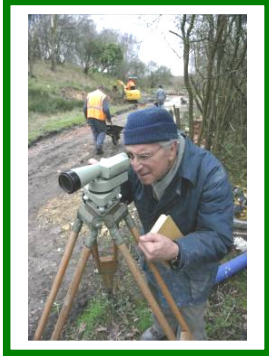


Volunteer Liaison Department
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USEFUL INFORMATION FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS
INFRASTRUCTURE - CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The Civil Engineering Department, comprised mostly of volunteers, is responsible for building and maintaining platforms, station buildings, bridges, culverts, drains and other such infrastructure on the Swanage Railway. The Purbeck line, as the Swanage Railway is known today, was built in the late 19th century. A great deal of the infrastructure that you can see today dates from that time and a lot of effort is expended ensuring that the restored railway maintains the charm and heritage of the not to be forgotten steam age.

The current passenger operating track runs from Norden, where there is a large 'park and ride', all the way to Swanage a distance of approximately 5½ miles. There are some 17 bridges, numerous culverts and 16 level crossings between Norden and Swanage that have to be maintained; these bridges, culverts and crossings range from the majestic Purbeck stone Corfe Castle viaduct to simple wooden styles and kissing gates on footpaths where the public have the right of way to cross the railway. There is a two-yearly inspection regime to ensure that structures are maintained in a 'safe to use' state but it is a continuous task keeping at bay the encroaching vegetation and undertaking minor maintenance. There are other bridges, culverts and level crossings, north of Norden, that currently have to be maintained by the railway and, of course, when the railway is extended all the way to Wareham it is expected that the tasks will at least double.



The Civil Engineering Department is currently managing two major projects. The project that is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2008 is a new 120 foot inspection pit at Swanage for assisting with the maintenance of the rolling stock. Apart from all the good project management activities such as gathering requirements, planning and co-ordinating the different interests, the task has included briefing a consultant to complete a design for the pit and working with the builder who will be constructing the pit.

The other current task that is only just underway is converting a standard siding at Swanage to a stabling siding for the Wessex Belle, the railway's premier dining train. The task includes: constructing a road access point, a small ramp and platform for access to the coaches, the supply of water, electrical and sewage services and the construction of storage facilities.

Future projects include the construction of a new engine watering facility, a water tank or tower at Norden and major improvements to the station at Norden.

The department is part of the Infrastructure Group that is run by a very experienced full-time member of staff. He is supported by a highly-qualified team, mainly volunteers, who ensure that all tasks and projects are part of the overall railway strategic plan set out and approved by the railway Board of Directors. Within the Infrastructure Group and Civil Engineering Department the work is extremely varied. There is a need for any and every engineering skill imaginable. However, the department welcomes anybody whatever their skills and experience; we all work together and it is good fun.



Most volunteers have very little or no railway skills or experience when they join but learning these skills is very much part of the enjoyment of working on a heritage railway. Indeed, a major part of the success of the Swanage Railway is due to the hard work of the civil engineering team that maintains the 'stage' on which the regal steam engines run. The Swanage Railway operates a documented Youth Protection Policy to safeguard children. The policy of the Swanage Railway Trust is that all volunteers should be members of the Trust. For further information please contact:

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 The Infrastructure Manager – Telephone: 07587 130382 or Email: infrastructure@swanage-railway.co.uk
 Or contact the Volunteer Liaison Department as above.

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