

Join the Swanage Railway Team Heritage Engineering Apprenticeships

Two Exciting Three-Year Apprenticeship Opportunities

Swanage Railway is offering three unique **three-year apprenticeships** for enthusiastic individuals looking to start a career in heritage engineering. Collaborating with experienced engineers and craftspeople, you will gain practical skills while studying towards a nationally recognised engineering qualification.

These apprenticeships are delivered in partnership with **Heritage Skills Academy**, one of the UK's leading providers of specialist heritage engineering training. As part of your apprenticeship, you will attend Heritage Skills Academy for 9 weeks a year on week-long block release, with training taking place at either **Bicester Heritage** or **Brooklands Museum**, alongside your practical training at Swanage Railway.

Over the course of three years, you will develop specialist knowledge, work on nationally significant historic vehicles and become part of a team dedicated to preserving Britain's railway heritage.

No previous engineering experience is required – just enthusiasm, commitment, and a willingness to learn.

Multi-Skilled Heritage Engineering Apprentice

Steam, Diesel & Heritage Vehicles

This **three-year apprenticeship** is perfect for anyone fascinated by engineering and historic vehicles. You will gain hands-on experience maintaining, repairing and restoring our fleet of steam locomotives, diesel locomotives, and heritage road vehicles.

You will gain experience in:

- Steam locomotive maintenance and overhaul.
- Diesel locomotive servicing and repairs.
- Restoration and maintenance of heritage automobiles and historic commercial vehicles.

- Mechanical fitting.
- Welding and fabrication.
- Machining and engineering workshop practices.
- Fault finding and preventative maintenance.
- Railway engineering standards and safety.

Working with our skilled engineering team, you will learn both traditional heritage techniques and modern engineering practices while helping preserve and operate a unique collection of historic vehicles.

Coach Building & Restoration Apprentice

This **three-year apprenticeship** is ideal for someone who enjoys craftsmanship and attention to detail. You will focus on restoring and rebuilding our historic railway carriages, preserving them for future generations.

You'll gain experience in:

- Traditional coach building.
- Timber repairs and joinery.
- Metal fabrication.
- Interior restoration.
- Heritage painting and finishing.
- Upholstery and carriage fittings.
- Vehicle body restoration.
- Mechanical components and carriage maintenance
- Restoration and maintenance of heritage automobiles and historic commercial vehicles

You will work on everything from Victorian carriages to British Rail Mk1 coaches, learning specialist skills that are increasingly rare within the heritage sector.

What We're Looking For

We are looking for enthusiastic people who:

- Have a passion for engineering, restoration, or craftsmanship.
- Enjoy practical, practical work.
- Are eager to learn new skills.
- Can work well as part of a team.

- Have good attention to detail.
- Are dependable and motivated.

GCSEs at level 4/C or above (or equivalent) in Maths and English are essential to complete the apprenticeship. Applicants without the appropriate level in English and mathematics will be considered providing they can demonstrate a genuine interest in engineering heritage and the capability to achieve the appropriate level within the timescale of the apprenticeship. Support will then be provided in obtaining Functional Skills L2.

What You'll Receive

- A fully supported **three-year apprenticeship programme.**
- A nationally recognised engineering qualification through Heritage Skills Academy - Heritage Engineering Level 3 Standard
- Hands-on training from experienced heritage professionals
- Approximately five days of specialist off-site training each month at Bicester Heritage or Brooklands Museum. 9 weeks of specialist off -site training per year (approximately every 5-6 weeks)
- Experience working on nationally important historic locomotives, carriages, and heritage vehicles.
- A supportive learning environment.
- Uniform provided.
- Free travel on Swanage Railway services.
- Staff discounts.
- Opportunities to develop a long-term career in heritage engineering.

About Swanage Railway

Swanage Railway is one of the UK's leading heritage railways, welcoming over 200,000 visitors each year. Our engineering teams care for an extraordinary collection of steam locomotives, heritage diesel locomotives, historic railway carriages, and heritage road vehicles, preserving traditional engineering skills while keeping a working railway operating every day.

This is a rare opportunity to gain experience specialist engineering and restoration skills that are becoming increasingly valuable across the heritage sector.

Apply Today

To apply, please email your **CV and a covering letter** stating which apprenticeship you are applying for and why you would like to join Swanage Railway.

Closing Date: 31st August 2026 (in the first instance)

Applications should be sent to recruitment@swanagerailway.co.uk.

For more information about the apprenticeship provider, visit www.heritageskillsacademy.co.uk.

Be part of preserving the past while building your future.