

The Swindon & Cricklade Railway and General Steam Navigation Restoration Project

Two charities, The Swindon & Cricklade Railway and General Steam Navigation Restoration are working on a project that aims to restore the Merchant Navy Class loco General Steam Navigation and get it back on to the mainline. We have passed the 'Expression of Interest' and will be submitting a major funding bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in late May 2024.

The project will generate opportunities for the people of Wiltshire and Swindon. It will see the building of a new engine shed at Blunsdon (right on the local authority border) and will include a fully accessible learning centre, a wide range of activities and events and will seek to increase learning and volunteering experiences. We are building partnerships with a range of local primary and special schools in Cricklade and Swindon as well as with the town's proud engineering heritage through New College and UTC, Swindon. We understand the wider needs of the area, and will look to work with older people to help combat social isolation. We've also met with Justin Tomlinson MP and our local SBC councillor and are building links with Cricklade Town Council and St Andrews and Haydon Wick Parish Councils. It is our intention to be able to support local apprenticeships and support specialist engineering across the west country. Currently, we have an architect working on our plans and will shortly be carrying out a geological survey and recruiting a quantity surveyor.