

Company registration number: 1397407
Charity registration number: 514172

North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

P L Whittaker
50 Broad Street
Leek
Staffordshire
ST13 5NS

North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited

Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	2 to 3
Independent examiner's report	4
Statement of financial activities	5
Balance Sheet	6 to 7
Notes to the financial statements	8 to 13

The following page does not form part of the statutory financial statements:

Statement of financial activities per fund	14
--	----

North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited
Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name	North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited
Charity registration number	514172
Company registration number	1397407
Principal office	Cheddleton Station Cheddleton Leek Staffordshire ST13 7EE
Registered office	Cheddleton Station Cheddleton Leek Staffordshire ST13 7EE
Trustees	N Moorby, Chairman A L Croft, Secretary G I Chapman, Treasurer M Henshaw J Hulse J A Kerr
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc 83 Haywood Street Leek Staffordshire ST13 5JW
Accountant	P L Whittaker 50 Broad Street Leek Staffordshire ST13 5NS

North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited

Trustees' Report

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association; and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Our Purpose and Activities

The purposes of the charity are:

The preservation, retainment, and restoration of Cheddleton Railway Station by encouraging and promoting public interest in the preservation of steam and other railway locomotives, rolling stock and items of historic interest.

Achievements and performance

The company has continued to raise funds from membership fees, grants, donations, and sundry income. Further support has been received from appeals and Gift Aid.

The profile of the members magazine, The Knotty, has been maintained. The company has continued to support the Churnet Valley Railway, having received grants towards the Churnet Valley Railway's Leek extension and hosted appeals for the purchase of heritage rolling stock and relocation of Cheddleton signal box.

During the year, the company took ownership of LMS 4F locomotive no 44422 following the winding up of its former owning company, The 44422 Locomotive Company Ltd. The Churnet Valley Railway will from now on be the locomotive's permanent base.

Structure, governance and management

The North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited is a company limited by guarantee, governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission, There are currently 572 members, each of whom agrees to contribute £1 in the event of the charity winding up.

The Chair of trustees, secretary and treasurer are elected by members at the Annual General Meeting each year. Other trustees are elected for three years by members at the Annual General Meeting. When considering co-opting trustees, the board has regard to the requirements for any specialist skills needed.

All major decisions are taken at full meetings of the trustees. These are held monthly.

The charity has a close relationship with the Churnet Valley Railway (1992) PLC. The principal activity of the company is to be a tourist steam railway.

Financial review

The company's statement of financial activities showed a surplus for the year. We have total reserves of £672,433. Cash reserves total £63,205, of which £35,617 is reserved for specific projects.

Trustees responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees (who are also directors of the North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law and the law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources for that period, In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited

Trustees' Report

select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charity Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006

Approved by the Board on 18th September 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

..........

N Moorby

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 5 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of (named body).

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.


Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


.....
Peter Lee Whittaker
P L Whittaker

50 Broad Street
Leek
Staffordshire
ST13 5NS

26 September 2025

North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited

**Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) for the
Year Ended 31 December 2024**

		Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	Note	£	£	£
Incoming resources				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income	2	378,714	378,714	68,120
Total incoming resources		<u>378,714</u>	<u>378,714</u>	<u>68,120</u>
Resources expended				
Costs of generating funds				
Costs of generating voluntary income	4	86,563	86,563	66,398
Total resources expended		<u>86,563</u>	<u>86,563</u>	<u>66,398</u>
Net movements in funds		292,151	292,151	1,722
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>380,282</u>	<u>380,282</u>	<u>379,472</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>672,433</u></u>	<u><u>672,433</u></u>	<u><u>381,194</u></u>

The notes on pages 8 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.

North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited (Registration number: 1397407)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

		2024		2023	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7		479,906		187,690
Investments	8		75,682		75,632
			<u>555,588</u>		<u>263,322</u>
Current assets					
Stocks and work in progress			-	55	
Debtors	9	115,376		120,418	
Cash at bank and in hand		63,205		63,213	
		<u>178,581</u>		<u>183,686</u>	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(54,064)</u>		<u>(58,142)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>124,517</u>		<u>125,544</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			680,105		388,866
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	11		<u>(7,672)</u>		<u>(7,672)</u>
Net assets			<u>672,433</u>		<u>381,194</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted funds					
Other reserves			25,532		26,444
Unrestricted income funds			646,901		354,750
Total unrestricted funds			<u>672,433</u>		<u>381,194</u>
Total charity funds			<u>672,433</u>		<u>381,194</u>

The notes on pages 8 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.

North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited (Registration number: 1397407)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

..... *continued*

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024, the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008 January 2015).

Approved by the Board on 26 September 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



.....

N Moorby
Trustee

The notes on pages 8 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.

North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005)', issued in March 2005, the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015) and the Companies Act 2006.

Fund accounting policy

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 14.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income including donations, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the statement of financial activities at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Costs of generating funds are the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £0 or more are initially recorded at cost.

North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

..... continued

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Land and Loco Shed	2% straight line basis
Building Restoration	2% straight line basis
Rolling Stock	5% reducing balance basis
Track Work	5% straight line basis
Equipment	10% reducing balance

Investments

Fixed asset investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date.

Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the statement of the financial activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the statement of financial activities based on the market value at the year end.

Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after due regard for obsolete and slow moving stocks. Net realisable value is based on selling price less anticipated costs to completion and selling costs. Items donated for resale or distribution are not included in the financial statements until they are sold or distributed.

2 Voluntary income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations and legacies			
Legacies	-	-	248
General donations	330,803	330,803	54,011
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	6,606	6,606	3,401
Grants - other agencies	30,000	30,000	-
Subscriptions	8,770	8,770	8,845
Other donations	2,494	2,494	1,613
Interest received	41	41	2
	378,714	378,714	68,120

North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

..... continued

3 Grants receivable

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Grants - other agencies	30,000	30,000	-

4 Total resources expended

	Donations and legacies £	Total £
Direct costs		
Fundraising costs	34,117	34,117
Other fundraising costs	31,384	31,384
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	7,783	7,783
Office expenses	1,226	1,226
Subscriptions and donations	7,046	7,046
	<u>81,556</u>	<u>81,556</u>
Support costs		
Sundry and other costs	5,007	5,007
	<u>86,563</u>	<u>86,563</u>

5 Net income

Net income is stated after charging:

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	7,783	8,414

6 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is, therefore, exempt from taxation.

North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

..... continued

7 Tangible fixed assets

	Land & Loco Shed £	Rolling Stock etc. £	Building Restoration & Track £	Total £
Cost				
As at 1 January 2024	50,044	172,711	98,666	321,421
Additions	-	300,000	-	300,000
As at 31 December 2024	<u>50,044</u>	<u>472,711</u>	<u>98,666</u>	<u>621,421</u>
Depreciation				
As at 1 January 2024	19,488	82,394	31,849	133,731
Charge for the year	1,000	4,811	1,973	7,784
As at 31 December 2024	<u>20,488</u>	<u>87,205</u>	<u>33,822</u>	<u>141,515</u>
Net book value				
As at 31 December 2024	<u>29,556</u>	<u>385,506</u>	<u>64,844</u>	<u>479,906</u>
As at 31 December 2023	<u>30,556</u>	<u>90,317</u>	<u>66,817</u>	<u>187,690</u>

8 Investments held as fixed assets

	Churnet Valley Railway (1992) plc £
Market value	
As at 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024	<u>75,682</u>
Net book value	
As at 31 December 2024	<u>75,682</u>
As at 31 December 2023	<u>75,682</u>

All investment assets were held in the UK.

North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

..... continued

9 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	113,937	119,273
Other debtors	1,439	1,145
	<u>115,376</u>	<u>120,418</u>

10 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	53,964	58,042
Accruals and deferred income	100	100
	<u>54,064</u>	<u>58,142</u>

11 Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other creditors	<u>7,672</u>	<u>7,672</u>

12 Members' liability

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £nil towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

..... continued

13 Related parties

Controlling entity

The charity is controlled by the trustees who are all directors of the company.

14 Analysis of funds

	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£
General Funds				
Unrestricted income fund	<u>380,282</u>	<u>378,714</u>	<u>(86,563)</u>	<u>672,433</u>

15 Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£
Tangible assets	479,906	479,906	187,690
Investments	75,682	75,682	75,632
Current assets	178,581	178,581	183,686
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(54,064)	(54,064)	(58,142)
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	<u>(7,672)</u>	<u>(7,672)</u>	<u>(7,672)</u>
Net assets	<u>672,433</u>	<u>672,433</u>	<u>381,194</u>

North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited
Statement of financial activities by fund Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted income fund 2024	Unrestricted income fund 2023
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary income	378,714	68,120
Total incoming resources	<u>378,714</u>	<u>68,120</u>
Resources expended		
Costs of generating funds		
Costs of generating voluntary income	86,563	66,398
Total resources expended	<u>86,563</u>	<u>66,398</u>
Net movements in funds	292,151	1,722
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	380,282	379,472
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>672,433</u></u>	<u><u>381,194</u></u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.