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 2025

P L Whittaker
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North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited

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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 3 Humberstone Gate Leicester LE1 1AJ
Accountant	P L Whittaker 50 Broad Street Leek Staffordshire ST13 5NS

North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited

Trustees' Report

The trustees present their annual report together with the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025. The trustees are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law, and this report has been prepared to meet the requirements of both a trustees' annual report and a directors' report.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the company's governing document, applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, including FRS 102, and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102, Charities SORP 2019.

OUR PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

The charity's purposes include the preservation, retention and restoration of Cheddleton Railway Station and the encouragement and promotion of public interest in the preservation of steam and other railway locomotives, rolling stock and items of historic interest.

The charity pursues these purposes through fundraising, membership activities, appeals, grants and direct support for the preservation and operation of the Churnet Valley Railway and its associated heritage assets.

In planning the charity's activities and making decisions relevant to its charitable purposes, the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The trustees consider that the preservation, restoration and public presentation of historic railway assets provide educational, cultural and heritage benefits to the public.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

During the year, the charity continued to raise funds through membership subscriptions, grants, donations, appeals, Gift Aid and other income.

The charity continued to publish its members' magazine, The Knotty, providing members with news and information concerning the charity, the Churnet Valley Railway and the preservation of the former North Staffordshire Railway and its associated heritage.

The charity continued to support the Churnet Valley Railway and its heritage objectives. This included maintaining appeals and fundraising arrangements connected with the acquisition, restoration and preservation of historic railway assets and the development of the railway.

During the year, the charity received legacies totalling £150,000. These funds are being held for forthcoming projects, including the overhaul of LMS locomotive number 44422, subject in each case to the terms of the relevant legacy and any decisions or designations properly made by the trustees.

The trustees remain grateful to the charity's members, supporters, donors and volunteers. Their continuing support enables the charity to preserve important railway heritage and make it available for the benefit and enjoyment of the public.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is governed by its memorandum and articles of association. It is registered with the Charity Commission under charity number 514172 and with Companies House under company number 01397407.

At the end of the year, the charity had 576 members. Under the company's governing document, each member undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the company's liabilities if it is wound up while that person is a member, or within the period specified in the governing document after ceasing to be a member.

The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting. Other trustees are elected for terms of three years. The trustees may co-opt additional trustees where appropriate, having regard to the skills, experience and knowledge required by the Board.

The trustees meet regularly, normally each month. Material decisions concerning the charity's activities, finances, assets and strategic direction are considered and approved by the full Board.

New trustees are provided with information about the charity, its governing document, its activities and their legal duties and responsibilities. The Board also considers the need for specialist advice or additional training where appropriate.

The charity has a close and longstanding relationship with Churnet Valley Railway (1992) PLC, whose principal activity is the operation of the Churnet Valley Railway as a heritage and tourist railway.

The trustees recognise that dealings with connected organisations must be undertaken in the charity's best interests. Trustees are required to declare relevant interests and do not participate in decisions where a conflict of interest prevents them from doing so. Transactions and arrangements with connected parties are reviewed to ensure that they further the charity's purposes and are properly authorised and recorded.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Statement of Financial Activities reports a deficit for the year.

At 31 December 2025, the charity held total funds of £669,607. Cash held at bank and in hand amounted to £187,318, of which £162,613 related to funds held for particular projects. The classification of these amounts as restricted, designated or unrestricted funds is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

A substantial proportion of the charity's total funds is represented by fixed assets, heritage assets and investments and is therefore not immediately available to meet general expenditure.

The trustees' policy is to maintain an appropriate level of unrestricted and readily available reserves sufficient to meet the charity's continuing liabilities, protect its heritage assets, respond to unforeseen expenditure and provide reasonable support for agreed future projects.

The appropriate level of reserves is reviewed periodically, having regard to the charity's expected income, planned expenditure, existing commitments, condition of its assets and the financial risks facing the charity. Funds received for restricted purposes are applied only in accordance with the relevant restrictions.

The trustees consider that the charity remains a going concern and that its available resources are sufficient to meet its present obligations. The financial position will continue to be monitored in light of planned projects and the significant subsequent events described below.

EVENTS AFTER THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD

The matters described in this section occurred after 31 December 2025 and therefore do not form part of the charity's income, expenditure or activities for the financial year covered by these financial statements.

Following the year end, the charity was notified that it is a beneficiary of a substantial legacy. Based on the information currently available, the total amount ultimately receivable is expected to be approximately £1.3 million to £1.4 million. The administration of the estate remains in progress and the final value and timing of the remaining distributions have not yet been confirmed.

During 2026, the charity applied part of the legacy towards the purchase of two heritage steam locomotives. These acquisitions represent a significant addition to the charity's collection of historic railway assets and directly further its purposes of preserving steam locomotives and promoting public interest in railway heritage.

The locomotives will be based on the Churnet Valley Railway and will be preserved, maintained, restored, operated or displayed as appropriate, having regard to their condition and the trustees' future plans. The trustees are considering how the remaining legacy funds may best be used to support the charity's longer-term objectives, including the preservation, restoration and development of its railway heritage assets.

The charity has also been notified of a number of smaller legacies. These will be accounted for in accordance with the applicable accounting requirements when the charity's entitlement, the probability of receipt and the amounts receivable can be established with sufficient certainty. Decisions concerning the use of all legacy funds will have regard to the terms of the relevant bequests, the charity's governing document and the charity's strategic and financial requirements.

On 22 August 2026, the members met in General Meeting and approved resolutions to change the company's name to Churnet Valley Railway (NSRC) Heritage Trust Limited and to adopt new articles of association. The new articles are intended to provide the charity with a modern governance framework appropriate to its present activities and foreseeable future development.

At the date of approval of this report, the application to register the new company name remained in progress. Until the change is formally registered, the company continues to operate under its existing registered name.

As part of the revised governance arrangements, the trustees and directors of the charity have also been appointed as directors of Churnet Valley Railway (1992) PLC. The two boards consequently have common membership, providing a coordinated approach to the strategic direction of the railway and its associated heritage activities.

The charity and Churnet Valley Railway (1992) PLC remain separate legal entities. Those serving on both boards must act in accordance with the separate legal duties applying to each organisation. Relevant interests and potential conflicts of interest are required to be declared, recorded and appropriately managed. Decisions made on behalf of the charity must be taken independently, in the charity's best interests and in furtherance of its charitable purposes.

The trustees consider that the substantial legacy, the acquisition of the two steam locomotives, the adoption of new articles and the strengthened governance arrangements represent important developments for the charity. Together, they provide a stronger foundation for the long-term preservation, development and public presentation of the Churnet Valley Railway and its associated heritage assets.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The trustees, who are also directors of North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its income and expenditure for that period.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going-concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue its activities.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions, disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the charity's assets and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SMALL-COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small-companies exemption under the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board on 22 September 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



.....

N Moorby
Trustee

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

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		479,605		479,906
Investments	9		75,682		75,682
			555,287		555,588
Current assets					
Debtors	10	107,757		115,376	
Cash at bank and in hand		187,318		63,205	
		295,075		178,581	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(173,081)		(54,064)	
Net current assets			121,994		124,517
Total assets less current liabilities			677,281		680,105
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	12		(32,292)		(7,672)
Net assets			644,989		672,433
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted funds					
Other reserves			-		25,532
Unrestricted income funds			644,989		646,901
Total unrestricted funds			644,989		672,433
Total charity funds			644,989		672,433

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form an integral part of these financial statements.

..... *continued*

For the financial year ended 31 December 2025, 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 22 September 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

.....

N Moorby
Trustee

2 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 15.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income including donations 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.

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
Equipment	10% reducing balance

..... *continued*

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.

3 Voluntary income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations and legacies			
General donations	166,134	166,134	330,803
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	3,010	3,010	6,606
Grants - other agencies	-	-	30,000
Subscriptions	9,244	9,244	8,770
Other donations	2,169	2,169	2,494
Interest received	1,095	1,095	41
	181,652	181,652	378,714

4 Grants receivable

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Grants - other agencies	-	-	30,000

..... *continued*

10 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	107,757	113,937
Other debtors	-	1,439
	107,757	115,376

11 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	144,191	53,964
Other creditors v	28,780	-
Accruals and deferred income	110	100
	173,081	54,064

12 Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other creditors	32,292	7,672

13 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 £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

..... *continued*

14 Related parties

Controlling entity

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

15 Analysis of funds

	At 1 January 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£
General Funds				
Unrestricted income fund	646,901	181,652	(183,564)	644,989

16 Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£
Tangible assets	479,605	479,605	479,906
Investments	75,682	75,682	75,682
Current assets	295,075	295,075	178,581
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(173,081)	(173,081)	(54,064)
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	(32,292)	(32,292)	(7,672)
Net assets	644,989	644,989	672,433

North Staffordshire Railway Company (1978) Limited

Statement of financial activities by fund Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted income fund 2025	Unrestricted income fund 2024
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary income	181,652	378,714
Total incoming resources	181,652	378,714
Resources expended		
Costs of generating funds		
Costs of generating voluntary income	183,564	86,563
Total resources expended	183,564	86,563
Net movements in funds	(1,912)	292,151
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	646,901	380,282
Total funds carried forward	644,989	672,433

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