

<b>Volunteer Role Profile</b>	
<b>Role Title:</b>	Footplate Crew
<b>Department:</b>	Operations
<b>Departmental Overview:</b>	The operations department is responsible for providing locomotives, carriages and people to run trains in a way that is effective, efficient and, above all, safe.
<b>Reports to:</b>	Operations Management Team
<b>Location:</b>	Aviemore
<b>Purpose of the role:</b>	Footplate volunteers operate our heritage steam and diesel locomotives.
<b>What you'll be doing:</b>	<p>For steam traction, you will start as a trainee, assisting in preparation of the locomotive at the start of the day, travelling on the locomotive with the qualified driver and fireman, gaining route knowledge, and learning firing techniques and boiler management. With experience and training, you will progress through the grades to fireman, then driver. You will learn the principles of how a steam locomotive works, and techniques for safe and efficient operation. A typical day on a steam locomotive starts at 6am to prepare the locomotive and usually lasts 12 hours ending with 'disposing' of the locomotive on return to the locomotive shed.</p> <p>For diesel traction, you will start as a trainee '2nd man', sharing the cab with the driver to learn start-up, shutdown and emergency procedures. Once qualified as a '2<sup>nd</sup> man' you can progress through driver training, and eventually take charge of diesel hauled trains on our own services and visiting excursion trains.</p> <p>When not on the footplate of a locomotive operating service trains, you may also volunteer for training to operate one of our smaller shunting locomotives for moving rolling stock around the railway.</p>
<b>What skills you will need for the role:</b>	<p>We actively recruit and train footplate crews – you don't require any previous experience, but if you do have footplate experience at another railway, this will count in your favour and probably reduce the time it takes to progress through the grades. You cannot learn to drive a steam or diesel locomotive from a book. It has to come by clocking up miles on the footplate to gain experience, listening to, and learning from, other crew members and dedication to improve your skills as you progress.</p> <p>Every day is different, so you need to be able to respond quickly, decisively, calmly but above all, safely, in changing situations.</p> <p>Operating a steam locomotive requires a driver and a fireman. You need to be able to cooperate and work well with others.</p> <p>On a heritage railway, the steam and diesel locomotives are the focus of attention. When on the footplate, you will be 'centre stage' so you will need to be able to deal with members of the public courteously and represent the railway in a positive light.</p>
<b>What you'll get from the role:</b>	The work is hard and requires dedication to achieve and maintain the quasi-professional standards we expect of firemen and drivers. But the rewards in terms of a sense of personal achievement are huge.
<b>The Training we'll provide:</b>	There are no formal qualifications. It's all based on your own performance, dedication and aptitude.
<b>Time commitment:</b>	Progression is at your own pace, although you would be expected to commit to around 10 or 12 days per year; at that rate, it will take at least 3 or 4 years to progress through the grades from trainee to fireman to steam driver, or from trainee to 2 <sup>nd</sup> man to diesel driver. Once qualified in any given grade, you will undergo continuous reassessment to maintain competence.
<b>Other requirements:</b>	You need to be reasonably fit as there is a lot of physical work involved. You will also be required to undergo a medical assessment from time to time.