

20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF RAILFUTURE LTD

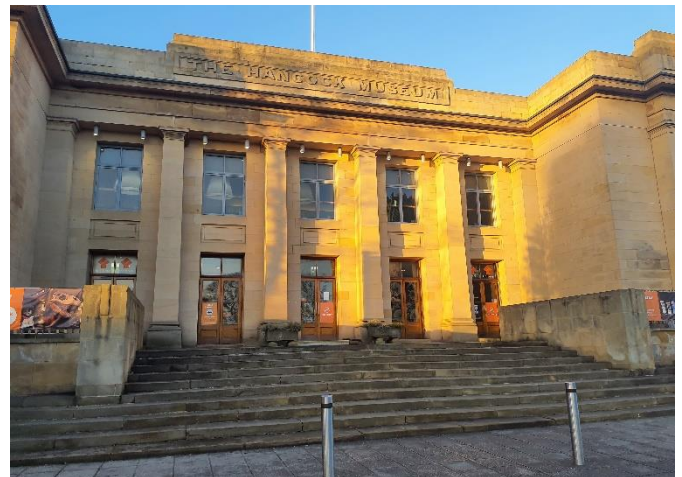
Great North Museum: Hancock, Barras Bridge, Newcastle, NE2 4PT
(held in Exhibition Hall 2) on Saturday 5 July 2025, starting at 11.00
(Registration from 10.00, free refreshments from 10.30)

Railfuture has chosen Newcastle for this year's AGM because the Northumberland railway line reopened in December 2024, and this will be a chance for members to travel on it. The venue is an eight-minute walk from the Haymarket station on the Tyne and Wear Metro, or 30 minutes' walk from Newcastle station.

Our venue was built in 1884 as a purpose-built natural history museum. Our room can accommodate 70 people in a cabaret format and more with a theatre layout. We will choose depending on the expected attendance.

Registration is not mandatory but if you hope to attend it will be helpful if you can register on the website (preferably — you will need your Railfuture Number and PIN, a reminder of your PIN can be sent by email) or by completing and posting the enclosed form. You can also change your mind.

Railfuture will provide free refreshments (in our room) before the AGM starts. To help us plan catering and avoid unnecessary costs, it really helps us to know approximately the numbers by **Friday 20 June**, so please do register by then.



The photo shows the outside of the Hancock Museum, which is one of the North East Museums. A map of the area is shown on page 3 of this flyer.



The museum has a good café (see photo on left), which serves hot food including jacket potatoes, pizzas and toasties, all at reasonable prices. See <https://www.railfuture.org.uk/conferences/> for their menu.

Given this option, plus nearby places to buy lunch. Railfuture will not be giving an option to pre-book lunch this year.

Please don't consume your own lunch at the venue.

The formal Annual General Meeting (AGM), which will be held prior to lunch, is open to fully paid-up members or the proxy that they have registered at least 48 hours before the event. There will be no admission for members whose subscription is not current, and no payments will be taken on the door.

We are planning to provide remote viewing of the AGM via Zoom. This can be technically tricky to manage, and we cannot guarantee the quality; there is a very small risk of total failure. We expect there will be an opportunity for those watching remotely to submit questions (via chat). Although the Articles of Association now allow remote voting, it has not been arranged at the time of writing. It is important to attend in person if you wish to take an active part.

There will be two afternoon guest speakers. One of these will be local journalist Simon Walton, who often writes about rail freight matters. Other speakers have been approached to speak but are not confirmed.

The AGM is expensive to stage (both for room hire and complimentary refreshments). Please advise us of whether you will or will not attend. It is not binding, and you can change your mind, but it is helpful to know.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Twentieth Annual General Meeting of **Railfuture Limited** will be held at **11.00** on **Saturday 5 July 2025** at **Great North Museum: Hancock, Barras Bridge, Newcastle, NE2 4PT**

AGENDA

10.00-11.00 Registration (Tea and coffee available from 10.30)

11.00-12.30 AGM Formal Business (currently paid-up members and proxies only)

1. Welcome (with apologies for absence)
2. Remind attendees of the standing orders adopted at the 2016 AGM.
These will be available from reception or can be viewed at www.railfuture.org.uk/display1216
3. To read and approve the minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting of Railfuture Limited held on Saturday 13 July 2024 in Edinburgh — www.railfuture.org.uk/display3760 (public version) or log into Self-Care on the website using your Railfuture number and PIN to view full version
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. Honorary President's address (Christian Wolmar – invited and will attend if he is available)
6. National Chair's report (Chris Page)
7. To receive the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2024 (Jerry Alderson, Director of Finance & IT)
The Independent Examiner's report is contained within the summarised and full accounts
8. Re-appointment of the Independent Examiner (Newsham Hanson, based in North Somerset)
9. To record that there was no ballot for Board Directors as the number of candidates matched the number of retiring directors
10. Appointment of Honorary President and Vice-presidents
11. Motions from members
12. Chair – review of the meeting and looking forward to the year ahead

By Order of the Board,

Date 02/03/2025, Trevor Davies, Company Secretary

Correspondence address: 3 Chandos Court, Martlesham, Suffolk IP12 4SU

Registered office: Edinburgh House, 1-5 Bellevue Road, Clevedon, North Somerset BS21 7NP (legal correspondence only)

12.30-13.30 Lunch — This is provided in our room at the venue for those who paid £14 for it in advance. If you have brought your own lunch, then please consume it outside.

13.30 Afternoon Session (open to the public)

1. Welcome
2. Guest speakers

15.30 Thanks and Chair's closing remarks

Some members may choose to travel to the Northumberland line, which has a half-hourly service from Newcastle station. The journey to Ashington is under 40 minutes, and costs £2.60 each way.

AGM PACK INCLUDED WITH RAILWATCH / SUMMARISED ACCOUNTS

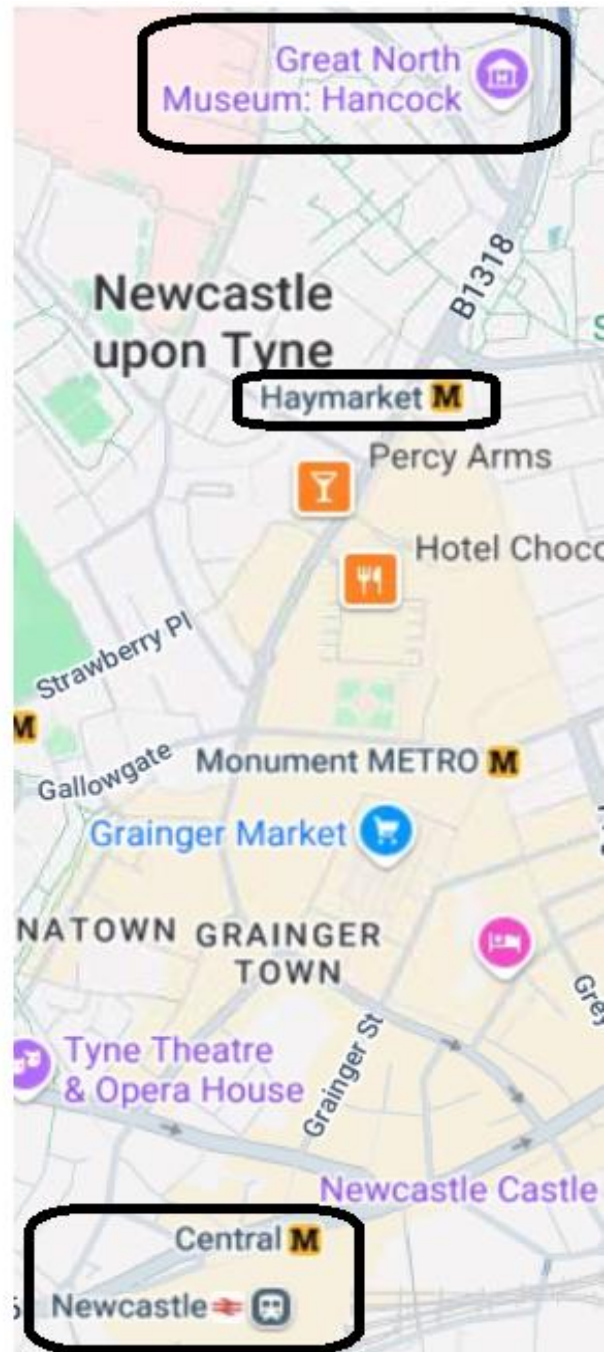
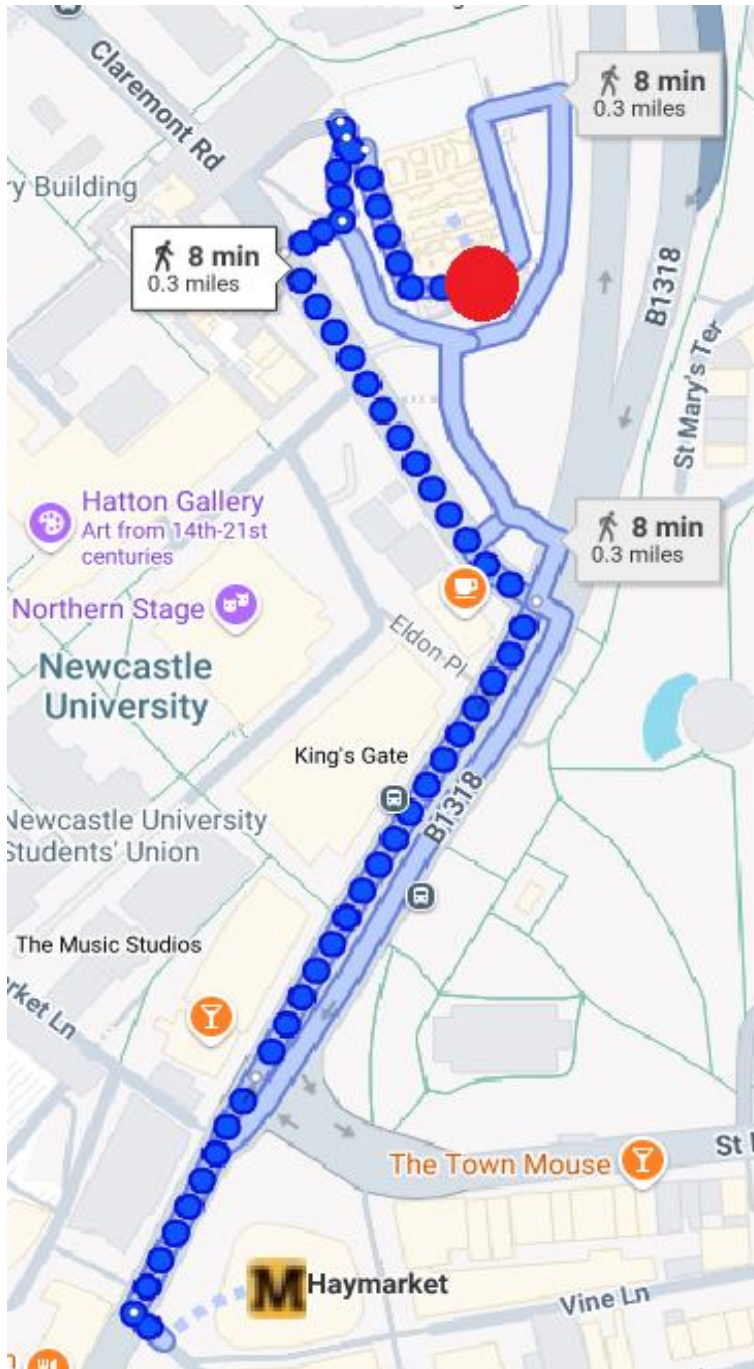
In addition to this four-page notice you should have received a two-page form including attendance response (page 1) and proxy voting form (page 2) – both can be completed online (you can repeat this if your intentions change). Please do register this if you plan to attend (or to give your apologies).

The 2024 accounts have been prepared and are now with the Independent Examiner, after which the directors will approve them. If we have a valid email address for you, then we send the accounts by email, probably in May. Otherwise, you should receive the four-page summarised accounts in June with the July 2025 issue of Railwatch. From April the summarised accounts can be viewed on the website at www.railfuture.org.uk/display3930 with the full 'statutory' accounts that are sent to Companies House at www.railfuture.org.uk/display3929.

Our mission is to be the number one advocate for the railway and rail users

Location Great North Museum: Hancock, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4PT

The map on the right below shows that the Museum is north of Haymarket station on the Tyne and Wear Metro. The map on the left shows the walking route from Haymarket – we will be in **Exhibition Room 2**.



A 'day ticket' on the Metro is (at the time of writing) £4.40 for one zone (zone 'A' covers a wide area around Newcastle). The walk from Newcastle station is about half an hour. There is (currently) a £6 Tyne and Wear 'day rover' valid on bus, some rail, metro and ferry, but it is not valid on the Northumberland line. Please see <https://www.nexus.org.uk/tyne-and-wear-day-rover-adult>.

More information can be found at www.railfuture.org.uk/conferences/

If you have any queries, where the answer cannot be found on the website, please contact Lloyd Butler by email at lloyd.butler@railfuture.org.uk or at **3 Chandos Court, Martlesham, Suffolk IP12 4SU**

Photographs: Railfuture has an official AGM photographer and will publish photos of attendees only with their consent. No other photographs should be taken on the premises without approval in advance and individuals should be asked for permission before being photographed. Anyone showing their face on Zoom is deemed to have given consent.

Literature: only literature from Railfuture (and invited guests) may be displayed in or around the venue.

AGM MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS

The AGM is an opportunity to discuss and assess what we have done over the past 12 months, focusing on Railfuture's *policy, strategy and organisation*, and to look ahead and guide our rail campaigning over the coming year.

Motions for possible discussion must be sent to the **Chair**, at chris.page@railfuture.org.uk or by post to **Chris Page** at 'Clara Vale', Thibet Road, Sandhurst, Berkshire GU47 9AR to arrive by **21 June 2025** with the signature of the proposer and seconder, who must both be current members. They should be in typed format. Motions sent to a different recipient cannot be considered.

Amendments to motions should be sent in writing or by email, with proposer's and seconder's name, before the day of the meeting. At the Chair's discretion, further written amendments may be accepted by 10:45 on the day. You should also check Railfuture's current campaigns on our website, which set out our existing policies – see www.railfuture.org.uk/campaigns.

The Chair has the right to send, before the meeting, copies of any motion(s) to any branch, group or officer whose work it may affect. Motions on local issues should normally be debated at branch AGMs but may also, in exceptional cases, be put to the national AGM. Emergency motions may be put to the meeting at the Chair's discretion. To allow PowerPoint slides to be produced containing the emergency motion they should arrive at least three days before the AGM.

Motions should be **CONCISE** (preferably not more than 100 words). A motion will be considered only if the proposer or seconder attends the AGM in person to speak on them (three minutes is allowed) and/or answer questions. Motions without a seconder will not be accepted. Any member proposing two or more motions must indicate order of priority (motions other than his/her first one will be put only if time allows).

A Motions Committee will review all motions received prior to the AGM. If the substance of the motion can be achieved to the proposer and seconder's satisfaction, then it will not be discussed at the AGM. A statement from the Motions Committee will be read out at the AGM detailing the decisions reached.

ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD

The directors are disappointed that no new candidate chose to stand for election this year. Only the three retiring directors (Roger Blake, Allison Cosgrove and Neil Middleton) have stood this year. There was already a vacancy from July 2024 after Wendy Thorne stood down. Members with suitable skills and experience are encouraged to consider standing next year (with possible co-option this year) and enquire via the national Chair, Chris Page – see www.railfuture.org.uk/elections for more about the election process.

In the interests of openness, the election statements of the three candidates who stood again can be read on the website at www.railfuture.org.uk/display3761. This document lists the current directors and also explains their responsibilities.

MISSING OUT ON RAILFUTURE NEWS? USE EMAIL?

We would appreciate knowing your latest email address - please email renewals@railfuture.org.uk.

RAILFUTURE NEEDS YOUR HELP

We need more active volunteers both within Railfuture's 14 branches (see map, campaigns and other details at www.railfuture.org.uk/branches) and at national level. There is plenty that we would like to do but do not have enough volunteers. We need help with social media, event management, finance, marketing, editorial/design, video making, IT (PowerPoint and Photoshop) and much more. Contact details can be found at www.railfuture.org.uk/Contact+Us.

ENCOURAGE FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO JOIN

It is important that Railfuture has a large and diverse a membership as possible. Please encourage others to join. Details at www.railfuture.org.uk/join.

RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP BY DIRECT DEBIT

In 2022 Railfuture introduced direct debits (using GoCardless to manage payments. It has been both successful and popular. More information about how it works can be read at www.railfuture.org.uk/renewal/. To switch please email Lloyd Butler at renewals@railfuture.org.uk.