



Call for Papers for the STICK Conference 2026

“200 Years of Scotland’s Railways”

13 November 2026 | The Engine Shed, Stirling

The Scottish Transport and Industry Collections Knowledge Network ([STICK](#)) invites proposals for talks (20 minutes long) for our annual conference on **Friday 13 November, 2026**.

The theme of this conference will be *200 Years of Scotland’s Railways* and will be held at the Engine Shed, Stirling.

Celebrating the anniversary of the opening of the Monkland and Kirkintilloch Railway in 1826, the first public railway in Scotland with the technology to properly support the steam locomotive, and reflecting on the variety of events around railway heritage in the UK last year as part of [Railway 200](#), STICK is exploring how 200 years of railways have shaped Scotland.

This call is open to all museum/heritage practitioners and volunteers, researchers, and transport and industry enthusiasts alike. The theme is open to interpretation and can include, but is not limited to:

- The archaeology of railways e.g. the [1722 Waggonway Project](#)
- Ways railway land and tracks have been reused or reinterpreted e.g. heritage cycle paths
- Skills preservation and development in Scotland’s heritage railways
- The folklore of Sodor
- Diesel versus steam, the age-old question
- The origins of railways in Scotland
- Studies of working life on railways
- Railways and leisure
- Trainspotting; where did it start, has there been a resurgence, how do you do it, who are trainspotters?

To submit, please email your proposal to STICKssn@gmail.com by **Friday 31 July**. Submissions should be submitted as a Word document and should be no longer than **500 words**. Selected presenters will be notified by the end of August.

We look forward to reading your proposals!



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