



PRESS RELEASE: National Transport Trust

Union Bridge recognised with a Red Wheel

National Transport Trust's latest Red Wheel was unveiled recently at the Union Bridge, which lies between Berwick-on-Tweed and the village of Horncliffe and spans the England-Scotland border. It brings the number of Red Wheels around Britain to 176.



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Unveiling the Red Wheel, former MP and descendent of one of those that funded the bridge, John Home Robertson said: "Thanks for inviting me to do the honours, not so much as a former local MP, but also as a family successor to George Home of Paxton, who attended the meeting at the Hen & Chickens Inn in Berwick in 1818 to consider the selection of Captain Sam Brown's revolutionary design for this wrought iron suspension bridge."

He added: "George Home subscribed £200 towards the cost of the bridge in 1820. That was four percent of the total cost of £5,000. I'll just say that I'm relieved that I was not expected to pay for four percent of the £10m cost of its recent restoration!"

The bridge spans the River Tweed, upstream from Berwick-upon-Tweed. Its revolutionary design allowed a crossing of the river at a fraction of the cost of a stone arch bridge which was the only realistic alternative at the time. Up to then, a very hazardous ford had claimed many lives.

“The bridge, which pre-dates Bristol’s Clifton Suspension Bridge by two years, is known the world over amongst civil engineers as a forerunner that led ultimately to bridges such as the Severn, Forth and Humber crossings,” comments John Yellowlees of the National Transport Trust. “As such, it deserves to be better known more generally and we hope our award of a Red Wheel will help promote recognition of this historically important landmark”.

Photographs

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The National Transport Trust

Founded in 1965, (as the Transport Trust), the National Transport Trust is the UK’s only national charity established to promote and encourage the preservation and restoration of Britain’s unique transport heritage in all its forms – by air, land (road and rail) and water (sea and inland). The Trust is managed within a very streamlined structure, with the Board of Trustees representing the wider interests of the nation, for whose benefit the Trust exists.

Help us to help them

In order to help the UK’s the preservation movement the Trust depends on its members and therefore encourages all those who share our aims to join us. Membership of the Trust is open to private individuals and affiliated organisations. You can help us to help others too; become a member, donate to the trust or you might even consider leaving the trust something in your will. This last part is vital to our work, see here for more: [National Transport Trust legacies](#)

National Transport Trust

Old Bank House, 26 Station Approach, Hinckley Wood, Surrey, KT10 0SR, London
United Kingdom

email: info@nationaltransporttrust.org.uk

web: www.nationaltransporttrust.org.uk

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