



PRESS RELEASE: Hovertravel honoured with National Transport Trust's Red Wheel Plaques

Celebrating 60 Years of Innovation and Service Across the Solent

Hovertravel, the world's longest-running commercial hovercraft operator and the only year-round scheduled passenger hovercraft outside Japan, has been officially recognised by the National Transport Trust with the unveiling of two prestigious Red Wheel plaques at its Southsea and Ryde terminals. These accolades celebrate Hovertravel's pioneering role in British transport history and its unique contribution to connecting communities across the Solent since 1965.



Click on image to download

Founded on 24 July 1965, Hovertravel began operations with two 38-seat SR.N6 hovercraft leased from the British Hovercraft Corporation, offering services between Ryde, Southsea, and Stokes Bay. Originally intended as a seasonal tourist attraction, the service quickly gained popularity among commuters and locals, evolving into a vital year-round link between the Isle of Wight and the mainland. Today, Hovertravel operates two 12000TD hovercraft—Solent Flyer and Island Flyer—providing the fastest ferry service across the Solent, completing the journey in under ten minutes.

The Red Wheel scheme, administered by the National Transport Trust, commemorates sites of significant importance in the history of transport in the UK. Hovertravel's inclusion in this scheme underscores its status as a unique and enduring part of the nation's transport heritage.

Loretta Lale, Head of Marketing at Hovertravel, commented:

“We are incredibly proud to receive this recognition from the National Transport Trust. For 60 years, Hovertravel has been more than just a mode of transport; it has been a lifeline for communities, a draw for tourists, and a symbol of British innovation. These Red Wheel plaques are a testament to the dedication of our team and the enduring support of our passengers.”

Stuart Wilkinson, Chair of the National Transport Trust said, “We are delighted to add these two Red Wheels to the 191 already awarded. They serve to highlight the rich and fascinating history of UK transport, and the Solent’s hovercraft are brilliant examples of a transport solution still serving people either side of the water 60 years later. It’s a history that we hope will inspire young people to consider a career in transport and engineering and maybe there is a young person out there whose idea will become as important in the future as these hovercraft routes are today.”

The Red Wheel plaques will be permanently displayed at both Hovertravel’s Southsea and Ryde terminals, serving as lasting tributes to the company’s remarkable history and its role in shaping modern transport.

Photographs

Any image supplied with this press release is provided copyright free for editorial purposes only.

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

www.nationaltransporttrust.org.uk

email: info@nationaltransporttrust.org.uk

You received this email because you signed up on our website or made a purchase from us.

[Unsubscribe](#)