NORTH YORKSHIRE
NYMR
MOORS RAILWAY

200™
Years of Train Travel
Since 1825

Running Steam on the NYMR

Paul Middleton Director of Mechanical Engineering

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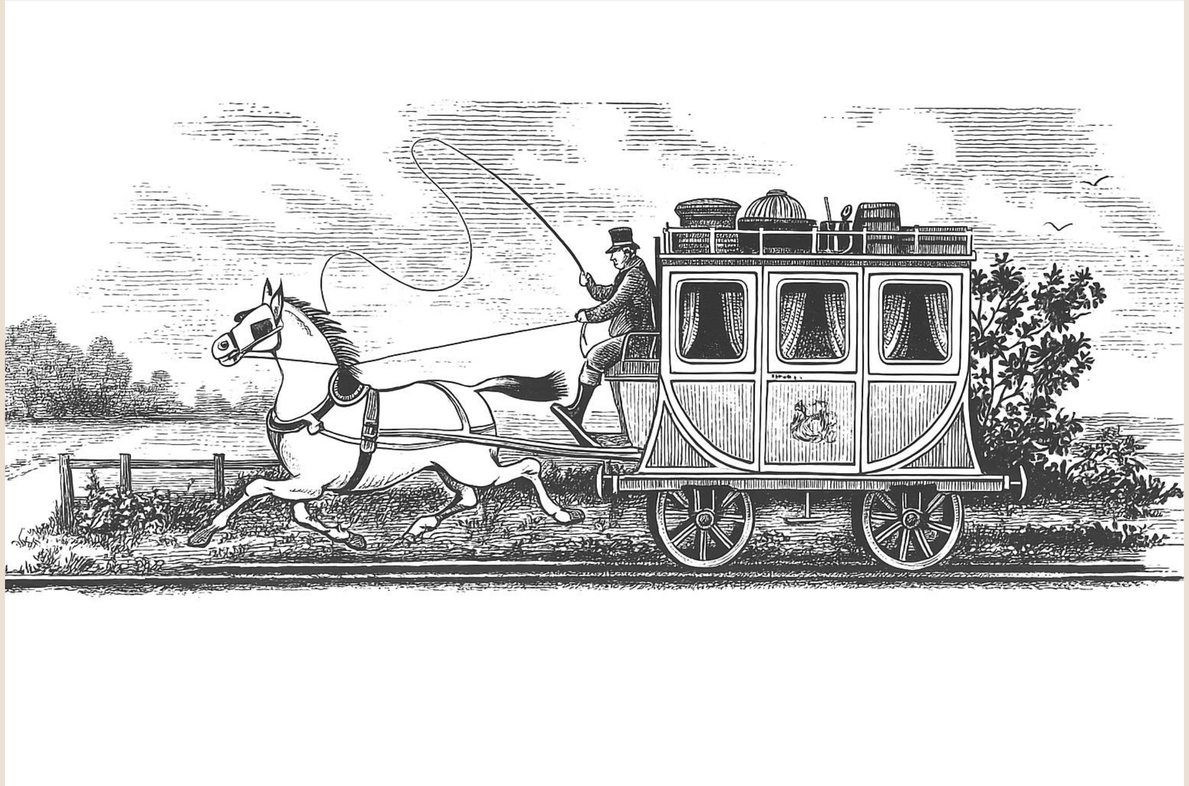
NYMR History

- The Whitby to Pickering Railway was founded in 1832, as a horse drawn railway.
- Absorbed by the York and North Midland Railway in 1845, and then became a steam hauled railway.
- In 1854 the York and North Midland Railway along with 2 other railways formed the North Eastern Railway.
- And finally, LNER in 1923 and BR in 1948



NYMR History

- The line was closed following the Beeching report, but in 1967 the North Yorkshire Moors Railway Preservation Society was formed.

- The line was reopened in 1973 as the NYMR.

- 2023 marked the 50th Anniversary of the NYMR, with a visit from the King.

A few facts- Based on 2024

- The NYMR steam fleet covers around 42,000 miles a year. Diesel fleet average 13,000 miles
- We burn around 2000 tons of coal a year
- Fleet of 10 working Steam locomotives
- 9 locomotives under overhaul

What are our current challenges?

Challenges

Climate Change

19th April 2025
A large fire 1.8 miles in length

Sparks from coal powered steam locomotives is a serious risk to our operation

Our line has steep gradients

Challenges

Following the extremely dry summer of 2025

Steam mileage is currently only 16214 miles
Diesel Mileage is 23315!

Increased tyre wear on all stock

Extra pressure on fire patrol volunteers

We have 9 miles of SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest)

Challenges Finding skilled staff

- Steam Locomotive Engineers and Fitters
- Operating staff, which includes Guards, Signallers and MOMS
- Civil Engineers
- S&T Engineers
- Pway Engineers

Overcoming the challenges

Climate change

- Cost- Coal now costs 55% more than in 2019 (in 2021 it was 75% !!!)
- Availability- All coal is imported, we have less control of the specification
- Climate- Long hot summers cause serious fire risk
- It’s a fossil fuel and not a popular one!

Overcoming the challenges

- Manufactured solid fuels
- Wood
- Oil

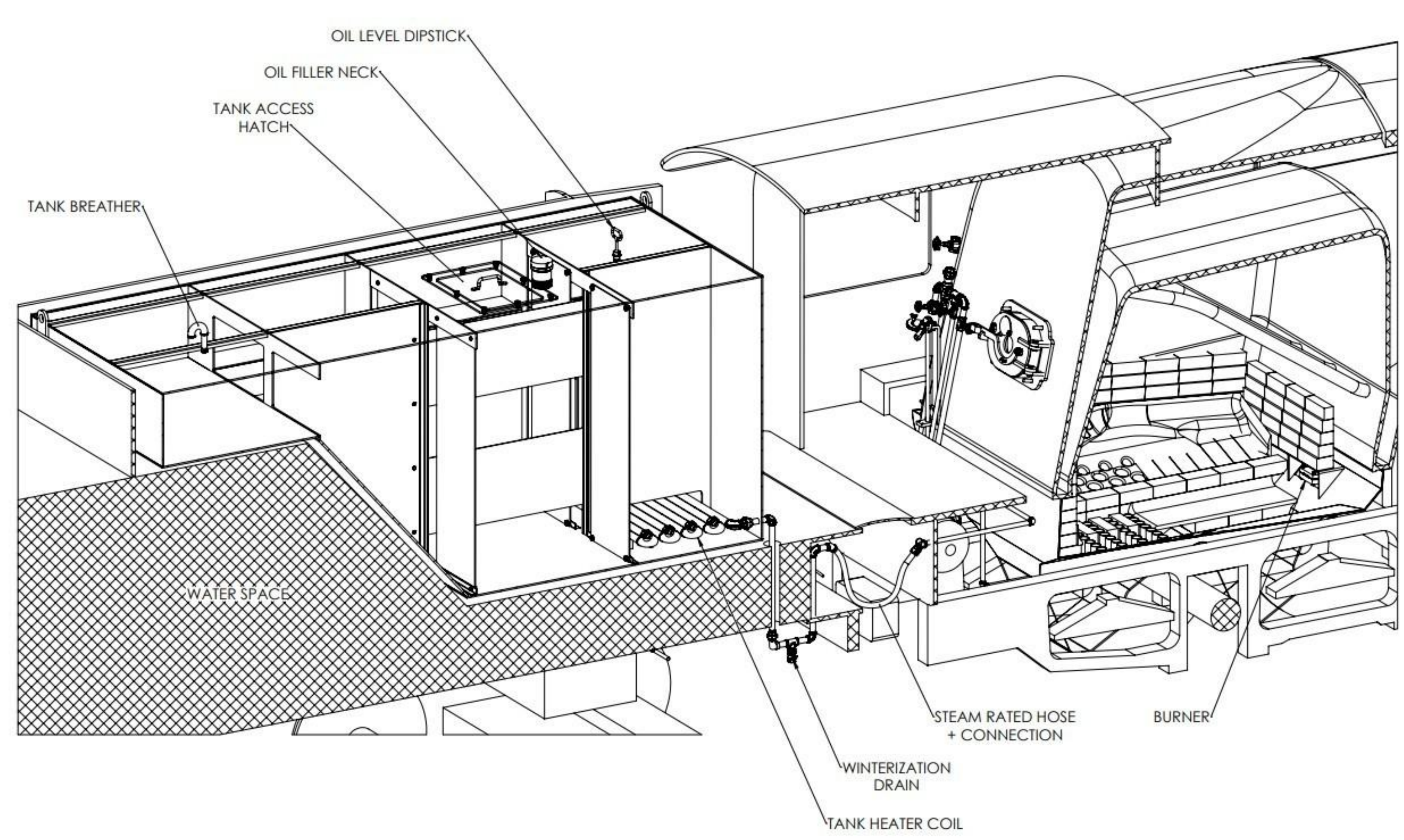
Overcoming the challenges

Why choose oil?

- Easily available
- Conversion is relatively straightforward
- Almost eliminates fire risk
- Clean and no ash to dispose of

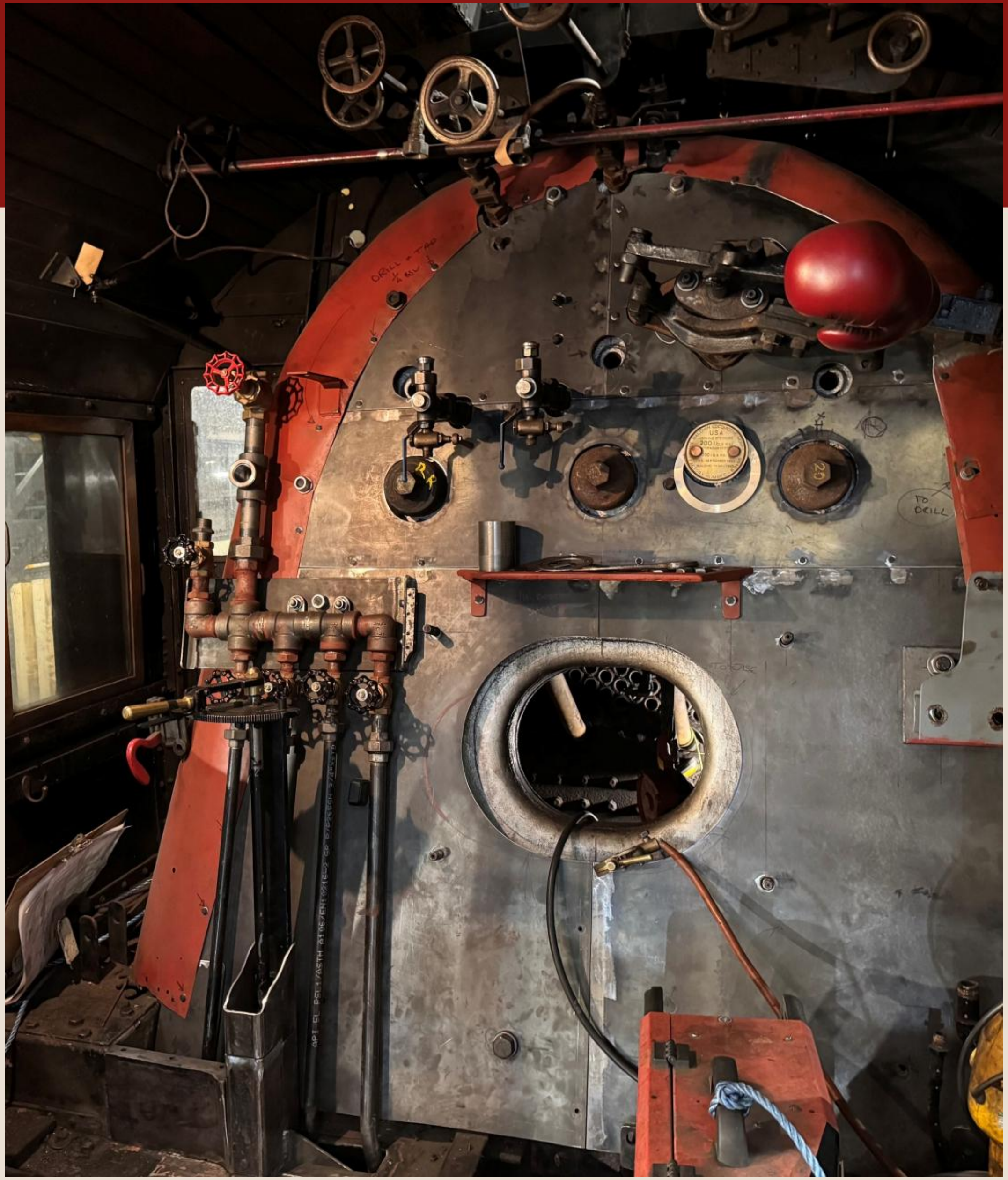
Overcoming the challenges

Overcoming the challenges



Overcoming the challenges

Overcoming the challenges



Overcoming the challenges

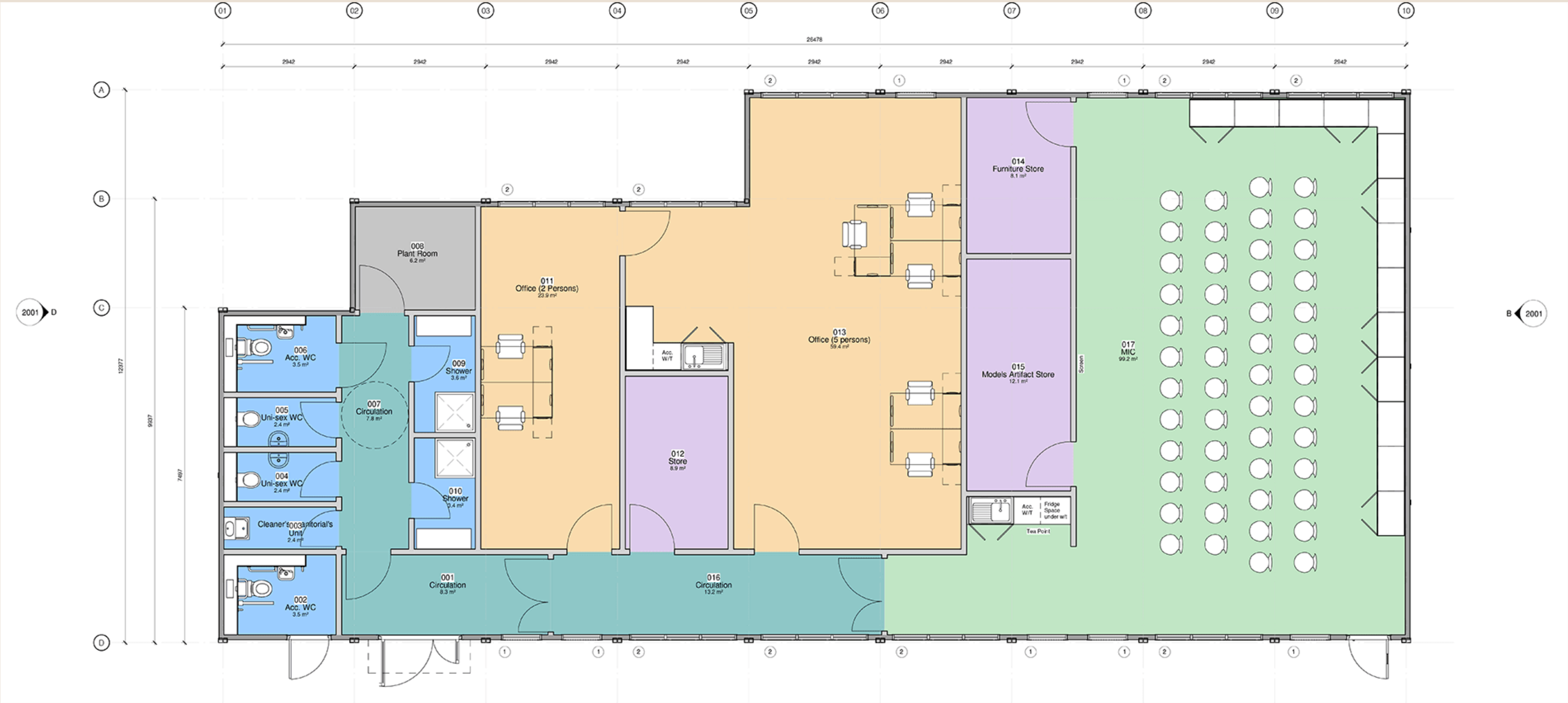
Ensuring we have the skills for the future

Ensuring we have the skills for the future

Grosmont MIC, purpose-built training facility

Completion due January 2026

Grosmont MIC



Thank you

Questions