

## **THE RED WHEEL SCHEME**

The Transport Trust is a national charity established to promote and encourage the preservation and restoration of Britain's unique transport heritage. In April 2009 the Transport Trust launched a nationwide programme to mark sites of historical interest with Red Wheel plaques. This was a major new initiative to commemorate Britain's rich and globally important legacy in the development of transport. The Red Wheel programme aims to mark hundreds of sites of special historic interest with a distinctive Red Wheel plaque and is administered by The Transport Trust, the hub of the transport preservation and restoration movement in Great Britain.

The Red Wheel plaques need to be displayed in such a way that they can be easily seen by members of the public in relation to the heritage that they celebrate. This means that a plaque should be sited, attached to or overlooking the historic location.

To place each Red Wheel plaque in historical and geographical context, each carries a link to a dedicated website ([www.transportheritage.com](http://www.transportheritage.com)) which sets out the history and importance of locations and individuals. Just as transport linked towns and villages to generate economic prosperity, the internet will link each Red Wheel plaque to educate, inform and enthuse the nation.

The scheme is structured by counties, each managed by a Red Wheel County Co-ordinator, with sites identified by learned societies, historians and enthusiast groups. There is much work to be undertaken – a relatively small number of locations are currently within the public gaze, yet there are many of great, perhaps greater, historical importance that should be awarded recognition. The sites will include locations such as Roman roads, coaching inns, canal aqueducts, or aerodrome buildings yet, equally there are locations that need to be marked for the benefit of future generations where physical evidence no longer survives.

The Red Wheel programme will leave an enduring legacy, highlighting the importance of science and engineering to our past history, and to the nation's future.