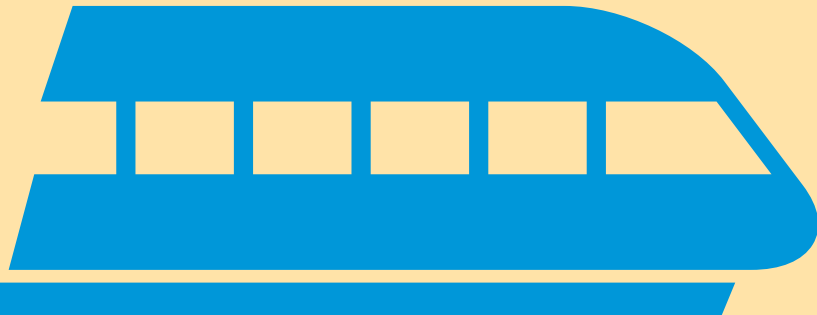




# **WHITE CLIFFS** **COMMUNITY RAIL** **PARTNERSHIP**



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
2023

**SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**





## What is Community Rail?

**Community Rail is an initiative brought in through the Department of Transport.**

It is described as a grassroots movement working to engage communities in their local railway. Initiatives range from people helping to maintain station gardens to major refurbishment schemes.

Although some community railways provide a tourism service, they are largely separate from heritage and private railways which function solely as tourist attractions. Community rail takes the form of community rail partnerships and station adoption groups. <sup>1</sup>

We work with the Department of Transport's vision in mind and follow the four pillars of Community Rail, part of the development strategy:

-  providing a voice for the community
-  promoting sustainable, healthy, and accessible travel
-  bringing communities together
-  support diversity, inclusion plus social and economic development <sup>2</sup>

Alongside the government, we work with Community Rail Network, who empower communities, provide support, advice, and expertise to Community Rail Partnerships across the UK, including our own.

There are over 70 Community Rail Partnerships across the UK and we proud to be one down on the South-East coast of England.

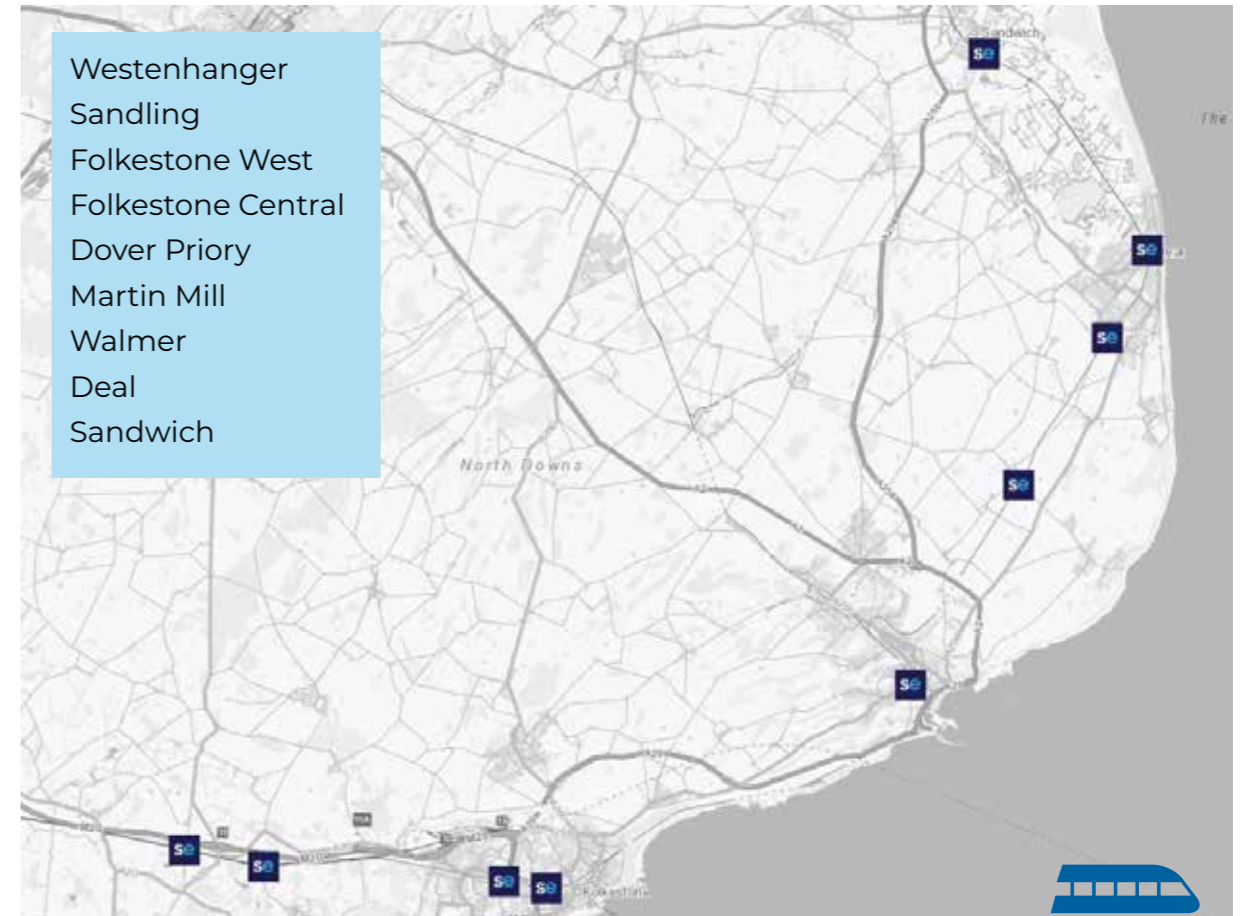
Alongside other partnerships, there are many station friends and volunteers, spending their time to improve station appearance and support projects and initiatives to encourage more individuals to use the train.














## Who are we?

**The White Cliffs Community Rail Partnership is a partnership made of 11 partners located in the South-East coast of England.**

Covering 9 stations, across 2 districts we are a growing partnership moving into our fourth year as an active CRP.



**Our partnership is made up from 11 partners, including district and town councils, railway operators, community assets and partnerships:**

-  Community Rail Network
-  Deal Town Council
-  Dover Town Council
-  Dover District Council
-  English Heritage
-  Folkestone Town Council
-  Folkestone & Hythe District Council
-  Network Rail
-  Sandwich Town Council
-  Southeastern
-  White Cliffs Countryside Partnership



## Financial Report & Funding

White Cliffs CRP is thankful to our local train operator Southeastern for funding the partnership allowing it to start and continue each year.

We have received £30,000 annually to launch and run the partnership.

There are set costs to run the partnership which include staffing for our line officer, administration fees and membership fees to Community Rail Network. These are illustrated below:

### White Cliffs Community Rail Partnership

Costs	Amount
Staff Costs	£22,500.00
CRN Membership	£180.00
Administration, Meetings, etc	£500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£23,180.00</b>

This then leaves £6,820 to spend on projects, where we started our partnership during Covid-19 restrictions we found that we had further funds rolled over which has enabled us to stretch the budget further.

This year our main aim is to become accredited, if we are successful this will enable us to apply for other funding pots from Community Rail Network to look at larger projects.

### Financial Breakdown from 2022/23

#### White Cliffs Community Rail Partnership 2022/23

Costs	Amount
Staff Costs	£22,500.00
CRN Membership	<b>£180.00</b>
Administration, Meetings, etc.	<b>£500.00</b>
Dover Priory Planters	<b>£532.04</b>
Stakeholder Event	<b>£13.86</b>
Dover Priory Artwork	<b>£389.05</b>
White Cliffs Christmas	<b>£383.89</b>
Guided Walks	<b>£1,500.00</b>
CRP Conference	<b>£63.50</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£26,062.34</b>

Funding Rolled Over	£8,880.00
Funding Received	£30,000.00
<b>New total for 22/23</b>	<b>£38,880.00</b>
Total remaining for 23/24	£12,817.66

## Project and Events from 2022/23

Over the last year we have seen some great projects completed and new relationships formed within our partnership.

These projects gave us the opportunity to show what we can offer to our local communities and what we can achieve for our local stations.

We have been able to work with local community groups and schools to achieve some great art and gardening projects to brighten up Dover Priory.

Starting the year at Westenhanger Castle to hold our annual Stakeholder Event to showcase what are plans were for the upcoming year.

Working with students at Dover Technical College and Dover Wombles we were able to transform the front of the station from a weed patch to a bright wildflower garden. Attracting wildlife and biodiversity as well as catching the eye of station users and passers-by.

### Dover Priory Wildflower Garden



Dover Tech Students and Dover Wombles, weeding the area, sowing seeds, and the beautiful results.







### Urban Birds

The Wildflower Garden project was then enhanced further working with Dover Smart project and students from St Mary's Primary School with hanging of art above the garden area known as Urban Birds.

### Station Planters



Inside Dover Priory students from the college built some planters for the platform area and Dover Wombles filled them with some beautiful plants as two statement pieces when you leave the station.

The festive season approached, and we wanted to engage with residents and rail users to spread some festive cheer along with sharing information on who we are and what are aims were.

Lastly, though we faced some damp and cold months that didn't stop our partners from White Cliffs Countryside Partnership who led some guided walks from our stations into different areas of Folkestone & Hythe and Dover District to learn about local history surrounding our stations.

## Passenger Numbers Across Our Line

The pandemic no doubt saw a decrease in passenger numbers across the whole country not just our line.

However, we are steadily seeing an increase post pandemic and aim with our projects to increase passenger numbers further and encourage travel by train to boost figures closer to pre-pandemic.

Station	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Westenhanger	80,168	18,902	45,092
Sandling	96,612	20,000	53,828
Folkestone West	775,466	201,292	513,322
Folkestone Central	1,031,302	267,698	682,674
Dover Priory	975,402	345,324	732,322
Martin Mill	70,648	19,956	37,658
Walmer	228,638	64,392	147,402
Deal	586,950	163,884	393,602
Sandwich	351,470	105,692	282,258

This data was collected from the Office of Rail and Road.

## References

1. Community rail - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/community-rail-lines>
2. Community rail development strategy - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-rail-development-strategy>





# Thank you for your support to White Cliffs Community Rail Partnership!

Should you wish to support us further by getting involved,  
please contact us.

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Webpage: <https://arcg.is/Kryb4>

