	<p style="text-align: center;">STRPS – Safety Management System Section 1 Location, Ownership, & Operation of the Railway</p>	<p>REF: SMS 1 ISSUE: 03 DATE: 5.6.25* 2022 PAGE: 1 of 2</p>
---	--	---

Location:

The South Tynedale Railway is a 2 foot/610mm narrow gauge railway with its headquarters in Alston, Cumbria, England's highest market town. The railway runs 4.6 miles/7.42 km from Alston to the hamlet of Slaggyford in the county of Northumberland, 1/3 of the railway is in Cumbria and 2/3 is in Northumberland, the railway's Gilderdale Viaduct spans the border of the 2 counties.

History prior to South Tynedale Railway:

The railway was original constructed as a standard gauge branch of the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway and opened in November 1852. Ownership then passed to the North Eastern Railway and on the 1923 grouping to the London and North Eastern Railway and finally to British Railways upon nationalisation in 1948.

Closure of the standard gauge branch took place in May 1976 followed by lifting of the permanent way.

Ownership:

The South Tynedale Railway is operated by a registered charity The South Tynedale Railway Preservation Society (STRPS). A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital.


The society was formed in 1984 with registered charity number 514939 and company number 01850832.

The Society is managed by a Board of Trustees and the railway is operated by volunteers with some freelance support in marketing, engineering and finance.

Formation of the South Tynedale Railway:

The purchase of the former standard gauge branch formation for use as a long distance footpath by Cumbria and Northumberland County Councils, paved the way for the creation of a narrow gauge railway sharing the former standard gauge formation with the footpath. The 23mile / 36.5 km South Tyne Trail footpath runs alongside the railway separated by a post and wire fence combined with gates to allow farmers access to their fields.

The railway has a long term lease of the formation from both County Councils and obtained a Light Railway Order in 1987 for the Cumbria section of the line and 1996 for the Northumberland section of the line

	<p style="text-align: center;">STRPS – Safety Management System Section 1 Location, Ownership, & Operation of the Railway</p>	<p>REF: SMS 1 ISSUE: 03 DATE: 5.6.25* 2022 PAGE: 2 of 2</p>
---	---	---

The first section of the re-opened narrow gauge railway opened in 1983 with extensions to Gilderdale in 1986, Kirkhaugh in 1996, Lintley in 2012 and most recently to Slaggyford in 2018.

Operation of the Railway

The South Tynedale Railway operates on about 100 days each from Spring to Autumn and at Christmas for the Santa Specials. It runs steam at weekends whenever possible and diesel and electric services during the week and is a significant tourist attraction in the North Pennines area.

The railway works on the one train in steam principle providing three return trips from Alston to Slaggyford on each running day.

Volunteer recruitment is a priority for the railway and all operating staff are trained and then duly certified as competent in their roles with recertification taking place at prescribed intervals.

Railway Safety

The utmost priority for the trustees is that the railway is safe for passengers, the public and volunteers.

It has engaged an Independent Competent Person to provide an overview of safety arrangements and there is an active Safety Management Group that monitors and develops safety on the railway.