

	<p style="text-align: center;">STR – Safety Management System Section 1 Location, Ownership, & Operation of the Railway</p>	<p>REF: SMS 1 ISSUE: 01 DATE: May 2021 PAGE: 1 of 1</p>
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Location:

South Tynedale Railway is a 24 inch/61cm gauge railway with 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 officially, in November 1852. Ownership then passed to the North Eastern Railway, the London and North Eastern Railway and finally to British Railways after nationalisation. 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 incorporated on the 25/09/1984, registered number 514939.

The Society is managed by a Board of Trustees.

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 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 1996 to provide for the extension of the railway to Slaggyford station the current terminus.

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 Slaggyford, open to passengers in 2018.