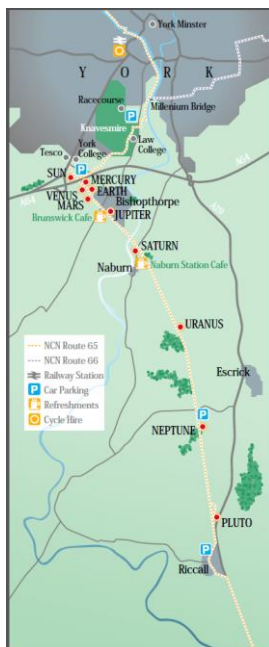


Railway to Greenway

LOTTERY FUNDED

York Greenways, a locally-based volunteer-led organisation has received £59,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an exciting project linking York and Selby. transport links between the two communities.

The story starts with the building of the East Coast Mainline from London to Edinburgh in the 1860s. The line was closed in the 1980s due to the proposed Selby coalfield, which itself closed in 2004. The line was purchased by Sustrans and converted into the first section of the National Cycle Network. It is now a busy traffic free path for cyclists, walkers and horse-riders and part of the Trans-Pennine Trail and a recognised Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) forming a green corridor for the



movement of many other equally important species. This narrative vividly illustrates the impact of the Industrial Revolution and subsequent post-industrial changes on the local communities.

Many of the people who remember or worked on the railway, the coal mine or on building the greenway will still be living in the area and , as well as research the archives, the project will be recording oral history interviews to preserve their memories for posterity.

The material collected will be available through York Explore’s archive, at local history groups and on a dedicated website. There will be documentary short films, themed artwork and interpretation boards along the route.

As well as local community groups the project will be working with the National Railway Museum, the National Coal Mining Museum, John Grimshaw’s Greenways and Cycle routes, both York’s Universities and York College. A school programme will involve over 110 year-5 children from villages along the route.



David Renwick, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund, Yorkshire and the Humber, said: “Thanks to National Lottery players, this exciting project will allow local people to connect industrial heritage to the fantastic habitats and green corridors on their doorstep, helping to share and protect them for future generations. The work taking place ties in to HLF’s natural heritage campaign, Yorkshire’s back garden, which aims to raise awareness of the importance of our local wildlife and green spaces.”

If you or a friend or relative have memories you are willing to share, let us know – we would love to hear from you

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For more information visit our website www.yorkgreenways or Twitter or Facebook