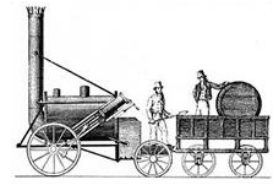




Campaign for the Lord Carlisle Heritage Trail Constitution



Historical Background

The Lord Carlisle Railway, originating in the 1770s, was one of Britain's earliest railways and played a pivotal role in supporting the region's growing coal industry. It was an early adopter of iron rails and the now standard 4' 8½" gauge. The line was extended from Tindale to Midgeholme in 1824 - one year before the Stockton & Darlington Railway opened. Between 1837 and 1840, George Stephenson's famous locomotive Rocket operated on the line. Following the decline of local coal production, the railway closed in 1953. Historic evidence suggests that a footpath ran alongside the operational railway, and since closure walkers, cyclists, and horse riders have widely used the route. The Campaign seeks to secure, protect, and enhance this important heritage corridor for future generations.

1. Name

The organisation is formally known as the **Campaign for the Lord Carlisle Heritage Trail (LCHT)**.

2. Purpose

LCHT exists to promote, protect, and support:

- The development of the Lord Carlisle Heritage Trail between Lambley and Brampton.
- The restoration of land adjacent to Midgeholme, reinstatement of the bridge east of Tindale, and reopening of the currently inaccessible section between the Howard and Brampton Station.
- The long-term conservation of the LCHT as a heritage, environmental, and community asset.

LCHT also promotes the wider benefits of the trail, including:

- Economic development
- Social inclusion
- Environmental enhancement
- Health and wellbeing
- Safe, sustainable active travel linking Northumberland and Cumberland
- Connecting the Roof of England Walk to the RSPB Geltsdale Nature Reserve
- Education about the role of early railways in Britain's industrial evolution

Equality and Accessibility Commitment

LCHT is committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion. We welcome participation from all individuals and communities and will work to ensure that the Lord Carlisle Railway Trail is designed and promoted in ways that support accessible, inclusive use by walkers, cyclists, horse riders, wheelchair users, families, and all who benefit from safe access to the countryside.

3. Aims and Objectives

LCHT aims to:

- Establish, protect, and enhance a Public Right of Way or cycleway — initially between Halton-Lea-Gate and Coal Fell, and subsequently between Lambley and Brampton — as a multi-use trail for walkers, cyclists, horse riders, wheelchair users and mobility-aid users (where accessible design allows), runners, and families with pushchairs.
- Nominate the LCHT as a community asset.

- Raise funds to purchase land crossed by the former railway.
- Advocate for improved connectivity across the North Pennines.
- Engage constructively with government, agencies, communities, and industry.
- Raise public awareness of the benefits of the LCHT.
- Support research, evidence gathering, and public information.
- Encourage community participation in the development and stewardship of the trail.
- Promote equality of access and ensure that the trail is developed in a way that supports inclusive, barrier-free use wherever possible.

4. Powers

To achieve its aims, LCHT may:

- Raise funds and receive donations or grants.
- Commission research, consultancy, or technical studies.
- Organise meetings, events, and publications.
- Work collaboratively with other organisations.
- Employ staff or contractors where necessary.
- Acquire insurance and manage property or assets.

5. Political Independence

- LCHT is strictly non-party-political.
- It does not endorse any political party or commercial interest.
- It may engage with elected representatives and officials on a cross-party basis.

6. Membership

- Membership is open to any individual or organisation that supports LCHT's aims.
- Members pay an annual subscription, set by the AGM.
- Membership may be terminated for conduct contrary to the organisation's interests, with a right of appeal.

Data Protection

LCHT will collect and hold only the personal data necessary for the administration of membership, communication with supporters, and the delivery of its aims. All personal information will be stored securely, used solely for LCHT purposes, and never shared with third parties without consent unless required by law. Members may request access to, correction of, or deletion of their personal data at any time.

7. Governance Structure

LCHT is governed by a committee elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Office Bearers

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Public Right of Way
- Fund Raiser
- additional committee members as required.

Committee Responsibilities

- Managing day-to-day affairs
- Implementing AGM and General Meeting decisions
- Overseeing finances and membership
- Co-opting additional members for specific roles where necessary
- Ensuring that LCHT's activities uphold its commitments to equality, accessibility, and data protection

8. Meetings

- **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**
 - Held once per year
 - Receives reports, approves accounts, elects the Committee, and sets subscriptions
- **Special General Meetings**
 - May be called by the Committee or by five members
- **Committee Meetings**
 - Held as required
 - Decisions made by simple majority

Voting

- Only paid-up members may vote
- In the event of a tied vote the Chair will have a casting vote in addition to a deliberative vote

9. Finance

- Funds must be used solely to further the organisation's aims.
- Accounts must be kept and presented to the AGM.
- Payments or transfers require two authorised signatories.

10. Amendments to the Constitution

- Amendments may be made at an AGM or Special General Meeting.
- Approval normally requires a two-thirds majority of those present.

11. Dissolution

If LCHT is dissolved:

- Remaining assets must be transferred to another organisation with similar aims.
- No assets may be distributed to members.