**THE STOCKTON & DARLINGTON RAILWAY (S&DR) BICENTENARY**

**Background**

The Stockton & Darlington Railway is at once a collection of physical spaces and objects and a representation of the ingenuity that is part of the fabric of this place.

Seen up close, The Stockton & Darlington Railway (S&DR) is the 26 miles of original track-bed, the stone sleepers, the metal rails that ran along it, the bridges, tunnels and the supporting buildings like the Inns and engine sheds.

From a distance, The S&DR is a demonstration of how revolutionary change occurs when a new form of communication combines with a new source of energy and a new mode of transport. The S&DR is an amazing story about innovators and pioneers.

The Stockton & Darlington Railway connected places, people, communities and ideas. Its impact was transformational and far reaching, creating a new paradigm for travel and transport.

The S&DR Rail Heritage Partnershipbrings together local and national heritage and rail organisations, local and combined authorities and academic institutions. The Partnership seeks to establish a 26 mile, connected accessible and coherent visitor attraction comprising heritage buildings, museum collections, cycleways and footpaths, digital and physical interpretation. This enhanced, permanent visitor attraction will be launched in 2025 with a vibrant, inspiring and ambitious programme of activity that celebrates the 200th anniversary of the birth of the modern passenger railway.