

INTRODUCING North Cheshire Community Rail Partnership

Connecting people, places and possibilities through meaningful community partnerships across the railways of North Cheshire.



North Cheshire
COMMUNITY RAIL



SCAN TO
VISIT OUR
WEBSITE



Working together Proud of our Railways

Who we are

We are a grassroots, volunteer-led Community Rail Partnership, passionate about connecting people with their local railways. Through collaboration and a shared sense of purpose, we aim to make our communities better places to live in, work in, and visit.



What we do

Through consultation, collaboration and local insight, we've identified four strategic themes — each with clear outcomes that we work towards. These themes guide our work and help us measure social value with meaningful impact.

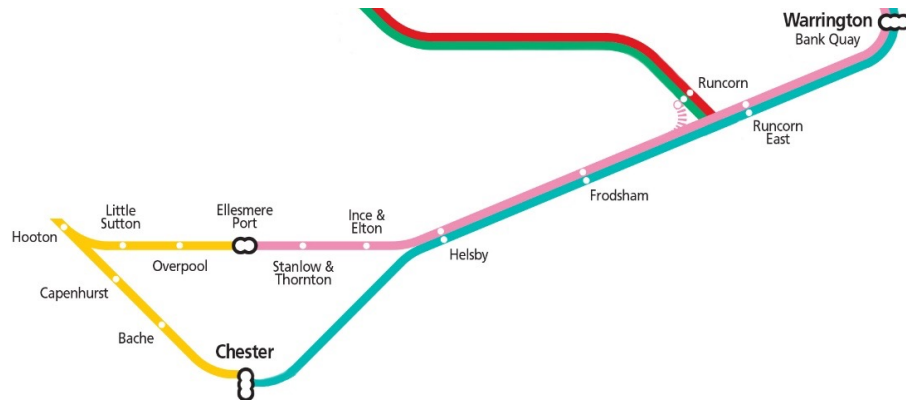


OUR VISION IS...

Everyone Proud of Our Railways

We believe that when communities feel proud of their local railways, they are more likely to engage with and benefit from them. This underpins everything we do.

As a Community Interest Company (CIC), North Cheshire Community Rail Partnership operates on a not-for-profit basis. This means every penny we receive is reinvested into delivering impactful projects that benefit local people.



Our core funding comes from the railway industry. In addition, we collaborate with a wide range of partners to bring complementary skills, experience, and resources to individual projects. These relationships are essential to helping us deliver value across our region.

We are also an accredited member of the national Community Rail Network, benefiting from shared knowledge and collaboration across more than 70 individual Community Rail Partnerships.

STATIONS IN THEIR PLACE

Connecting Stations to Community Identity

- Stations that feel welcoming, safe and vibrant
- Clear gateways between rail and the surrounding towns and villages
- Better integration with walking, cycling, buses and local networks

AFFORDABLE ACCESS AND PROMOTION

Enabling Sustainable Travel Choices

- Wider awareness of value for money rail options
- Truly accessible travel for all ages and abilities
- Joint marketing with local attractions to increase visitor numbers

HEALTH, WELL-BEING AND INCLUSION

Supporting Community Wellbeing

- Volunteer opportunities and support for local charitable aims
- Access to spaces and services promoting mental and physical health
- Inclusive outreach to under-represented or hard-to-reach communities

RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND HERITAGE

Inspiring Learning and Preserving Our Railway Stories

- Enabling research through strong links with the University of Chester and beyond
- Engaging schools and colleges with inspiring education and careers programmes
- Recording and sharing the railways' social and economic impact



Recent and proposed projects



RECENT PROJECTS



Thomas Brassey Statue – Chester Station

In partnership with many other organisations we were delighted to be able to support the Thomas Brassey Society in the erection of the statue which now graces the entrance to Chester Station. Thomas Brassey was born just outside of Chester in 1805 to a yeoman family and went on to become one of the greatest railway builders in the world during the 19th century. His legacy is an inspiration to engineers of all generations and helps us to connect the past with the digital age of railway design and engineering that is open to today's and tomorrow's budding engineers.



Active Travel Information – Frodsham Station

Working with Frodsham Town Council, Cycle North Cheshire and Transport for Wales, we have helped to facilitate the installation of Active Travel Information at Frodsham railway station and on the town centre bus stops. Designed to encourage exploration on foot or by bike of the many places of interest accessible from the town centre, we anticipate that this will be a first of a series of such initiatives across the Partnership's area.



2025 Frodsham Festival of Walks

In its 21st year we partnered with the Frodsham Festival of Walks to help promote both the accessibility of the railway stations in Runcorn, Frodsham and Helsby to a wide range of different walks, and to promote Railway 200 celebrating the two hundredth anniversary of the modern railway. The Festival was a resounding success with 29 walks being planned and successfully completed involving over 450 participants led and supported by volunteer leaders.



Sandstone Trail Travel Survey

A project undertaken in conjunction with the University of Chester has helped to understand travel choices and patterns for those accessing the famous Sandstone Trail which provides opportunities to explore beautiful parts of Cheshire from Frodsham station.



Castle Park Railway Art Installation

When the "Halton Curve" railway line was upgraded and re-opened to allow passenger train services to connect Liverpool with Chester via Frodsham and Helsby we facilitated a project to relocate the redundant railway signals into Castle Park, Frodsham where they have become a permanent feature. In the future we plan to work with local partners to implement interpretation boards to help explain these railway signals in the context of the historical importance of our railways.

CURRENT PROJECTS



Elton Outdoor Gym

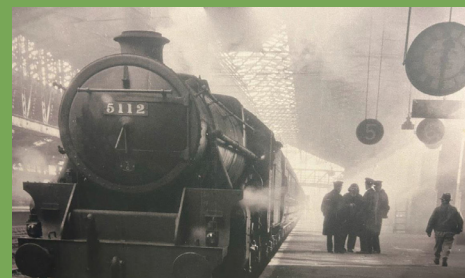
In partnership with Elton Parish Council we are funding the installation of outdoor gym equipment in Elton. Although the current level of train services through Ince & Elton station is limited, these communities are a vital part of the fabric of North Cheshire and we will work to help promote the proposed development of the line as part of wider regional transport strategies.

FUTURE PROJECTS

We are currently developing an exciting programme of possible new projects. Here are some of the things we plan to take forwards. If you or your organisation would like to get on board and collaborate with any of these please contact us.

Travel with Confidence

Partnering with local health and wellbeing organisations to help people reconnect through rail travel.



The Lived Railway Experience of the 1960s

Gather stories from the generation that witnessed the steam era, the Beeching cuts, and Britain's cultural shift.

Community Art & Culture

Installations, performances, and live art events at stations, on infrastructure, and even on the trains themselves.



Cheshire Best Kept Station Award

Let's bring that sense of pride back to our stations and show the county what our communities can achieve.

Colour Palettes for Runcorn & Warrington

A creative project exploring how communities view their railways, leading to visual representation across stations.



Reimagining Station Spaces

Repurposing underused buildings and land for community, cultural or wellbeing activities.

Research

Working with the University of Chester and other centres of learning to identify and develop innovative research projects that have a connection with our railways.



Career Discovery Days

By train, visit behind-the-scenes locations in the rail industry, giving young people insight into future opportunities.

Active Travel & Visitor Experiences

Encouraging walking and cycling from stations, creating visitor trails, and promoting rail access to attractions.

Get Involved. Make a Difference. Be Proud of Your Railway.

Join a community-led movement that's shaping the future of railways across Cheshire, Halton and Warrington — one volunteer at a time.

Why Volunteering Matters

We're a grassroots, community-based organisation, and our volunteers are at the very heart of everything we do. Without their dedication, creativity and local knowledge, many of our projects simply wouldn't be possible.

Volunteering not only benefits the communities we serve, but also brings real rewards for the individuals involved. Whether you give a little time or a lot, volunteering with us helps improve wellbeing, offers opportunities to meet new people, and supports personal and professional development. It's meaningful, purposeful, and can open doors to future careers.

A Shared Vision for Volunteering

We're proud to support Cheshire West Voluntary Action's Vision for Volunteering, and we embrace its five key principles:

- **Inclusive** – Volunteering should be accessible to all, regardless of age or ability. Everyone has something valuable to give.
- **Empowering** – Volunteers are community changemakers. We encourage projects that match your skills and interests.
- **Collaborative** – We work in partnership across community, public, and private sectors to maximise impact.
- **Experimental** – Volunteering should be flexible, creative, and responsive to changing needs and ideas.
- **Appreciated** – Every contribution counts. We recognise and celebrate the role volunteers play in improving community life.

Current Volunteering Opportunities

As new projects grow, so does our need for passionate volunteers from all walks of life. If you're looking to get involved, we'll help find a role that suits you.

Station Groups

Support local stations with gardening, biodiversity, and community art projects — from planting to poetry.

Travel with Confidence Programme

Become a travel buddy and help others feel safe and confident using the train for everyday journeys.

Research, Education & Careers

Dive into social history, or act as a youth ambassador championing railways in schools and colleges.

Volunteer Management

We're looking for a Volunteering Co-ordinator to help develop and support our volunteer network.

To discuss any of these roles, please get in touch for an informal chat.



**North Cheshire
COMMUNITY RAIL**

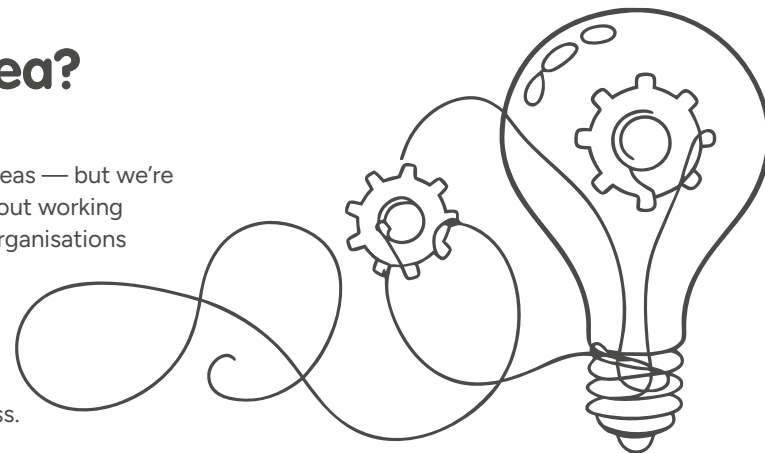


Got an Idea?

Let's Collaborate

We're bursting with ideas — but we're even more excited about working with individuals and organisations who share our vision.

From health and wellbeing to heritage, the possibilities for partnership are endless.



Get in touch

We will be delighted to hear from you, whether you are thinking about volunteering, have got an idea that we could collaborate on, or just want to find out more about us. We welcome volunteers from all parts of all of our communities, and know that there will be something that you will be able to help with whatever your background, experience or passion — so why not give it a try?

For more information or to arrange to meet one of the team please contact one of us:

Christine Kinsella, Community Rail Development Officer
Chris Kimberley or **Mark Warren**, Directors

Telephone: **07984 308049** or Email: enquiries@northcheshirecrp.org

www.northcheshirecrp.org



We are very grateful for the support we receive
from many partners and collaborating organisations.

In particular these organisations are pivotal to our success...

RAILWAY INDUSTRY



LOCAL AUTHORITIES



ACADEMIA



Enjoy travelling by train – and contribute to a more sustainable future for us all.
For train times and fares please contact: www.nationalrail.co.uk



SCAN TO
VISIT OUR
WEBSITE



North Cheshire Community Rail Partnership – A Community Interest Company registered in England.
Company Registration: 16332357 Registered Address: Office 1 Brunswick House, Brunswick Way, Liverpool, L3 4BN
Directors: Christopher Kimberley; Mark Warren. Published by North Cheshire Community Rail Partnership July 2025.