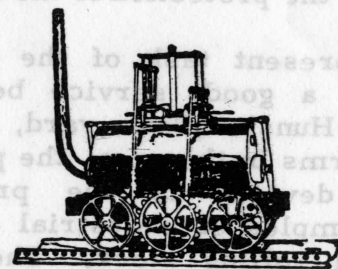


# THE MIDDLETON RAILWAY



## TODAY

# A working railway MUSEUM



## in Leeds

## AN APPEAL

The 1758 Middleton Colliery Railway, now operated by the Middleton Railway Trust, has a unique place in the industrial history of Leeds and of England as a whole.

It is now the oldest surviving railway in the world, having been built by authority of the first Railway Act of Parliament to carry coal from the Brandling's Colliery at Middleton to coal staiths in Hunslet and on the River Aire near Leeds Bridge. In 1812 it became the first railway to be operated regularly by steam locomotives - designed by the eminent Leeds engineer Matthew Murray. And as recently as 1960, it became the first standard-gauge railway to be preserved by a voluntary society and placed under the protection of the National Trust.

The present task of the Trust is the operation of a goods service between British Railways at Hunslet Down yard, and a number of private firms in the area, the proceeds from which are devoted to the preservation of suitable examples of industrial railway locomotives and rolling stock. The occasion of the present appeal is the prospect of a permanent museum and depot at Middleton Colliery, on the most historic part of the original 1758 line, adjacent to Middleton Park, with buildings available and ideally suited to the purpose.

Following the recent cessation of coal production at the Middleton Colliery, the Trust has successfully negotiated with the National Coal Board for the purchase of a mile of the Middleton Railway track linking the Trust's present line to the colliery, with the use of three large buildings there. The appeal is a matter of considerable urgency as the site may be developed in other ways and the railway dismantled unless a sum of £4000 can be raised

by the 1st. of March 1969. The Trust believes the establishment of a working railway Museum on this historic industrial site to be a matter of the utmost public importance, and being unable to raise the necessary funds from its own limited resources, appeals to all interested in the preservation of our industrial heritage for their generous support.

It is the Trust's policy that the museum to be established at Middleton shall harmonise with the planned development of the area as a public open space, and may in time become the embryo of a working transport museum for the Leeds region; the Trust's Historic locomotives will have 2 miles of main line track where they can be displayed at work.

The project has the formal approval of the Leeds City Council and requires, in comparison with other preservation schemes, but modest expenditure.

Your donation or interest free loan to this cause will ensure that the third century of railway operation at Middleton brings a new and constructive purpose to this famous line. The Trust cannot bring this about without the sympathy and support of the commercial world, and the general public. Every donation or loan will bring success nearer. In the event of the appeal failing to reach the required total (£4000) all donations will be returned in full.

Donations or offers of loans will be gratefully acknowledged and should be sent to:-

Yorkshire Bank, Leeds Branch,  
2 Infirmary Street, Leeds LS1 1QT  
or to the Middleton Railway Trust,  
11, Drummond Court, Leeds LS16 5QE  
payable to Middleton Railway Trust Appeal.

MIDDLETON RAILWAY TRUST APPEAL

I/we are willing to support the Middleton Railway Trust Appeal

I/we enclose a donation of £    s    d

and / or

I/we can guarantee an interest free loan of £    s    d

NAME.....ADDRESS.....

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