



ESK VALLEY RAILWAY PASSENGERS' NEWSLETTER

September 2012

5,000-job mine proposed for North York Moors near Whitby

A MINING company has unveiled designs and a preferred location for a proposed project that would create up to 5,000 jobs. York Potash wants to create a concealed mine at Dove Nest Farm and Haxsby Plantation, off the B1416, about 2.5 miles south of Whitby.

The plans include a 30-mile underground pipeline to transport the mined polyhalite, which is processed to make super-fertiliser potash, to a processing plant in [Teesside](#).

The company says this will minimise traffic to and from the site, and remove the need for a processing site in the National Park.

The plans have been announced as the company launches its public consultation programme before finalising the proposals and submitting a planning application to the North York Moors National Park Authority towards the end of the year.

Following a 12-month investigation into possible sites, the company announced the details to the market this morning after considering technical, operational, ecological, environmental, social and community factors.

The site was chosen because it is screened by trees to minimise the visual impact on the North York Moors National Park, is in middle of the polyhalite deposit to allow access to the seam and has good road links.

A spokesman for York Potash said the site's topography and heavy screening by mature trees meant the developed mine would be completely concealed.

He added that while the site has relatively close access to Whitby, it is also isolated with only seven properties located within a ¾-mile radius.

Following engineering design work, the company is proposing to use a vertical twin shaft design to reduce the volumes of excavated material from the shafts as well as the surface area of the mine.

It will also minimise technical complexity to reduce the time needed for construction.

All soil excavated from the mine shafts will be used to landscape the site, and three reed bed settlement ponds will be created.

The company has also today submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening and scoping request to the North York Moors National Park Authority, which will set out the environmental issues York Potash proposes to examine as part of its plans.

The authority will assess the request and either approve it, or ask York Potash to look at additional issues.

Following the EIA and public consultation, York Potash is intending to formally submit its plans to the park authority by the end of the year.

The authority must make a decision on the plans within 16 weeks. The authority will launch a second public consultation on the submitted plans and consider all views represented in this period. If approved, the proposals would see York Potash, which is owned by international conglomerate Sirius Minerals, create 1,000 direct jobs when the mine reaches full capacity, and 4,000 in the supply chain.

Chris Fraser, managing director and CEO of Sirius, said: "From the outset of the York Potash project, we have said we can develop a world-leading, state-of-the-art potash mine in an unobtrusive way.

"Our proposed location and design concepts show what would be a relatively simple concept to construct, but with one of the world's most innovative approaches to lowimpact mine design.

"This is a nationally significant project that brings with it extensive local benefits to North Yorkshire.

"The location and our mine designs demonstrate we can minimise the impact of the mine and deliver on our longstanding commitment to the local community."

(Northern Echo: Lauren Pyrah 3rd September).

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Potash Mine near Whitby

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From a rail perspective, Ruswarp station on the Esk Valley Railway is in close proximity for commuting to the proposed potash site from Tees Valley. With the cost and availability of accommodation in Whitby being so prohibitive, travel to work by rail would be an environmental and economic solution which would also be of benefit to the tourism market.

You can help us here by taking about five minutes to fill out a survey online by following the link below. The more information we collect which illustrates the need for extra services, such as access to work, education and the new station serving the James Cook University Hospital, the more chance we have of getting an increase in services for Whitby and the Esk Valley. No personal data will be passed on to third parties.

<http://www.surveymonkey.co/s/eskvalleyrailway2012>

You can also complete it on our website on the Homepage:

www.eskvalleyrailway.co.uk

or the About EVRDC page:

www.eskvalleyrailway.co.uk

For those of you who completed a form when visiting our stand at the Danby and Egton shows, many thanks. We appreciated meeting with our passengers and residents and visitors to the area.

For more information on our Music Trains, please visit the website:

www.eskvalleyrailway.co.uk/events

[View the timetables online >>](#)

Esk Valley Volunteers

Volunteers contribute a lot of hours helping to keep the Esk Valley stations looking their best.

This sense of ownership is of benefit to the train operator as well as passengers. Concerns are reported quickly to Northern and rectified.

The longest running station adoption membership goes to the Lealholm Women's Institute, who adopted their station more than ten years ago and maintain the flower beds.

If you would like to volunteer to help maintain stations or for events along the Esk Valley, contact EVRDC for further information: details on this enewsletter.

[Visit the website for contact details on volunteering >>](#)

Special Events

We are happy to help organize rail travel opportunities for all such special events. It helps to promote our community line, bringing new and valued custom for this scenic rural line. Local businesses also benefit as well as rail operators. We are here to advise on which timetabled services are best to use for this purpose and, by prior arrangement, will decorate the train.

Contact Esk Valley Railway for more details: 01947 601987 or visit our website www.eskvalleyrailway.co.uk for details of fares and timetables.

Group ticket discounts are available from the train operator for ten or more people. Contact Northern direct on 0845 00 00 125 for details on how to book.

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Esk Valley Railway Development Company,
The Coliseum, Victoria Place, Whitby, North Yorkshire,
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