

# RAILWAYS

Although the decline of coaching in Northallerton threatened the town's prosperity, the development of the railway network eventually restored its fortunes. The first line to pass through was the main line from London to Edinburgh, constructed by the Great North of England Railway Company. Having bulldozed through the Castle Hills earthwork on the north side of the town, whose soil was used to form the railway embankment, the York to Darlington section opened to passengers on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1841.

Northallerton also became a junction for lines carrying local traffic, when a second line, the Wensleydale Railway, opened in 1848. A third line, the low-level Leeds Northern Railway, opened in 1852. 104 trains stopped here each weekday in 1885. The Wensleydale Railway closed to passengers in 1954 (it now operates as a heritage line), and the line to Ripon and Harrogate was closed in the Beeching Cuts of 1967.

Northallerton witnessed the first high speed derailment of the new InterCity 125 service in August 1979, at the start of the station platform. Carrying 450 passengers, the train left the rails at 70mph, but fortunately remained upright, and there were no serious injuries.

