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The latest rail news on Thursday, 16th September 2021

A new economic report published by independent researchers Oxford Economics shows a UK railway industry powering ahead before the pandemic struck last year.

The report, commissioned by the Railway Industry Association (RIA), shows UK rail as a major economic sector, driving growth, investment and jobs right across the UK.

Oxford Economics found that in 2019, the latest point where economic data is available, the rail industry supported £43 billion GVA in economic growth, 710,000 jobs and £14 billion in tax revenue each year.

A further delay to the return of direct Eurostar international train services from Kent has been branded "bad news for the county".

An article on Kent Online says the company, which runs services through the county from London to the continent, has confirmed the timetable will not include stops at Ashford or Ebbsfleet until 2023 at the earliest.

Northumberland Park is the second new station for the Northumberland Line that has been given the go-ahead after it received planning permission.

SLC Property is supporting Northumberland County Council by submitting and managing the planning applications and associated property aspects.

North Tyneside Council granted planning permission for the station at Northumberland Park – which will be built alongside the current Metro station near Backworth – on Tuesday.

[Click here for more details.](#)

A huge model railway set which was collected by a train enthusiast throughout his life has fetched £100,000 at auction.

An article in The Yorkshire Post says Nigel Thornley amassed the toy engines for more than 70 years after being given his first train set as an 18-month-old toddler.

Over the decades he went on to build up an enormous hoard of more than 300 models and had a lifelong passion for the railways before his death earlier this year, aged 72.

Four individual locomotives fetched more than £1,000 by themselves as rail enthusiasts bid for more than 350 lots at Hansons Auctioneers in Etwall, Derbyshire.

Photo credit: Northumberland County Council