From 1885 until its closure in 1965 the old railway line from Scarborough to Whitby took goods and passengers up and down the North Yorkshire coast. Now that it’s an off road route through the North York Moors National Park for walkers, horse riders and cyclists, where will it take you?

You might decide to make a slight detour and visit one of the quiet bays such as Crook Ness, Cloughton Wyke, Hayburn Wyke (top), Stoupe Beck Sands or Maw Wyke Hole, or make a circular walk of it by taking in part of the Cleveland Way.

You may prefer to stop for a pint at the Hayburn Wyke Hotel or for afternoon tea at the old station in Cloughton (front panel, top) or the café in Ravenscar.

You could hire a bike from “Trailways” at Hawsker.

You can explore our early industrial heritage at the Peak Alum Works - the birthplace of the British chemical industry - where locally mined rock was combined with human urine, brought up by barge from London, to make Alum - which helps fix dye to cloth - for the emerging UK textile industry.

You’ll be confounded by the town that never quite was at Ravenscar.

You can stop to wonder at the 13 spans of the 120 feet (36.5 metre) high Larpool Viaduct (left, centre) over the River Esk in Whitby.

Or you may simply want to take a bit of time to enjoy the numerous sights and pleasures of Whitby, Scarborough or Robin Hoods Bay (above).

In an act of great foresight, Scarborough Borough Council bought the line shortly after it closed. Because the track ballast was made from cinders rather than crushed stone, many locals call it the “cinder track”.

It now forms 21½ miles (34.4 kms) of Route 1 of the National Cycle Network and the Friends of the Old Railway (www.friendsoftheoldrailway.org) are grateful for the support given by Sustrans, Scarborough Borough Council, the Groundwork Trust and the Big Lottery Fund.