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## The Borders Railway: an approach to Evaluation

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### 1 Abstract

The Borders Railway, the longest new domestic railway to be constructed in Britain for over 100 years, opened on Sunday 6th September 2015. The line connects Edinburgh with Tweedbank and includes 30 miles of new railway and seven new stations.

The final business case for the line included the following Investment Objectives:

1. Promote accessibility to/from the Scottish Borders and Midlothian to Edinburgh and the central belt
2. Foster social inclusion by improving services for those without access to a car
3. Prevent decline in the Borders population by securing ready access to Edinburgh's labour market
4. Create modal shift from the car to public transport.

In accordance with the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) and Transport Scotland's Rail Evaluation Guidance, Transport Scotland requires an evaluation to be undertaken and documented for any project for which government funding is provided.

With respect to the Borders Railway, to date, two studies have been undertaken in this regard. These are as follows:

- Borders Railway Baseline Study (2015) – this study was completed prior to the re-opening of the railway and aimed to develop a baseline of the travel behaviour patterns and socio-economic characteristics of the Scottish Borders / Midlothian prior to the re-opening of the line.
- Borders Railway Year 1 Evaluation (2017) – this study was undertaken one year after the line re-opened and aimed to provide a high-level assessment of the extent to which the project is on track to meet its investment objectives.

This paper provides a brief overview of the application of the Guidance in this context, before discussing the approach adopted in each of the above studies. Note though that findings from the 2017 study cannot be presented, as the Final Report has not yet been published.

### 2 Availability of Paper

Please see the published report for the Borders Railway Baseline Study:

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/media/33252/j418557.pdf>

The Borders Railway Year 1 Evaluation has not yet been published.