

Oral History Interviewee - Info Sheet

You are being invited to take part in 60 Miles by Road or Rail's Oral History Project. Funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund, the project aims to preserve Northampton and Corby's New Town legacies by capturing stories and experiences from a wide range of people. We are interviewing 25 people exploring personal experiences of Northampton and Corby's respective New Town designations and the effects these have had on our hometowns today.

Before you decide if you would like to be part of the Oral History activity, it is important for you to understand why the work is being undertaken and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

Who will lead the project?

60 Miles by Road or Rail is project managed by Andy Routledge and Courtenay Johnson, and Digital Community Engagement Producer Katie Welford. You can find out more about us our [website](#). The interviews will be conducted by one of our five Oral History Interviewers: Grete Dalum-Tilds, Bekki Frost, Laura Graham, Beverley Jones and Mo Shapiro. The interviewers were selected through a recruitment process and are all paid positions. They have each received training from the Oral History Society in association with the British Library.

What is the purpose of the Oral Histories?

We want to create a more inclusive history and record of Northampton and Corby's New Town legacies. We recognise that these periods changed the makeup of the towns considerably, and yet there seems to be very little documenting these, especially from the perspectives of the people who experienced the changes first-hand. By capturing and exploring these stories we believe we can provide a greater understanding of what has happened in the past and how that continues to affect our present day lives and future town-planning.

What would I be asked to do if I took part?

If you decide to take part you will be invited to an interview which will last approximately 1 hour and be audio-recorded. The interview is very flexible and you are free to discuss what seems to be most important factors to you, primarily around the themes of homelife, family, community, work and the wider towns. With your permission, your recorded interview will become part of the 60 Miles by Road or Rail project where it will be archived in the East Midlands Oral History Archive. We may also approach you about presenting short excerpts of the interview on our website. The interviewer will also ask your permission to take your photograph to feature beside the recording.

What happens to the data collected?

With your permission, your recorded interview will become part of an archived collection where it will be preserved as a permanent resource. We will never use your information without your consent, and you can tell us how it should be used on the Recording Agreement which you will complete after your interview has been completed.

You have the following options:

- Use your name: You can tell us to credit you by name when we use your contributions on the website, in print, and in public.
- Use a pseudonym: The pseudonym will be the name used in archive and the name attributed to your contributions on the website, in print, and in public. You are encouraged to use a pseudonym rather than being anonymous.

Occasionally you may wish to request partial or complete closure of your interview to public access which we can accommodate.

Once the interview is completed the interviewer will upload the recording to a secure cloud server where it will be accessible only by the Oral History team. If you have chosen to use a pseudonym, we will allocate a unique identifier to your interview and all details of your identity will be kept separately to the audio files and the interview summary.

Your interviewer will summarise the interview and review it to ensure compliance with GDPR requirements before uploading it to the 60 Miles by Road or Rail server and we will send you a copy of your interview as an mp3 file via email.

When the project ends in 2021, the website will remain active for 5 years in compliance with funding requirements with National Lottery Heritage Fund. All future use of your contributions will adhere to the same access and privacy conditions that you select now.

Your personal data

We are collecting and storing this personal information in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 which legislate to protect your personal information. The legal basis upon which we are using your personal information is “public interest task” and “for research purposes” if sensitive information is collected. For more information about the way we process your personal information and comply with data protection law please see our [Privacy Policy](#) on our website. 60 Miles by Road or Rail Ltd. as Data Controller for this project takes responsibility for the protection of the personal information that this study is collecting about you. In order to comply with the legal obligations to protect your personal data we have safeguards in place such as policies and procedures. All interviewers are trained and will ensure full confidentiality as part of their contract to ensure that they protect and respect the confidentiality of interviewees.

What about documents, images and objects?

Some of you may have kept interesting documents, images and objects about the New Town designations and we would be very grateful if you were willing to share these with us. We will arrange to scan them or take a photograph and upload these digital files on to the website. We will never use your documents, images or objects without your consent, and you can tell us how they should be used.

How is confidentiality maintained?

All interviewers are trained and will ensure full confidentiality as part of their contract to ensure that they protect and respect the confidentiality of interviewees. All data from the research will be stored on the 60 Miles by Road or Rail secure server and be accessible only to the Oral History team. If you have chosen to use a pseudonym, all identifying data will be kept separately to the audio files and summaries. At the end of this project in 2021 all future use of your contributions will adhere to the same access and privacy conditions that you select now.

What happens if I do not want to take part or if I change my mind?

It is up to you to decide whether to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a **Participation Agreement** before the interview and a **Recording Agreement** after the interview. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw from the interview at any time without giving a reason and without detriment to yourself. If you decide to do this then the digital file and any material relating to your interview, eg. summaries/transcripts/photographs will be deleted from the website.

Will I be paid for participating in the research?

There will be no payment for participating in the research, however all expenses will be covered.

What is the duration of the interview?

The interview will last approximately an hour, however it could be longer or shorter depending on how much you would like to share. If you get tired during the process you can ask to stop and take a break, continue on another date or terminate the interview completely.

Will the recordings be published?

Extracts of some of the recordings will be published on our website. Full, unedited versions will be archived at the east Midlands Oral History Archive. We will never use your information without your consent, and you can tell us how it should be used on the Recording Agreement. In order to help prevent any inappropriate reuse or manipulation, whole digital interviews and edited extracts will be made available through the Creative Commons licence, 'Attribution Non-Commercial No Derivatives' (referred to as CC BY-NC-ND), and will be attributed to you/ your pseudonym and it cannot be used for commercial purposes.

Where will the interviews take place?

Interviews will be conducted at a time and place convenient to you, preferably in your own home. We will pair you with an interviewer accordingly. You will have spoken with them on the phone prior to the interview. The interviewer will inform the Project Manager when they arrive at the interview location and when they leave.

What about COVID-19?

Keeping both you and the interviewers safe is our top priority. In line with our COVID-19 policy, the Interviewer will wear a mask and social distancing will be maintained throughout the interview. The Interviewer will have taken a lateral flow test the evening before the Interview and will only go ahead with the interview if the result is negative. If you would like to talk through this further with the Interviewer prior to the Interview, please do so.

Who can I contact if I have any questions?

It is highly unlikely that anything should go wrong during your involvement in the project. If however you have any questions or concerns in the first instance you should contact the **Project Manager, Andy Routledge**: andy@60milesbyroadorrail.co.uk

About the project

The 60 Miles project, which relaunched in April 2021, is a year-long intergenerational cultural project inspired by Northampton's and Corby's New Town heritage. There are four strands of activity:

- **The Show** about Northampton's New Town story returns to Royal & Derngate in September 2021 - an upscaled and updated version of the show we previewed in 2018.
- **Hometown**: working with communities in Northampton and Corby to co-create two new pieces of work inspired by their relationship with their own hometown.
- **Old Town New Town**: a series of events led by New Town Heritage Research Network exploring wider aspects of the New Town developments in Northampton and Corby.
- **Your Story**: gathering personal stories and documenting them in different ways including: oral histories, written and photo stories and creating a documentary film.

About us

60 Miles by Road or Rail started in August 2017. Theatre director Andy Routledge returned to his hometown of Northampton and wanted to cultivate a platform for Northamptonians of different generations to come together to question and strengthen their collective and individual relationships to the town.

He discovered that 2018 marked 50 years since the designation of Northampton becoming a New Town – an event that led to its rapid expansion as thousands of families were welcomed from overspill areas, primarily from London. It was a fundamental moment in the makeup of Northampton, and yet it was a story that seemed to be largely untold.

Andy brought together a team of local professional artists (Ryan Leder, Subika Anwar-Khan, Davin Eadie, Dan McGarry, Helen Crevel, Jo Blake and producer Courtenay Johnson) and between them they interviewed 114 people about their experiences of Northampton becoming a New Town. Interviewees included members of the Northampton Development Corporation (the taskforce who oversaw the town's expansion), some of the first residents to live in the newly built estates and who helped nurture the new communities, and Northamptonian natives who witnessed the town's identity change very significantly and very quickly.

Whilst the artists were drawing the various stories together, Northamptonshire County Council declared bankruptcy and severe cuts to its social services were announced. The county was on the front page of the Guardian and the New York Times as an example of a local authority going bust as a result of the government's austerity measures. The project took on a greater urgency with the anger of a town in crisis and had a great amount to say and contribute to our contemporary political landscape.

In September 2018, we previewed the new theatre production, 60 Miles by Road or Rail. It played to a packed home-crowd at Royal & Derngate as part of their Generate programme for emerging artists. Following the success of both the production and the community processes leading up to it, the team started planning for next steps.

Throughout 2019, we put together a new programme of activity and secured ambitious funding bids from Arts Council England, National Lottery Heritage Fund, National Lottery Community Fund and Northamptonshire Community Foundation. Due to the pandemic we have rescheduled our new year-long project to take place in 2021. In addition to building on the arts and community activities that we started in 2018, we will be hosting heritage events and activities in Corby which was designated a New Town 18 years previously.

More about the project can be found on our website:

www.60milesbyroadorrail.co.uk