



***Torrige and North Devon Connectivity Programme***

*Atlantic Coast Exeter Railway*

*ACE Rail*

*Presentation on behalf of*



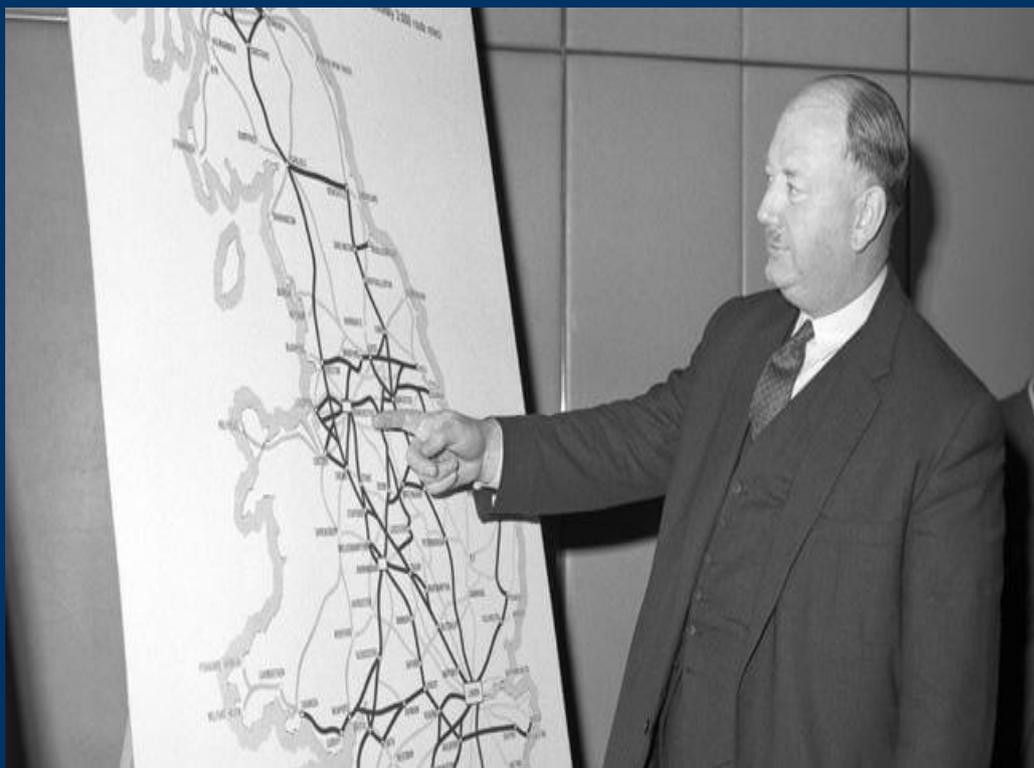
Tarka Line Creatives

27.3.23

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*The Reshaping of British Railways by Dr Beeching  
27.3.23 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary*



# Restoring Your Railway

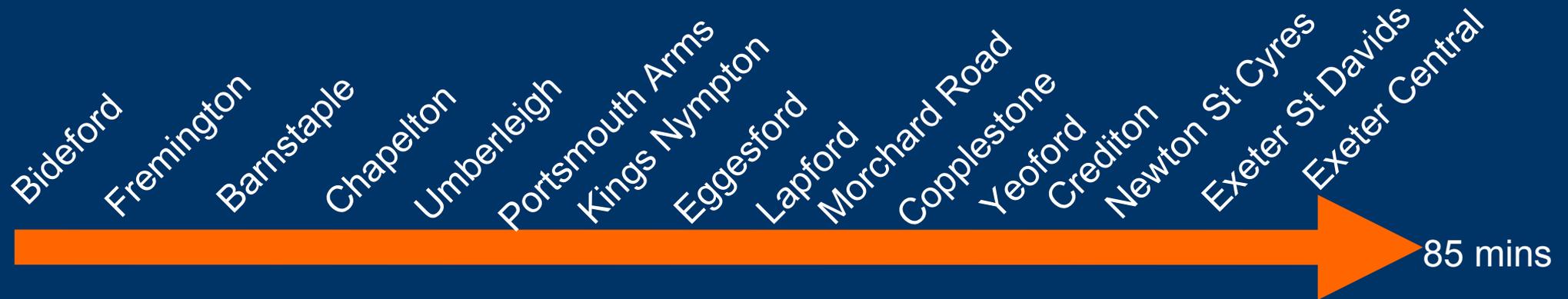
*Government's stated objectives:*

- The Department for Transport programme works with councils to help support left-behind communities.
  - Supporting new housing developments and boosting tourism.
  - Opening up jobs and education opportunities.
  - Investment targeted at regenerating local economies.
  - Cut down on car emissions and ease local road congestion.
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Recently, the monthly average of Tarka line journeys was over 55,000 users.

2022 had over 650,000 journeys! Breaking all records!

Simply adding Bideford station's catchment would overload the existing service and be slow.



## Local authorities and residents' rail-mindedness

District/unitary	Stations	Usage 2021-2022	Pop 2021	R-MI*
Exeter	9	5,916,866	130,709	45.3
Teignbridge	5	2,389,858	134,803	17.8
East Devon	9	1,713,130	150,828	11.4
Torbay U	3	1,292,586	139,324	9.3
Plymouth U	6	2,047,786	264,729	7.7
South Hams	2	642,394	88,627	7.2
Mid-Devon	8	585,734	82,852	7.1
North Devon	5	460,000	98,611	4.7
West Devon	3	93,278	57,096	1.6
Torridge	0	0	68,114	0
Average				12.5

\*R-MI = Rail-Mindedness Index (Annual station visits per head).

# ACE Rail's additional hourly limited-stop faster service compared to the existing slow most-stations service.



*Modal shift to more sustainable transport means journey time competitive with road and doubled service frequency with more capacity for growth.*

Tarka Line Journey Figures										13-Feb-23				
Calendar year - by four week periods														
Period	2001	2009	2012	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1 (9 Jan - 5 Feb 22)	10.000	22.253	34.507	39.657	44.574	45.633	45.750	47.643	44.986	41.131		49.612	54.136	
2 (6 Feb - 5 Mar)	11.000	26.146	40.095	36.540	50.893	49.762	51.384	49.855	49.859	41.898		48.628		
3 (6 Mar - 31 Mar)	13.000	25.793	38.031	42.163	54.560	44.352	48.412	50.758	51.498	28.335		52.594		
4 (1 Apr - 30 Apr)	13.436	32.967	44.540	43.910	56.063	52.804	51.864	50.673	48.568		22.637	57.831		
5 (1 - 28 May)	16.086	28.857	42.250	46.069	50.648	48.607	47.938	53.145	52.249		31.861	56.770		
6 (29 May - 25 Jun)	18.838	29.916	45.849	50.716	52.440	52.527	54.207	52.776	54.789		40.239	53.165		
7 (26 Jun - 23 Jul)	19.714	33.042	45.082	50.167	48.147	49.287	51.348	49.963	52.025		32.180	49.877		
8 (24 Jul - 20 Aug)	21.913	38.558	48.273	50.811	52.938	52.692	55.058	52.857	53.890		35.399	42.645		
9 (21 Aug - 17 Sep)	20.359	34.296	48.484	51.610	50.500	52.694	52.656	55.563	55.832		41.492	57.061		
10 (18 Sep - 15 Oct)	15.329	30.414	46.153	49.381	53.406	51.304	52.220	53.467	55.254		50.069	55.229		
11 (16 Oct - 12 Nov)	14.338	29.649	51.486	52.662	51.899	54.668	54.593	55.534	48.634		50.363	63.344		
12 (13 Nov - 10 Dec)	13.418	28.342	31.748	54.755	55.600	56.747	58.244	58.690	60.609		53.198	69.268		
13 (11 Dec - 7 Jan 23)	11.864	26.782	27.021	46.367	43.043	47.125	45.930	46.460	40.512		37.946	31.725		
<b>Total</b>	<b>199.295</b>	<b>387.015</b>	<b>543.519</b>	<b>614.808</b>	<b>664.711</b>	<b>658.202</b>	<b>669.604</b>	<b>677.384</b>	<b>668.705</b>	<b>111.364</b>	<b>395.384</b>	<b>687.749</b>		
	2001	2009	2012	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022		
Full year	199.295	387.015	543.519	614.808	664.711	658.202	669.604	677.384	668.705			687.749		
Return ticket counts as two journeys														

# Why Bideford?

- A 'Greater Bideford' resident population of over 30k, growing recently by 3k per decade, the largest shortfall in rail connectivity in all Devon.
  - That number doubles up to 60,000 people in the summertime!
  - Sustainable access.
  - A and B Roads: often slow and unpredictable journeys whether by car or bus.
  - In line with central government's carbon neutral targets.
  - Access for all further and higher education students.
  - Tremendous employment opportunities.
  - Fremington Parish has over 13,000 parishioners - enough to justify a railway station.
  - local transport network now: congested, no realistic prospect of capacity growth.
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## *Devon County Council's Bideford to Barnstaple railway safeguarding*

In 1999 DCC, TDC and NDDC paid a team to carry out a feasibility study (The Maunsell Report). The report stated that the Barnstaple A361 bypass was to be constructed with enough height clearance for a future railway.



# Barnstaple bypass

The main line rail link from Barnstaple to Bideford



***Defining and protecting a route –  
Two multi-modal sustainable transport choices co-existing  
in harmony.***

Granite Way, Okehampton



Exe Trail, Exmouth



**Bideford, the largest town without a railway station in the whole of the South West!**



**Bideford and Fremington, reliant on a passenger bus service.**

**Journey times unpredictable in reaching Barnstaple!**

Devon County Council's 29 Market and Coastal towns				
	Pop'n 2021 *	Station	Usage 2021/22	
M - Newton Abbot	75,051	Y	977,212	
M - Barnstaple	57,004	Y	423,176	
C - Exmouth	50,248	Y	807,310	
<b>M - Bideford-Northam</b>	<b>42,987</b>		<b>(tbc)</b>	
M - Tiverton	39,676	Y	405,222	
M - Ivybridge	38,707	Y	66,764	
M - Cullompton	30,651	(Y)	tbc	
M - Tavistock	30,439	(Y)	tbc	
M - Okehampton	29,544	Y	54,904	
M - Totnes	27,847	Y	575,630	
C - Sidmouth	22,042			
M - Crediton	21,990	Y	84,502	
C - Teignmouth	20,491	Y	606,756	
C - Kingsbridge	20,216			
M - Honiton	18,648	Y	255,166	
C - Dawlish	18,399	Y	481,282	
M - Axminster	18,281	Y	303,842	
C - Ilfracombe	17,376			
M - Holsworthy	17,274			
M - South Molton	17,171			
M - Great Torrington	17,098			
M - Ottery St Mary	15,893			
C - Seaton	15,297			
C - Braunton	14,268			
M - Kingsteignton	11,935			
M - Ashburton-Buckfastleigh	11,622			
C - Dartmouth	10,572			
M - Moretonhamsptead	7,133			
C - Lynton-Lynmouth	4,778			

\* Pop'n 2021 = Devon CC Communities profile  
 Y = existing station  
 (Y) = stations funded for further project development;  
 tbc = towns with planned stations undergoing project development;  
 (tbc) = Bideford not yet funded for further project development.

Tarka line stations	2021 Census populations	Station usage April 2021–March 2022
Exeter Central	124,893	<b>2,244,104</b>
Exeter St Davids	124,893	<b>2,206,706</b>
Newton St Cyres	671	2,146
Crediton	8,304	<b>84,502</b>
Yeoford	1,324	16,442
Copplestone	1,302	<b>23,068</b>
Morchard Road	1,415	16,274
Lapford	1,118	4,532
Eggesford	138	<b>33,548</b>
Kings Nympton	444	3,118
Portsmouth Arms	687	496
Umberleigh	1,246	<b>32,796</b>
Chapelton	373	142
Barnstaple	32,909	<b>423,176</b>

# **ACE RAIL**

<u>Area</u>	<u>Population</u>	
• Exeter	124,893	County town and Devon metro hub.
• Crediton	8,304	A Very well used station.
• Coplestone	1,302	Growing transport hub and parkway for Winkleigh, North Tawton, Lapford, and Morchard Road.
• Eggesford	138	Transport hub for Chulmleigh, Chawleigh and Wembworthy.
• Umberleigh	1,246	Transport hub serving South Molton, Great Torrington, High Bickington, Chittlehampton, Atherington.
• Barnstaple	57,004	Serving the catchment of North Devon
• Fremington	12,787	Will serve Fremington, Yelland and Instow.
• Greater Bideford	42,987	Will Serve all of Torridge and North Cornwall.

## Gross Domestic Product per head by Devon's 10 District and Unitary councils 2020

Torrige is ranked in the lowest 3.5% of all local authorities in the UK!

A restored railway service would bring economic prosperity for the entire area.

Bideford residents would gain (much-needed) employment opportunities without the need to own a private vehicle.

Districts alphabetical		Districts numeric		National rank out of 373 UK LAs
<u>UK</u>	<u>£31,972</u>	Exeter	£43,783	35
<u>England</u>	<u>£32,866</u>	<u>England</u>	<u>£32,866</u>	[92]
<u>South West</u>	<u>£28,012</u>	<u>UK</u>	<u>£31,972</u>	[105]
<u>Devon average</u>	<u>£22,847</u>	<u>South West</u>	<u>£28,012</u>	[149]
East Devon	£21,906	South Hams	£25,347	177
Exeter	£43,783	North Devon	£25,239	183
Mid-Devon	£18,763	Plymouth	£23,877	223
North Devon	£25,239	<u>Devon average</u>	<u>£22,847</u>	[241]
Plymouth	£23,877	East Devon	£21,906	278
South Hams	£25,347	Teignbridge	£19,533	286
Teignbridge	£19,533	Mid-Devon	£18,763	313
Torbay	£17,020	Torbay	£17,020	358
Torrige	£16,225	West Devon	£16,778	360
West Devon	£16,778	Torrige	£16,225	362

## Gross weekly earnings, f/t employees, by Devon's 10 District & Unitary Councils 2022

North Devon, Torridge, & Mid Devon ranked below the Devon average.

Torridge ranked in the lowest 20%!

\* April 2022

Districts alphabetical			Districts numerical	National rank of 410 GB LA's
UK	£640		England	112
England	£646		UK	125
South West	£611		Exeter	152
Devon	£580		East Devon	192
East Devon	£613		South West	198
Exeter	£629		Plymouth	251
Mid Devon	£577		Devon	287
North Devon	£557		Mid Devon	300
Plymouth	£593		Torridge	329
South Hams	£527		North Devon	359
Teignbridge	£540		Teignbridge	380
Torbay	£493		South Hams	396

Housing affordability in Torridge and North Devon is 15% worse than the average for England, putting Torridge and North Devon in the top 40% of least affordable districts in England.

A new railway service will at least help make those new homes more sustainable for some of their travel needs.

### Housing affordability in Devon's 10 District & Unitary Councils, March 2021

Ratio of median house prices to median workplace-based annual earnings by LA district, England and Wales, 2021

Devon Districts, alphabetical

Districts, numeric + national rank of 331 LAs in England & Wales

East Devon	10.88	South Hams	12.56	62
Exeter	9.22	West Devon	11.96	77
Mid-Devon	9.29	Teignbridge	11.4	91
North Devon	10.46	East Devon	10.88	104
Plymouth	7.27	North Devon	10.46	121
South Hams	12.56	Torridge	10.34	128
Teignbridge	11.4	Mid-Devon	9.29	162
Torbay	8.9	Exeter	9.22	166
Torridge	10.34	<b>ENGLAND</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>170</b>
West Devon	11.96	Torbay	8.9	180
<b>ENGLAND</b>	<b>9.1</b>	Plymouth	7.27	230

Of historic Devon County's 10 LAs, 8 have housing which is **less** affordable than the English average  
Divergence in house prices compared to earnings in local authorities are becoming larger over time

Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/bulletins/housingaffordabilityinenglandandwales/2021>



**people and place**  
Planning for our future together

“People and Place” project, the new joint Local Plan.

- 1. North Devon and Torridge District Councils now support the Bideford railway and await the Initial Business Case findings.
- 2. As well as a new rail link, where will the line run?  
For Bideford to re-join the national rail network, the new joint Local Plan for Torridge and North Devon needs to have a policy commitment to define and protect a route.
- 3. It will then become a matter for future public and stakeholder consultations, and can gather more widespread support.

## Next steps

We have secured the funding for an independent specialist advisor to produce an Initial Business Case for the project.

Great Western Railway, Railfuture and Tarka Rail Association have each part funded the IBC.

The Initial Business Case is expected to be published in April 2023.

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# The ACE Rail project plan

- 1 Develop a new connecting bus strategy for Bideford to Barnstaple railway station.  
(A connecting bus means that it arrives before the trains departure).
  - 2 Upgrade the existing Tarka line for resilience  
(increased speed and solutions to the timely delays).
  - 3 Upgrade the Tarka line for capacity.  
(More carriages and longer stations where needed).
  - 4 Upgrade the Tarka line for frequency.  
(Extra dynamic passing loop for 2 trains per hour).
  - 5 Once all above has been achieved – extend the line to Bideford.
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Thank you for listening.

**ACE Rail** is a campaign of **Tarka Rail Association**,

Supported by:

North Devon and Torridge District Councils.

Bideford, Barnstaple and Crediton Town Councils,

Fremington Parish Council (provisional). Tawstock Parish Council.

Wembworthy Parish Council, Eggesford Parish Council.

Torridge & West Devon, North Devon and North Cornwall MPs.

Devon County Council's Cabinet member for

Climate Change, Environment and Transport (who is also the Chair of Peninsula Transport).

OkeRail, Railfuture and Great Western Railway.

Presentation by Tim Steer

Tarka Rail Association's ACE Rail lead officer

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