

ACE Rail presentation

Atlantic Coast Express

Made for
Bideford Town Council
20.1.22



The last train

- In 1982, Bideford saw its last special national network service. The scheduled passenger service finished in 1965.
- The picture shows that 1982 special service and some of the 843 passengers for that day.



The 'Last train to Torrington' calls at Bideford. 6.11.82. Photo: Roger Joanes.

Restoring your railway

- The central government's program works with councils to help support left-behind communities.
 - Access to jobs and education, supporting new housing developments and boosting tourism.
 - Regenerate local economies
 - Cut down on car emissions and ease local road congestion.
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30,000 residents in Greater Bideford (Bideford, Northam, Westward Ho! And Appledore).

Sustrans summary

- Integrating walking and cycling with public transport is essential to making it easier for people to leave their cars at home.



Devon County Council's Bideford to Barnstaple railway safeguarding

- In 1999, DCC and NDDC paid a team to carry out a feasibility study (The Maunsell Report). The report stated that the Barnstaple bypass was to be constructed with enough height clearance for a future railway. Also that the route would need to be reinvestigated in the future.
- Today, you will see double decker buses using the underpass.



The Maunsell summary

- Maunsell therefore recommended that the Bypass is constructed without the underpass but with sufficient clearance that it can be added at a later date.
 - Secondly, no further encroachments onto the route are permitted.
 - Thirdly, to enable any future infrastructure operator a realistic chance of developing the route, the Council/Central Government committed to fund the underpass if it is proved necessary between 2011 and 2014.
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Barnstaple bypass

The main line rail link from Barnstaple to Bideford



Tarka Line

Stations & approx populations

Station usage 2019-2020

Exeter St Davids	133,333	2,676,464
Newton St Cyres	672	2,684
Crediton	8,322	66,606
Yeoford	1,324	17,236
Copplestone	1,278	19,438
Morchard Road	1,291	14,642
Lapford	1047	2,078
Eggesford	145	32,228
Kings Nympton	413	6,098
Portsmouth Arms	514	502
Umberleigh	1,191	32,302
Chapelton	300	192
Barnstaple	32,948	424,822

ACE Rail

Area	Population	
• Exeter	133,333	• GWR has agreements to always stop at all Tarka Line stations, to serve their catchment areas.
• Crediton	8,322	
• Eggesford	145	• Transport hub serving Chulmleigh, Winkleigh, Chawleigh
• Umberleigh	1,191	• Transport hub serving South Molton, Great Torrington, High Bickington
• Barnstaple	32,948	
• Greater Bideford	31,014	• The catchment area would be massive!

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 to 60,000 people in the summertime.
 - Sustainable access for visitors
 - A39, A361 and B3233 congestion relief
 - In line with central government's Carbon Neutral targets
 - Access for all further and higher education students
 - Tremendous employment opportunities
 - The Barnstaple to Exeter Tarka Line is currently being upgraded for a faster hourly stopping service. Meaning a Bideford to Exeter railway service would take just over an hour!
 - Future Tarka line plans will run services to Axminster and Waterloo.
 - Summer Bideford to Waterloo services would be possible!
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The local plan

- Bideford rejoining the national network needs to be added to the new North Devon and Torridge local plan. A restored railway service is needed to serve new developments over the coming years, as well as our long-established communities.
We must
 - 1. Present to North Devon District Council why Bideford needs a railway service.
 - 2. Present to Torridge District Council why Bideford needs a railway service.
 - 3. Once both district councils agree to have a restored railway service (with an idea of a new rail route), this will enable officers to write Bideford rejoining the national rail network into the new joint Local Plan.
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Proposed starting points

- 1. Form a Bideford Town Council ACE Rail committee
 - 2. Include Torrington and North Devon District councils
 - 3. Ask DCC and Peninsula Transport for support
 - 4. Include Network Rail and GWR in meetings
 - 5. Engage an independent specialist adviser to prepare a Prospectus for ACE Rail, as a basis for a business case study.
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Thank you for listening

Supported by
Tarka Rail Association
Railfuture

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