

***ACE Rail presentation***

***Atlantic Coast Express***

Made for



19.5.22

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# *The last train*

- In 1982, Bideford saw its last special national network service. The scheduled passenger service finished in 1965. 2022 is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- 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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# *31,000 residents in Greater Bideford (Bideford, Northam, Appledore and Westward Ho!).*

## 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, TDC & 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.
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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!

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

**Bideford, reliant on a passenger bus service that takes anything from 30mins up to 1.5 hours to reach Barnstaple!**

**Devon County Council's Local Transport Plan 3, 2011-26  
the 28 market (19) and coastal (9) towns in Devon**

	Pop'n 2020	Station	Usage 2019/20
<b>Market Towns</b>			
Ashburton/Buckfastleigh	6867		
Axminster	6896	Y	377,688
Barnstaple	32,948	Y	424,822
Bideford	31,014		tbc
Cullompton	8495	Y	tbc
Crediton	8322	Y	66,606
Great Torrington	6053		
Holsworthy	3312		
Honiton	11,499	Y	330,582
Ivybridge	11,820	Y	55,204
Kingsteignton	11,551		
Moretonhampstead	1388		
Newton Abbot	2787	Y	1,203,100
Okehampton	8831	Y	6,434
Ottery St Mary	5764		
South Molton	5892		
Tavistock	12,627	Y	tbc
Tiverton	20,829	Y	510,386
Totnes	8924	Y	725,038
<b>Coastal Towns</b>			
Dartmouth	4906		
Dawlish	13,493	Y	519,582
Exmouth	35,825	Y	896,248
Ilfracombe	10,960		
Kingsbridge	6123		
Lynton/Lynmouth	2039		
Seaton	8882		
Sidmouth	13,121		
Teignmouth	15,688	Y	690,972

**Torrige**, ranked as in the lowest 4% of GDP per capita in the whole of 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.

**Gross domestic product per head by Devon's 10 District & Unitary Councils, 2019**

Districts, alphabetical

Districts, numeric + national rank of 375 UK LAs

<u>UK</u>	<u>£32,876</u>	Exeter	£47,259	35
<u>England</u>	<u>£33,809</u>	<u>England</u>	<u>£33,809</u>	[92]
<u>South West</u>	<u>£29,147</u>	<u>UK</u>	<u>£32,876</u>	[105]
<u>Devon CC</u>	<u>£24,403</u>	<u>South West</u>	<u>£29,147</u>	[149]
East Devon	£22,480	South Hams	£27,025	177
Exeter	£47,259	North Devon	£26,765	183
Mid-Devon	£20,429	Plymouth	£25,236	223
North Devon	£26,765	<u>Devon CC</u>	<u>£24,403</u>	[241]
Plymouth	£25,236	East Devon	£22,480	278
South Hams	£27,025	Teignbridge	£22,044	286
Teignbridge	£22,044	Mid-Devon	£20,429	313
Torbay	£17,671	Torbay	£17,671	358
Torrige	£17,493	West Devon	£17,631	360
West Devon	£17,631	<b>Torrige</b>	<b>£17,493</b>	<b>362</b>



Torrige District  
 Ranked in the lowest 2% of gross weekly earnings in the whole of Great Britain!

Gross weekly earnings by Devon's 10 District & Unitary Councils, April 2021

Median for full-time employees, by place of work

Districts, alphabetical		Districts, numeric + national rank of 362 GB LAs		
East Devon	£574.90	Exeter	£597	146
Exeter	£596.80	East Devon	£575	189
Mid-Devon	£565.80	Mid-Devon	£566	214
North Devon	£527.00	South Hams	£564	221
Plymouth	£542.40	Plymouth	£542	274
South Hams	£563.70	Torbay	£529	303
Teignbridge	£522.60	North Devon	£527	306
Torbay	£528.70	Teignbridge	£523	313
<b>Torrige</b>	<b>£485.70</b>	<b>Torrige</b>	<b>£486</b>	<b>355</b>
West Devon	£464.70	West Devon	£465	359

# 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.
  - 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!
  - 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
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# *The local plan*

- Bideford rejoining the national network needs to be added to the new North Devon and Torrridge local plan. A restored mainline railway service via Barnstaple is needed to serve new developments over the coming years, as well as our long-established communities with sustainable public transport.

We must

- 1. Present to North Devon District Council why Bideford needs a railway service.
  - 2. Present to Torrridge District Council why Bideford needs a railway service.
  - 3. For Bideford to re-join the national rail network, the new joint Local Plan for Torrridge and North Devon needs to have a policy commitment to define and protect a route.
  - 4. Once both Districts' Councillors have resolved that such a policy should be included, Council officers will write it in. It's then a matter for future public and stakeholder consultations, and can gather more widespread support.
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## *Proposed starting points & next steps*

- 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. To part-fund an independent specialist adviser to prepare a Prospectus for ACE Rail as a basis for an initial business case; Railfuture may also part-fund.
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Thank you for listening

Supported by

Tarka Rail Association

Railfuture

OkeRail

North Devon District Council

DCC's Transport Lead

Bideford Town Council

Tawstock parish council

Presentation by Tim Steer

Director of Bideford Railway Heritage Centre

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