



Torrige and North Devon Connectivity Programme

Atlantic Coast Exeter Railway
ACE Rail
Presentation on behalf of



Made for

**Wembworthy, Chawleigh,
Chulmleigh, and Eggesford
Parish Councils.**

8.12.22

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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Monthly average of Tarka line journey figures this year over 50,000 users.

2022 is set to break 650,000 journeys!

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



Local authorities and residents' rail-mindedness

| District/unitary | Stations | Usage 2019-2020 | Pop 2020 | R-MI* |
|------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-------|
| Exeter | 9 | 6,923,034 | 133,333 | 51.9 |
| Teignbridge | 5 | 2,778,188 | 135,039 | 20.6 |
| East Devon | 9 | 2,065,574 | 148,080 | 13.9 |
| Torbay U | 3 | 1,414,514 | 136,218 | 10.4 |
| Plymouth U | 6 | 2,515,356 | 262,839 | 9.6 |
| South Hams | 2 | 799,400 | 87,946 | 9.1 |
| Mid-Devon | 8 | 681,930 | 83,290 | 8.2 |
| North Devon | 5 | 474,758 | 98,170 | 4.8 |
| West Devon | 4 | 62,272 | 56,139 | 1.1 |
| Torrige | 0 | 0 | 68,719 | 0 |
| Average | | | | 14.6 |

*R-MI = Rail-Mindedness Index (Annual train rides 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.

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 12,000 parishioners - enough to justify a railway station.
 - local transport network now: congested, no realistic prospect of capacity growth.
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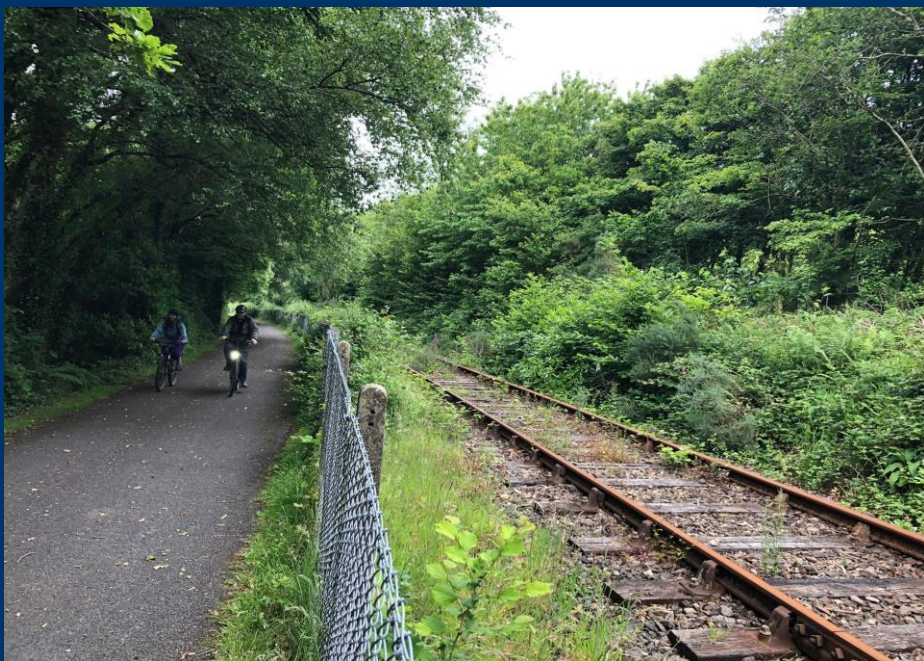
Barnstaple bypass

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 Devon!

Bideford and Fremington, reliant on a passenger bus service.

Journey times unpredictable in reaching 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 |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------|------------------|
| Market Towns | | | |
| Ashburton/Buckfastleigh | 6867 | | |
| <u>Axminster</u> | <u>6896</u> | Y | <u>382,884</u> |
| <u>Barnstaple</u> | <u>32,948</u> | Y | <u>435,360</u> |
| Bideford | 31,014 | | tbc |
| Cullompton | 8495 | (Y) | tbc |
| <u>Crediton</u> | <u>8322</u> | Y | <u>67,956</u> |
| Great Torrington | 6053 | | |
| Holsworthy | 3312 | | |
| <u>Honiton</u> | <u>11,499</u> | Y | <u>340,700</u> |
| <u>Ivybridge</u> | <u>11,820</u> | Y | <u>56,188</u> |
| Kingsteignton | 11,551 | | |
| Moretonhamsstead | 1388 | | |
| <u>Newton Abbot</u> | <u>27,187</u> | Y | <u>1,234,750</u> |
| <u>Okehampton</u> | <u>8831</u> | Y | <u>6,434</u> |
| Ottery St Mary | 5764 | | |
| South Molton | 5892 | | |
| Tavistock | 12,627 | (Y) | tbc |
| <u>Tiverton</u> | <u>20,829</u> | Y | <u>525,252</u> |
| <u>Totnes</u> | <u>8924</u> | Y | <u>743,212</u> |
| Coastal Towns | | | |
| Dartmouth | 4906 | | |
| <u>Dawlish</u> | <u>13,493</u> | Y | <u>533,116</u> |
| <u>Exmouth</u> | <u>35,825</u> | Y | <u>924,758</u> |
| Ilfracombe | 10,960 | | |
| Kingsbridge | 6123 | | |
| Lynton/Lynmouth | 2039 | | |
| Seaton | 8882 | | |
| Sidmouth | 13,121 | | |
| <u>Teignmouth</u> | <u>15,688</u> | Y | <u>706,234</u> |

tbc = towns with proposed stations in varying stages of development:

(Y) = stations funded for further project development;

Bideford not yet funded for project development.

Usage is for pre-pandemic 12 months Mar'19-Feb'20.

| Tarka line stations | Approximate populations | Station usage March 2019–February 2020 |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Exeter Central | 133,333 | 2,599,540 |
| Exeter St Davids | 133,333 | 2,768, 878 |
| Newton St Cyres | 672 | 2,814 |
| Crediton | 8,322 | 67,956 |
| Yeoford | 1,324 | 17,844 |
| Copplestone | 1,278 | 19,666 |
| Morchard Road | 1,291 | 14,116 |
| Lapford | 1,047 | 1,906 |
| Eggesford | 145 | 32,376 |
| Kings Nympton | 413 | 5,782 |
| Portsmouth Arms | 514 | 496 |
| Umberleigh | 1,191 | 32,926 |
| Chapelton | 300 | 194 |
| Barnstaple | 32,948 | 435,360 |

ACE RAIL

| <u>Area</u> | <u>Population</u> | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--|
| • Exeter | 133,333 | County town and Devon Metro hub. |
| • Crediton | 8,322 | Very well used station. |
| • Coplestone | 1,278 | Growing transport hub and parkway for Winkleigh, North Tawton, Lapford, and Morchard Road. |
| • Eggesford | 145 | Transport hub for Chulmleigh, Chawleigh and Wembworthy. |
| • Umberleigh | 1,191 | Transport hub serving South Molton, Great Torrington, and High Bickington. |
| • Barnstaple | 32,948 | Serving the catchment of North Devon |
| • Fremington | 12,000 | Will serve Fremington, Yelland and Instow. |
| • Greater Bideford | 31,014 | Will Serve all of Torridge and North Cornwall. |

Gross Domestic Product per head by Devon's 10 District and Unitary councils 2019

Torrige is ranked 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.

| Districts alphabetical | | Districts numeric | | National rank out 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 → | Torrige | £17,493 | 362 |

North Devon ranked in the lowest 15%

Torrige ranked in the lowest 5%!

| Districts alphabetical | Weekly wages | | Districts numeric | Weekly wages | National rank out 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 |
| Torrige | £485.70 | | Torrige | £486 | 355 |
| West Devon | £464.70 | | West Devon | £465 | 359 |

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 | ENGLAND | 9.1 | 170 |
| West Devon | 11.96 | Torbay | 8.9 | 180 |
| ENGLAND | 9.1 | 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” 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 now part funded the IBC.

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

Thank you for listening.

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

Supported by:

North Devon and Torrington District Councils.

Bideford, Barnstaple and Crediton Town Councils,

Fremington Parish Council (provisional), Tawstock Parish Council.

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

Devon County Council's Cabinet member for

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

OkeRail, Railfuture and Great Western Railway.

Presentation by Tim Steer

Tarka Rail Association's ACE Rail lead officer
