

# Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance



**Third annual convention, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Eggesford, Mid-Devon**  
(Sponsored by Mid-Devon District Council, facilitated by Railfuture)

## Programme

**11:00**

Arrivals, tea and coffee

**11:30**

Introduction by Roger Blake, Acting Convener, NDRDA

**11:35**

Welcome and official opening by Sandy Chenore, Vice-Chair, Mid-Devon District Council

**11:40**

Message from Mark Hopwood CBE, Managing Director, Great Western Railway

**11:45**

Ian Roome MP, North Devon

**11:50**

Chris Fuoco, Devon and Cornwall Director, Network Rail and  
David Whiteway, Regional Growth Manager (West), Great Western Railway

**12:00**

The regional context – Hannah Shrimpton, Programme Director, Peninsula Transport

**12:05**

The sub-regional context – Matt Barnes, Head of Strategic Service Development, Great Western Railway

**12:15**

North Devon Line modernisation: the Preliminary Strategic Business Case –  
Peter West OBE CMILT, independent adviser, NDRDA

**12:35**

North Devon Line enhancements: an Engineering Services Design & Delivery report summary –  
Andrew Robinson, Senior Strategic Planner (Western), Network Rail

**12:50**

North Devon Line extension: the Preliminary Strategic Business Case –  
Peter West OBE CMILT, independent adviser, NDRDA

**13:05**

A new transport authority for Devon & Torbay – Sean Anstee CBE, Director of Operations,  
Devon & Torbay Combined County Authority

**13:15**

Open forum

**13:30**

Lunch

**Northern Devon  
Railway Development Alliance**

Modernising the North Devon (Tarka) Line - fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## Delegates confirmed attending 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Convention of NDRDA, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026 in Eggesford, Mid-Devon

Barnstaple Town Council - Mayor of Barnstaple – Cllr Janet Coates Cllr Gerrard Sables

Bideford Town Council - Mayor of Bideford – Cllr Peter Lawrence Town Clerk – Janine Gardner  
Bideford Town Council - former Mayor of Bideford – Cllr Jamie McKenzie

Bishop’s Tawton Parish Council – Cllr Graham Hayward (also Friends Of Barnstaple Railway Station)

Burton at Bideford Art Gallery & Museum - Chair of Trustees – Robert Millward

Chawleigh Parish Council – Cllr Roger Ayling

Chulmleigh Parish Council – Cllr Ed Tyldesley (also Devon CC)

Crediton Town Council - Mayor of Crediton – Cllr Steve Huxtable Cllr Jim Cairney (also MDDC, DCC) Cllr Guy Cochran (also MDDC)

Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership - Manager – Richard Burningham MBE

Devon & Torbay Combined County Authority - Director of Operations – Sean Anstee CBE

Devon County Council - Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs & Broadband – Cllr Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin (also TDC)  
DCC - Braunton Rural – Cllr Graham Bell (also NDDC) Chulmleigh & Landkey – Cllr Ed Tyldesley  
DCC - Senior Transport Planning Officer – Chris Burrige-Barney

Down St. Mary Parish Council - Chair – Cllr Alan Clark (also NDL-RPG) Parish Clerk – Anthony Martin

Exeter City Football Club - Customer Relations & Supporter Liaison Officer – Richard Knight

Great Western Railway - Head of Strategic Service Development – Matt Barnes Regional Growth Manager (West) – David Whiteway  
GWR - Network Delivery Manager – Steve Lawrence

Holsworthy Town Council – Cllr David Cole

King’s Nympton Parish Council – Cllr Martin Pailthorpe (also Chair, Friends of King’s Nympton Station)

Lapford Parish Council – Cllr Bill Graham Steve Munday Parish Clerk – Rob Martin

Mid-Devon District Council - Vice-Chair – Cllr Sandy Chenore Deputy Leader – Cllr David Wulff  
MDDC - Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Regeneration – Cllr Steve Keable (also DCC) Devon Rail Forum rep – Cllr John Downes  
MDDC - Director of Place & Economy – Nick Bryant

Morchard Bishop Parish Council - Parish Clerk – David Parker

MP for North Devon – Ian Roome

Navantia UK, Appledore - Bid Engineer – Daniel Burke

Network Rail - Devon and Cornwall Director – Chris Fuoco Senior Strategic Planner (Western) – Andrew Robinson

Northam Town Council - former Mayor of Northam – Cllr Peter Hames (also TDC) Town Clerk – Guy Langton

North Devon District Council - Deputy Leader – Cllr Peter Leaver (also Barnstaple TC) Devon Rail Forum rep – Cllr Ricky Knight  
NDDC - Head of Place Property & Regeneration – Sarah Jane Mackenzie-Shapland

North Devon Grecians - Membership Secretary – Nick Rendle

North Devon Line Rail Promotion Group (formerly Tarka Rail Association) - Chair – David Northey

Peninsula Transport - Programme Director – Hannah Shrimpton

Railfuture - Infrastructure & Networks Director – Roger Blake (Acting Convener, NDRDA) Peter West OBE CMILT (independent adviser, NDRDA)  
Railfuture - Chair, Devon & Cornwall regional branch – Tim Steer (also Chair, Friends Of Barnstaple Railway Station)

Torrige District Council - Chair – Cllr Doug Bushby (also Bideford TC) Cllr Teresa Tinsley

University of Exeter - Sustainability Manager (Travel & Transport) – Giovanni Currado

Winkleigh Parish Council - Chair – Cllr Pauline Odulinski OBE

Media - Clearsky Publishing – Ella Sampson, Jamie Townsend Crediton Courier – Alan Quick Devon Today – Lewis Clarke  
RAIL – Daniel Puddicombe