

ACE Rail presentation

APPENDIX ONE

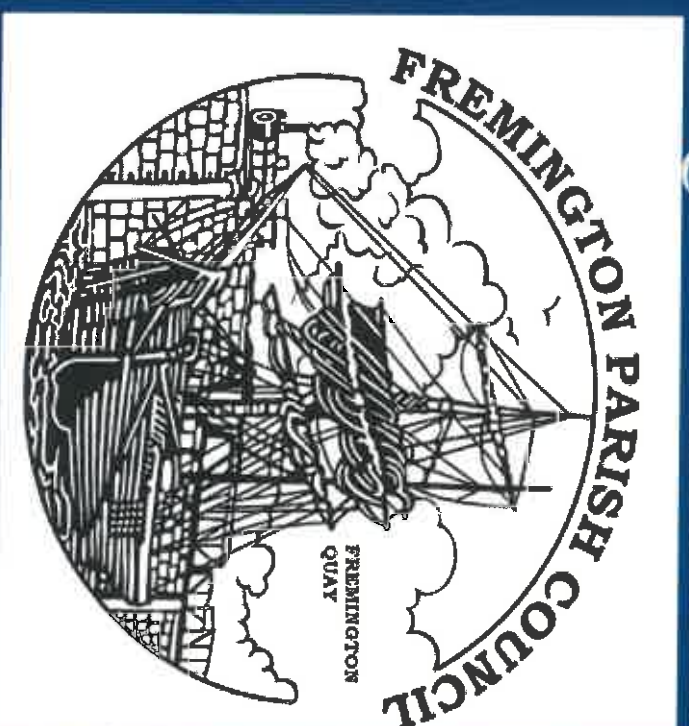
4.7.22

Atlantic Coast Exeter Railway

Presentation on behalf of Tarka Rail Association

Made for

Fremington Parish council



Journey times



	Now	ACE Rail
Bideford	0	12
Barnstaple	14	8
Umberleigh	21	12
Eggesford	28	15
Crediton	12	8
Exeter St Davids	5	5
Exeter Central		
	<u>80</u>	<u>60</u>

- Modal shift to more sustainable transport means journey times competitive with road

Restoring Your Railway

Government's stated objectives

- The Department for Transport program works with councils to help support left-behind communities.
 - Investment targeted at regenerating local economies
 - Supporting new housing developments and boosting tourism.
 - Opening up jobs & education
 - Cut down on car emissions and ease local road congestion.
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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 for visitors
- A & 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
- Gives Torridge district and North Devon council leverage on location of new housing developments.

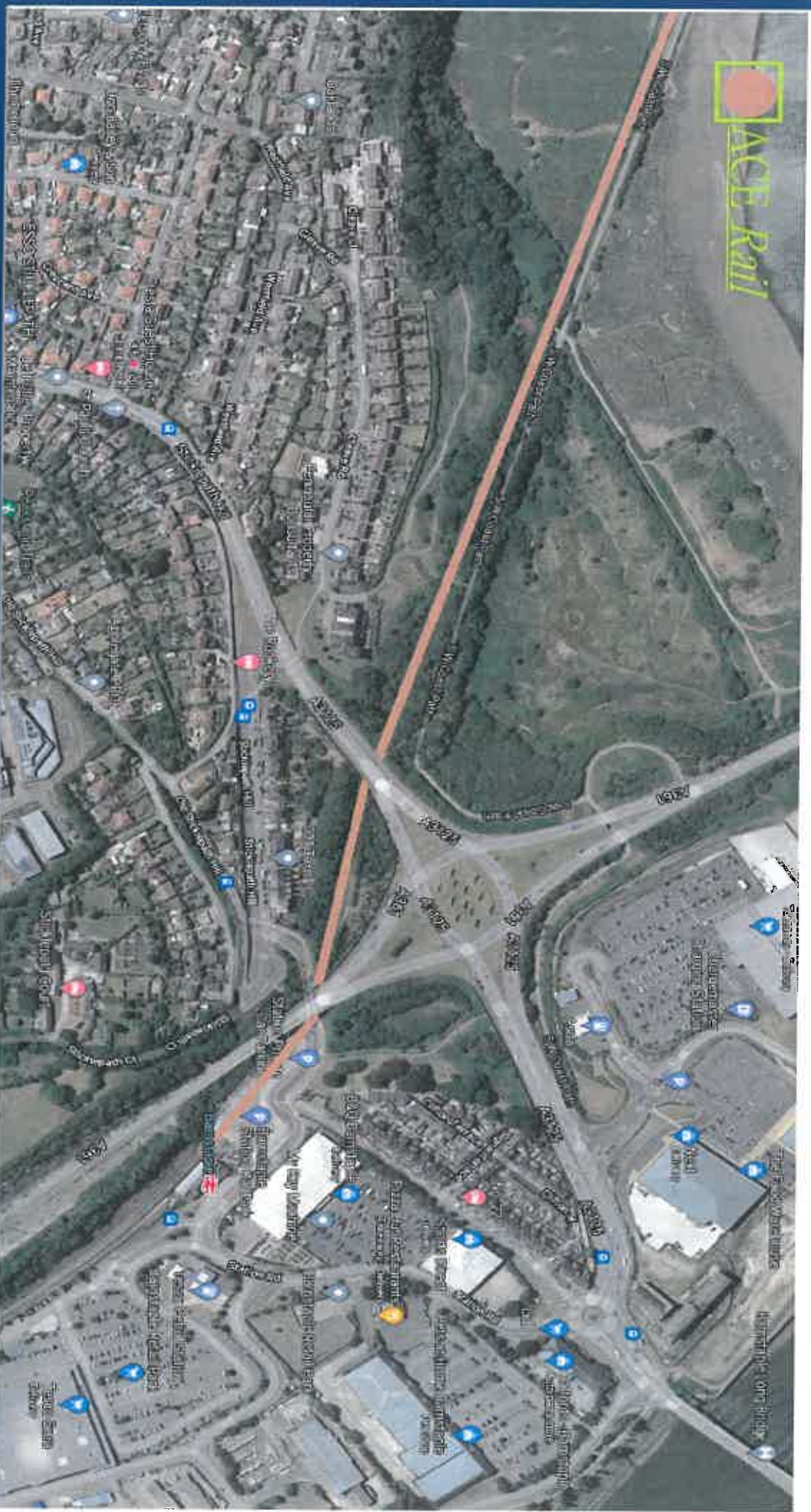
Devon County Council's Bideford to Barnstaple railway safeguarding

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



Barnstaple bypass

The main line rail link from Barnstaple to Bideford



Defining and protecting a route – 2 ~ multi-modal sustainable transport choices co-existing in harmony

Granite Way, Okehampton



Exe trail, Exmouth



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

**Bideford, the largest
 Town without a railway
 Station in the whole of
 Devon!**

**Bideford & Fremington,
 reliant on a passenger
 bus service**

**Journey times
 Unpredictable in reaching
 Barnstaple!**

Market Towns	Pop'n 2020	Station	Usage 2019/20
Ashburton/Buckfastleigh	6867		
Axminster	6896	Y	382,884
Barnstaple	32,948	Y	435,360
Bideford	31,014	tbc	tbc
Cullompton	8495	(Y)	tbc
Creddon	8322	Y	67,956
Great Torrington	6053		
Holsworthy	3312		
Honiton	11,496	Y	240,700
Ivybridge	11,820	Y	56,188
Kingsteignton	11,551		
Moretonhampstead	1388		
Newton Abbot	27,187	Y	1,234,750
Okehampton	8831	Y	6,434
Ottery St Mary	5764		
South Molton	5892		
Tavistock	12,627	(Y)	tbc
Tiverton	20,829	Y	525,252
Totnes	8924	Y	743,212
Coastal Towns			
Dartmouth	4906		
Dawlish	13,493	Y	533,116
Exmouth	35,825	Y	924,756
Wracombe	10,960		
Kingsbridge	6123		
Lynnton/Lynmouth	2039		
Seaton	8882		
Sidmouth	13,121		
Telfermouth	15,686	Y	706,234

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.

ACE Rail

Area	Population	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exeter	133,333	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GWR has agreements to always stop at all Tarka Line stations, to serve their catchment areas.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crediton	8,322	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eggesford	145	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transport hub serving Chulmleigh, Winkleigh, Chawleigh
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Umberleigh	1,191	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transport hub serving South Molton, Great Torrington, High Bickington
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Barnstaple	32,948	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater Bideford	31,014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The catchment area would be massive!

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 35
<u>England</u>	<u>£33,809</u>	<u>England</u> [92]
<u>South West</u>	<u>£29,147</u>	<u>UK</u> [105]
<u>Devon CC</u>	<u>£24,403</u>	<u>South West</u> [149]
East Devon	£22,480	South Hams 177
Exeter	£47,259	North Devon 163
Mid-Devon	£20,429	Plymouth 223
North Devon	£26,765	<u>Devon CC</u> [241]
Plymouth	<u>£25,236</u>	East Devon 278
South Hams	£27,025	Telgnbridge 286
Telgnbridge	£22,044	Mid-Devon 313
Torbay	£17,671	Torbay 356
Torrige	£17,493	West Devon 360
West Devon	£17,631	Torrige 362

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.

North Devon ranked in lowest 15%

Torridge ranked in the lowest 5%!!

Districts Alphabetical	Weekly wages		Districts	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	£565.8		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
Torridge	£485.70		Torridge	£486	355
West Devon	£464.70		West Devon	£465	359

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 391 LAs in England & Wales	
East Devon	10.88	South Hams	12.56
Exeter	9.22	West Devon	11.96
Mid-Devon	9.29	Teignbridge	11.4
North Devon	10.46	East Devon	10.88
Plymouth	7.27	North Devon	10.46
South Hams	12.56	Torridge	10.34
Teignbridge	11.4	Mid-Devon	9.29
Torbay	8.9	Exeter	9.22
Torridge	10.34	ENGLAND	9.1
West Devon	11.96	Torbay	8.9
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.eql.co.uk/assets/uploads/2021/03/Devon-Housing-Affordability-2021.pdf>

Housing affordability in North Devon 15% worse than average for England, putting North Devon in upper 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.



people and place

Planning for our future together

- People and Place' project, the new joint Local Plan
- 1. North Devon Council and Torridge District Council 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 are securing funding for an independent specialist advisor to produce an initial business case for the project.
- Railfuture and Tarka Rail Association have now part funded the report. In addition, TRA have applied to GWR's community fund for additional support.

Thank you for listening

ACE Rail is a campaign of Tarka Rail Association,
Supported by North Devon &
Torridge District Councils,
Bideford Town Council & Tawstock parish
Councils,
North Devon & Torridge MPs
Devon County's lead on transport
OkeRail & Railfuture

Presentation by Tim Steer

Tarka Rail Association Committee and ACE Rail lead
Director of Bideford Railway Heritage Centre

Department for Transport ask LA and transport groups to suggest 3 modes of public transport. Dft will consider which would give them best value for money and return revenue.

What sustainable transport options may be suggested?

Heavy Rail (Bideford to Exeter Tarka line)

Light rail, tram, trolley

Sky train

Hyperloop

Magnetic levitation

Guided busway