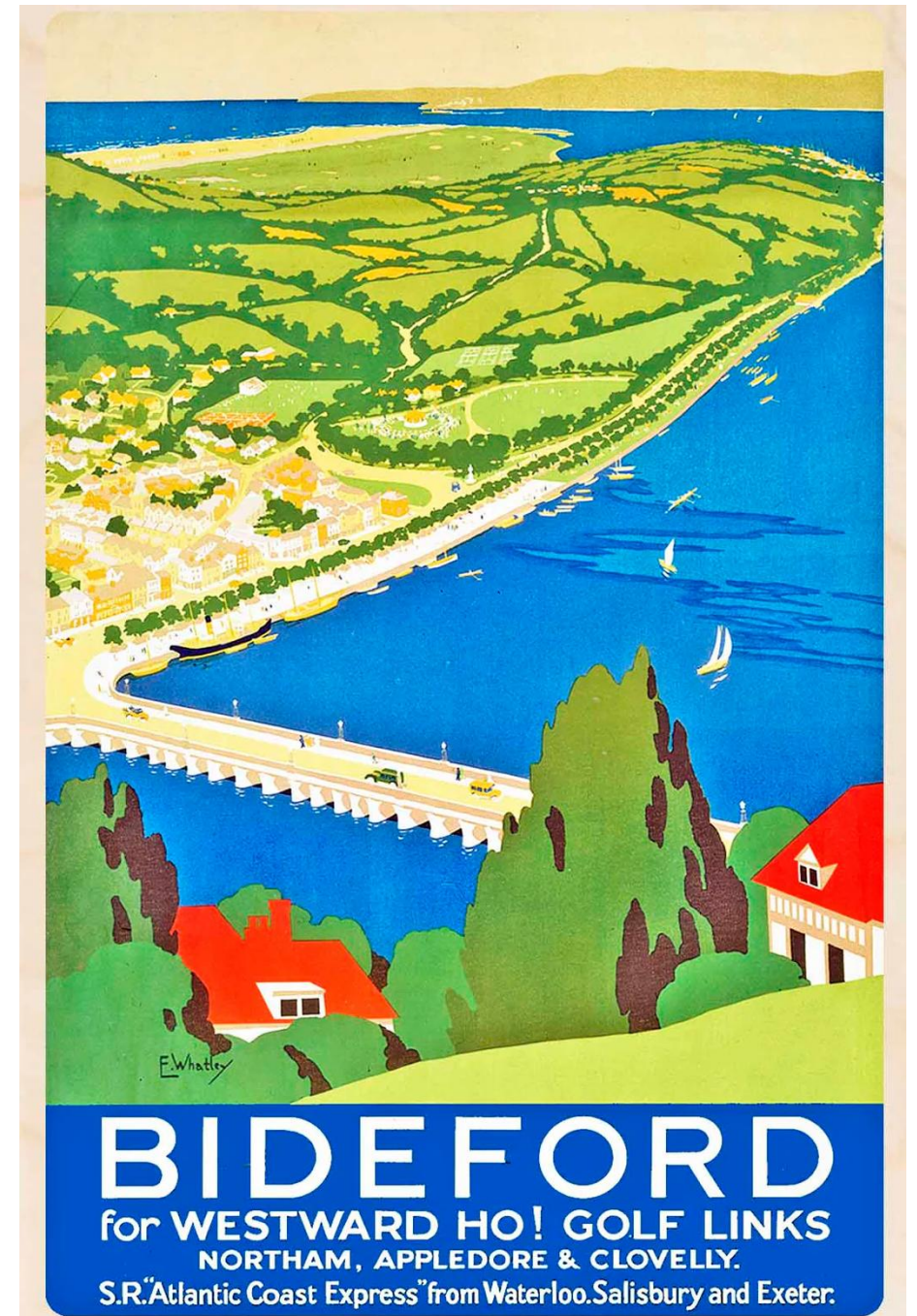


The Bideford Line

Making the economic case

7th March 2025

Ian Baxter
Strategy Director



Why an 'Economic Case'?

- DfT 'Transport Appraisal Guidance' (TAG)
- One of the 5 'Business Case dimensions'
 - ◆ Strategic WHY?
 - ◆ **Economic** **VALUE FOR MONEY**
 - ◆ Financial FUNDING /AFFORDABILITY
 - ◆ Commercial PROCURING THE SCHEME
 - ◆ Management DELIVERY



Why an 'Economic Case'?

- Measures the markets for travel
- Tests demand against train service options
- Tests BENEFITS against COSTS – capital and operational
- Considers 'Wider Economic Benefits' (e.g. access to jobs/environment)

→ **BENEFIT COST RATIO** or '**BCR**'



ENDS AND MEANS

Aldous Huxley

An impressive personal testament of which Carl Van Doren writes in the *Boston Herald*: "The book has to be read to be savored, step by step, an exciting delight to the mind. With all his apparent ease, he is immensely intelligent. And more clearly than ever before he reveals his strong desire for whatever has been known to be good and whatever may be found out to be true."

HARPER & BROTHERS • ESTABLISHED 1817





Economy

Community

Environment

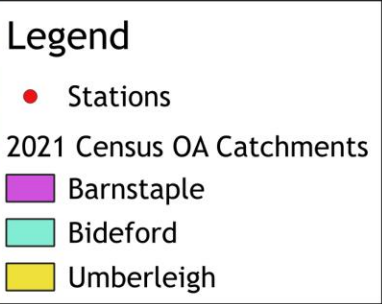
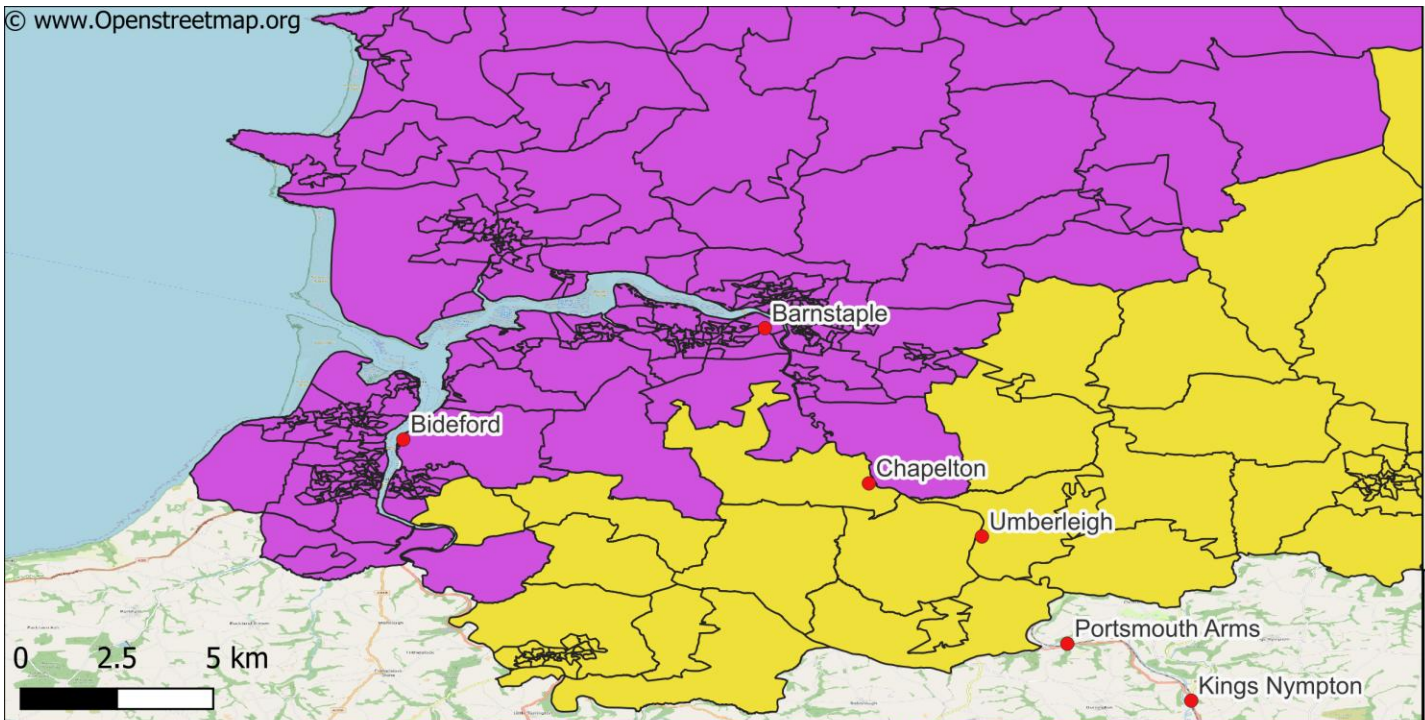
Today's market – Barnstaple to Exeter & beyond

c. 550,000 p.a. / c. 850 RTN day

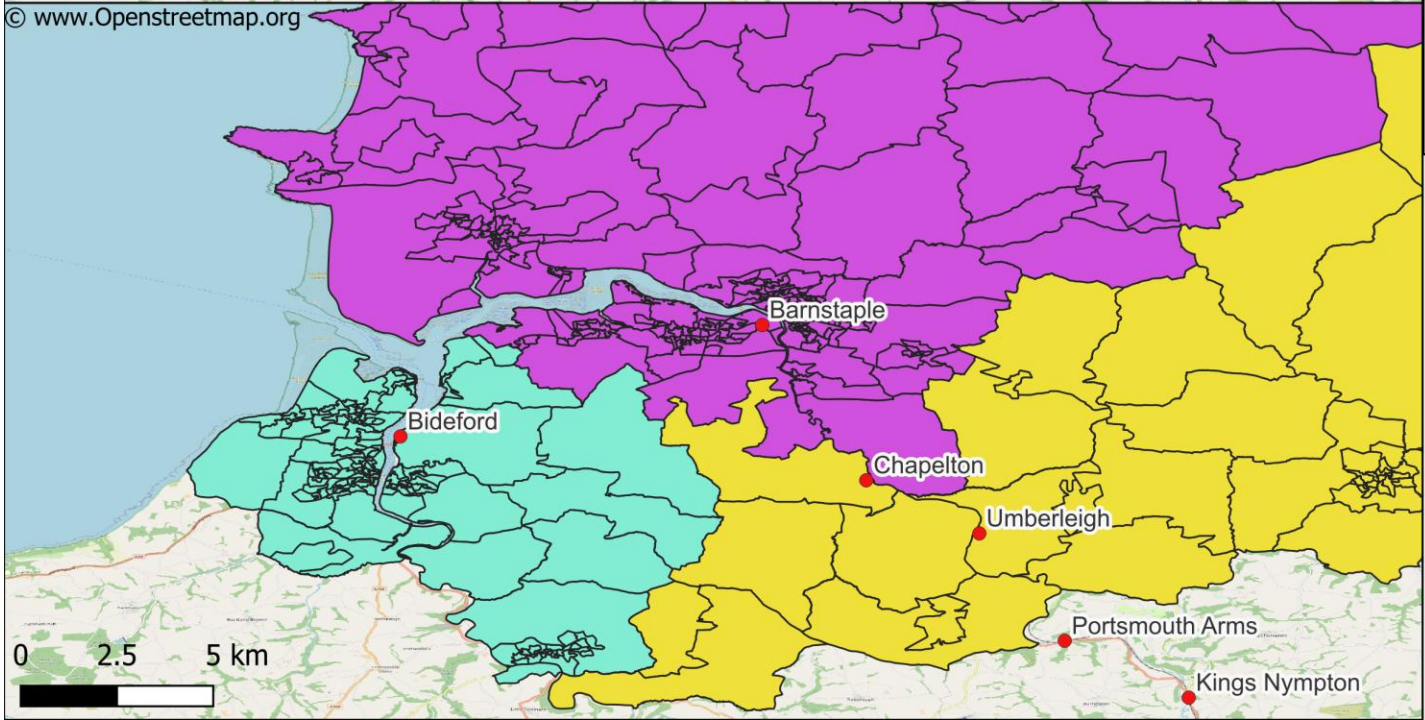
- Exeter 40%
- Digby & Sowton 25%
- London 8%
- Plymouth 5%
- Bristol 2%
- Other 20%



Barnstaple's
Catchment
→
TODAY



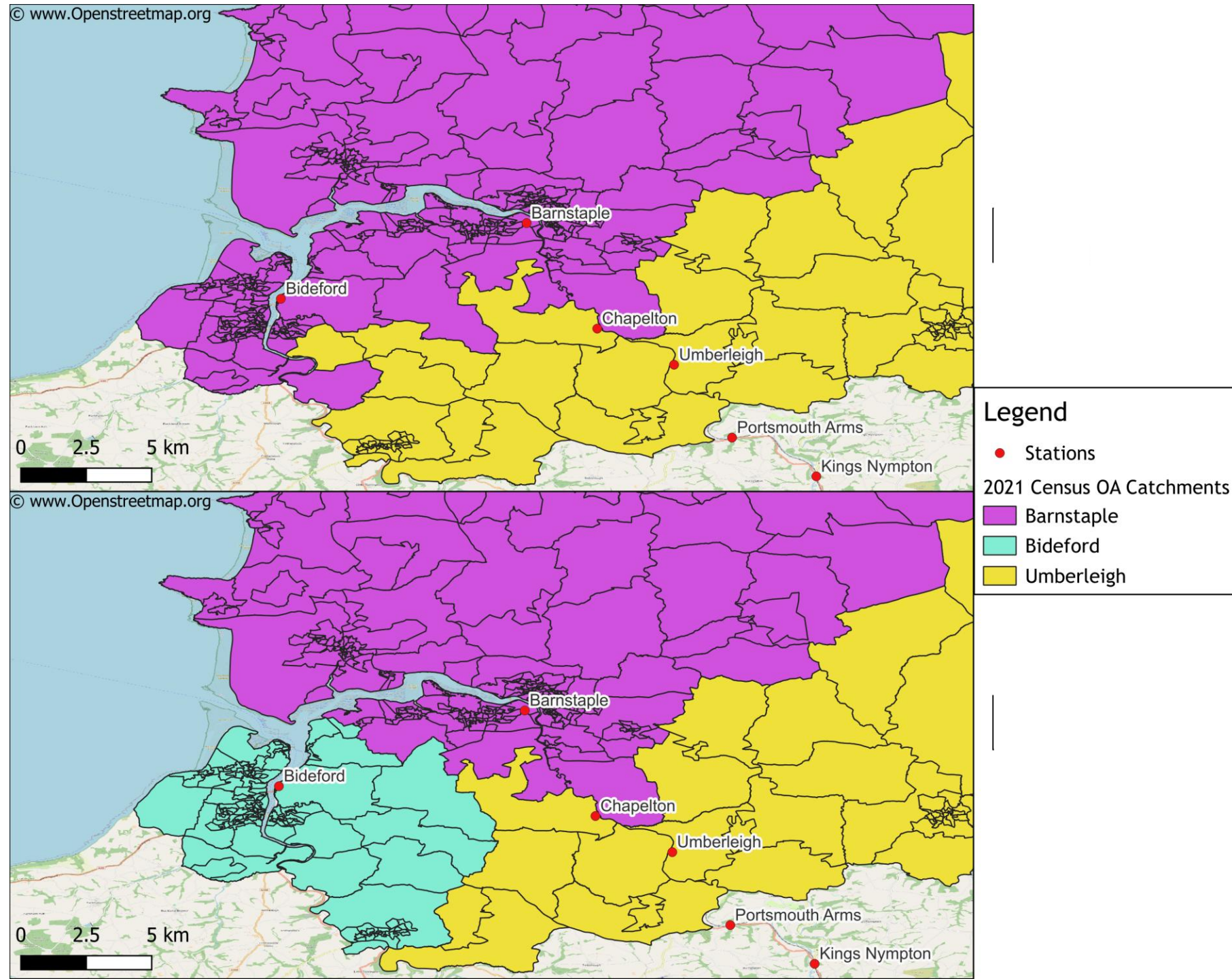
With
Bideford
→



Why we
need to
know this

‘Abstraction’

‘New to rail’



The Bideford Market

2 Core Tests

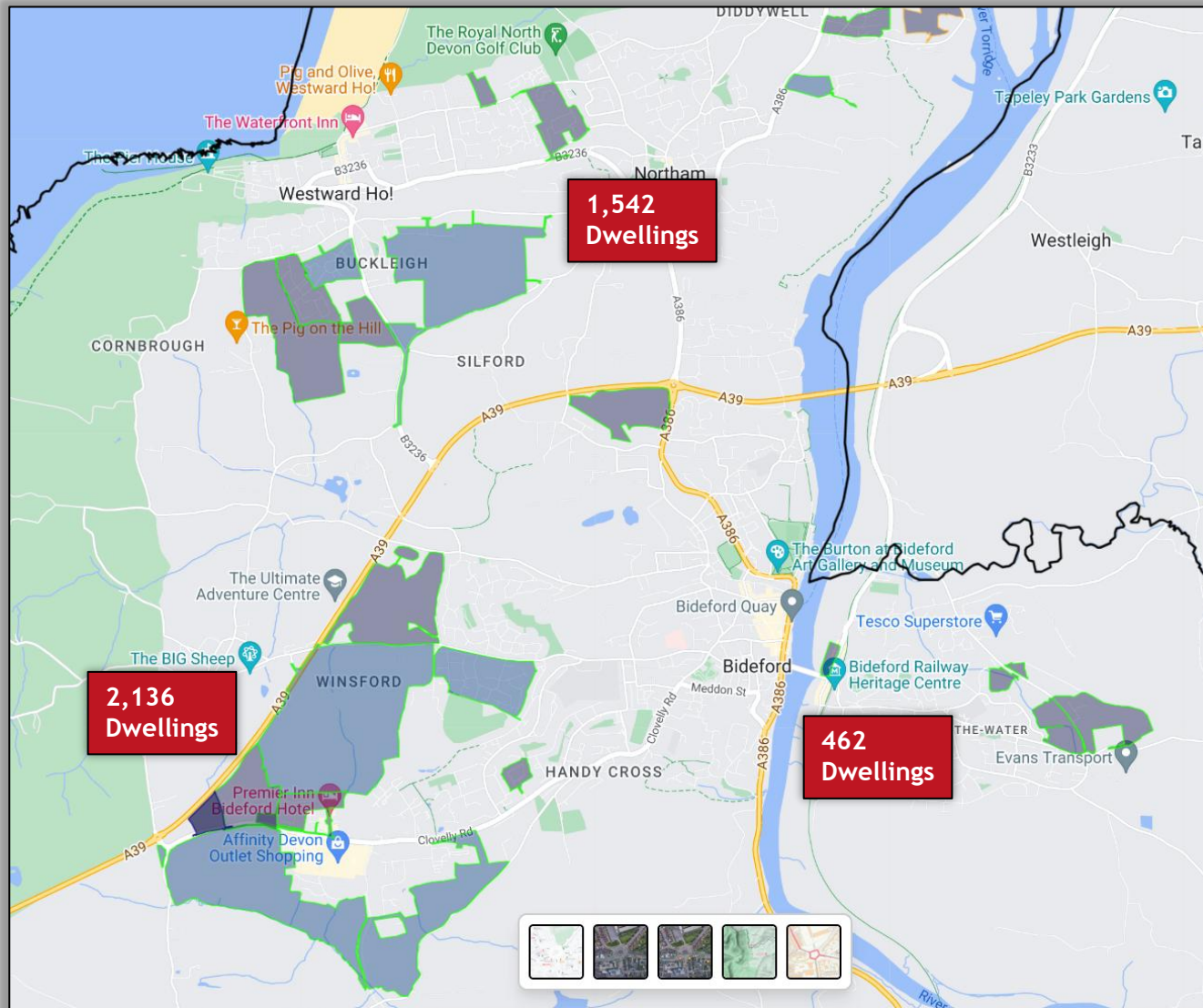
- ‘Today’ - without Local Plan housing growth
- ‘Today’ - Exeter – Barnstaple 1 train per hour as today

The Bideford Market

2 Core Tests

- 1 - 'Today' - without Local Plan housing growth
- 1- 'Today' - Exeter – Barnstaple 1 train per hour as today
- 2 - With Local Plan housing growth
- 2 - With enhanced Exeter – Barnstaple service

North Devon & Torridge Local Plan



c. 4,900 new homes

c. 11,000 more people



‘Proceed at caution’

Tested at
current numbers

GOV.UK

[Home](#) > [Housing, local and community](#) > [Planning and building](#) > [Planning reform](#)

Press release

Housing targets increased to get Britain building again

The government has announced an overhaul of the planning system to fix the foundations and grow the economy.

From: [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government](#) and [The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP](#)

Published 30 July 2024

Last updated 31 July 2024 — [See all updates](#)



The Bideford Market

The 2 outputs

- 1 - 'Today' + Bideford → **c. 312,000 - c. 485 RTN/day**
- 1 - **c. 17% 'abstracted' + 83% 'new to rail'**
- 2 - With housing growth → **c. 458,000 - c. 700 RTN/day**
- 2 - **c. 10% 'abstracted' + 90% 'new to rail'**

Wider housing growth opportunities

**‘Land Value
Capture’**



Wider housing growth opportunities

**December
2024**



The Bideford Case – capital costs

A lot to do

9.5 miles

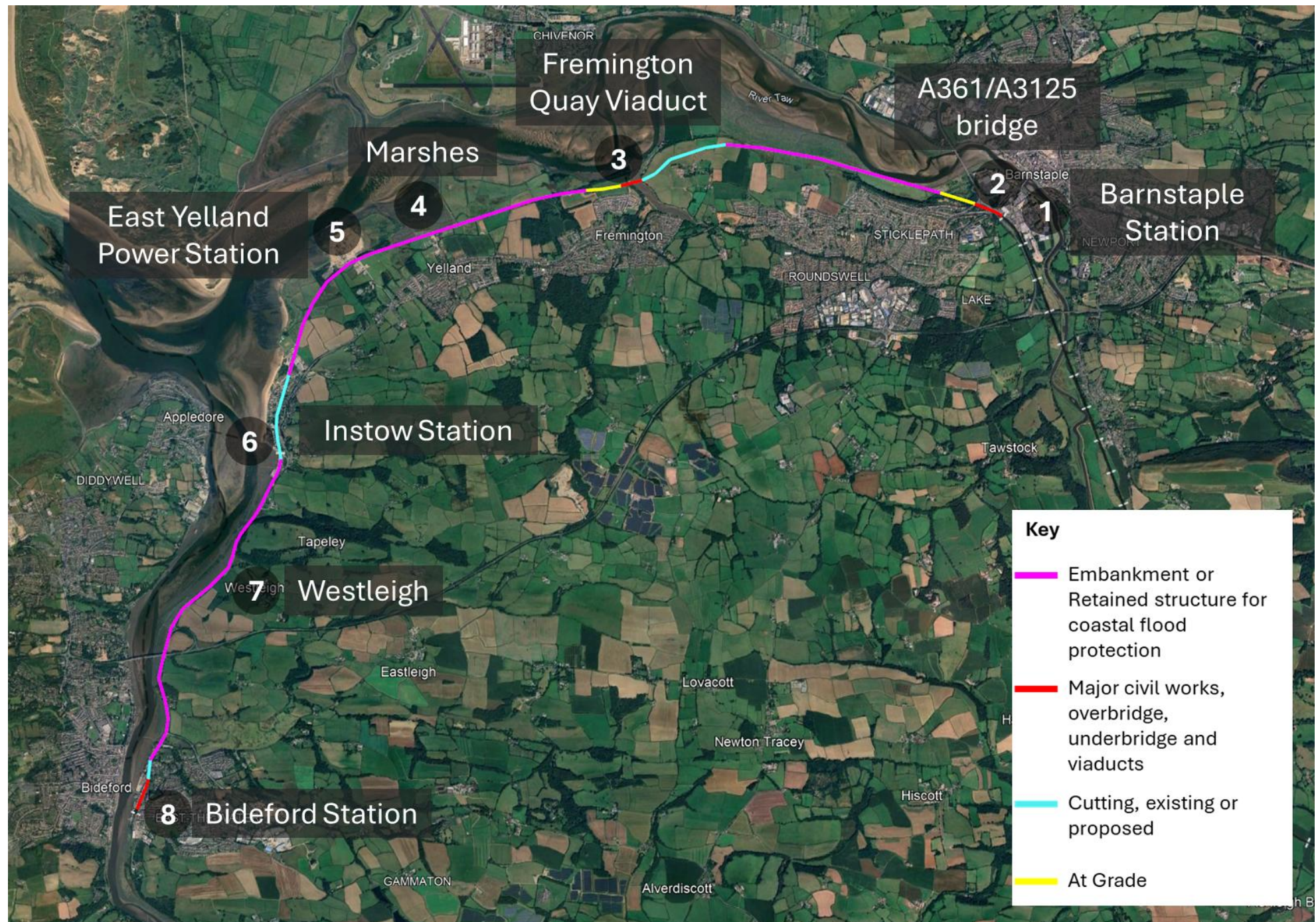
Single track

+

Passing loop

Civils

Coastal
protection



The Bideford Case – capital costs

3 tests

BASE CASE

LOW **↓ 10% + excludes flood defence costs**

HIGH **↑ 10% + flood defence costs x 2**

The Bideford Case – capital costs

3 tests

BASE CASE £264m + £158m RISK → £422m

LOW £191m + £114m RISK → £305m

HIGH £331m + £198m RISK → £529m

‘Money’s too tight to mention’



The Bideford Case – Benefits : Costs

The Bideford Case – Benefits : Costs

	Barnstaple-Exeter as today		Barnstaple-Exeter enhanced	
Summary	Current Housing	Future Housing	Current Housing	Future Housing
LOW Capex	0.21	0.47	0.51	1.94
BASE CASE Capex	0.13	0.26	0.26	0.60
HIGH Capex	0.10	0.18	0.18	0.37
NEW TO RAIL p.a.	282,000	432,000	351,000	540,000

DfT Value for Money/BCR Thresholds

- < 1.0 POOR
- 1.0 – 1.5 LOW
- 1.5 – 2.0 MEDIUM

What does it mean?

- Significant 'new to rail' market
- New housing/population key to the economic case (and £ .. LVC etc.)
- Bideford rail key to new housing sustainability
- Cautious case pre-HMG housing numbers
- High capital costs in cold £ climate
- Coastal flood alleviation funding outside of rail scheme
- Stands with Barnstaple – Exeter enhancement

