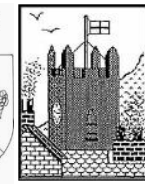


# Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance



***"To achieve delivery of a modernisation programme for North Devon (Tarka) Line passenger rail services between Barnstaple and Exeter, and their extension to Bideford, championing their transformational benefits for communities and businesses and advocating to decision-makers the economic, social and environmental case for developing and investing in the project programme"***

**Second annual convention, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Barnstaple, North Devon**  
(Sponsored by Railfuture)



Credit: Barnstaple Town Council



Convention venue 2025: Royal & Fortescue Hotel

Initial NDRDA founder members: Bideford Town Council, Railfuture, Tarka Rail Association (2023), Barnstaple Town Council, Northam Town Council, Torridge District Council (2024). Chittlehamholt, Satterleigh & Warkleigh Parish Council, King's Nympton Parish Council, Chulmleigh Parish Council, Lapford Parish Council, Burrington Parish Council (2025).



In Parliament's eyes (and Hansard) - ***"The future of rail services in Devon"*** - Westminster Hall debate, 11 December - Motion introduced by new MP for Exeter, acknowledging a personal briefing from NDRDA representatives, and with a contribution to the debate from new MP for North Devon; a Government Transport Minister present throughout.

Finally, **extra trains for GWR's fleet appear in prospect for 2025** – 70 carriages in 27 Class 175 'Coradia' trains (tbc).



# Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance

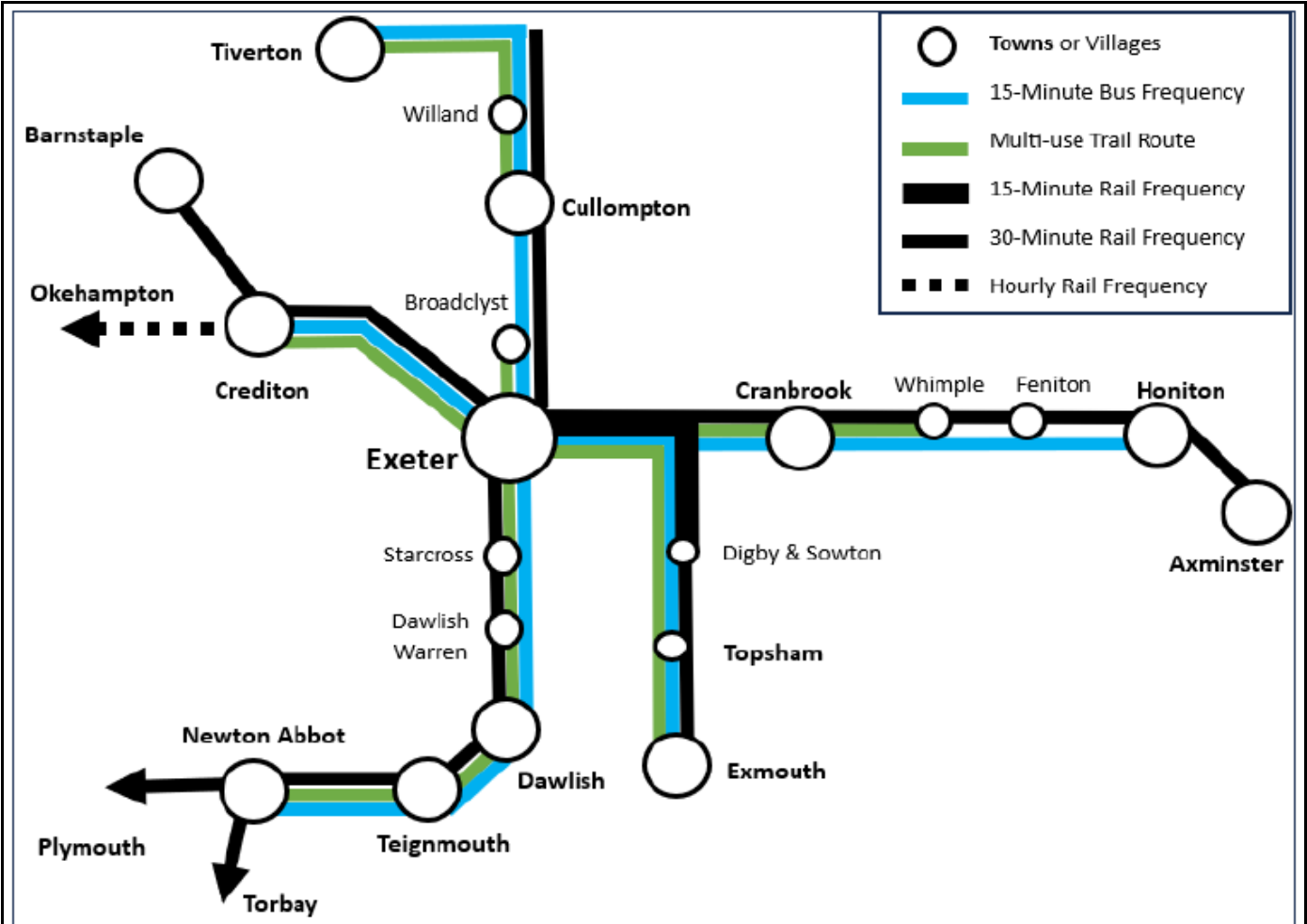
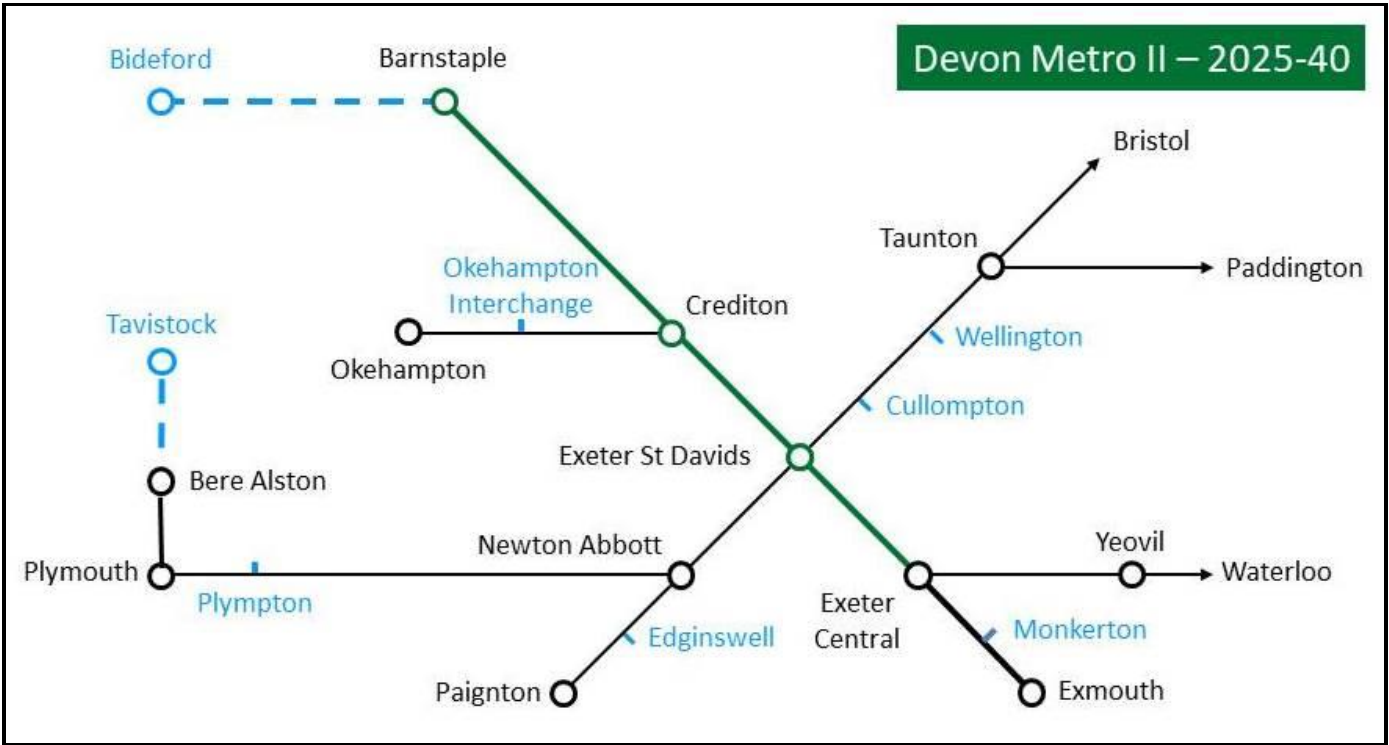


Figure 14: The connected city region with consistent standard of sustainable transport

Extract from draft Devon & Torbay Local Transport Plan 4 – 2025-40

(note two Barnstaple trains per hour and, with two Paignton tph, extending across Exeter possibly to / from Digby & Sowton)

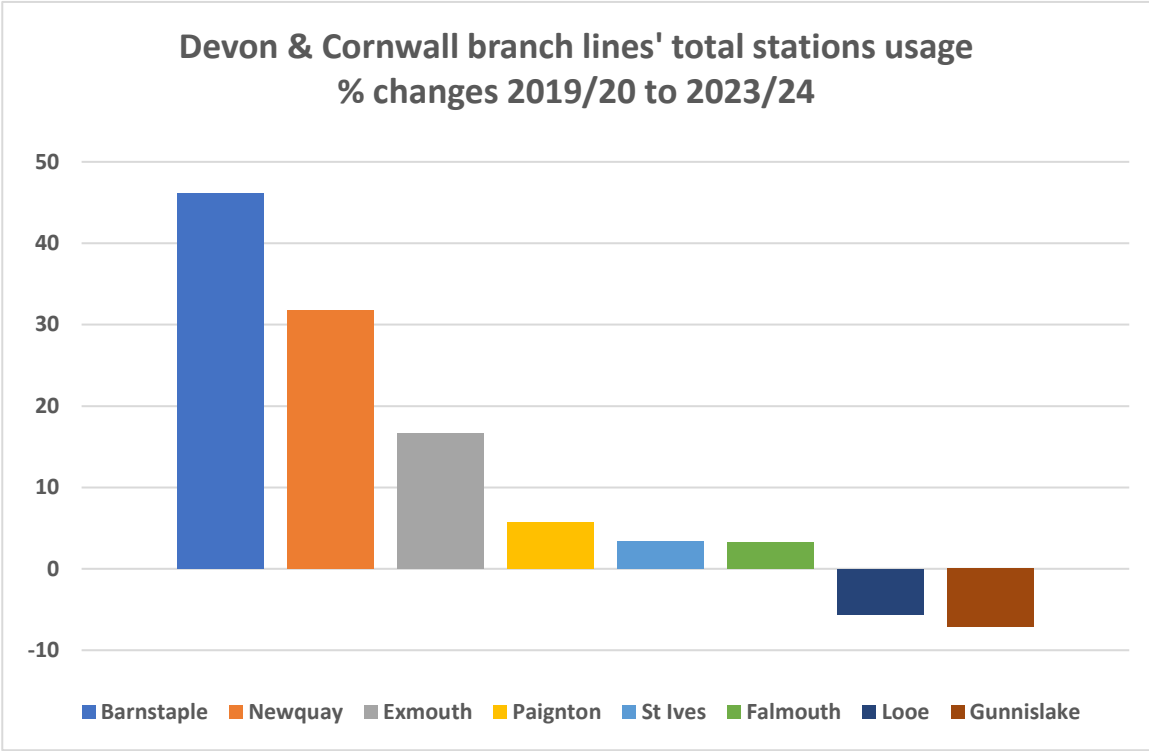


Promoted by Railfuture Devon & Cornwall regional branch



# Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance

## Devon & Cornwall branch lines post-pandemic station usage



Source: Office of Rail & Road - <https://dataportal.orr.gov.uk/statistics/usage/estimates-of-station-usage>  
Table 1415a Time series of passenger entries and exits by station, GB, annual data, April 1997 to March 2024

Tabulated and presented by Railfuture Devon & Cornwall regional branch



Bideford, our next destination station



# Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance



Barnstaple rail station – at 29.4% since 2019-20, strongest-growing station footfall in Peninsula Transport area. Photo: Tim Steer



Class 175 'Coradia' trains coming to GWR during 2025, including Barnstaple-Exeter services (tbc) Photo: Tom Curtis Rail Gallery



# Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance

## Participants invited to 2<sup>nd</sup> annual stakeholder event on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025 in Barnstaple, North Devon

Barnstaple Town Council - Mayor of Barnstaple – Cllr Janet Coates  
Bideford Town Council - Mayor of Bideford – Cllr Rachel Clarke  
Bideford Town Council - former Mayor of Bideford – Cllr Jamie McKenzie  
Burrington Parish Council – Cllr John Short  
Chittlehamholt, Satterleigh & Warkleigh Parish Council – Cllr Malcolm Neal  
Chulmleigh Parish Council – Cllr Grant Sherman  
Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership - Manager – Richard Burningham MBE  
Devon County Council - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment & Transport; also  
Chair, Peninsula Rail Task Force – Cllr Andrea Davis (A)  
Devon County Council - Deputy Director for Planning – Jamie Hulland (A)      Transportation Strategy Manager – Hannah Clark (A)  
Great Western Railway - Managing Director – Mark Hopwood CBE (by video)  
GWR - Business Development Portfolio Director – Tom Pierpoint (A)      Head of Public Affairs – Tom Lydon(A)  
GWR - Head of Strategic Service Development – Matt Barnes      Regional Growth Manager (West) – David Whiteway (A)  
Harland & Wolff / Navantia UK, Appledore - General Manager – Mark Lawther      Bid Engineer – Daniel Burke  
King's Nympton Parish Council – Cllr Martin Pailthorpe      Parish Clerk – Debbie Cook (A)  
Lapford Parish Council – Steve Munday  
Mid-Devon District Council - Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Regeneration – Cllr Steven Keable  
Mid-Devon District Council - Director of Place & Economy – Richard Marsh  
MP for Central Devon – Rt Hon Mel Stride (A)      MP for North Devon – Ian Roome (A)  
MP for Exeter – Steve Race (A)      MP for Torridge & Tavistock – Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Cox KC (A)  
Network Rail - Western Route Infrastructure Director – Ian Joslin (o.b.o. Western Route Director Marcus Jones BEM)  
NR - Western Route Business Manager – Victoria Storey (A)      Devon and Cornwall Director – Chris Fuoco  
NR - Industry Programme Director (South West) – Bogdan Lupu (A)      Senior Strategic Planner (Western) – Andrew Robinson  
Network Rail - Restoring Your Railway Programme Director – Mike Smith  
Northam Town Council - Mayor of Northam – Cllr Niki Tait      Town Clerk – Guy Langton  
Northam Town Council - former Mayor of Northam – Cllr Peter Hames  
North Devon District Council - Chair of North Devon DC – Cllr Helen Walker  
North Devon District Council - Chief Executive – Ken Miles (A)  
North Devon District Council - Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive – Jon Triggs (A)  
North Devon District Council - Head of Place Property & Regeneration – Sarah Jane Mackenzie-Shapland  
Peninsula Transport - Programme Director – Hannah Shrimpton (A)  
Petroc College - Vice Principal Finance, Resources & Regional Affairs – Bill Blythe  
Railfuture - Infrastructure & Networks Director – Roger Blake (Acting Convener, NDRDA)  
Railfuture - Peter West OBE (independent adviser, NDRDA)  
Railfuture - Policy Director and Devon & Cornwall regional branch liaison – Ian Brown CBE  
Railfuture - ACE Rail lead; also Chair, Friends of Barnstaple Railway Station – Tim Steer  
Reach - South West region reporter – Lewis Clarke  
SLC Rail - Strategy Director – Ian Baxter  
South West Business Council - Tim Jones – Chairman      Paul Coles – Chief Executive; also Chair, Torridge Place Board  
Torridge District Council - Chair of Torridge DC – Cllr Doug Bushby  
Torridge District Council - Leader of Torridge DC – Cllr Ken James  
Torridge District Council - Chief Executive – Steve Hearse (A)  
Torridge District Council - Head of Communities & Place – Sean Kearney      Economic Development Manager – Chris Fuller (A)  
TravelWatch SouthWest - Chair – David Northey; also Chair, North Devon Line Rail Promotion Group, formerly Tarka Rail Assoc'n.

(A) = apology for absence