

## Press release – April 2026

### Top teams talk Tarka

On the first day of services resuming following nine days of route improvement works, directors from Network Rail's Western Route visited Barnstaple to discuss "what next?" with representatives from the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance and one of its funding partners, the North Devon Line Rail Promotion Group.

The meeting, held at the [Station Masters Cafe Barnstaple](#), followed closely after the Alliance's well attended annual Convention at Eggesford. The conversation explored a range of potential future enhancements to the North Devon line, noting that funding would need to be secured before any enhancements could proceed.

Also present was Tim Steer, Chair of Railfuture's Devon and Cornwall branch and a co-founder of the Alliance. Reflecting on the visit, he said: "*Network Rail's senior leadership team came to demonstrate, in person, their commitment to collaboration with the Alliance and partner and stakeholder organisations to drive forward practical plans to modernise the North Devon Line and provide a higher performing, more resilient service. We are all working together to drive meaningful improvements for passengers, exploring innovation where it can make a real difference, and delivering better outcomes for both our customers and the communities the railway serves.*"



Photo credit: FOBRs Graham Hayward

FB: [Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance | Facebook](#)

W: [Railfuture | Devon and Cornwall Branch](#)

[www.railfuture.org.uk](http://www.railfuture.org.uk) [www.railfuturescotland.org.uk](http://www.railfuturescotland.org.uk) [www.railfuturewales.org.uk](http://www.railfuturewales.org.uk)  
[www.railwatch.org.uk](http://www.railwatch.org.uk)

Railfuture Ltd is a (not for profit) Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No. 05011634.  
Registered Office: Edinburgh House, 1-5 Bellevue Road, Clevedon, North Somerset, BS21 7NP (legal correspondence only).  
All other correspondence: 3 Chandos Court, Martlesham, Suffolk IP12 4SU.