



# Tavistock to Bere Alston Railway

Better connections  
to West Devon

## Background

For many years there has been an ambition to re-open the railway line between Tavistock and Bere Alston. The 5.5 mile stretch of railway line was taken out of use by Dr Beeching in 1968, and the reinstatement would see the return of direct services between Tavistock and Plymouth.

Connecting Tavistock to Plymouth by rail has a number of benefits. It will improve travel options for residents and businesses, link the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site with Plymouth and join rural West Devon with Plymouth and the national rail network. It will also help to minimise traffic on the busy A386.

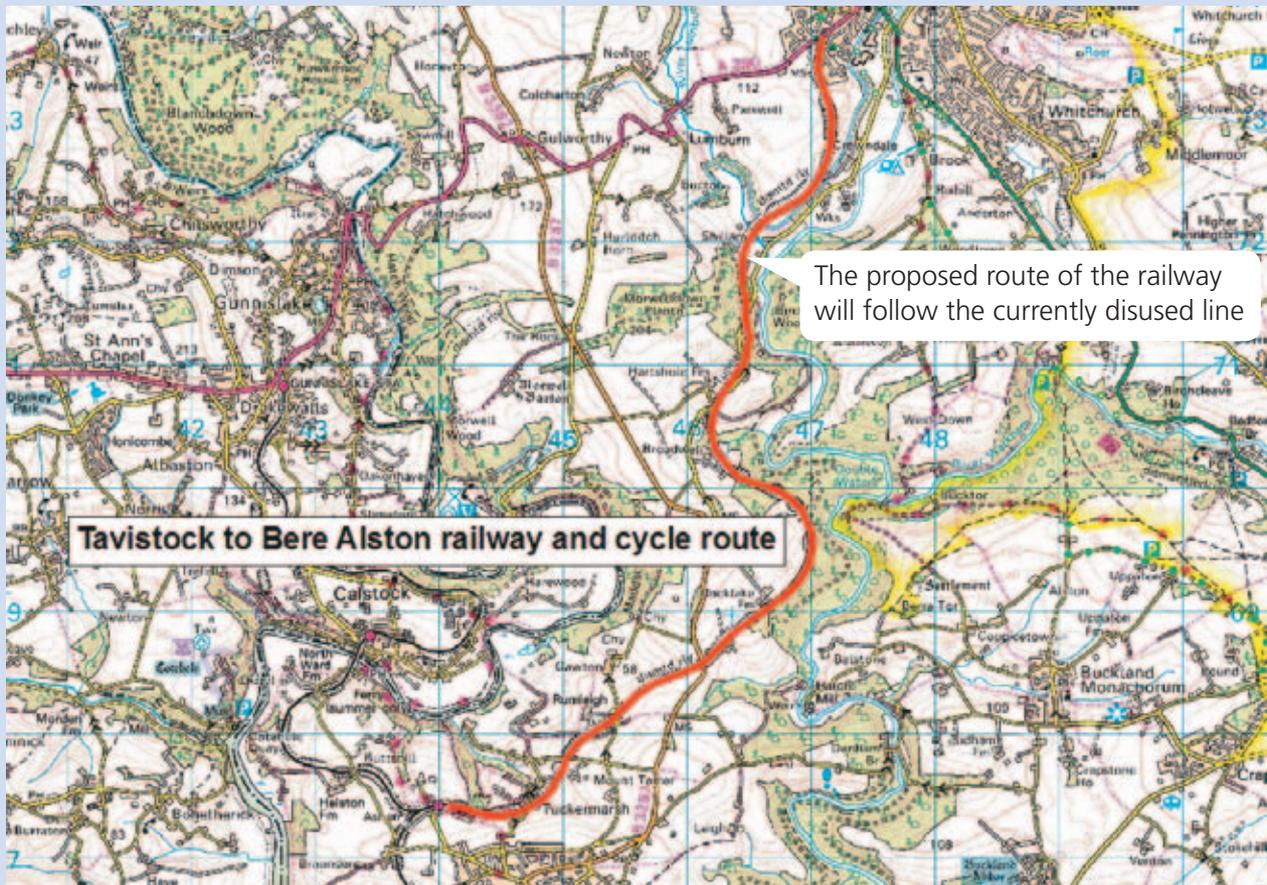


## Context

The project to re-open the line is included in West Devon Borough Council's Core Strategy which was adopted in April 2011. The Core Strategy is a plan that sets out where future development will be located in the Borough. The plan has identified areas of land in the south and south-west of Tavistock to be developed for a mixture of 750 new homes, employment units, open space and other facilities that are needed by the community. The project to reopen the railway line forms part of this development and will be funded largely by

the national house-builder Bovis Homes who will be providing the new residential development. The railway will play a key role in supporting new development in Tavistock.

Devon County Council has also underlined the importance of this project by identifying it for investment over the next fifteen years in the Local Transport Plan. As the former railway line was double track, the County Council is also looking to open a cycle route alongside the railway.



**Tavistock to Bere Alston railway and cycle route**

The proposed route of the railway will follow the currently disused line



## Who are the main organisations involved in the railway project?

### Devon County Council

Devon County Council will be leading the project to re-open the railway line. Over the last few years Devon County Council (as Local Transport Authority) has gradually bought sections of the disused line and now owns large sections of the route for the railway.

### Kilbride Community Rail

Kilbride Community Rail (KCR) has been involved in promoting the re-opening of the railway for some time. It originally purchased an interest in the land which has now been identified for development in the south-west of Tavistock. The interest in the land has since been sold to house builder, Bovis Homes, who will develop the new homes planned for the site. KCR will continue to be involved in re-opening the railway and will work alongside the County Council to provide contacts and expertise, drawing on their experience on other rail projects.

### West Devon Borough Council

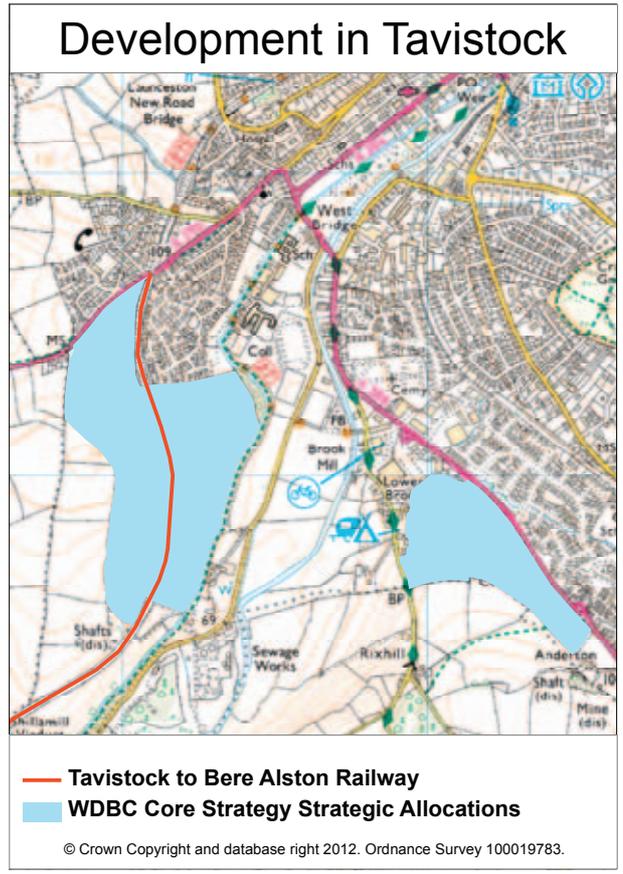
West Devon Borough Council is the local planning authority for the area. The Borough Council will be working with the local community to progress the new housing and employment development and will work alongside the County Council to support the delivery of the railway.

### Network Rail

Network Rail is the organisation responsible for the maintenance, repair, renewal and operation of the majority of the UK's rail infrastructure and will be involved in the project as it progresses.

### Bovis Homes

Bovis Homes, who owns land off Callington Road, will be working closely with all the other organisations and is providing key funding to deliver the rail project.



## How will the railway be delivered?



Organisations which plan to build and operate railways need appropriate powers from the government. The County Council will apply for these powers through a Transport and Works Act Order. Supported by the other organisations, the County Council will be starting work on the preparation phase of this process shortly. This will require significant work to examine the current structures on the disused rail track, lie of the land and the environmental character of the route. This work will lead to designs of the railway and station being drawn up.

The groups involved in the project are continuing to meet with various organisations and interested parties including the Train Operating Companies and central government. This will ensure that the relevant organisations are kept up to date with developments and will help to discuss issues relating to the operation of the proposed line.

Community involvement is a vital part of the Transport and Works Act Order process. As such, there will be opportunities for local residents, businesses and community groups to get involved in various consultations that will be held over the coming three years.

This work will result in the submission of the Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) and a Public Inquiry. Due to the complexity of the process, this is not likely to be held until 2014.

## How do I find out more?

### Contact details

Devon County Council  
Transport Planning Team  
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devon.gov.uk/tavistock-bere-alston-railway

West Devon Borough Council  
Strategic Planning Team  
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If you would like to be kept informed about future consultations or the progress of the railway project, please contact either Devon County Council or West Devon Borough Council to be added to the mailing list.