

Lynton & Barnstaple Railway



Site Context

Exmoor is an outstanding natural landscape of national and international importance that has been shaped by natural processes and man's intervention.

Designations: The line reinstatement is mostly within the ENPA boundary. The park is an environmentally sensitive area and this is reflected in the features and designations that can be found within the proximity of the proposed rail corridor. These include:

County Wildlife Sites

Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)

Grade I & Grade II Listed Buildings

The reinstatement also crosses through land within the authority of North Devon Council (NDC) with the designation of an Area of Great Landscape Value. The planning application has considered the effects of the line's reinstatement on these designations.

Technical Studies: An Environmental Impact Assessment(EIA) Scoping Report was prepared in consultation with both ENPA and NDC to agree the extent of the EIA.

A habitat survey of the reinstatement corridor was undertaken to identify the potential for protected flora and fauna species within the area surrounding the railway's proposed route. More specific ecological surveys have been carried out as a result which informed the EIA and the final design.

These included:

Bat activity surveys and emergence surveys

Badger, Dormice, Otter, Reptile, Tree and Landscape surveys

Other technical studies were also carried out in the following areas:

- Traffic & Access - Assessment of construction and operational effects on the local transport network.
- Surface Water - Assessment of the impact on surface water run-off and flood risk.
- Noise & Vibration - Modelling noise from increased locomotive traffic.
- Landscape & Visual - Assessment of visual impacts from key viewpoints.
- Historic Environment - Assessment of potential for archaeological disturbance and impacts on the setting of historic monuments and listed buildings.
- Geology, Hydrology and Soils – Assessment of the suitability of ground conditions for the line's reinstatement.
- Socio-economic - Assessment of the potential effects on the local population including employment, business opportunities and amenity.