

Your reference:-

Please quote this reference:- 3207
21st January, 2015

Kevin Bishop, Esq., Ph.D.,
National Park Officer,
Dartmoor National Park Authority,
Parke,
Bovey Tracey,
Newton Abbot
TQ13 9JQ

RAILWAY RECONSTRUCTION

Dear Dr. Bishop,

Dartmoor Railways

Alison Harris left a telephone message on 20th August saying that you were on leave, but that she felt sure you would be interested in "A Summary of the Case for Reopening the Inland Railway Route between Exeter and Newton Abbot," which I had sent.

Many recipients did not acknowledge my individual letters, as is the modern experience. Some should have done, like Mel Stride and Anne Marie Morris, who had a lot to say on the subject, but had quickly made up their minds what they were going to talk about.

A warm reply from the Rail Minister made up for all those who could not be bothered to lift a pen.

Since then, another railway matter has come up and no doubt you have been informed of developments. In the case of Ashburton Station, I have to say that I am very disappointed.

On 21st April, 2004, I sent Dr. Atkinson a copy of the Railway Development Society's (now Railfuture) 300-page *South West Rail Strategy*, costing £16. It was deposited in your reference library. I took it that your authority would have nothing comparable from central government and that it would be a useful source of information and perhaps guidance.

There is not much in the *Strategy* about Ashburton, but reinstatement of the line from Buckfastleigh is mentioned; in fact, it is priced, suggesting some serious study had occurred. Copies of the relevant pages are enclosed.

When considering the station site, if only your officers, as a matter of routine, had referred to the *Strategy*, then I feel sure that there would have been immediate consultation with the South Devon Railway and we would be in a different position today.

As it turns out, there is no harm done and it looks very much like Ashburton Station will be revitalized for the long term good of everyone.

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But, with respect, can I ask that you change your approach? In future, will you make a point of identifying a station site with an historical name, as you would any other place with a longstanding association, and will you be more alive to the possibilities for railway reconstruction?

There are railways up Snowdon and Snaefell. Would it be so bad to have ours to Princetown rebuilt?

Yours sincerely,

Colin Burges
Owner and Operator

Encl.



As close as a train gets to the National Park headquarters.
One of seven "Santa" specials running towards Heathfield,
2½ miles from Parke, on 21st December.



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Your ref: 3207
Please quote: KB/AH/
Dartmoor Railways
Direct line: 01626 831004

12 February 2015

Dear Mr Burges

Dartmoor Railways

Thank you for your letter, dated 21 January 2015, concerning Dartmoor Railways.

I have passed it, and the attachments, to colleagues working in our Forward Planning team, so they can consider the points you make. I note the article also includes the links to Bovey Tracey and Teign Valley and a suggestion for a station at the Pottery Road roundabout. As you will appreciate, this area is outside of the National Park; I will ensure relevant colleagues in Teignbridge District Council are sent a copy of the article.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Kevin Bishop
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