

# Tarka Accord



## **Unofficial Regional Terminology for Northern Devon**

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## Introduction:

This is a report on the unofficial geographical terminology used to describe regions in Northern Devon created by Tarka Accord. The terminology, in question, was originally defined in a report on Northern Devon population growth ([1](#), *shall henceforth be referred to as 'Report 1'*) and later used in another Tarka Accord report on the theoretical application, revision and/or benefits of public transport in the context of Northern Devon ([2](#), *shall henceforth be referred to as 'Report 2'*).

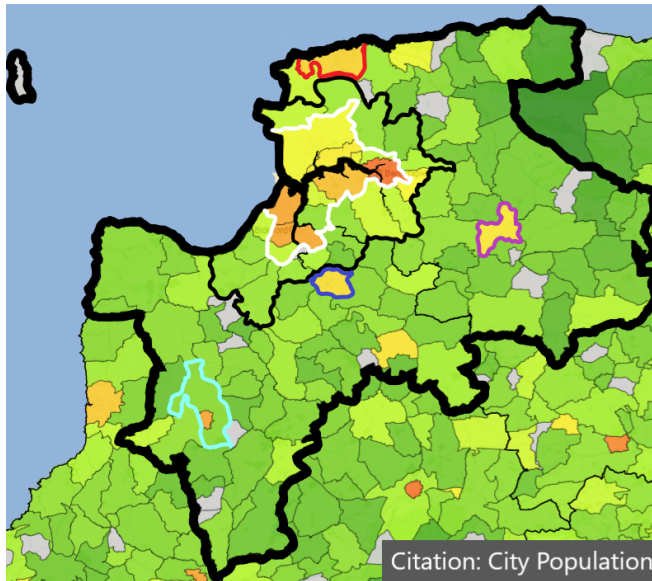
The terminology was initially defined after a discovery was made in Report 1 while researching the population size and density of various parishes in North Devon District and Torridge District. The discovery was that there was a large and connected group of parishes of which featured distinctly high population sizes and densities when compared to most of the rest of North Devon District and Torridge District. In addition to the region of which was discovered and how there was an absence of official terminology to define it by, it was found that the official terminology failed to account for other geographical and population realities in Northern Devon too. This is why unofficial geographical terminology was created and why it has been so useful.

There are various purposes of this report, all of which have been listed below:

- To create a single and separate document for the unofficial geographical terminology to be defined in for the purpose of more convenient citation.
- To slightly alter the definitions in order to correct mistakes and oversights in previous reports.
- To expand upon what has already been defined.

## The Map:

A prominent aspect behind the discovery and defining of the regions was the interactive population statistics map by 'City Population' ([3](#)). An edited version of an excerpt of this map was initially made in Report 1 and later finalised in Report 2. The map of which was produced is the following:



Map Key:

*(each of the added lines on the map are borders, the terminology in the key will be explained later in this report)*

- Northern Devon | the thick black border
- The Taw/Torridge Area (or, TТА):
  - The Greater Taw/Torridge Area (or, GTТА) | the thinner black border
  - The Lesser Taw/Torridge Area (or, LTТА) | the white border
- Other Prominent Settlements:
  - Ilfracombe | the red border
  - South Molton | the purple border
  - Great Torrington | the dark blue border
  - Greater Holsworthy | the cyan border

## Terminology:

### Northern Devon:

Definition:

The term 'Northern Devon' refers to: 'the combined territorial extents of both North Devon District and Torridge District'.

Reasoning:

There was initially no particular reason stated in Report 1 but it was later elaborated upon in Report 2 that the term was created due to the conflict between the colloquial use of 'North Devon' to refer to the whole of the north of Devon and the

official use of the term to refer to only North Devon District. It was, therefore, deemed that the creation of a new term to refer to the colloquial usage would be appropriate. The term 'Northern Devon' was chosen to convey the meaning immediately (although the term may seem somewhat obtuse to many) while not having the issue of also referring to the district. It was decided that the area of Northern Devon would include the territorial extents of both North Devon District and Torridge District in order to not exclude any areas of which would be considered 'North Devon' colloquially while simultaneously being compatible with other data due to adhering to the pre-existing district boundaries.

### **Additional Vocabulary:**

In addition to the base form of the term 'Northern Devon', adjectival and demonymic forms of the term based on the pre-existing adjectival and demonymic forms of the word 'Devon' have been created:

- Base Form: Northern Devon
- Adjectival Form: Northern Devonshire
- Donymic Form: Northern Devonian

### **The Taw/Torridge Area (or, the TTA):**

#### **Greater and Lesser:**

In Report 1, two definitions of the TTA were created with one being labelled as 'the Lesser Taw/Torridge Area' (or, 'the LTTA') and the other being labelled as 'the Greater Taw/Torridge Area' (or, 'the GTTA'). The distinction between the two definitions proved to be useful both in Report 1 and in subsequent material.

#### **Definitions:**

The Lesser Taw/Torridge Area (or, the LTTA):

'The collective territorial extents of all of the parishes in Northern Devon of which border the rivers Taw, Torridge and/or the Taw/Torridge Estuary; for this definition, the Taw will be considered to begin in Barnstaple Parish and the Torridge will be considered to begin in Bideford Parish and Littleham Parish.'

The Greater Taw/Torridge Area (or, the GTTA):

'The collective territorial extents of all of the parishes in Northern Devon of which border the rivers Taw, Torridge, the Taw/Torridge Estuary or any parish of which borders any of the aforementioned; for this definition, the Taw will be considered to

begin in Barnstaple Parish and the Torridge will be considered to begin in Bideford Parish and Littleham Parish.'

### Reasoning:

The TTA was originally defined in Report 1 due to the discovery of an area in Northern Devon of which featured a considerably high population density when compared to elsewhere in Northern Devon alongside a considerable amount of the Northern Devonshire population.

Additionally: the reason why the TTA was split into its lesser and greater forms was due to the restriction of using parish borders to define the new area. It was thought that creating two definitions for the TTA would help in mitigating that problem.

To elaborate upon how the definitions are worded, it was decided to start the Taw and Torridge rivers in Barnstaple and Bideford & Littleham respectively for the purpose of the definitions as to omit territories / parishes further inland of which have little-to-no connection with the significant urban area of which the definition was designed to define.

### Possible renaming of the TTA:

The name 'Taw/Torridge Area' was chosen in Report 1 and continued in later material due to its utilitarian nature and how it conveys its meaning even prior to communicating the definition. However, this makes the name quite uninteresting. Due to this, a possible change of name in the future may be appropriate. This section explores that possibility.

The word 'Tarka' may be the most appropriate base word as it is already heavily associated with and frequently used in Northern Devon as an adjective to attribute nouns (usually names) with a sense of locality. The prominent history of the word 'Tarka' originates in a book called '*Tarka the Otter: His Joyful Water-Life and Death in the Country of the Two Rivers*' (or simply; '*Tarka the Otter*') by Henry Williamson. The story of the book is located in Northern Devon with the rivers Taw and Torridge being the rivers referred to in the title of the book.

Examples of 'Tarka' being used to attribute a sense of locality are within, but are not limited to, the following list (*the grammatical article 'the' has been omitted before the use of 'Tarka' due to varying applications of the article*):

- Tarka Accord
- Tarka Springs
- Tarka Home Improvements

- Tarka Leisure Centre
- Tarka Accounts
- Tarka Holiday Park
- Tarka Line
- Tarka Trail
- Tarka Locks

Due to the history of the word 'Tarka' being used to attribute Northern Devonshire locality alongside the original setting and namesake of the book including the Taw and Torridge, the word would likely be appropriate to use when renaming the TTA.

Possible new vocabulary:

- For the TTA (unspecified definition)
  - Base Form:
 

'Tarkamouth' - The two elements of this word are 'Tarka' and '-mouth' with 'Tarka' being used as a base and '-mouth' as a suffix. The suffix '-mouth', pronounced as /'məθ/ (international phonetic alphabet, or: 'IPA'), was chosen to clearly present the word as the name of a settlement and because of the suffix's geographical accuracy when describing the location of the settlement. Additionally, the singular word 'Tarka' was purposefully rejected as a possible replacement name due to the word's existing association as a singular noun to the otter from the book by Williamson.
  - Adjectival Forms:
    - 'Tarkamouth' - Extrapolating from the word 'Tarkamouth' used as the base form of the new name, the same word could also be used as the adjectival form of the name.
    - 'Tarka' - Although the word 'Tarka' used as an adjective is not specifically linked to the territorial extent of the TTA (or, 'Tarkamouth'), the close geographical connection and obvious etymological connection could both prove precedent enough to use 'Tarka' as the adjectival form of 'Tarkamouth'.
  - Demonymic Forms:
    - 'Tarkan' - Similarly to the word 'Tarkamouth', the word 'Tarkan' uses the word 'Tarka' as a base and connects a related suffix onto the end of the word. For the case of 'Tarkan', the suffix '-(a)n' was connected due to being a highly common suffix for demonyms. This commonality could additionally make the word a recognisable demonymic form of 'Tarkamouth'.
    - 'Tarkaman' - Another option for a demonymic form for 'Tarkamouth' of which uses 'Tarka' as a base and extends the word with a relevant demonymic suffix is 'Tarkaman' (plural,

'Tarkamen'). This word uses the suffix '-man', pronounced: /'mən/ (IPA), which is a historical way of forming demonyms in the English language. However, the modern interpretation of this specific demonymic suffix strictly referring to men may limit its availability of possible use and adoption.

- For the LTTA and GTTA:

Due to the names of the LTTA and the GTTA being derived from the original 'TTA', it would be applicable for the new terminology to derive from the previously suggested 'Tarkamouth' (including its adjectival and demonymic forms). Additionally, it may be appropriate to re-evaluate the usage of the words 'lesser' and 'greater' due to those words' additional association with quality. Extrapolating from this, the following vocabulary could be introduced as a replacement to the current vocabulary:

- LTTA:

A possible replacement for the word 'lesser' could be 'inner' as that word would be synonymous with 'lesser' in the context of defining the territorial extent of the LTTA in opposition to the GTTA yet without the additional association with low quality. Using 'inner' rather than 'lesser', the possible replacement vocabulary derived from 'Tarkamouth' would be the following:

- Base Form:

'Inner Tarkamouth'

- Adjectival Forms:

- 'Inner Tarkamouth'

- 'Inner Tarka'

- Demonymic Forms:

- 'Inner Tarkan'

- 'Inner Tarkaman' (plural, 'Inner Tarkamen')

- GTTA:

Although the words 'lesser' and 'inner' are effectively synonyms in the context of defining the territorial extent of the LTTA, the equivalents 'greater' and 'outer' have slightly different meanings as 'greater' includes the area of the LTTA whereas 'outer' more prominently presents an exclusion of the LTTA. Due to this, the terminology derived from 'Tarkamouth' to replace that of 'the GTTA' would be required to maintain the word 'greater' despite its additional association with quality (although, a word associated with *higher* quality of which does not exclude anyone in the TTA would likely be better perceived by the public than a term of which could be seen as specifically defining a particular group in the TTA as being of a *lower* quality). Acknowledging this, below is the possible replacement terminology:

- Base Form:  
'Greater Tarkamouth'
- Adjectival Forms:
  - 'Greater Tarkamouth'
  - 'Greater Tarka'
- Demonymic Forms:
  - 'Greater Tarkan'
  - 'Greater Tarkaman' (plural, 'Greater Tarkamen')
- 'Outer' Taw/Torridge Area:  
 Although not specifically defined in previous reports, the concept of an 'Outer' TTA of which includes the territorial extent of the GTTA of which is not additionally included in the LTTA could be beneficial to define alongside the other new vocabulary. Possible vocabulary for this area derived from 'Tarkamouth' (and all its forms) for the concept of an 'Outer' TTA are presented below:
  - Base Form:  
'Outer Tarkamouth'
  - Adjectival Forms:
    - 'Outer Tarkamouth'
    - 'Outer Tarka'
  - Demonymic Forms:
    - 'Outer Tarkan'
    - 'Outer Tarkaman'

## **Greater Holsworthy:**

### **Definition:**

'Greater Holsworthy' can be defined as: an area comprising the collective territorial extents of Holsworthy Parish and Holsworthy Hamlets Parish.

### **Reasoning:**

'Greater Holsworthy' was created in Report 1 to present a different perspective on the population of Holsworthy. As an example of what can be observed from this small change, the population density of Greater Holsworthy is significantly less than Holsworthy Parish alone.

## **Other Prominent Settlements (or, OPSs):**

### **Definition:**

There are four 'Other Prominent Settlements' (or, 'OPSs'), these include: Ilfracombe Parish, South Molton Parish, Great Torrington Parish, and Greater Holsworthy (Holsworthy Parish and Holsworthy Hamlets Parish simultaneously).

### **Reasoning:**

These four OPSs were originally defined in Report 1 and added to the map provided earlier in this report from Report 2. They were outlined due to their relatively significant gross populations and population densities when compared to elsewhere in Northern Devon outside of the TTA. It is additionally worth noting that the OPS with the most significant gross population is Ilfracombe of which has nearly double the gross population of the second most populous OPS (of which is South Molton) and over double the gross population of the third most populous OPS (of which is Great Torrington). Both South Molton and Great Torrington are presented to have roughly equivalent populations in Report 1. Holsworthy was deemed significant for a slightly different reason, as Holsworthy Parish was found to be the only parish outside of the TTA to have a population density over 1000/km<sup>2</sup>. However, it is worth mentioning that Greater Holsworthy (of which contains both Holsworthy Parish and Holsworthy Hamlets Parish) is presented to have a notably less significant population density of '108.94/km<sup>2</sup>' in Report 1.

# Citations:

List of citations / references used in this report:

1 - 'Northern Devon Population Growth', or: "Report 1":

- Published: 02.May.2024 | Accessed: 08.June.2024
- By: Oscar C. Kelly and Fin Carlyon - Tarka Accord  
(*the original 'Finlay' published in the document was shortened to 'Fin' upon a request from them to do so*)
- Link: [https://www.tarkaaccord.info/files/ugd/4ae72c\\_cf9d47bf4107456ab5679dd3a01d57d2.pdf](https://www.tarkaaccord.info/files/ugd/4ae72c_cf9d47bf4107456ab5679dd3a01d57d2.pdf) (White Pages)  
[https://www.tarkaaccord.info/files/ugd/4ae72c\\_7dcd15888f0841d3b429ce9993a0af9d.pdf](https://www.tarkaaccord.info/files/ugd/4ae72c_7dcd15888f0841d3b429ce9993a0af9d.pdf) (Beige Pages)

2 - 'Theoretical Application / Revision of and Benefits of Public Transport', or:  
"Report 2":

- Published: 04.June.2024 | Accessed: 08.June.2024
- By: Oscar C. Kelly and Fin Carlyon - Tarka Accord
- Link: [https://www.tarkaaccord.info/files/ugd/4ae72c\\_e34a32fd837e40a0a224b88e16b3c148.pdf](https://www.tarkaaccord.info/files/ugd/4ae72c_e34a32fd837e40a0a224b88e16b3c148.pdf) (White Pages)  
[https://www.tarkaaccord.info/files/ugd/4ae72c\\_e3e4eff98507423da9ec45a6a75e3d3c.pdf](https://www.tarkaaccord.info/files/ugd/4ae72c_e3e4eff98507423da9ec45a6a75e3d3c.pdf) (Beige Pages)

3 - 'United Kingdom: South West England':

- Published: n.d | Accessed: 14.June.2024
- By: City Population
- Link: <https://www.citypopulation.de/en/uk/southwestengland/admin/>