

WATAG NEWS

WEST DORSET WESTERN AREA TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP

LOCAL TRANSPORT ROUTES

X51/X52/X53

Operated by First Wessex and marketed as the Jurassic Coaster. Operates daily.
X51 operates from Weymouth to Axminster via Dorchester, Bridport and Lyme Regis.
X52 operates from Bridport to Monkey World
X53 operates from Weymouth to Axminster via Abbotsbury, West Bay, Bridport and Lyme Regis.

6/6B

Operated by First Wessex and Buses of Somerset, Mondays to Fridays.
These buses operate from Bridport to Beaminster, Crewkerne and Yeovil.

CB3

Operated by Beaminster Town Council, every Saturday, connecting Beaminster with Bridport and Crewkerne.

7

Operated by Dorset Community Transport on behalf of Bridport Town Council on Wednesdays and Saturdays, as the 'Bridport Town Circular'.

9A

Operated by Stagecoach South West, this links Lyme Regis with Exeter via Axmouth, Seaton and Sidmouth, daily.

14

Operated by Dorset Community Transport, every Thursday, from Birdsmoorgate and Thorncombe to Chard.

71

Operated by Damory, on behalf of Lyme Regis Town Council, Mondays to Fridays, as the 'Lyme Regis Town Service'

688

Operated by Dorset Community Transport, every Thursday, from Thorncombe to Axminster.

PlusBus

Operated by Dorset Community Transport, the PlusBus service provides transport for people who are unable to easily access public transport: young or old and including those with mobility difficulties and offers a weekday trip from neighbouring villages to local destination towns. To book, call 01258 287980. Further details here: <https://bit.ly/37hK7hB>

YOUR LOCAL RAIL ROUTES

South Western Railway

Axminster & Crewkerne to/from Exeter and London Waterloo.
Weymouth, Upwey and Dorchester South to Poole, Bournemouth and London Waterloo.

Great Western Railway

Weymouth, Upwey and Dorchester West to Bath, Bristol and Gloucester.

LONG DISTANCE BUS ROUTES

National Express and Megabus operate from Weymouth and Dorchester to London



Dorset Council wants to hear from you!

Easy ways to
TRACK YOUR BUS and TRAIN

DORSET & DEVON

Different approaches to transport?

CONTACT WATAG

WATAG normally holds public meetings regularly, however due to the ongoing COVID pandemic this has not been possible. With lockdown being eased over the last few months we plan to have meetings again. It will be good to see you all again, in person! You can contact WATAG via email or see our website.
Website: <https://watag.org.uk/>
Email: watag@hotmail.co.uk

YOUR LOCAL JOURNEY PLANNER TRAVELINE SOUTH WEST
<https://www.travelinesw.com/>

SERVICE NEWS

The latest news on bus and rail service updates



First Wessex continue to operate their new summer timetable, including the X52 service from Bridport to Lulworth Cove, Durdle Door, Bovington Tank Museum and Monkey World. The full timetable (valid from 30 May) is here: <https://bit.ly/2OylNmH>. Lyme Regis, Chideock, Charmouth and Axminster have an hourly service, seven days a week.



Beaminster Town Council's CB3 continues every Saturday between Crewkerne, Beaminster and Bridport, with connections to Yeovil with South West Coaches. The timetable can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/3oyPctz>



Service 7 operates as Bridport's "Town Service" every Wednesday and Saturday. Services 14 and 688 continue to operate. Timetables are here:
Service 7: <https://bit.ly/35i4TN9>
Service 14: <https://bit.ly/3wp2lYW>
Service 688: <https://bit.ly/3yz43ss>



Service 71 operates as Lyme Regis' "Town Service", Mondays to Fridays. The timetable can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/2X5HgGG>



Stagecoach South West's service 9A (Lyme Regis to Seaton, Sidmouth and Exeter) changed on 10th May, with services continuing to serve Greendale Vaccination Centre. The timetable is here: <https://bit.ly/2X1d2V7>
Please note that the timetable refers to buses using Stand 5 at Exeter's new bus station however according to the Stagecoach website services will use Stand 8.



Between Weymouth, Dorchester and London: Mondays to Fridays this is reduced to an hourly service, with only a few trains serving Woking. On Saturdays two trains an hour are offered, with one per hour on Sundays. The timetable is here: <https://bit.ly/3v53kNL> and a history of the route is here: <https://bit.ly/3hySVGz>
Between Crewkerne and Axminster and Exeter/London: this route has reverted to an hourly service. The timetable is here: <https://bit.ly/3wypusb>. Information on the route from Axminster to Exeter here <https://greatscenicrailways.co.uk/lines/east-devon-line/>



Great Western Railway has announced its summer timetable for the Weymouth - Bristol (Heart of Wessex) route. The timetable is here: <https://bit.ly/345CEQV>. Work on step-free access on the northbound platform at Dorchester West is due to be completed, after nearly a decade of campaigning. You can find information about this attractive route here: <https://www.heartofwessex.org.uk/>



National Express service 190, from Portsmouth to Plymouth is suspended. There is no date for a resumption of services. The afternoon Weymouth/Dorchester to London service continues. Timetable: <https://bit.ly/34cqztg>. You must book in advance, either via the website or at Bridport Tourist Information Centre, where no booking fee is charged. Notably, fares are cheaper when starting your journey at Weymouth rather than Dorchester.



Megabus has started a new morning service from Weymouth and Dorchester to Bournemouth, Southampton, Southampton Airport, Heathrow Airport and London, operating Thursdays to Mondays. Bookings can only be made on their website, and compulsory seat reservation fees apply. Details here: <https://uk.megabus.com/>
Notably, fares are cheaper when starting your journey from Weymouth instead of Dorchester.

PARKING CHANGES Dorset Council has announced a review of parking charges in the county in a bid to standardise fees, which could see some car parks charging £10 per day in high season.

As part of the plans, car parks will be priced at a point that customers will find using public transport a better option.

WATAG is included as a 'stakeholder' and will be attending a meeting on Tuesday, 10th August where responses to the council's survey will be discussed.

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Location	Location	Location
Beaminster	Blandford	Corfe Castle
Charmouth	Bridport	Lyme Regis
Ferndown	Dorchester	Portland
Gillingham	Shaftesbury	West Bay
Sturminster Newton	Sherborne	Weymouth (beach area)
Verwood	Wareham	
West Bexington	Weymouth (shops)	
	Wimborne	

WHERE'S MY TRAIN?

In a previous edition of the newsletter we explained some options to ensure you get the best value when buying rail tickets.

However, once you have purchased your ticket, and are at the station, did you know that there are websites that give you information before it appears on station screens?

www.realtimetrains.com uses data directly from National Rail, and is updated **before** station screens and apps. This way you can get information on the platform of departure before other passengers - giving you time to choose your favourite seat!

It also updates delay information - including the reason for the delay.

Another website that offers this kind of information is:

<https://www.opentraintimes.com/>

2021	to London Waterloo	plat 1
	At platform	
	South Western Railway - 5 coaches	
2037	to Weymouth	plat 1
	Expected at 2047	
	South Western Railway - 5 coaches	
2112	to Winchester	plat 1
	On time	
	South Western Railway - 5 coaches	
2147	to Weymouth	plat 1
	Expected at 2216	
	South Western Railway - 5 coaches	
2212	to Weymouth	plat 2
	Expected at 2222	
	South Western Railway - 5 coaches	

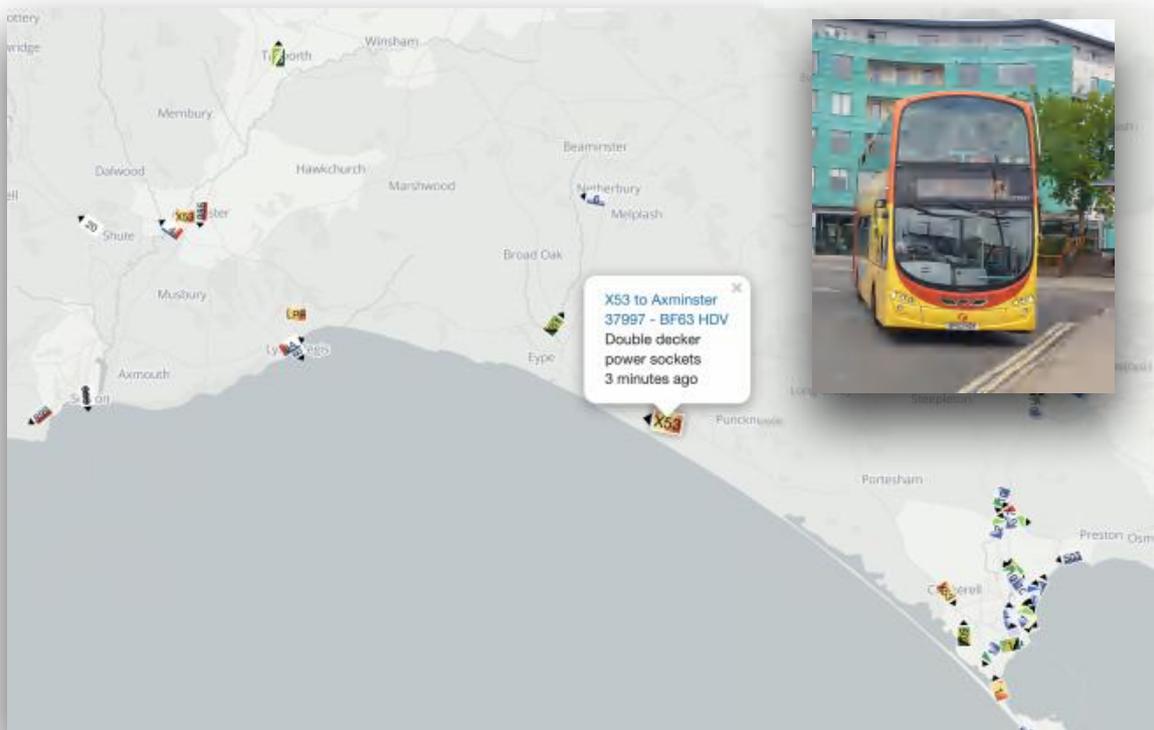
WHERE'S MY BUS?

You may be interested to know that you can view your bus location in 'real time' on the BusTimes.Org website.

Many operators are included, such as First Wessex, Stagecoach and Damory. Information featured includes the type of bus, the registration number and additional facilities such as power points.

Just click on this link for the map!

<https://bit.ly/3vPM2DK>



NATIONAL BUS STRATEGY

Dorset Council wants to hear from you!

In response to the Government's new National Bus Strategy, Dorset Council is developing an ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for improving our local bus services and encouraging more people to use them. The plan will be a collaboration with local bus operators, community groups, business groups, and with passengers.

The Council would like to know how they can improve local bus services and what would make you use local buses more. They would like to hear from both people who already use buses, and from those who currently do not and why.

Please complete the survey to help to shape the future vision and priorities for the bus network in Dorset. The deadline for the survey is **27th August 2021**.

Click here for the survey: <https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=162575849674> or if you are reading a paper copy of WATAG News you can type in this simpler web link: <https://bit.ly/3Chnbx2>. If you cannot complete the online survey, you can order a paper copy (downloadable here: <https://bit.ly/3fGrLeJ> or call 01305 228227.)

The information in this issue is provided in good faith but please do double check information before you travel as schedules are subject to change.

Dorset and Devon: two approaches to transport

	DORSET	DEVON
WEBSITE	https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/travel/travel.aspx	https://www.traveldevon.info/
Timetables	Links to Traveline SouthWest https://www.travelinesw.com/ and two community bus routes https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/travel/public-transport/community-transport/trial-schemes.aspx	Six timetable booklets published by Devon Council https://www.traveldevon.info/bus/timetables/ and available to download, combining ALL operators inc. trains and bus companies.
Bus Information	Links to Traveline SouthWest https://www.travelinesw.com/	A guide to traveling by bus https://www.traveldevon.info/bus/journey-planning/ including information on how to catch a bus, pay your fare etc.
	A guide to how to read RTI https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/travel/public-transport/bus-stops-shelters-and-electronic-displays.aspx	Interactive bus map - click anywhere and see what buses are available https://www.traveldevon.info/bus/interactive-bus-map/
	Bus passes and concessionary travel application form https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/travel/public-transport/bus-passes-and-concessionary-travel/apply-for-a-bus-pass.aspx	A guide to how Real Time Information works https://www.traveldevon.info/bus/rti/real-time-information-frequently-asked-questions/
	School services throughout Dorset https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/school-transport/school-bus-routes/school-transport-routes-and-timetables.aspx	A guide to the National Bus Pass for seniors and disabled travellers https://www.traveldevon.info/bus/national-bus-pass/
		Section on promoting public transport to employers and employees https://www.traveldevontoolkit.info/
		Free "Bus Taster" tickets to employees in Exeter, Barnstaple and Newton Abbot https://www.traveldevon.info/bus/tickets/bus-taster-tickets/
		Public transport toolkit for employers https://www.traveldevontoolkit.info/toolkits/ including how to conduct a travel audit for company staff
		Bus Fare information https://www.traveldevon.info/bus/tickets/
		Park and Ride Information for Devon https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/parking/park-and-ride/
		School services throughout Devon https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-and-college-transport
Train Information		Information on train services in Devon https://www.traveldevon.info/train/
		Railcard for Devon (and Cornwall) residents https://www.traveldevon.info/train/railcards/
		20% off Senior Railcard for Devon residents https://www.traveldevon.info/train/railcards/
		Devon and Cornwall rail partnership information https://dcrp.org.uk/
		Devon rail network map https://www.traveldevon.info/train/devon-rail-network/#gallery
Driving	Information on parking, parking prices etc https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/parking/parking.aspx	Information on driving "sustainably" https://www.traveldevon.info/drive/
	Information on roadworks and disruptions https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/travel/travel-dorset/roadworks-road-closures.aspx	Information on car sharing https://www.traveldevon.info/drive/carshare-devon/
		Local park and ride schemes https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/parking/park-and-ride/ and trial Park and Change scheme https://www.traveldevon.info/drive/park-and-change/
Walking	Information on walking routes including links to various walks https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sport-leisure/walking/walking-routes-and-trails	Information on walking including links to employers toolkit to encourage more walking https://www.traveldevon.info/walk/ ; https://www.traveldevon.info/walk/walking-to-school/ ; https://www.traveldevon.info/walk/walking-to-work/
		Hints and tips for successful walking https://www.traveldevon.info/walk/where-to-walk/
Access	Information for drivers who require a blue badge https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/parking/disabled-parking/blue-badges/blue-badge-eligibility.aspx	Dedication section of website for those less able to use public transport https://www.traveldevon.info/accessibility/
	Application form for disabled persons bus pass https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/travel/public-transport/bus-passes-and-concessionary-travel/disabled-persons-bus-pass.aspx	Application for disabled persons bus pass https://www.traveldevon.info/bus/national-bus-pass/
Cycling	Dedicated section for cyclists https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sport-leisure/cycling	Dedicated section for cyclists https://www.traveldevon.info/cycle/