

WATAG NEWS

WEST DORSET WESTERN AREA TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP

YOUR LOCAL BUS ROUTES

X51/X53

Operated by First Wessex and marketed as the Jurassic Coaster.

X51 operates from Dorchester to Axminster via Bridport and Lyme Regis.

X53 operates from Weymouth to Axminster via Abbotsbury, West Bay, Bridport and Lyme Regis.

6/6A/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 Saturdays, connecting Beaminster with Bridport and Crewkerne.

7

Operated on behalf of Bridport Town Council by Dorset Community Transport, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, as the 'Bridport Town Circular'. See page 3.

9A

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

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.

Plus Bus

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

YOUR LOCAL JOURNEY PLANNER TRAVELINE SW

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

FARE'S FAIR

SAVE MONEY ON YOUR BUS FARE!

For our small region, bus fares can seem complicated. But they don't have to be. Here are some tips from WATAG to help you save money next time you travel (within COVID restrictions!)



IF YOU PAY FOR A TICKET...

This section refers to all First Wessex routes and Buses of Somerset's Route 6

SINGLE TICKETS

Can cover one journey on one bus, or a journey on two or more buses; if your final destination requires a change of bus, always ask for a ticket to your final destination, as this will invariably be cheaper than purchasing a separate ticket for each leg of the journey. As an example, if you wish to travel to Dorchester, but there is no convenient X51 (or, on Sundays, no X51 at all!) you may still access Dorchester by using the X53 to Weymouth, then the no. 10 from Weymouth to Dorchester. If you ask for a ticket to Dorchester via Weymouth, the fare will be the same as a direct fare to Dorchester, and will be valid on the no. 10 from Weymouth to Dorchester.

RETURN TICKETS

These are 'Day' tickets, allowing you to travel between two locations (including intermediate stops) for multiple journeys on that day. We recommend that you always ask for a return ticket to your final destination; the originating point doesn't have to be where you join the bus. As an example, if you want to travel from Bridport to Weymouth, but then return from Weymouth to Lyme Regis, when you join the bus ask the driver for a return from Lyme Regis to Weymouth. This will cover the journeys planned and, if required, can be used to travel via Dorchester in either direction.

GROUP DAY TICKETS

This is a 'Day' ticket for up to 5 people, and valid for unlimited use on ALL First Wessex buses, as well as Buses of Somerset's no. 6 between Yeovil and Bridport. It costs £20.00. If you are travelling as a family or small group of up to five members, and the driver quotes you a fare higher than £20, then always ask for the group ticket.

WEEKLY and MONTHLY TICKETS

Depending on how often you travel, a weekly or monthly ticket could save you money compared to buying a new ticket every day. For example, an online monthly pass valid on ALL First Wessex buses, as well as Buses of Somerset's no. 6 between Yeovil and Bridport, is £83 a month if purchased online, this reduces to £75 if you pay by direct debit via the First Unlimited scheme. A weekly pass is £22.50 if purchased online.



FARE'S FAIR

IF YOU ARE ENTITLED TO FREE TRAVEL

CONCESSION PASSES

The concessionary bus fare scheme offers free travel to older people who have reached the the female state pension age - regardless of gender; as well as those with certain disabilities.

You can travel free on local buses in Dorset from 9.30am to 11pm on Monday to Friday and any time at weekends and public holidays. You are also entitled to free local bus travel in all other areas of England during these off-peak times.

For those who are 'eligible disabled' you can apply for a disabled persons bus pass. This information is from Dorset Council.

'Eligible disabled' means you:

- are blind or partially sighted
- are profoundly or severely deaf
- are without speech
- have a disability, or have suffered an injury, which has a substantial and long-term effect on your ability to walk
- don't have arms or have long-term loss of the use of both arms
- have a learning disability
- are a member or Veteran of the Armed Services who has been seriously injured in service

You're also eligible disabled if your application for a driving licence would be refused under section 92 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (physical fitness). However, you won't be eligible if you were refused because of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol.



ACCESSIBLE RAILWAY STATIONS

Those with hidden disabilities can use the Sunflower Lanyard, details [here](#)
If you require assistance, one number covers all your journeys: 0800 0223720,
you can also text: 60083 or use textphone/minicom 0845 60 50 600.

STATION/ACCESS	Help Provided by:	Lifts	Ramps to Train	Step Free Access	Slope	Notes
Axminster	Train Guard	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Crewkerne	Train Guard	No	Yes	Yes	No	
Dorchester South	Train Guard	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Gaps due to curved platform; no reasonable step-free access between platforms
Dorchester West	Train Guard	No	Yes	Weymouth direction only	Yes	
Malden Newton	Train Guard	No	Yes	Cross tracks via barrow crossing	Yes	
Upwey	Train Guard	No	No	London/Bristol direction only	Yes	
Weymouth	Station Staff	No	Yes	Yes	No	

BRIDPORT TOWN SERVICE RELAUNCHED

Bridport Town Council have relaunched town service 7 and have picked Dorset Community Transport. All journeys are £2 per journey, under 16's pay £1 and **concessionary passes are valid.**

timetable

WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS

effective from 7 October 2020

Excluding Bank Holidays

ALL JOURNEYS
£2
SINGLE

Bridport Coach Station (dep)	0857	1023	1057	1223	1257	1423	1457	1623
Court Orchard (Armstrong Road)		1025		1225		1425		1625
Bridport Hospital		1029		1229		1429		1629
Cherry Tree		1030		1230		1430		1630
North Allington (Parsonage Rd)		1031		1231		1431		1631
West Street (East bound)	0900	1035	1100	1235	1300	1435	1500	1635
Toll House (East Road)	0901		1101		1301		1501	
Jessopp Avenue	0904		1104		1304		1504	
Travis Perkins (for CO-OP & LIDL)	0907		1107		1307		1507	
Bradpole Kings Head	0910		1110		1310		1510	
Post Office	0912		1112		1312		1512	
Colfax School	0915		1115		1315		1515	
Kings Head	0917		1117		1317		1517	
CO-OP (for LIDL)	0919		1119		1319		1519	
West Street (West bound)	0924		1124		1324		1524	
Park Road / Magdalen Lane (for Medical Centre)	0925	1051	1125	1251	1325	1451	1525	1651
Skilling Stores	0928	1050	1128	1250	1328	1450	1528	1650
Watton Park (for Leisure Centre)	0930	1048	1130	1248	1330	1448	1530	1648
Morrison's	0933	1045	1133	1245	1333	1445	1533	1645
Bothenhampton (Maple Gardens)		1041		1241		1441		1641
(Pasture Way)	0937		1137		1337		1537	
West Street (West bound)	0942		1142		1342		1542	
Bridport Coach Station (arr)	0945	1053	1145	1253	1345	1453	1545	1653

key

Service does **not** run at these times Wednesday during School Terms

Service operates in the opposite direction

NEWS FROM DORSET TRAVEL

West Bay bus stop

Following requests from passengers, First Wessex will be reverting to the original bus stop in West Bay at George Street. The change is planned to take place within the next two weeks and will be publicised by the company.

Cycling and Walking

The Bridport East Round Roundabout cycle safety improvements scheme were completed by Dorset Council on behalf of Highways England at the end of March. The improvements included: a new toucan crossing on East Road; an upgraded crossing on Sea Road South and widened shared-use footways.

Dorset Council is working with Highways England to get walking and cycling improvements carried out along Sea Road South, Bridport and a new crossing of the A35 at Stadium Roundabout in Dorchester. Highways England will be funding a business case feasibility study for the former starting in April 2021 whilst the latter will be moving to detailed design with a view to construction taking place in 2022/23.

The latest interactive Bridport Area Sustainable Travel Map is available online at: <https://dorsetactivemap.co.uk/> whilst paper copies are available on request from Bridport Town Council.

Charge-points

New electric vehicle charge-points will be installed in Holmbush car park, Lyme Regis and West Bay Road car park and will be ready to use from February 2021.

Please note this is the first phase. If your preferred car park is not included, it may be that it will be included in future phases. Dorset Council has achieved this by signing up to the Central Southern framework (more information is on Dorset Council's website via <https://bit.ly/3r5j6nc>) which is also available to town and parish councils if they want to install charge-points in their car parks or at their properties.



LOCAL CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR BUS SERVICES

AS BOXING DAY FALLS ON A SATURDAY, MONDAY 28th DECEMBER IS A BANK HOLIDAY

FIRST BUSES X51/X53/6/6A/6B - Axminster, Beaminster, Bridport, Dorchester, Lyme Regis, Weymouth
 Thursday, 24 December: (Christmas Eve): Saturday service (Monday - Friday service for 6/6A/6B)
 Friday, 25 December, Saturday, 26 December: (Christmas Day & Boxing Day): **No service**
 Sunday 27 December, Monday 28 December: Normal Sunday service (which means no service on 6/6A)
 Tuesday 29 December, Wednesday 30 December: Saturday service (Monday - Friday service for 6/6A)
 Thursday 31 December: Saturday service (Monday - Friday service for 6/6A/6B)
 Friday 1 January 2021 (New Years Day): **No service**
 Saturday 2 January 2021: Normal services resume (no service on 6/6A/6B as this is Monday to Friday only)

DORSET COMMUNITY TRANSPORT 7: Bridport Town Service (Wednesdays & Saturdays)
BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL: CB3 Bridport - Crewkerne (Saturdays only)
 Saturday 26 December: **No service**

DAMORY SERVICE 71 - Lyme Regis Town Service
 Normal service operates until end of service 24 December.
 25, 26, 27, 28 December, 1, 2, 3 January: **No service**
 29, 30, 31 December and from 4 January: Normal service

SOUTH WEST COACHES SERVICE 96/96A - Crewkerne - Yeovil connection
 24, 29, 30, 31 December: Saturday service
 25, 26, 27, 28 December: **no service**
 1, 3 January: **no service**
 2 January: Saturday service
 4 January: normal service resumes

STAGECOACH 9/9A - Lyme Regis - Exeter
 25 December, 1 January: **no service**
 26 December: **no services from Lyme Regis**. Other changes: visit <https://bit.ly/34iJ6K>
 Normal timetable resumes 4 January 2021.

PLUS BUS

Plus Bus services are suspended over the Christmas and New Year.
 The booking line will close on 24 December and reopen on Monday 4th January.

Please visit <https://bit.ly/3gYw1pk> for booking deadlines for journeys from 4th January as they will have to be booked during the week running up to Christmas Eve.



LOCAL CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR TRAIN SERVICES

SOUTH WEST TRAINS (Weymouth, Upwey, Dorchester South, Crewkerne, Axminster, Exeter, London)
 24 December: services will end early
 25, 26 December: **No service**
 27 December - 3 January: **reduced services** - check journey planner
 1 January: Sunday service
 25 December to 3 January: **Note that there is a bus replacement between Salisbury and Basingstoke**

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY (Weymouth, Upwey, Dorchester West, Maiden Newton, Bristol)
 24 December: services end early
 25, 26 December: **No service**

The information in this issue is provided in good faith but please do double check information before you travel as services are subject to change during the ongoing pandemic.

WATAG INFORMATION

WATAG normally holds public meetings regularly however due to the ongoing COVID pandemic this has not been possible. An AGM will be held on 28th January and details of the arrangements (online or otherwise) will be available on our website.

You can contact WATAG via email or our website.

Website: <https://watag.org.uk/>

Email: watag@hotmail.co.uk

*A Merry Christmas
and Happy New
Year from all at
WATAG!*