

Stagecoach driver training fleet survey: Full allocations



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Stagecoach South East launches 'TweetTheFleet'

Megabus coaches at East Midlands for Amazon contract

Oxford Tube Van Hool Astromegas move to East Scotland



On the Cover



Focus on Stagecoach driver training vehicles (page 10).
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Below: Transferred from Banbury to Witney and entering service there on October 13th 2020 is Optare Solo 47735. © Ciaran Bird



Stagecoach Oxfordshire

Dart SLF 34832 has now been allocated to Banbury arriving there on Saturday 10th October along with 34471 which has transferred from Witney. The arrival of 34471 has allowed Optare Solo 47735 to transfer to Witney in exchange.

We have not received any reports that the two MAN/ALX300 training buses here, 22416/17, have seen any use and the third one, 22418, has only just arrived at Oxford following its conversion to a training bus.

Four of the former Megabus Van Hool Astromega coaches have left the fleet. 50244-47 were seen heading north on October 13th 2020 and at Greta Services the following day. All were at Stagecoach East Scotland's Dunfermline depot by late morning on October 14th 2020 later moving



to Glenrothes depot. We understand they are for an Amazon contract.

Left: Former Stagecoach East Dart SLF 34832 is now allocated to Banbury.

© Theo Freeman



Stagecoach East Midlands has secured a contract to operate services to Amazon in Peterborough. It has seven Van Hool Megabus coaches in use. 50304 is seen at Wisbech Bus Station with a service for King's Lynn whilst alongside is Stagecoach East Enviro 200 37218. © Gareth Hale

Stagecoach Megabus/JV

Seven of the former Sleeper Van Hool coaches, 50301/02/03/04/06/07/08, all from the Megabus allocation with Stagecoach West at North Bristol, are now at Stagecoach East Midlands' Lincoln depot for use on an Amazon Boston-Spalding/Kings Lynn-Wisbech-Peterborough contract.

Stagecoach East Midlands

Now sold for scrap are Tridents 17713 and 17715 whilst 18031 has moved from the Reserve Fleet at Mansfield into the main fleet at Worksop.

Reserve Fleet Dart SLFs 34570 (from Scunthorpe) and 35144 (from Skegness) have moved to the Reserve Fleet at Lincoln.



Withdrawn coaches, Volvo B12M 52678 along with Volvo B12Bs 53030 and 53033 are being prepared for a return to service here.

Now in the new Stagecoach 'Local' livery are Enviro 200 36999 and Enviro 300 27759 which were repainted at Lincoln whilst Hull has repainted Enviro 400MMCs 10736/43 in the same livery scheme.

Transferred from the main fleet to the Reserve Fleet at Lincoln are Dart SLFs 34426/56/65.

A surprise loan to Skegness is Stagecoach 'Local'-liveried 11.8m ADL Enviro 200MMC 26256 which has been transferred from Hull.

Stagecoach South West

Another disposal, seen in a Crediton scrapyard, is Dart SLF 34408.

Exeter-based Enviro 200 36232 has been severely damaged by fire. The incident occurred in the Tiverton area on October 12th 2020.

Volvo B12M 52678 is one of three coaches being prepared for a return to service with Stagecoach East Midlands. © Steven Knight Media



Left: Stagecoach North East has continued to repaint vehicles into the new Stagecoach 'Local' livery at a fast pace. Repaints are carried out at Sunderland and one of the latest recipients is Enviro 300 27732. © Ian Hardie

Below: Newly repainted Stagecoach North East ADL Enviro 200 37316. © Ian Hardie

Stagecoach North East

Repaints into the new Stagecoach 'Local' livery continue apace here and recent recipients are Enviro 300s 27238 and 27732 along with Enviro 200 37316.

Stagecoach Yorkshire

The former Lothian Volvo B7TLs on loan here, 20794-98 have now been transferred to their new home with Moffatt and Williamson.

Stagecoach Highlands

After being away at Stagecoach North East for repairs for a considerable time, Volvo B7R 53332 has now returned here.

Former Stagecoach East Volvo B9R/Plaxton Panther coaches 53616/17/18 have all now received the Stagecoach 'Distance' livery.



Stagecoach East

Enviro 200 36937 has now returned to service at Bedford but we are reminded that Volvo B11R 54312 there has not yet been returned to service.

Dart SLF 34834 was extracted from storage at March depot on October 16th and moved on suspended tow to Peterborough where it is being prepared for a return to service.

We understand that 34828 has also moved from storage at Bedford and may be at Peterborough also.

Stagecoach East Dart SLF 34834 is unhitched from the tow truck as it arrives at Peterborough where it will be prepared for a return to service.

© Tyler Brace



Stagecoach Midlands

Optare Solos 47416/17/18 at Leamington are due to be taken out of service and delicensed here whilst former Nuneaton-allocated 47075/76/77 have been sold to Ensignbus.

Enviro 200 37051 is currently delicensed for repair assessment whilst MAN/Enviro 200 39680 is understood to be for disposal here.

Training buses relicensed are Dart SLF 34627 and MAN/ALX300 22376 both at Northampton.

Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire

Currently at Carlisle for repainting into Stagecoach 'Local' livery are Enviro 300 27753 and Enviro 200 37092. Dart SLFs now at Morecambe are 34719 (from Kendal) and 35249, relicensed and transferred from West Cumbria whilst

Enviro 400MMCs 11151/54 have moved from Morecambe to West Cumbria.

Stagecoach Bluebird

Now converted here for driver training use is Volvo B12B 53112, which was in use from Peterhead depot last week.

Stagecoach Merseyside & South Lancashire

Scania/Enviro 400 15582 along with Trident 18325 and Enviro 300 27147 have all transferred from Birkenhead to Gilmoor. Trident 18372, along with recent transfer from Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire 18328, are now allocated to Birkenhead.

The current trident allocation here is:
 Chester: 18383 (plus open top 17470/79 and 17502)
 Birkenhead: 18328/65/72
 Gilmoor: 18325/26 and 18442.

40th Anniversary Bear from Stagecoach



To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Stagecoach Group, Stagecoach East Scotland is producing a couple of collectables. Alongside a special anniversary print is an anniversary bear.

Stagecoach Says: "These adorable limited edition bears have the current Stagecoach logo on their t-shirt, as well as our special 40th anniversary branding on the back of their teeny-weenie high-vis jackets!"

Perfect for the Stagecoach bus fan in your life, or just anyone who enjoys a cuddle".

The bears are approximately 17cm tall and cost £11 which includes postage.

They can be pre-ordered and orders will close at 12 noon on October 31st 2020 (or before if the bears sell out!) and they will be shipped after this date. Orders can be sent to UK mainland addresses only.

More details and to order visit <https://stagecoach40.company.site>



Go North East

Recent fleet changes reported on the Go North East website report that during week ending 18th October 2020 included the repainting of Volvo B9TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini 2s 6003/05/07 into the 2020 Crusader livery. Wright StreetDeck 6305 has also been partially repainted into the yellow and gold variant of the X-lines livery for services X5/X15.

Wright StreetDeck Micro-Hybrid 3s 6371 (NK70BYM) and 6372 (NK70BYO) have now entered service at Washington, where they have displaced Volvo B9TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini 2 6053/54/55, which are out of service for repaint and re-trim.

Volvo B9TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini 2 6001 has now returned to service at Riverside, following re-trim including USB points.

Repaints during week ending 11th October 2020 included Volvo B9TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini 2 6002 into the 2020 Crusader livery and Wright Streetlite Max Micro-Hybrid 5415 into the 2019 fleet livery.

Wright StreetDeck Micro-Hybrid 3 6372 (NK70BYO), in the red X-lines livery, is another new vehicle delivered, while 6363 (NK70BYN) has now entered service at Consett.

To assist with vehicle repaint requirements, Wright Streetlite Max Micro-Hybrid 5415 has transferred to Riverside, in a float vehicle. Optare Versa VII 10 8294 is also a float/reserve vehicle for the same reason.

In response to changing passenger numbers, Volvo B7TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini 3943 has transferred from Deptford to Washington, in order to allow one vehicle working on services 5/50 to be upgraded to double-deck, with Mercedes Citaro 0350N/Mercedes Citaro 5313 moving from Washington to Deptford in exchange.

Volvo B11RT/Caetano Levante II coaches 7124/25 have transferred from Deptford

Deptford to Riverside.

Dual-door Volvo B7TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini 6909 has transferred from Riverside to Hexham, releasing Volvo B9TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini 2 6043, which has transferred to Washington. 6050 has also transferred from Riverside to Washington, releasing similar 6052 to be taken out of service for repaint and seat re-trim.

East Yorkshire

Returned to the Oxford Bus Company after being on loan here are Mercedes-Benz Sprinters 973 (returned on October 9th 2020) and 971 (returned on October 16th 2020).

Stagecoach South

The five ADL Enviro 200MMCs temporarily transferred from Portsmouth to Worthing are 26147/60/61/62/63, which have been exchanged for ADL Enviro 400MMCs 10943/56/61/62/68.

Trident 18527, which had been for disposal here, has been returned to service and is allocated to Winchester.

Stagecoach South East

Former Stagecoach East Trident 18411 is now allocated to Herne Bay, displacing 17582 to the Reserve Fleet whilst 18412 is in the Reserve Fleet and based at Thanet.

Dart SLF 34488 has been taken out of service at Eastbourne and is now for disposal whilst Optare Solo 47370 is to move from Dover to the Strategic Reserve Fleet and is replaced at Dover by 47118 from the Reserve Fleet.

Open Top Trident 17221 has been sold.

A further vehicle exchange has seen Enviro 400MMC 10711 transfer from Folkestone to Herne Bay in exchange for Scania/Enviro 400MMC 15280.

Your questions answered...

Q: I keep seeing buses in service that Stagecoach says are in the Reserve Fleet. Why is this?

A: Stagecoach bases its vehicle allocations to depots on the number of buses required to operate the scheduled service, plus a number of additional vehicles to cover maintenance, repainting and other engineering requirement.

Depots may also be allocated Reserve Fleet vehicles. These are additional buses that do not form part of the main depot allocation and may be to cover special service requirement. Whilst they are not regarded as part of the depot allocation in calculating the engineering spares, they generally remain operational and see regular use. It is a myth that they are spare vehicles and will only be used in an emergency.

Likewise where vehicles are reported as being delicensed they will generally remain in service through until the end of a month before they are put into SORN status with the DVLA, or until expiry of MOT if that comes sooner.

Q: Why is the tracking information on Bus Times incorrect. It frequently shows vehicles in service when I know they are not. It also sometimes shows buses working wrong routes.

A: Bus Times takes its data from a number of sources. The route information is based on information supplied to various authorities and when service changes take place it sometimes may take a few days to update. This has been an issue in recent months with frequent service changes.

When what appears to be the wrong vehicles tracking on the system this is not a fault with the Bus Times data. The vehicle tracking information is generally fed from the data transmitted by ticket machines. In order for the feed to show the correct vehicles the ticket machines need to be paired to the bus on which they are fitted. This involves programming the bus fleet number into the ticket machine. Where a ticket machine is moved to another vehicle it needs to be re-programmed. If that does not happen then the vehicle will incorrectly track and claim to be the vehicle from which the ticket machine was removed.

Ready for service. The searly morning cene at Stagecoach South East's Ashford depot on October 16th 2020.

© Matthew Arnold/Twitter



From our archives... Manchester's stripes

Our dip into the archives for this edition of Fleet Digest features to vehicles from the Stagecoach Manchester fleet. The MAN/Alexander ALX300 was for some time the standard Stagecoach purchase for its main single deck fleet. Pictured is 22181 (T181MVM) seen near Piccadilly railway station with a 192 service for Stockport and Hazel Grove. Our double deck image is Dennis Trident/Alexander ALX400 17619 (V619OJA), also working a 192 service. The Trident carries an interesting logo with part original and part 'Beachball' era. Both Images © Steven Knight Media





Like many events this year the popular Whittlesey BusFest, staged by the Eastern Bus Enthusiasts, fell victim to COVID-19 restrictions. In its place the organisers arranged a road run across Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire on Sunday October 11th 2020. **BRENDAN FOX** recorded some of the vehicles at the start of the road run near Peterborough.

Returned to operational condition after 25 years in storage and part of the EBE 'Road Run' was former Hartlepool Transport Bristol RE 60 (LEF60H).
© Brendan Fox/Peterborough Bus Times



Not quite what it seems! Leyland National YY274T was new to London Transport as a dual door vehicle and after withdrawal operated with Eastbourne Buses, Chase Coaches and The Big Lemon amongst other owners. The Eastern Counties livery is fictitious and there are plans to paint it into Chase Coaches livery.

© Brendan Fox/Peterborough Bus Times

F105XCW was new to Burnley & Pendle in March 1989 as number 105. It's a Volvo B10M MkIII 'CityBus' with Alexander bodywork. The plan is to restore it into the livery carried when it operated with Road Car.

© Brendan Fox/Peterborough Bus Times



Stagecoach training bus fleet survey

A review of the allocations of buses and coaches used by Stagecoach for driver training

All images © Steven Knight Media unless shown



Stagecoach UK operating companies currently operate a diverse selection of driver training vehicles.

Over the years there have been attempts to standardise the training fleet but widescale standardisation never occurred.

At one stage Volvo B10M coaches and some Volvo B10M buses were widely used. There has also been a move to using MAN/ALX300s and latterly the Dart SLF has found favour.

Both Stagecoach East and Stagecoach London are currently using Enviro 200s whilst only the London and Manchester fleets have double deck training vehicles.

A number of training buses remain out of use, or are being used for Socially Distanced driver rest rooms.

There would currently appear to be no standard livery specification for training buses.

Stagecoach East Midlands has now standardised on the Dart SLF model for its training fleet, painting them in a modified version of the Stagecoach 'beachball' livery.



Stagecoach West's uses an orange based livery and its training fleet includes this MAN/ALX300 saloon.

The training bus allocations: are

Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire

Dart SLF 34688 34704 34705 34706 34711
34717

The Training Fleet is currently allocated as follows:

Barrow 34711
Carlisle 34688
Morecambe 34706
West Cumbria 34704 34705 34717

Stagecoach North East

MAN/ALX300 22065 22068 22071 22072 22073
22074 22075 22076

Dart SLF 34611

The Training Fleet is allocated as follows:

Slatyford 22068 22072
Stockton 22074 22075
Sunderland 22071 22073 34611
Walkergate 22065 22076

Stagecoach Yorkshire

MAN/ALX300 22084 22085 22086 22087 22088
22089

The training fleet allocation is:

Chesterfield 22087
Rawmarsh 22086
Barnsley 22088 22089
Holbrook 22085
Ecclesfield 22084

Stagecoach East Midlands

Dart SLF 34457 34459 34461 34464 34473
34474 34475 34703

The training fleet is nominally allocated to:

Hull 34461 34475
Mansfield 34457
Lincoln 34459 34473 34474
Worksop 34703
Grimsby 34464

Stagecoach Manchester

Trident 17497 17499 17578 17612
MAN/ALX300 22398 22399 22400 22401 22402
22403 22404

The training fleet is based at Hyde Road.

Stagecoach Merseyside & South Lancashire

MAN/ALX300 22077 22078 22079

Dart SLF 34743 34797

The Training Fleet is located at:

Gillmoss 22077 34743
Chester 22079
Birkenhead 34797
Preston 22078

Stagecoach Midlands has adopted a bold gold and silver livery for its training fleet.





Stagecoach East

Enviro 200 36011 36013 36045 36309 36310
 The training fleet allocation is:
 Bedford 36045
 Cambridge 36011 36309 36310
 Peterborough 36013

Stagecoach Midlands

MANI/ALX300 22374 22375 22376
 Dart SLF 34626 34627
 The Training Fleet is allocated as follows:
 Nuneaton 22374 22375
 Northampton 22376 34626 34627

Stagecoach Oxfordshire

Volvo B10M Bus 20933
 MANI/ALX400 22416 22417
 The training fleet is based at Oxford. Only 20933 is currently in use.

Stagecoach West

Dart SLF 35211
 MANI/ALX300 22378
 Volvo B10M (Bus) 20280 20940
 Optare Versa 25214
 Volvo B10M (Coach) 52381
 The training fleet allocation is:
 Gloucester 20940 25214
 Swindon 20280 35211
 Stroud 22378 52381

Stagecoach London Enviro 200 in purple training livery

Stagecoach South

Dart SLF 33189 33190 33191 34418 34632
 34638
 MANI/Enviro 300 22741 22742
 Volvo B10M (Bus) 20937
 The training fleet is located at:
 Worthing 22741
 Aldershot 34418
 Winchester 20937 33189 34632
 Guildford 34638
 Portsmouth 22742
 Basingstoke 33190
 Chichester 33191

Stagecoach South East

ADL Enviro 300 27516 27518 27519
 Dart SLF 34651 34654 34656 34657 34658
 34660
 The training fleet is currently located at:
 Thanet 34660
 Eastbourne 27516 27518 34651 34654 34656
 34657
 Dover 27519
 Folkestone 34658

Stagecoach South Wales

Dart SLF	34351	34389	34500	34673
Optare Tempo	25101	25102	25103	
The training fleet is nominally allocated to:				
Blackwood	25101	25102	25103	34389 34500
	34673			
Cwmbran	34351			
The training fleet is nominally maintained at:				
Merthyr	34351			
Blackwood	25101	25102	25103	34389 34500
Cwmbran	34673			

(nominal allocations and maintenance/servicing locations for training vehicles are dependent upon requirements. 34351/89 are generally based at Porth)

Stagecoach South West

Volvo B10M (Coach)	52345
Volvo B7R	53235
Volvo B9R	53603 53611
The training fleet is allocated to	
Exeter	53235 53603
Plymouth	52345 53611

Stagecoach West Scotland

MAN/ALX300	22388	22405	22406	22407
MAN/Enviro 300	22591			
The Training Fleet is allocated to				
Kilmarnock	22388	22405	22406	22591
Cumbernauld	22407			

Stagecoach Highlands

Enviro 200	36203
The training vehicle is based at Inverness	

Stagecoach Bluebird

MAN/ALX300	22312
Volvo B10M	52297 52621
Volvo B12B	53110 53112
The Training Fleet is allocated to:	
Aberdeen	52297 53110 53112
Elgin	22312 52621
Additionally, Volvo B12B 53107 is being converted to training vehicles.	

Stagecoach East Scotland

MAN/East Lancs	22501	22505	22506
Volvo B7R	53234		
Volvo B12B	53035		
The training fleet is allocated to:			
Cowdenbeath	22501	22505	22506
Perth	53035		
Arbroath	53234		

Stagecoach London

Enviro 400	19137	19138	19139	19140
Enviro 200	36556	36557	36559	36561 36562
	36565	36566	36567	36568 36569

The training fleet is officially allocated to Romford

Stagecoach Megabus

Volvo B10M	52567
The training vehicle is allocated to Rugby depot (Stagecoach Midlands)	

Stagecoach East has an all-Enviro 200 training fleet in a distinctive yellow livery.





Currently awaiting disposal from the Stagecoach Oxfordshire fleet is Volvo B10M 52424, which had been in use as a driver training vehicle. It carries driver training graphics promoting its role.

© Ciaran Bird



The Stagecoach Manchester training fleet includes four Tridents, including 17499, which displays its distinctive livery and branding which is based on the 'Beachball' red, blue and orange colours.

© Phil J Davies/Twitter

Stagecoach South East launches 'TweetTheFleet'

Stagecoach South East, has launched a novel campaign to encourage customers to 'Tweet the Fleet' if they spot something that isn't up to scratch with the presentation of the bus.

"We want to do something about it as quick as we can" explained Katherine Jones, Operations Manager at the company's Ashford bus depot. "Having a clean and comfortable bus journey is important to our customers. Our depot teams take great pride in making sure things are spick and span, but if there's some litter or something isn't quite right, we're asking our customers to put us in the picture - literally."

'Tweet the Fleet' is an easy way for passengers to do just that; by snapping a photo on their smartphone and Tweeting it to the company (@StagecoachSE) using #TweettheFleet along with the unique five-digit fleet number that's displayed on a

poster on every bus in the South East fleet. "It's as simple as that" says Katherine, "we'll do the rest."

The company are logging and tracking every TweettheFleet they get to make sure each one is followed-up.



Katherine Jones, Stagecoach South East Operations Manager, revealing a TweettheFleet poster on board a bus. © Stagecoach South East

The number of vehicles appearing in the new Stagecoach UK 2020 liveries continues to increase although the majority of repaints are in the 'Local' livery. Stagecoach North Scotland is one of a small number of operators to paint vehicles in the 'Distance' amber colour scheme. This is 15 metre Volvo B13R/Plaxton Panther 54132. © Stagecoach North Scotland



STOP PRESS: As we prepared to publish this issue of Fleet Digest we hear that two Enviro 400s from Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire's Carlisle depot could be going on loan to the East Scotland Fleet next week.