



# Fleet Digest

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10.2m Enviro 200 joins the Stagecoach Oxfordshire fleet at Banbury

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## On the Cover



We will remember them.

Stagecoach South East's Scania/  
Enviro 400 'Poppy Bus' 15442.

© Jane Potter

(Inset 15683 © Lee Wardle)

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## Bus operators set to weather the looming 'Lockdown' storm

The much anticipated, much leaked and as it turns out much delayed announcement from Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Saturday 31st October 2020 heralds another month of dwindling passenger numbers for England's bus operators.

Operators in Wales have already been feeling the effects of the 'Fire Break' there and there have been restrictions in place across large swathes of Scotland. From Thursday 5th November 2020 through until at least Wednesday 2nd December 2020, the 'Lockdown' in England is accompanied by a renewed 'Work from Home' and 'Essential Travel Only' on public transport.

At least this time schools remain open, so there will be students travelling. SKM understands that the pre-agreed funding package with the Department for Transport remains in place. This means that operators are protected financially from reduced passenger numbers (this time) with the DfT paying agreed levels of funding in return for the current level of service being operated. That means a guaranteed income for bus operators, despite reduced passenger loadings. For coach operators it is a different story and another devastating blow that they could have done without.

The 'Lockdown' will also mean changes to many Remembrance Day events this year, but we are pleased to see that many bus operators are using their vehicles to commemorate those who fought for their country and the many who lost their lives. But whatever 'Lockdown' brings, 'We will remember them'.

## Brylaine

Pictured in Spalding Bus Station is former  
Stagecoach East Trident 18419  
(AE06GZR) now in this  
Lincolnshire-based fleet.

© Luke Fisher





The Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire 'Poppy Bus', Scania/Enviro 400 15683 (more pictures on page 16).  
© Lee Wardle

## Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire

Mercedes-Benz minibuses 44008 along with 44051/52/53 are being relicensed and allocated to West Cumbria.

During November 2020, Optare Solos 47004 and 47007 will be taken out of service at Kendal and delicensed. Following repaint they are then due to be re-allocated.

Also due to be delicensed, from West Cumbria, are Optare Solos 47146 along with 47450 and 47453.

Optare Solo 47239 is for transfer West Cumbria to Barrow, following repaint.

Optare Solo SRs 47944/45/46/62 are being transferred from Carlisle to West Cumbria. 47944 is now repainted into the new Stagecoach 'Local' livery with, 47945 currently undergoing repaint. 47946 and 47962 are also scheduled into the Carlisle paint shop for repaint.



Four Optare Solo SRs are being transferred from Carlisle to West Cumbria with all four being repainted. First to receive the Stagecoach 'Local' livery is 47944. © Lee Wardle

Also undergoing repaint into Stagecoach 'Local' livery are Enviro 200 37093. Due in for repaint imminently is 47237 from Kendal.

Scania/Enviro 400 15683 has now been re-registered WLT824, which was previously carried by 17692. It has also received a commemorative 'Poppy' livery and was released from Carlisle's paint shop on Monday 2nd November 2020.



Now at Bedford depot is former Busway Volvo B7RLE/Wright Eclipse Urban 21225. It was pictured in the village of Denton on 31st October 2020 with a 41 service from Bedford to Northampton. © Steve Buckley

## Stagecoach East

With all of the Volvo B8R/MCV eVoRa saloons, 21363-68, now back at Fenstanton, four Busway Volvo B7RLE/Wright Eclipse Urban saloons, 21221-25, were transferred to Bedford from Fenstanton during the last few days of October 2020.

We understand that Volvo B8RLE/Wright 21307 has also now returned to Fenstanton from its loan at Bedford.

Also now in service at Bedford are Dart SLFs 34828 and 34830.

The extra vehicles into Bedford have allowed Enviro 300s 27643-47 and 27850/52/55 to transfer from Bedford to Cambridge.

Changes to the Busway timetable from 1st November 2020 have seen the B Huntingdon-Cambridge service extended from Cambridge through to Trumpington. As a result the B has become a single deck route, whereas since the Busway launch it has been planned for operation by double decks.

## East Yorkshire

Relicensed into the Hull Coaching fleet are Volvo B9Rs 85, 86, 87, whilst Enviro 300s 271-75 and Volvo B7RLE/Wright 342 at Hull have been delicensed and replaced with Volvo B7RLE/MCV 384/85 and Volvo B8RLE/MCV 386/87/92/94 from Scarborough

Also now delicensed at Scarborough are open top Volvo B7TLs 889/90/94.

## Stagecoach West

We understand that former Stagecoach East Trident 18349 was the vehicle severely damaged after catching fire whilst travelling along the M5 on 27th October 2020.

The latest recipient of Stagecoach 'Local' livery here is Scania/Enviro 300 28684.

## Stagecoach Yorkshire

We understand that Scania/Enviro 400 15662 has received significant damage after coming into contact with an overhanging tree branch.

## From our archives: Road Car survivors

Stagecoach's East Midlands business still operates a small number of vehicles that it acquired with the takeover of Traction Group on 14th December 2005. We have searched our archives and present a selection of images showing three vehicles in both Road Car and later versions of the 2000-Stagecoach 'beachball' liveries.



The Traction Group favoured Volvo and its' B7TL chassis with East Lancs Vyking bodywork for a number of its deliveries. Lincolnshire County Council 'Interconnect' branding is applied to Road Car green/yellow livery on 16915 (FX54AOE) , pictured in July 2007. The bus also carries 'Coastal Connect' branding and promotes its 'Low Floor' credentials. Later in its life it was pictured in the later version of the purple-based 'Interconnect' livery.

© Steven Knight Media



Volvo B7RLE 21212 (FX05GXX) was carrying a livery which certainly had impact when it was pictured in July 2007. Its Low Floor, environmental and buggy-friendly credentials are promoted as is its "Skegness Super Buzz" brand. In comparison the Stagecoach 'beachball' livery looks somewhat subdued.

© Steven Knight Media

Following on from the East Lancs Vyking-bodied Volvo B7TLs were a number of Volvo B7TLs with Wright Eclipse Gemini bodywork 16939 (FX06AOA) is pictured carrying the latest version of the 'Interconnect' livery. On the next page we feature it in 2007 when it was in a variation on the red/green and yellow Coastal Connect livery. Then used on the 6 Skegness-Lincoln route it has graphics of the Skegness 'Joly Fisherman and Lincoln Cathedral with the side of the destination display.

© Steven Knight Media





# Stagecoach contrasts at Canterbury



Above: We really like 'busy' images here at SKM showing buses in their usual settings, which offers a variation on the normal 'three-quarter' view. This scene at Stagecoach South East's Canterbury depot on 10th October 2020 is an example of how a busy bus depot scene can provide real visual impact. The depot is dominated by an assortment of vehicle types from Alexander Dennis Limited (ADL).

© Jane Potter

Below: Seeing Jane's image reminded us of a visit we made to Canterbury over 24 years ago. We were there on 5th October 1996 when the busy scene included two Alexander RL-bodied Leyland Olympians (K714ASC and K717ASC) which had joined the fleet here from Fife Scottish. Also in view are Scania NI 13DRB/Alexander RL (F782KPP) and ECW-bodied Bristol VRT (XJJ662V).

© Steven Knight Media







### Stagecoach Oxfordshire

Short (10.2m) Enviro 200 36330 has now arrived here from Stagecoach London and is allocated to Banbury depot. Converted

to single door layout it has also been repainted into Stagecoach 'Local' livery.  
© Theo Freeman

### Stagecoach East Midlands

Enviro 400 19201 had been on loan to Skegness from Lincoln since the 6th October 2020, returning to Lincoln on 2nd November 2020.

Lincoln-allocated TransBus Trident/President 18048 was on loan to Scunthorpe between the 15th October 2020 and 2nd November 2020 covering for Volvo B7TL/ East Lancs Vyking 16920, which has been off the road since 8th October and similar 16910 which is has been at Lincoln depot for almost two weeks, returning to service at Scunthorpe on 31st October 2020..

Trident 18320 at Lincoln is on long term maintenance/repair having been off the road since the 17th July 2020. We also understand that Enviro 200 36058 has been out of service at Mansfield since

March this year but have no confirmation on its current status/condition.

### Stagecoach South Wales

Optare Solo 47524 has been confirmed as being allocated to Cwmbran and is also the first Solo at the depot to be repainted in the new Stagecoach 'Local' livery.

Cwmbran-allocated Optare Solo 47524 is the first vehicle of its type at the depot to receive the new Stagecoach 'Local' livery.

© Nathan Thorne



## Stagecoach Midlands

It looks like repairs to Scania SLF 15402 have been deemed to be uneconomic and we understand that it is now for disposal along with 15411, which was transferred here from Stagecoach Yorkshire to donate replacement parts.

We would expect both vehicles to be subject to extensive component recovery before being sold/scrapped.

Also now withdrawn and for disposal here is Optare Solo 47408 from Kettering, which has been parked up at the former Corby outstation.

Stagecoach Midlands Scania SLF 15402 pictured carrying the last version of the Corby Star livery, but pictured working the 23/24 Peterborough-Orton Waterville-Oundle services.

© Steven Knight Media





Scania SLF 15402, pictured in the original Corby Star scheme, which had a much deeper and brighter orange, immediately after delivery to Corby depot. The buses were initially funded by the East Midlands Development Agency and operated by Stagecoach with support from Northamptonshire County Council. © Steven Knight Media



Our final image shows Scania SLF 15402, in Corby town centre following a repaint out of the Corby Star livery into the standard Stagecoach 'beachball' scheme. © Steven Knight Media





With thanks to Ross Newman at Ensignbus we are able to detail activity at the dealership in October 2020.

#### *Vehicles in*

From Stagecoach Oxford: Trident LX55EPZ.

From Stagecoach Midlands: Tridents LV52HEJ, KX04RVJ, MX54LPV; Solos KN04XKJ/XKK/XKL

From Metroline: MAN's LK57AYT/AYW/EHU, LK07AYN/AYL/AYE; Volvo B7TL LK54FWP.

From Rubicon Classic Travel: Tridents LK51UYE, LN51GMF.

From RATP London: Optare Versa's YJ12PKX/PKY/PLF.

From Go South Coast: Volvo BI IRTs BW16CLV/CLY/CLZ/LCL/LCM/LCN/LCO/LCP/LCT, BV66WNV/WNY/WNZ/WOA/WOB/WOC/WOD/WHO/WOJ.

From Lothian Buses: Volvo B7RLE's SK07CGY/CFY/CGG, SN57DCV/DCX/DCF/DDA, SN58BYM/BYR

From First W Yorks: Volvo B7L MV02VEH

#### *Vehicles out*

Volvo B7TL X579EGK; Trident T510SSG; Enviro 400 SN09CFF: First Devon and Cornwall.

Enviro 200s AE59AWC/AWA/AWG/AWF: Cymru Coaches, Swansea.

Volvo B7TL LT52WVO: Confidence, Leicester.

Enviro 400s LK58KGJ/KGO/KHH/KHG: Notts and Derby Buses.

Scania YN04GLV: Redfern Travel, Mansfield.

Scania YJ60KGX ; Solos YJ11EJC; YJ09MHU; MAN LK07AYN :Wealden PSV, Tonbridge, Kent.

Enviro 200s YX10BFF/BDU: Wexford Bus, Eire.

Dart SLF HW54BTX: Avondale, Glasgow.

Enviro 400 LK09EKO: PeoplesBus, Liverpool.

Volvo BI IRTs BW16LCL/LCM/LCN/LCO: South West Coaches, Yeovil .

Volvo BI IRT BV66WOB: Youngs Coaches, Cambridge.

## THE OXFORD & CHILTERN BUS PAGE Weekly briefing

### This week on the Oxford & Chilterns Bus Page

Malcolm send his thanks to all contributors who have contributed to a bumper page again this week.

In the 30th October 2020 issue.....

Editorial

Covid-19 update

Oxford goes into Tier 2 restrictions from Saturday, October 31st

Manchester magic bus in service in Swindon

Stagecoach switches off wi-fi on many services

Memories from Times Past by Michael Wadman

Marshalls Coaches Neoplan

A day out with Andrew Webb in Staines and Slough featuring the electric bus in Slough

Readers Write

Paul Bateson records buses from City of Oxford & Thames Valley abroad

.....plus all the local news and some pictures of other operators.

Don't forget that you can check out the Oxford & Chilterns Bus Page at any time by visiting

[www.oxford-chiltern-bus-page.co.uk](http://www.oxford-chiltern-bus-page.co.uk)

Scania YS03ZKB/ZKK: Mike Lawrenson, Preston.

Volvo B7RLE SN55BJV; Scania YN08DHP: Grayscroft Coaches, Mablethorpe, Lincs.

Trident AE06GZV: Smiths Coaches, Stockport.

Volvo B7TL LJ05GLZ: Walters Coaches, Oxford.

Volvo B7RLEs SN57DDA, SN58BYM: MP Travel, Manchester.

Volvo B7RLE SN58BYM: Als Coaches, Liverpool.

*The following all to Shelton Motors for scrap*

Tridents LX03ORV, LX55EPZ, LV52HEJ, LN61GNP, LN51GKV

Enviro 300s: VX54MPZ/MRY, VX53VKB

MANs: LK57EHU, LK07AYW/AYT/AYC/AYE.

Optare Solos KN04XKJ/YJ57EHD

Dart SLF: SN05DZX

Volvo B7TL YJ51RRV

Volvo B7L MV02VCX

Enviro 200s YX58FPF, YX10BFM

*Ensign Fleet*

124 and 125 sold to NAT, Cardiff.

703 sold to Go-Ahead Ireland.

Temporary Enviro 400s for TFL schools 970/71/72/73 sold to Notts and Derby.

Additions to replace 970-973 :

LK58KGU 976    LK58KHM 977    LK58KHU 978    LK58CNV 979

*Vehicles on hire*

The Ensign Fleet Enviro 200s on hire to Yellow Buses Bournemouth have been replaced by ex-Halton Enviro 200s

# All buses running as normal.



East Yorkshire

## te News >>> Late News >>> Late News >>> Late New

The plan to place two Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire Enviro 400s with Stagecoach West Scotland last week for Amazon contract work did not take place.

Look out for the imminent arrival here of 10.2m Enviro 200 36336 which is being transferred from Stagecoach London. It has been converted to single door layout and will be repainted here.

At Stagecoach East Midlands, Reserve Fleet Dart SLFs 34426, 34570 and 35135/36 from Lincoln have been transferred to the main fleet at Skegness along with 35144 which had been working from the Newark outstation due to follow.

Skegness Reserve Fleet-allocated 35132 is currently based at Long Sutton depot and is generally in use as a drivers mess room facility at Wisbech.

We understand that Volvo B7TL 16944 from Skegness spent a few days at Lincoln



Now part of the Stagecoach East Midlands Skegness allocation is Dart SLF 35136.

© Ian Knott

during late October 2020 and was there to provide additional capacity for the Amazon contract.

Previously unreported by us, Enviro 200 37000 was a recipient of the new Stagecoach 'Local' livery in September 2020 whilst the repainting of Enviro 400MMC 10741 at hull in the same scheme leaves only 10748 from the October 2016 delivery to be repainted.

Also now at Stagecoach East Midlands' Skegness depot is Dart SLF 34426 which carries 'Simplibus North Lincolnshire' branding as well as 'Stagecoach in Bedford fleet names! © Ian Knott



At the start of November 2020 the Skegness open top fleet was transferred en-bloc to the Seasonal Reserve Fleet with Lincoln Tour-branded Volvo B7TL 16943 expected to return to Lincoln for storage.

We understand that Volvo B7RLE 21212, which features in our Road Car archive review in this issue of Fleet Digest, has been delicensed whilst engine repairs are completed. Similar 21213 has recently returned to service at Skegness following repairs whilst 21214, also from Skegness, has been at Lincoln for engineering attention.

We have received reports that **Stagecoach South's** Guildford-allocated Trident 17736 is currently stored (delicensed) at the Alton outstation and appears not to have been used since 'Lockdown Mk 1' which the country was plunged into in March of this year.

Another former **Stagecoach East** Trident sold by Ensignbus for further use is 18423 (AE06GZV), which is now with **Smiths Coaches** of Stockport.



### Stagecoach South East

The company has the first Trident in the new Stagecoach 'Local' livery, although we are surprised that 17529, which is an open top vehicle did not receive the green 'Specialist' colour scheme.

Also now in Stagecoach 'Local' livery here is Dart SLF 34545.

Image: © Matthew Arnold/Twitter

Enviro 200 37234 have been transferred from Bedford to Fenstanton.



Following a few months based at Bedford depot, Stagecoach East has transferred Enviro 200 37234 to Fenstanton depot. Unusually a recent destination upgrade has seen the route number on Fenstanton vehicles moved to the left hand side of the screen.  
© Luke Fisher



Images: © Lee Wardle





## Stagecoach North East

The repainting of vehicles here into the new Stagecoach 'Local' livery continues with recent recipients being Enviro 300 27730 (main picture) and Enviro 200 36464 (right). Also repainted recently have been Enviro 300s 27170 and 27245 along with Enviro 400 19643, which had been the last vehicle in the fleet to carry X34 route branding. Both Images: © Ian Hardie





The Stagecoach Merseyside & South Lancashire ADL Enviro 400MMC 'Poppy' bus, 10534, has been operating from Preston depot and was pictured in Bamber Bridge. © Simon Tramalloni/Twitter



Stagecoach Oxordshire's Enviro200 36927 was out working a Gold S3 service to Chipping Norton on 4th November 2020 and was pictured in Old Woodstock. This route is generally Gold Scania N230UDs, Gold and Standard E400MMCs and in fact the last and only other time the photographer has seen one of these types of vehicles run this route was back around 2013/14! © Ciaran Bird

# Welcome to ~~Bedford~~ Peterborough

One would be forgiven for thinking these two photographs were taken in Bedford given the 'Bedfordbus' branding. However, both Enviro 400 19701 and Enviro 200 36936, operated by Stagecoach East, are both currently allocated to Peterborough.

This is the problem of route and network branding when buses are frequently transferred between depots. At least there has been no attempt by Stagecoach operating companies to ignore brand guidelines and apply route branding to vehicles recently repainted into the Stagecoach 'Local' livery.

Both Images:

© Steven Knight Media

