



# Fleet Digest

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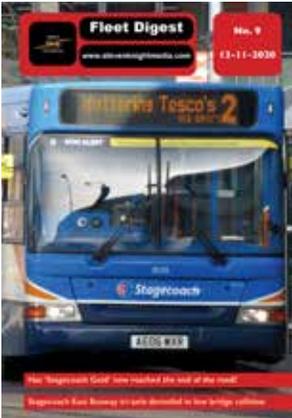
No. 9  
13-11-2020



Has 'Stagecoach Gold' now reached the end of the road?

Stagecoach East Busway tri-axle deroofed in low bridge collision

## On the Cover



Stagecoach Midlands has recently put former Stagecoach East Dart SLF 35105 into service at Kettering depot.

© Ben Wesley

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## Stagecoach East Guided Bus de-roofed low bridge collision

An inquiry is underway after one of the Stagecoach East tri-axle Volvo B8L/Enviro 400XLBs had its roof ripped off after passing under the low Hills Road bridge near Cambridge railway Station.

The collision occurred around 09:30 on Friday 13th November 2020. Only the driver and one passenger were onboard at the time.

The collision has ripped the roof off 13912 which is one of twelve tri-axle double decks delivered at the end of last year for Busway operation. It is allocated to Fenstanton depot. It was operating a Busway 'C' service.

Recent service changes have seen double deck buses taken off the 'B' Huntingdon to Cambridge Busway route following its extension to Trumpington Park & Ride site. The route is now scheduled for operation by Volvo B7RLE and Volvo B8RLE.

The tri-axle Volvo B8L/ADL Enviro 400XLB vehicles are now mainly restricted to the peak hour 'C' services from St Ives to Cambridge Rail station/Long Road College.

Recovery of the bus was still being undertaken at mid-day with the emergency services expected to remain on site whilst the operation was completed.

## Stagecoach Oxfordshire

We have seen a suggestion that following the transfer here of 10.2m Enviro 200 36330 from **Stagecoach London** a further three examples are due here.

If that is the case they are expected to be 36331/32/37 which with 36330 would allow the four Optare Solos here, 47451, 47658 along with 47735/36 to be taken out of service.

More on this when we receive further information.



Image: © Cllr Katie Thornburrow/Twitter

of 2020 and as a bonus will include more 'heritage' images.

Thank you for your support and do take a look at [fleetreport.co.uk](http://fleetreport.co.uk).

## Go North East

The company has published a round up on fleet changes on its website which covers the three weeks up until 8th November

Repaints in the week ending 8th November 2020 included Optare Versa VII110/Optare 8311 and Wright Streetlite DF/Wright Streetlite 8340 and 8341 into the 2019 fleet livery.

Volvo B9TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini s 6004/53 have received the 2020 Crusader livery; and Wright StreetDeck 6304 has been partially repainted into the yellow and gold variant of the X-lines livery for services X5/X15.

Optare Versa VII110/Optare 8310/11 have both now returned to service at Riverside, with similar 8313 and 8314 now taken out



New Yutong electric bus at Go North East's Riverside depot

© Ian Hardie

and 6373 are both now at Washington,

displacing Volvo B9TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini 2 6043 to Hexham and allowing 6049 to be taken out of service for repaint/re-trim.

Wright StreetDeck Micro-Hybrid 3 6333 has also been temporarily taken out of service for partial repaint into the light-green variant of the X-lines livery.

Dual-door Volvo B7TL/Wright Eclipse

## Stranger in the camp at Corby



Just as we finalised the Corby feature in 'Fleet Digest 8' we saw this image on Facebook posted by Tim Roberts. Tim wondered what the Midland Red D9, 5412 (EHA412D) was doing in Corby and remarked that while Midland Red had operated to Corby it was with single decks. 5412 was carrying an advert for The Post Office and promoted Postcodes, which were being introduced to many parts of the country at the time. It is likely that the BMMO D9 was in Corby as part of the Postcode awareness campaign. © Tim Roberts

Gemini 6909 has transferred to Consett, releasing Wright Streetlite Max Micro-Hybrid 5417 to Riverside, in a float/reserve capacity.

Volvo B9TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini 2 6004/53/54/55 have all now returned to service at Riverside, following repaint and seat re-trim and have displaced Optare Versas 5380/81/82/83, 5381, 5382 and 5383 which have been taken out of service for repaint and re-trim.

Wright Streetlite Max Micro-Hybrid 5410 has transferred from Chester-le-Street Depot to Deptford, allowing Mercedes Citaro 0350N/Mercedes Citaro 5305 to be withdrawn from service.

The first two Yutong ZK6118BEVG/Yutong E10 vehicles have been delivered. These are 8806 (YD70 CFU) and 8808 (YD70 CFX). Not yet taxed; their registration marks are subject to change to local 'NK' plate registration marks, prior to their entry into service.

Repaints during week ending 1st November 2020 included Optare Versa 8310 into the 2019 fleet livery, and Volvo B9TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini 2s 6006/54/55 into the 2020 Crusader livery.

Wright StreetDeck Micro-Hybrid 3s 6367 (NK70 BYD), in the red X-lines livery, is the final vehicle of the batch to be delivered.

The operation of service 78 (Consett-Sunderland) has transferred from Chester-le-Street Depot to Consett. As a result, Wright Streetlite Max Micro-Hybrid 5402/03/04/05/06/07/08/09 have transferred to Consett Depot.

Following the cancellation of a temporary shuttle bus in operation from Hexham Depot, Optare Solo SR M900SL 723 has transferred from Hexham Depot to Washington, where it will be used on a new staff shuttle service which will operate between Washington Depot and The

Galleries, to aid better social distancing for colleagues.

Volvo B11RT/Caetano Levante 2 coaches 7135/36/37 have had their 'National Express'-branding removed and have all been reinstated to operate additional rail replacement contracts and provide extra spare requirements for schools services.

Other re-allocations associated with changes to schools services include the transfer of Optare Solo SR M925 678 from Percy Main to Washington; Scania Omnicity 5263 from Washington to Chester-le-Street; Mercedes Citaro 5284 from Riverside to Deptford; Mercedes Citaros 5317/18/20 from Riverside to Percy Main; Scania N94UD/East Lancs OmniDekka 6142 from Percy Main to Chester-le-Street; and similar 6127 from Chester-le-Street to Riverside.

Volvo B9TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini 2 6006/52 returned to service at Riverside following repaint and seat re-trim, with Optare Versas 5384 and 5388 taken out of service for repaint at Bus & Coach World, Blackburn, and will then get a seat re-trim and have USB charging points fitted, at Saltmeadows Road's bodyshop facility on their return.

Volvo B9R/Caetano Levante coaches 7103/15/16/17 have all transferred to Go-Ahead London.

To conclude this bumper report the company had advised changed that took place in the week ending 25th October 2020.

Repaints included Volvo B9TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini 2 6052 into the 2020 Crusader livery; Wright StreetDeck 6304 was also partially repainted into the yellow and gold variant of the X-lines livery for services X5/X15, whilst Wright Streetlite Max Micro-Hybrid 5416 and Wright Streetlite DF 8339 were repainted into the 2019 fleet livery.



National Express have suspended all of Go North East's operational services, due to low usage. As such, all Chester-le-Street Depot's National Express coaches have been temporarily taken out of service. These are Volvo B11RT/Caetano Levante 3 coaches 7138/40/41/42/45/46/47/48/49.

Volvo B9R/Caetano Levante coaches 7103/15/16/17) have all returned to Go North East having been in long-term storage in Ireland.

The 6-cylinder Wright StreetDeck Micro-Hybrid 3, 6377 (NK70 BYV), has now entered service at Washington, allowing Volvo B9TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini 2 6004 to be taken out of service for repaint and refurbishment at Bus & Coach World, Blackburn.

Wright Eclipse Gemini 2 bodied Volvo B9TLs returning to service at Riverside following repaint/refurbishment are 6002/03/05/07/51.

Wright Streetlite Max Micro-Hybrid 5416 has transferred from Consett Depot to Riverside,

Optare Versas 8310/11/12 have been taken out of service for repaint at Read Commercial, Accrington, and Optare Versas 5385/86/87 have been taken out of service for repaint at Bus & Coach World, Blackburn, and will also receive seat re-trim and USB charging point fitment, at Saltmeadows Road's bodyshop facility.

The repainting of these vehicles forms part of a project to refresh the brand of the Q3 service. 'QuayLink' was conceived as a frequent, high quality bus service, for the newly developed and expanding Quayside area. Despite being located a short distance from the town centres of Newcastle and Gateshead, the area was poorly served by public transport. Now in its fifteenth year, albeit on a revised route compared to when it first launch, service Q3 is to be re-branded from 'QuayLink' to 'Quaycity', acknowledging the growing focus of the route changing from the Newcastle Quayside, to the City Centre itself, with an expanding hospitality sector in the city.

## Stagecoach East Midlands

The winter migration of the Skegness open top Seaside fleet has started with Volvo B7TLs 16964/66; Trident/ALX400s 17016, 17676, 17678 18473 along with Enviro 400 19169 being 'tucked up' at Grimsby for the next few months. Also at Grimsby had been Enviro 400 19197 from Skegness, which was returned on 10th November.

We would expect Mansfield to also provide over-winter storage for some of the Skegness Seaside and would welcome any confirmed reports of arrivals there.

An unusual movement here is that of withdrawn MAN/ALX300 22379 from Scunthorpe, where it had been parked up since its withdrawal, to Hull.

Two Dart SLFs at Lincoln, 35147/48 have been transferred from the main fleet to the Reserve Fleet.

## Stagecoach West

The repaint of former 'Gold'-liveried MAN/Enviro 300 22747 at Gloucester into Stagecoach 'Local' livery as part of its accident damage repairs has been completed, whilst also repainted into 'local' livery is Cheltenham-based Enviro 200 36386.

The first double deck to be repainted here into Stagecoach 'Local' livery is Enviro 400 19165, which was transferred here from Stagecoach Manchester earlier this year and carried magicbus livery. It has also become the first bus allocated to Swindon depot to receive the new Stagecoach livery.

## Stagecoach Megabus/JV

Now in the Reserve Fleet are MegabusPlus Volvo B12B 54077/79, which are part of the Stagecoach East Midlands fleet at Hull.

## Stagecoach Midlands

Pointer-bodied Dart SLFs remain operational with many Stagecoach UK operating companies but few depots can boast sizeable examples on their books.

Stagecoach Midlands' Kettering depot can, where the allocation of 17 Dart SLFs comprises 35105/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/84/85, 35219/21/22/24/25/26.

A further seven Dart SLFs, 34425, 34549, 34831/33/78/80, 35186 are in the operational fleet at Rugby.

The Stagecoach Midlands' Strategic Reserve Fleet includes seven examples - 34421/22/24, 34533, 34771/73, 34835, all of which recently transferred from Stagecoach East and are parked at Rugby.

Image: © Nigel Winter/Twitter



## Stagecoach South Wales

Another Wright Streetlite to get the Stagecoach 'Local' livery makeover here is Merthyr-based 43006.



The most recent former Stagecoach East Pointer-bodied Dart SLF to enter service with Stagecoach Midlands is 35105, which has been allocated to Kettering depot as a replacement for withdrawn Optare Solo 47408. It was pictured in Corby. The strapline is a remnant from the bus' days at Bedford when it carried 'Bedford Bus' branding and the strapline 'the easy way to get about Bedford' © Ben Wesley

## Lifetime Achievement Award for Stagecoach's Rob Andrew at the Scottish Transport Awards

We ran out of space in Fleet Digest to record that Rob Andrew from Stagecoach has picked up a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The award, which was presented virtually as part of the 2020 Scottish Transport Awards, recognised Robert's 35-year career in the bus industry. During his career, Robert has progressed from junior roles within the nationalised Scottish Bus Group to become Stagecoach's longest serving Regional Director. Having joined the Group in 1992, Robert went on to become Managing Director of both Fife and Bluebird operations in 2000 before becoming Regional Director for Scotland in 2006, then spending periods covering firstly Northern England and then Southern England before returning to Scotland in 2016. From 2017 until 2019 Robert jointly led Stagecoach's UK Bus Division, before reverting to an enhanced Scottish Regional Director position adding megabus and the Welsh operations in early 2019.

Robert took planned retirement in the summer to spend more time with his family, however he agreed to continue using his experience to work with Stagecoach on a part-time basis as Director for the joint venture Scottish Citylink, which includes Scottish and cross-border megabus operations.

Martin Griffiths, Chief Executive of Stagecoach, said: "We are all delighted with the news that Robert has received this special award, recognising the vast contribution he has made to Scottish transport. With 35 years' experience in the industry, Robert has become a very popular and well-loved member of the Stagecoach team, but is also a highly respected transport professional with stakeholders in



Scotland and across the rest of the country.

"We are pleased Robert is taking some well-deserved time to spend with his family but we are happy to still have the benefit of his valuable expertise in helping to lead the Citylink business."

Robert Andrew added: "I feel very privileged to have been presented with this award, which was a complete surprise! This is a great industry to work in and I've made many friends within Stagecoach and across the wider bus network.

"These are obviously different and challenging times for everyone but I've been proud to work for an industry that always pulls together and supports each other. This award is not only for me, but for all my colleagues and everybody who plays such a vital role in keeping Scotland's transport network running."

Stagecoach won two other awards at the Scottish Transport Awards. Stagecoach East Scotland was named Public Transport Operator of the Year for the second year running and Citylink won 'Best Bus Service' for service 900 from Glasgow to Edinburgh. Stevie Ross, Bus Station Controller for Stagecoach Highlands was also highly commended for front-line employee.

# From our archives: Road Car return

There was considerable interest in our recent archive feature on Road Car, so we have dipped into our archive pot again and present a further selection of Road Car vehicles operating in Skegness.

Carrying 'Lincolnshire Coastlink' branding is 425 (TWO84), a Leyland Tiger with 57-seat East Lincs (EL2000) bodywork, which was originally new to the Rhonda fleet, joining Road Car in 1992. It was originally registered A254VWO and was rebodied for Road Car, originally having a Duple coach body. © Steven Knight Media



Road Car. 801 (S801SJV) is a Scania L94UB with Wright Axxess Floline bodywork. Pictured at Showbus in 1995 it carries 'Connect 6' branding and the Lincolnshire 'Interconnect' logo. © Steven Knight Media





East Lincs was the favoured body supplier for a fleet of Dennis Dart SLF's, which carried the 'Spryte' version of East Lincs bodywork. New in the distinctive. 'Super Buzz' livery, as depicted by 505 (R505MFE) the batch later carried the 'beachball' version of the Stagecoach livery as shown by 33251 (R501MFE).  
 © Steven Knight Media



Carrying an unusual open top conversion, with all of the upper deck windows remaining in place is Road Car 1317 (UBV87L), an East Lincs-bodied Leyland Atlantean pictured heading back into Skegness. The bus had been new to Blackburn Transport.  
 © Steven Knight Media



Roe bodywork is fitted to Road Car Leyland Atlantean 1311 (ETO911V). It was new to Nottinghamshire operator W Gash & Sons as their DD11 and was the first rear-engined bus bought by Gash. © Steven Knight Media

Acquired with the Road Car purchase of Lincoln City Transport was 646 (C46KBE), an East Lancs-bodied Leyland Olympian which was fitted with high-back coach seating. © Steven Knight Media



## Stagecoach United Counties' Husbands Bosworth outstation in the late 1990s

Located on what is now the west-east A4304 road between Lutterworth and Market Harborough is the village of Husbands Bosworth, where Stagecoach had an outstation for many years.

Nothing major, generally just one vehicle, occasionally two, were parked up off the

road behind a small cottage. The outstation was part of the Northampton operation and had replaced an outstation in nearby Welford.

Husbands Bosworth is also dissected north-south by the A5199 Leicester-Northampton road.



Stagecoach 107 (F107NRT) was acquired by Stagecoach United Counties in January 1996 from Premier Travel. It is a Volvo B10M with Plaxton Paramount 3500 bodywork.  
© Steven Knight Media

Another Plaxton Paramount-bodied Volvo B10M but with the '3200' body specification and 53 seats is 130 (E130ORP).  
© Steven Knight Media



For many years Stagecoach standardised on the Volvo B10M chassis with Plaxton Premiere Interurban bodywork, which it had an involvement in the specification. The United Counties business took a number of batches of the vehicles for its interurban Coachlinks network and included 157 (L157JNH).

© Steven Knight Media

Volvo Olympian deliveries to Stagecoach United Counties included bodywork by both Northern Counties and Alexander. 679 (L679HNV) which has Northern Counties Palatine bodywork. The narrow between decks panel meant that the advert covered half the fleetname.

© Steven Knight Media

Extended wheelbase Volvo Olympian 692 (P692JBD) in the Stagecoach United Counties fleet was fitted with an Alexander RL bodywork. The extended wheelbase vehicles has a small window bay in the centre of the vehicle. © Steven Knight Media

## Has Stagecoach Gold reached the end of the road?



A number of Stagecoach UK companies are now casting aside the Stagecoach Gold brand. Vehicles are set to receive the amber Stagecoach 'Distance' or the Stagecoach 'Local' livery with the notable exception of some of the vehicles at Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire. With improvements to the passenger facilities on recent vehicle deliveries the unique selling points of the original Stagecoach Gold brand are now standard fitment on standard vehicles.

At Stagecoach Merseyside & South Lancashire, Scania/Enviro 400 15247 has become the first vehicle to lose 'Gold' livery and is now in the new 'Distance' livery. Similar 'Gold' vehicles at Stagecoach South West have already been repainted into the 'Distance' livery.

At Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire, branding is already being removed from the four Scania/Enviro 400s (15920-23) used on the 300 service from Carlisle to Maryport and we would expect the vehicles to be repainted into Stagecoach 'Local' livery.

No doubt the two Scania/Enviro 300s (28747/48) along with the five Scania/Enviro 400s (15221-25) used on the Workington-Keswick-Penrith route will also be repainted and we wonder if an appropriate livery for them would be the attractive 'Lakes Connection' scheme.



Image: © Steven Knight Media



The latest Stagecoach 'Local' repaint at Hull is Enviro 400 19692, which had previously carried a special 'Paint the town Hull' livery which was made up of multi-coloured hand prints.  
Images: © Ian Knott

## Stagecoach East Midlands

Enviro 400 19197 returned from Grimsby to Skegness on 10th October 2020, whilst also moving from Grimsby to Skegness on loan is Volvo B7RLE 21274.

Hull allocated Enviro 400 19692 has lost its 'Paint the town Hull' livery in favour of the now-standard Stagecoach 'Local' scheme Dart SLF 34426 is part of the Reserve Fleet at Skegness, rather than part of the main depot allocation.

## Eastern Bus Enthusiasts

The Eastern Bus Enthusiasts (EBE) have just added a long-term preservation project to their vehicle portfolio in the shape of former Eastern Counties and latterly Cambus Bristol VRT/ECW VEX298X.

New to the National Bus Company (NBC) it was intended for operation by United Counties with a VVV registration, however it was diverted to Eastern Counties and based at Cambridge, gaining its VEX registration.

VEX298X never carried NBC Red and was painted into a white national holidays advert. Later being operated by Cambus after deregulation who's livery it still wears to this day.

Most recently it has been used as a lookout tower and judging hut for a riding school in



Towcester where it has been since 2009.

The EBE told Steven Knight Media that "the intention is to restore the bus into its Cambus guise" and they added "don't let appearances be deceiving as it is not quite as bad as it looks on the outside".



Image: © Nathan Merryweather!

## New Fleet Info website launched

We are now pleased to announce that North East Lincolnshire-based Sam Boothby, assisted by a number of other enthusiasts has now launched a new website to provide a comprehensive Fleet Information service. Until the end of 2020 we intend to share the information we publish in Fleet Digest, to supplement the new information that Sam and his team are reporting.

From the start of 2021 we will feed any information we pick up into Sam to ensure that the comprehensive information provision you have enjoyed through SKM's Fleet Ramblings/Fleet Digest will continue.

I'm sure you will agree that FleetReport will fill the gap for information and that you will continue to be able to keep up to date with the type of information you have previously enjoyed.

The new website is now live, so take a look at [www.fleetreport.co.uk](http://www.fleetreport.co.uk) But don't forget we will continue with the Fleet Digest document until the end of the year.



## Stagecoach East

The first vehicle here to receive Stagecoach 'Local' livery is ADL Enviro 200MMC 37437 at Bedford. It had previously been in the green/blue 'Coasthopper' livery carried since new when it was delivered to King's Lynn. It moved to Bedford on the closure of King's Lynn depot but had evaded a call to the paint shop for over two years!

It would appear that the two BYD/ADL Enviro 400 City electric buses, 14033/34, are spending 'Lockdown 2' working Park & Ride services.

## Stagecoach North East

Latest repaints in Stagecoach 'Local' livery here are Enviro 300s 27253 and 27726.

## Stagecoach West

The first double deck anywhere in the Stagecoach UK operation to receive the white and ocean green 'Specialist' livery is ALX400-Trident 18420 at North Bristol. It is part of the School Bus fleet there.

## Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire

We understand that the 10.2m Enviro 200 (36336) due here from Stagecoach London will be collected next week and will initially go to Kendal depot prior to a visit to the paint shop at Carlisle for repaint into Lakes Connection livery.

## Stagecoach South Wales

Caerphilly's Optare Solo SR 47951 has now received Stagecoach 'Local' livery.

## East Yorkshire

Vehicles delicensed are the four remaining open top Volvo B7TLs, 891/92/93/95, in the operational fleet at Scarborough. Also delicensed are the seven Scania K410-E36, 1-7, coaches from the National Express unit at Hull and Volvo B7TLs 671/72/73/74 at Scarborough, one of which will move to Pocklington as a staff rest area.

Mercedes-Benz minibus 972 returned to the Oxford Bus Company on 12th November 2020.

## Rainbow over Gilmoss

A rainbow sits above Optare Solo 47622 and ADL Enviro 400MMC 10537 at Stagecoach Merseyside & South Lancashire's Gilmoss depot on 10th November 2020. © Maria Muggridge/Twitter

