



Gainsborough allocation for Sc East Midlands Volvo B7TLs

Green-look for Stagecoach Merseyside Scania/Enviro 400

Pride Cymru branding for Solo & E300 at Sc South Wales

Fleet Digest No. 156

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Covering the period 04 08 2022 until 15 08 2022

Cover Image: In Smallbrook Queensway, Birmingham is National Express West Midlands 'Platinum'-branded ADL Enviro 400MMC. When pictured it was working a service 87 to Dudley.
Image © Steven Knight Media 2022

156_000 **Editorial**

Well, by the time you read this the 'Circus' will be over. Whilst visitors to the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham have enjoyed frequent shuttle bus services, provided by Stagecoach, back in the provinces and cities 'bread and butter' passengers across the UK have seen their regular bus services cancelled.

It was always going to happen.

With driver numbers remaining at a critically low level and vehicle numbers also tight how could the loss of almost 600 buses and I suspect double that number of drivers not have had an effect?

The cancellations have been widespread but also alarming. We picked up that on Saturday 30th July, on a 30 minute frequency inter-urban route, there were three consecutive cancellations. That meant a TWO HOUR gap in the service.

Elsewhere we were told of TWO HOUR gaps on a 20 minute frequency and a busy route having only three vehicles operating when normally there should be six.

Where has the pro-active service regulation been, apart from non-existent. And surely the Traffic Commissions must have noted what has taken place.

It is too late to do anything about the shambles of the last month but the whole impact of the potential wider disruption must now be a deciding factor when considering future special event operations.

Perhaps one option would have been to have reduced the service frequency and advertised it. I know in some areas this has been done so a big thumbs up to those companies. It takes effort, but reducing some service frequencies during the main summer period is nothing new. I recall it taking place in Coventry when I joined the West Midlands PTE there back in 1974. It took effort and planning but worked. The reduction then was due to the reduced number of passengers which had the knock on effect of reducing driver and conductor duties allowing an increase in the number of crews that could take holidays in those summer months.

This really has not been good enough. How many passengers have been inconvenienced and found other ways to travel - and could be lost to the bus altogether.

There will be little sympathy if operating companies now moan that passenger numbers have significantly dipped.

Steven Knight MCIJ

156_001 **Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire**

Morecambe-allocated ADL Enviro 400MMC 11150 received severe collision damage whilst away on Commonwealth Games duties and has been sent to ADL Anston for repairs.

156_004 **Stagecoach East Midlands**

On August 3rd 2022, Volvo B7RLEs 21213/60/62 were all operating out of the Long Sutton outstation, whose operations include the 505 Spalding-King's Lynn service,

with 21216/56/58 having been in use there at various times over the previous seven days.

Interesting fleet changes from mid-August 2022 have seen Volvo B7TLs 16907/13 move from Scunthorpe to Gainsborough (16907 to main fleet and 16913 into Reserve Fleet).

Also at Gainsborough Dart SLF 34570 has moved to the Reserve Fleet and Trident 18027 from the Reserve Fleet to main fleet.

156_006 **Stagecoach Merseyside & South Lancashire**

Scania/Enviro 400 15743 at Birkenhead (Rock Ferry) has received a commemorative green based-livery with large cream Stagecoach logo at the rear to recognise the provision of bus services in the area by Crossville and Stagecoach.

156_007 **Stagecoach East**

Following a couple of day's use at Cambridge, Busway Volvo B7RLE saloons 21226/31/32 were further transferred to Bedford depot during the first week of August 2022, but their stay was short lived with 21232 back at Fenstanton on 5th August 2022 followed by 21232 five days later. Returned to Fenstanton from Cambridge on 10th August 2022 was 21223 with 21235 following a day later. Dart SLF 34536, which was re-instated at Peterborough on July 17th 2022 to provide Commonwealth Games cover has been withdrawn and was towed away from Peterborough depot for storage on August 4th 2022. It had suffered major engine failure whilst working the 06:52 Holbeach Drive-Peterborough service 36 on July 28th 2022. Meanwhile 34828 returned to service at Bedford on August 3rd 2022 following gearbox repairs.

Following completion of collision repairs, former **Norfolk Green** Enviro 400 10054 returned to service at Peterborough on 9th July 2022.

156_008 **Stagecoach Midlands**

There has been some confusion around the Optare Solos on loan from South Wales. To clarify, and correct, we understand by August 4th 2022 Solos 47191, 47203/09/11, 47349/85 and Solo SRs 47816/17/18/19 had seen use at Nuneaton with 47074, 47206, 47316/63 also on loan.

ADL Enviro 400MMC, 10732, which was part of the Commonwealth Games fleet, failed whilst in use there and was towed back to Northampton on August 5th 2022. Back at Nuneaton on 10th August 2022, following repaint into retro-Stagecoach 'stripes' livery was Volvo B10M/Alexander PS 20215 for fitting of original features and branding.

156_009 **Stagecoach West**

Further Reserve Fleet Optare Solos moved to Witney in July 2022 were 47904 and 47910. They had been part of the Reserve Fleet at North Bristol.

Following the return of vehicles used on Commonwealth Games duties, Enviro 200s 36401 and 37017/21/25 - which had been on loan at Oxford from **Stagecoach South Wales** - were moved over to Cheltenham depot on 13th August 2022 for onward movement back to South Wales.

Stagecoach South Wales now has branded two vehicles with 'Pride Cymru' graphics. These are Optare Solo SR 47851 (CN13 CYX) and ADL Enviro 300 27284 (SN65 OEC).
Images © Stagecoach South Wales/Nigel Winter (Twitter) 2022

156_011 Stagecoach South Wales

Dart SLF 34351 has received the latest training livery whilst Enviro 300 27284 now sports 'Pride Cymru' branding.



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156_031 **East Yorkshire**

Twelve Volvo B7TLs are to be transferred on loan to **Go North East**, to cover for an increase in contract work there. First to be relicensed and prepared for transfer were 696, 710, 711 and 713.

The five Enviro 200s transferred to Go Ahead subsidiary **Hedingham** (355/56/57/58/60) have received fleet numbers 275-79 there.

156_032 **Delaine Buses**

Another ADL Enviro 200MMC is due to join this fleet in September with registration AD72DBL having been reserved.

156_999 **Correction**

The advance issue of Fleet Digest 155 contained an error in the listing of Stagecoach vehicles in use on Commonwealth Games duties. In the **Stagecoach Manchester** section 24141 shown under the ADL Enviro 200MMC listing should have read 26141. The online version was correct.



The youngest vehicle in the Delaine Buses fleet is ADL enviro 200MMC 170 (AD22 DBL), which is the fourth vehicle of the type in the fleet. A further example, to be registered AD72 DBL is set to join the fleet next month.

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With a 2022 image of a National Express West Midlands vehicle on the 87 route on the cover of this edition of Fleet Digest we thought we would delve into our archives for some historic images.

Top: To assist with the replacement of older vehicles acquired from Midland Red in December 1973 and to assist with one man conversion three Volvo Ailsa double decks were ordered for evaluation. These were followed by 50 production examples which were split upon delivery between Oldbury and Sutton garages. One of the Oldbury vehicles, 4748 (JOV 748P) is parked up in Dudley Bus Station after arrival with a 87 service from Birmingham.

Centre: Not quite what it seems. Midland Red D9 5417 (EHA417D) was a Sutton Coldfield vehicle when photographed a few months before withdrawal so would not have worked 87 at that time. It had been 'borrowed' for a Sunday afternoon trip around the Black Country. Dudley Bus Station is again the location.

Bottom: Also in Dudley Bus Station with the destination blinds already set for the next trip to Birmingham on the 87 is PTE standard MCW-bodied Fleetline 6503 (SDA 503S).

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From the archives..... 87 Birmingham to Dudley



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BIG BUS DAY 2022

**BIG BUS DAY IS BACK!
FREE TO ENTER!**

Saturday 3 September 2022
From 10am until 4pm
Streetlife Museum | High Street | Hull

eastyorkshirebuses.co.uk
BusLine: 01482 59 29 29



East Yorkshire

In aid of
NSPCC

East Yorkshire

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SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER 2022
TWILIGHT
MINI HERITAGE RUNNING DAY

Museum Open
1.30pm-7.30pm

Admission £5

contactless accepted

up to two accompanied
U12s Free



experience the tungsten lighting of yesteryear

Heritage Bus Rides every 20mins

To Rippingale (Church) 1.40pm - 4.20pm
calling at Bourne (Mkt Place) for Town Centre • Delaine 101

To Mkt Deeping (Church) 4.40pm - 7.20pm
calling at Mkt Deeping (Church St) for Delaine 101

featuring: KTL 780 • MTL 750 • RCT 3 • ACT 540L
from the Delaine Heritage Fleet (all vehicles subject to availability)

Light Refreshments: available at the Museum

Public Transport: Delaine 101 from Peterborough

Free Parking: adjacent at Bourne Auction Rooms

We regret we are unable to accommodate visiting vehicles at the Delaine Garage & Museum on this occasion

Delaine Bus Museum, Spalding Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire, PE10 9LE

www.delaineheritagetrust.org

[twitter@delaineheritage](https://twitter.com/delaineheritage)

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