

WATAG NEWS

WEST DORSET WESTERN AREA TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP

YOUR LOCAL BUS ROUTES

X51/X53

Operated by First Hampshire and Dorset. (Also referred to as First Wessex). 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 Hampshire & Dorset and Buses of Somerset, Mondays to Fridays only.

These buses operate from Bridport to Beaminster, Crewkerne and Yeovil. See page 3.

CB3

Operated by Beaminster Town Council, on Saturdays only, connecting Beaminster with Bridport and Crewkerne. Currently suspended due to COVID-19.

7

Operated on behalf of Bridport Town Council, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, as the 'Bridport Town Circular'. Currently suspended, due to resume 07 October

9A

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

71

Operated by Damory, on behalf of Lyme Regis Town Council, Mondays - Fridays, as the 'Lyme Regis Town Service'. See page 4.

Dorset Community Transport

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, arriving approximately 10am and departing approximately 1pm. See page 2.



ALL CHANGE

Bus services post lockdown

As life continues to return to some semblance of normality, the 'new normal' has inevitably impacted our local bus and rail services.

Route 6 from Bridport to Beaminster and Yeovil has been particularly challenging, with the local incumbent First Wessex announcing in February that they would no longer be able to operate the service. Then COVID-19 lockdowns changed everything.

With government funding being available a revised Route 6 has been announced by Dorset Council, while bus routes X51 and X53 will have a Sunday service through to December at least.

+ + AXMINSTER TRAIN CONNECTION RESTORED + +
 Thanks to lobbying by WATAG and others, we are delighted to advise that the connection to the 0737 train from Axminster to Exeter has been restored. On Mondays to Fridays, the X51 now leaves Bridport West St at 06.37, Bridport Bus Station at 06.43 and Lyme Regis at 07.10, arriving Axminster Station at 07.32.

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WHAT IS WATAG?

WATAG (West Dorset Western Area Transport Action Group) was established by Dorset County Council in June 2001. The WATAG membership provides a forum for people with transport interests from Dorset Council, the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils, rail, bus and road transporters and other concerned groups and citizens. A meeting is held (usually in Bridport) once every two months, currently suspended while COVID-19 restrictions are in place. Please contact us on watag@hotmail.co.uk or visit our website: www.watag.org.uk

Delay Repay

Delay Repay is a rail ticket refund scheme operated by local rail companies when services are cancelled and delayed and not everyone is aware of its existence.

It is not always announced during periods of disruption but can go some way towards mitigating disruption to your journey.

Each rail company (in Dorset we are served by Great Western Railway, South Western Railway and Cross Country Trains) operates their own system but the principles are the same.

Most readers will use South Western Railway services from Axminster and Dorchester South, and their scheme provides compensation when a delay exceeds 15 minutes.

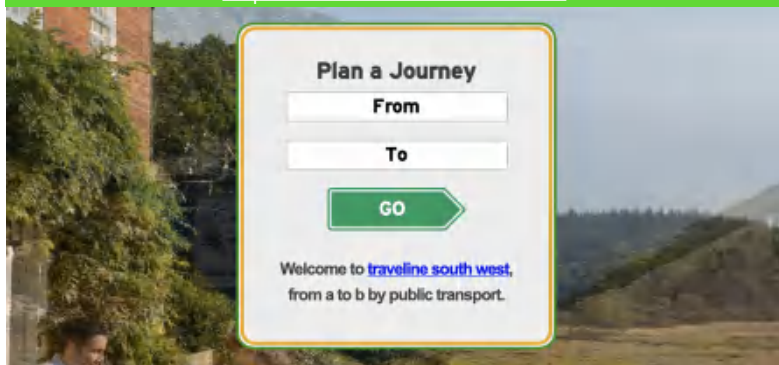
There is a sliding scale of refunds from 25% to 100% depending on the length of delay. (Based on a single ticket). You can upload a picture of your ticket online, along with your journey details. Refunds can be via your bank account, payment card or in the form of railway vouchers.

Full details are here: <https://bit.ly/3gJhnAg>

JOURNEY PLANNING

It can be daunting planning a journey that may utilise several different transport operators and methods of travel. Traveline South West was set up by local authorities, is updated weekly, and provides real-time bus and train information as well as an enhanced journey planner.

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



CYCLING & WALKING IN WEST DORSET

You don't have to drive! Encouraging people to make use of alternative modes of transport is an obvious goal, especially given Dorset Council's declaration of a climate emergency.

Dorset Council have an interactive cycle map on their website, here: <https://bit.ly/2ZccRVr>.

Maps are available for Lyme Regis, Bridport and surrounding towns and villages.

The West Dorset Pedal is a leaflet showing various suggestions for days out and can be downloaded here:

<https://bit.ly/3ihZJWI>

Dorset Community Transport (DCT)

Dorset Community Transport is a charity offering PLUSBUS: providing transport for people who are unable to easily access public transport: young or old and including those with mobility difficulties.

To use PlusBus, simply register your details with DCT initially and then pre-book your seat whenever you wish to join the bus.

Where possible, we can offer a "door-to-door" service and can also accommodate passengers travelling in wheelchairs.

Journeys are still operating during this time to assist isolated residents to make essential journeys.

The contact number is 01258 287980

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ROUTE 6 NEWS

The route between Bridport/ Beaminster and Yeovil has a long and troubled history, (full details can be found on the WATAG website) with bus operators changing, frequent timetable changes - which served to undermine the service - and eventually First Wessex announcing their exit from the route entirely. COVID-19 has changed everything, with new funding now available. A new service started on 07 September, jointly operated by Buses of Somerset and First Wessex and funded by Dorset Council, whilst there are still gaps in the timetable, we believe it is a huge improvement to the pre- Covid 19 timetable that had been imposed in April 2019, with improved frequencies between Beaminster and Bridport as well as the reintroduction of direct services to Yeovil. The current timetable is shown below.

Bridport - Beaminster - Crewkerne - Yeovil 6, 6A, 6B

via Bradpole - Melplash - Broadwindsor - West Coker
 also showing service 6A between Salwayash, Bridport and Beaminster School and service 6B between Bridport and Crewkerne and connection to Yeovil on service 96A

From 7 September 2020

Monday to Friday (Not Public Holidays)

Service Number	6B Sch	96A SWC	6 NSch	6A Sch	6 NSch	6 FW	6 BoS	6 FW	6 BoS	6 FW	6 FW	6 Sch
Salwayash				0733								
Dottery				0737								
Bridport Community Hospital						0930	1030	1140	1250		1710	
Bridport Bus Station	0710		0710		0800						1510	1805
Bridport West Street	0712		0712	0749	0802	0936	1036	1146	1256	1512	1716	1807
Bradpole, Kings Head	0719		0719	0756	0809	0943	1043	1153	1303	1519	1723	1814
Melplash Half Moon	0724		0724	0801	0814	0948	1048	1158	1308	1524	1728	1819
Netherbury, Drury Lane				0808								
Beaminster Gerrards Green						0957	1103a	1213a	1317			
Beaminster Square	0730		0730	0816	0820	1000	1054	1204	1320	1530	1734	1825
Monmouth Gardens	0732		0732	0818	0822					1532		
Beaminster School				0820								
Beaminster St James						1003	1057	1207	1323		1737	
Broadwindsor White Lion						1009			1329			
Mosterton The Admiral Hood	0738		0738			1018			1338			
Misterton White Swan	0744	0811c	0744			1023			1343			
Crewkerne Rail Station approach	0745	0809c	0747			1026			1346			
Crewkerne Kings Arms			0754			1030			1350			
East Chinnock Portman Arms		0822	0805			1041			1401			
West Coker Post Office		0825	0807			1043			1403			
Yeovil College			0838									
Yeovil Borough		0845	0822			1053			1413			
Yeovil Bus Station		0848	0825			1055			1415			

Yeovil - Crewkerne - Beaminster - Bridport 6, 6A

Service Number	6 Sch	6 NSch	6 Sch	6 BoS	6 BoS	6 FW	6 FW	6 NSch	6A Sch	6 BoS
Yeovil Bus Station				0855			1255			1635
Yeovil College										
West Coker Post Office				0905			1305			1650
East Chinnock Portman Arms				0908			1308			1653
Crewkerne George Hotel				0920			1320			1705
Crewkerne Rail Station approach				0925			1325			1710
Misterton White Swan				0928			1328			1713
Mosterton The Admiral Hood				0933			1333			1718
Broadwindsor White Lion				0942			1342			1727
Beaminster St James				0948	1058	1208	1348			1733
Beaminster School										1540
Beaminster Monmouth Gdns		0825	0825					1541	1541	
Beaminster Gerrards Green				0953	1103	1213	1353			1738
Beaminster Square Red Lion	0702	0828	0828	0956	1105	1216	1356	1544	1544	1740
Netherbury, Drury Lane										1548
Melplash, Half Moon	0708	0834	0834	1002	1112	1222	1402	1550	1554	1747
Colfox School			0840							1559
Bradpole, Kings Head	0713	0839	0844	1007	1117	1227	1407	1555	1603	1752
Bridport West Street	0720	0846	0851	1014	1124	1234	1414	1602	1609	1759
Bridport Bus Station	0722							1604		1801
Bridport Community Hospital		0853	0858	1021	1131	1241	1421			
Dottery										1619
Salwayash										1623

Sch - Schooldays Only

NSch - School Holidays

a - arrival time at Gerrards Green travelling via St James (see return journey)

c - 96A calls at Misterton (White Swan) after Crewkerne Station Approach. Passengers on the 6B travelling through to Yeovil may change at Misterton White Swan or Crewkerne Rail Station for the 96A. In either case, please cross the road to the bus stop opposite

First Wessex and Buses of Somerset will accept each other's tickets, however passengers travelling to Yeovil on the 6B, connecting to the 96A, will need to purchase a separate ticket for the 96A journey.

If travelling to Yeovil on the 6B and 96A, on the 6B purchase a return to Yeovil (£6.00); this will take you on the 6B to either Misterton White Swan, or Crewkerne Rail Station, and will be valid on any BoS or FW service on your return from Yeovil. When joining the 96A purchase a single to Yeovil (£2.60). Total cost will be £8.60.

During the Covid-19 social distancing requirements, the 6A will operate in duplicate. The second vehicle will run as a 'Closed School Service' - for School Pupils only.

BoS Operated by Buses of Somerset - 0345 6460707

FW Operated by First Wessex - 0345 6460707

SWC Operated by South West Coaches - 01935 475872

No service Saturday or Sunday

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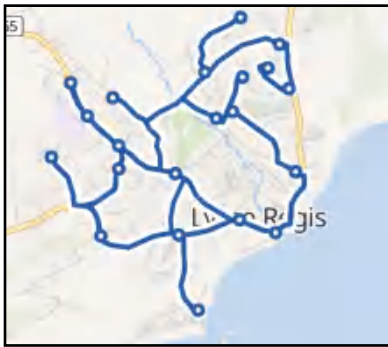
LYME, GREEN

Encouraging more people to use buses is an important part of dealing with the ongoing climate emergency, and the goal must be to enable people to get out (safely) and about while leaving their cars at home. The town service in Lyme Regis is operated by Damory Buses and Lyme Regis Town Council, and is a great way for residents to get around town.

Funding has been secured for the town service for another year.

Lyme Regis Town Service
route **71**

Mondays to Fridays except public holidays						
Lyme Regis Fairfield Park	0912	1015	1115	1315	1415	
Talbot Road	0916	1019	1119	1319	1419	
Hallett Court	0920					
Kingsway	0923	1023	1123	1323	1423	
The Square	0928	1028	1128	1328	1428	
The Cobb			1132	1332		
Holmbush Car Park	0931	1031	1133	1239	1333	1431
Somers Fields	0933	1033	1136		1336	1433
Medical Centre	0935	1035	1138		1338	1435
Woodroffe School	0936	1036	1139		1339	
Haye Close	0940	1040	1143		1343	1440
Horn Bridge	0941	1041	1144	1242	1344	1441
Kingsway	0943	1043	1146	1244	1346	1443
The Square	0947	1047	1150	1248	1350	1447
Woodroffe School	0952	1052		1253	1355	
Medical Centre	0953	1053		1254	1356	
Morgan's Grave	0954	1054		1255		
Holmbush Car Park	0955	1055	1153	1256		1450
The Cobb	0957	1057				
Langmoor Gardens						
Lyme Regis Post Office	1001	1101		1301	1401	1455
Kingsway	1004	1104		1304	1404	R
Hallett Court	R	R		R	R	R
Talbot Road						R
Lyme Regis Fairfield Park	1010	1110		1310	1410	R



R serves this point on request to set down only

sorry no buses on Saturdays, Sundays or public holidays

Images © Damory Buses

South Western Railway News

Train services from Axminster/ Crewkerne and Weymouth/ Dorchester South changed from 7 September 2020. Axminster and Crewkerne see a near 'normal' timetable with services to London and Exeter. Services from Weymouth and Dorchester South change from an hourly shuttle to Bournemouth to an hourly train to London. It is always advisable to check train times before travelling, in case of engineering works: National Rail Enquiries 03457 48 49 50

DON'T FORGET...

Please remember that a mask is required for any travel on public transport and when entering shops. If you are exempt you can download a document from First Wessex here:

<https://bit.ly/333Wce8>

