

The Bus Archive electronic timetable library (BATL)

Website search facility

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1.1 Introduction

The BA electronic timetable library website provides a mechanism to search for bus timetables in electronic form, as pdf files. It does this by referring to The Bus Archive's electronic archive of route histories and associated timetables.

This archive contains most, but not all, timetables for stage carriage services in England and Wales (excluding the Transport for London area) since 2014. In some geographies it is possible to access pdf timetables going back to 2010 and earlier.

It is possible to view individual timetables, or to view lists of services by various combinations of criteria, typically a combination of one or more of: operator, service number, route, primary town served, borough in which operated.

Viewing a list can either be used as a means of navigating to a specific timetable, or to give an historical list of services of an operator, or any combination of the criteria above.

2.1 The website structure (<https://ba2.nwframpton.com>)

The website home page includes a description of the site and provides the following pages for enquiry. Each of these is described in more detail below:

[Welcome](#) [Search for a route](#) [Search for history](#) [Local authority code list](#) [Spreadsheet export](#)

It is worth noting that for the purposes of data held in the archive, a 'service' is a unique combination of operator, service number and route (a list of major places served). So, for example:

- if route 2 initially runs from A to B, but is then extended to C, that is a new service.
- if route 2 from A to B is renumbered 102, that is a new service.
- if route 2 changes operator, then that is a new service.
- If route 2 is operated by two operators, they are separate services.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the site, please send an email to contact@ba2.nwframpton.com

3.1 Getting to the timetable for a specific service/date combination.

You can search for a specific timetable in several ways:

- search from scratch, using a combination of search criteria, typically a combination of one of more of: operator, service number, route, primary town served, borough in which operated – see section 3.2.
- Find the required service in a list of all services operating within a local authority area – see section 3.3.
- Find the service in a list of all services in a particular region – see section 3.4.
- Do some advanced filtering of data directly in an extracted spreadsheet and link to a timetable this way – see section 3.5.

As you use the site and become more familiar with it, you will probably adopt a preferred way to find timetables.

In each case, once a specific service is selected, the next step is to view its archive record – which shows the full history of changes to the service (as far as they are held in the archive) and links to the individual timetable at each date (where this is held in the archive).

3.2 To search for a timetable from scratch

This will provide a list showing all bus services which meet a specific set of criteria, typically a combination of one of more of: operator, service number, route, primary town served, borough in which operated.

Use this either if you just want to view a list of an operator's services in a particular area, or to narrow down your search when looking for a specific timetable.

From the website menu, choose 'Search for a route'. This will show a search screen into which you can enter a variety of criteria to narrow down your search. You do not have to enter data into all the search criteria, but clearly the more fields you add to your search, the fewer, and more focused, will be the results.

Note that appendix A of this guide gives guidance on entering search criteria and the use of the '%' wild card symbol.

For best results, unless you know exactly what you are looking for, you are recommended to search for a combination of operator, service number and borough.

Operator: enter the name of the operator, or an abbreviated form adding the % symbol

Primary town: enter the main town of interest; *however* note that this field only denotes a significant town or city served by a service, and is subjective and hence may not return all the expected results. This field is best used only when looking for local town services. To find all services which serve a particular town, use the route field (see below).

Service number: Enter the service number required, or use the % symbol (see appendix A) to get a wider range of answers.

Route: Enter one or more places on the routes you wish to find. Beware of the following limitations of results from entries:

- 'Luton' will only return a service whose route description is simply Luton and nothing else
- 'Luton%' will return all routes whose description starts with Luton
- '%Luton' will return all routes whose description ends with Luton
- '%Luton%' will return all routes whose description includes Luton
- '%Luton%Dunstable%' will return all routes whose description includes Luton and Dunstable, but only in that order.

Note also that even though a route may pass through a particular village or town, if that place is not mentioned in the route as described in the Archive route list, then it will not be found in a search.

Borough:

Borough is a four character code denoting a county (or unitary authority, or PTE/Combined Authority). A list of codes is included in appendix D. A service can of course operate across more than one borough.

To search for routes in one borough, enter the code bookended by the % symbol, eg %WYKS%. Note that omitting the % at either end will limit the search to only those services which operate completely within the chosen borough.

It is feasible to enter more than one borough (eg %SYKS%WYKS%) but be aware that this will only return those services operating across both boroughs which have their boroughs listed in this order! (A modification to put them all in alphabetical order is on the cards).

The data displayed shows all services which meet the search criteria, showing in each column:

Operator; service number; primary town; route; boroughs served, year started and ended.

The far right column shows the link to the detailed archive list for the service. Click on this for your chosen service and the full history archive record for the service (as far as has been recorded) will be shown. See section 3.6 for more details on viewing the Archive Record screen.

3.3 Find the required service from a list of all services operating within a local authority area

It is possible to view all the services operating in a local authority area, which in many cases may make the search for a timetable easier.

From the website menu, choose 'Local Authority code list'. This will show a list of authorities and to the right a link which, when clicked, will present a list of all services which operate (or have operated) in that area. This shows, in each column:

Operator; service number; primary town; route; boroughs served, year started and ended.

The far right-hand column shows the link to the detailed archive list for the service. Click on this for your chosen service and the full history archive record for the service (as far as has been recorded) will be shown. See section 3.6 for more details on viewing the Archive Record screen.

3.4 Find the required service from a list of all services operating in a particular region

It is also possible to view all the services operating in a wider region (typically several neighbouring counties, or a PTE area, defined in Appendix 5).

From the website menu, choose 'Spreadsheet export'. This will show a list of regions. clicking on the 'view data' link will present a list of all services which operate (or have operated) in that area. This shows, in each column:

Operator; service number; route; brand, service type, boroughs served, primary town; any descriptive notes about the service; date started and ended.

The second column contains the link to route details. Click on this for your chosen service and the full history archive record for the service (as far as has been recorded) will be shown. See section 3.6 for more details on viewing the Archive Record screen.

3.5 Find the required service from advanced filtering of a regional spreadsheet

You can also download a regional spreadsheet (regions as defined in Appendix E) onto your own device. This is very powerful as it means you have the information of all routes in a particular region to hand, and can use it to access archive records and timetable files directly through the website.

To access the spreadsheet containing the routes for a specific region, from the website menu, choose 'Spreadsheet export'. This will show a list of regions. Choose a region, and clicking on the 'spreadsheet' link will present a web version of the spreadsheet.

This contains a list of all services which operate (or have operated) in that area. This shows, in each column:

Operator; service number; route; brand, service type, boroughs served, primary town; any descriptive notes about the service; date started and ended.

You can either access timetables by clicking on the links in the spreadsheet in this format, but it will be much easier if you download the spreadsheet to your own device. This is done by clicking on 'File' (top left) and then 'Download'.

You can then sort the spreadsheet list by any of the columns, and also add filters to narrow down the listing. This can be done in multiple columns giving a focused set of data for selection.

The second column of the spreadsheet contains the link to route details. Click on this for your chosen service and the full history archive record for the service (as far as has been recorded) will be shown. See section 3.6 for more details on viewing the Archive Record screen.

Note that if you retain the spreadsheet on your own device you can continue to use it to access the website directly to view archive records and pdf timetables. However, it will not get updated for any new routes and timetable links – so from time to time (quarterly is recommended) you would need to download a new regional spreadsheet.

3.6 Viewing the Archive Record Screen

The Archive Record screen shows, at top, the chosen operator, service number and route.

The detailed table below shows the full history archive record for the service in each column:

Service number; change date; change code (key in appendix C); timetable file links (explained below); change description (if any).

Appendix B of this guide gives more information about navigating round the results screen.

There can be up to four timetable file links. These are all (in theory) for the same service/timetable change, but may represent different interpretations, for example an operator version, a borough version, a neighbouring borough version etc. Note that there are many instances where neighbouring borough versions of the same cross-borough service may be different.

Click on the file url link to view each pdf timetable. Note that in some cases an error message 'It looks like nothing was found at this location' may appear – this indicates that the pdf timetable file is not available on the system yet (we have not yet loaded all the pdf timetables in the Archive – this is a work-in-progress).

The pdf displayed may be printed using the facility within your pdf viewer software.

4.1 Viewing the history of a group of services (eg a particular operator, or location)

It is possible to view the full history (as far as is held in the Archive) for any combination of operator, borough, or even service number, but beware that if the criteria is set too wide a vast amount of data will be displayed (for example asking for the history of all First service will deliver over 25,000 entries).

From the main menu select 'Search for history' and then enter your search criteria. Note that appendix A of this guide gives guidance on entering search criteria and the use of the '%' wild card symbol.

The results of your search will be displayed, showing in each column:

Operator; service number; route; primary town; file links (see below) and date of the change.

Appendix B of this guide gives more information about navigating round the results screen.

The file links provide access to the pdf timetable files. There can be up to four timetable file links. These are all (in theory) for the same service/timetable change, but may represent different interpretations, for example an operator version, a borough version, a neighbouring borough version etc. Note that there are many instances where neighbouring borough versions of the same cross-borough service may be different; for example if there are significant short workings which operate entirely within one borough these may not be shown in the other borough's timetable!

Appendix A General guidance on how to enter data into the search screens

The search facility is very powerful, but also a bit fussy as to how you enter what you want to search for, so some care is needed. It sounds complicated, but easy when you get used to it.

Single words

If you want to search for something which is a single word, such as 'First', or 'Walsall' then it is fine just to enter that word.

Names or places with spaces

If you wish to search for something with a space in it, such as 'West Bromwich', or 'Notts and Derby' then it is necessary to replace the space(s) with a % symbol, as follows: 'West %Bromwich' or 'Notts%and%Derby'.

Complex names and places

However, if you wish to search for something more complex, eg 'Stratford on Avon' a little more care is needed, as this place may, within the data, be variously described as 'Stratford', 'Stratford on Avon' or 'Stratford upon Avon'. If you enter just 'Stratford' then only those records with the single word Stratford in this particular field will be returned. So, you need to add the % symbol – which effectively denotes 'and any other characters'. Entering 'Stratford%' would return all items including 'Stratford', 'Stratford on Avon' or 'Stratford upon Avon'.

The % symbol also works as a 'wild card' at the beginning; for example entering '%motors' will return a long list of services of operators whose name ends in 'Motors'. (Note that the search engine is not case sensitive).

As an example of the power of this symbol, if you enter %ampt% in the primary town field on the Search for a Route page, you will get any town with this string included – eg Amptill, Brampton, Frampton, Hampton Court, Littlehampton, Wolverhampton etc etc.

Numbers

Similarly with numbers. If you just enter '1' then only routes with this number will be returned; whereas if you enter '1%', not only will you get all route 1, but also 1A, 1B, etc, and also 10, 10A, 11, 101, 102, in fact anything which starts with a 1.

Appendix B General guidance on viewing results

Results are presented in tabular form, and typically only the first ten results are shown. It is possible to change how many items are shown by changing the 'show entries' box top left (10, 25, 50 or 100 entries).

If there are more results than can be shown in one table, at the bottom left of the table it shows you how many results there are in total, and you can click through subsequent pages by selecting from the pages shown bottom right.

Note that links in the tables generally open the next page in a new browser tab. Thus, for example, on the "Search for a route - Route list results" page, several records are displayed, then a click on the relevant "Archive Path" entry (in the column named "Archive path") will open the "Archive records" page in a new tab. This will save you re-entering the initial search criteria if they want to view another record for the same service.

Also, in some places a green "+" symbol is displayed; this indicates that when there is not sufficient space to display all of the columns in a table, but clicking on the green "+" symbol will reveal more detail.

You can sort the results on any web page into order in any of the columns by clicking on the arrows next to the column header. This will sort all the selected data, not just that shown on the current page.

It is possible to print the results using the print facility of your internet browser, but this will only print the results shown in the current web page.

Appendix C Key to codes for type of timetable change

Code	description
nw	A completely new service (route/number/operator combination)
nr	A new route (but number and operator remain the same)
no	A new operator (but number and route remain the same)
ns	A restart of an existing service for a new season
wd	Complete withdrawal of a service (route/number/operator combination)
wr	Cessation of this route, but service continues with a different route, with same operator and number
wo	Cessation of this operator on this route, but another operator(s) either continues to, and/or begins to run the service over the same route with same number.
ws	Cessation of a seasonal service, with the expectation that it will restart in due course. (If it is not expected to return for another season, then 'wd' would be appropriate)
xl	A new timetable file has been produced, but the schedule for this particular service has not changed (used, for example, where a pdf contains multiple routes and not all of them have changed).
xt	A change in timetable for this service
xo	An additional operator(s) has started on this route, and the timetable for this existing operator may (or may not) have changed as a result

Appendix D Key to codes for boroughs/local authorities/PTEs

*NOTE: Those authorities marked with an * are now, for purposes of the archive lists, subsumed into the borough shown on the right. Older records will still use these codes, however.*

Code	County/authorities represented	Now included with
ANGL	Anglesey/Ynys Mon	
BATH	Bath & NE Somerset	
BEDS	Bedfordshire/Central Bedfordshire/Borough of Bedford	
BERK	Berkshire (including Bracknell Forest, Reading, Slough, West Berks, Windsor & Maidenhead, Wokingham)	
BKBN *	Blackburn & Darwen	LANC
BKPL *	Blackpool	LANC
BLAU	Blaenau Gwent	
BRDG	Bridgend	
BRIS	Bristol	
BRKL *	Bracknell	BERK
BRNM *	Bournemouth	DORS
BRTN *	Brighton & Hove	SSUX
BUCK	Buckinghamshire	
CAMB	Cambridgeshire (including Peterborough)	
CARM	Carmarthenshire	
CHES	Cheshire/Cheshire East/Cheshire West	
CNWX	Conwy	
CORN	Cornwall	
CRDF	Cardiff	
CRDG	Cardiganshire/Ceredigion	
CRPH	Caerphilly	
CUMB	Cumbria	
DARL *	Darlington	DRHM
DEVN	Devon	
DNBG	Denbighshire	
DORS	Dorset	
DRBY	Derbyshire	
DRHM	County Durham, Darlington, Tees boroughs	
ESSX	Essex	
ESUX *	East Sussex	SSUX
EXTR *	Exeter	DEVN
EYKS	East Yorkshire	
FLNT	Flint	
GLAM	Vale of Glamorgan	
GLOS	Gloucestershire	
GMCR	Greater Manchester PTE area	
GWND	Gwynedd	
HAMP	Hampshire	
HERE	Herefordshire	
HLTN *	Halton	MRSY
HTFD	Hertfordshire	
HULL *	Hull	EYKS
IOW	Isle of Wight	
KENT	Kent	
LANC	Lancashire	
LEIC	Leicestershire	
LINC	Lincolnshire	

Code	County/authorities represented	Now included with
LUTN	Luton	
MDWY *	Medway	KENT
MKYN	Milton Keynes	
MONM	Monmouthshire	
MRSY	Merseyside	
MRTH	Merthyr Tydfil	
NELC *	NE Lincolnshire	LINC
NEWP	Newport (South Wales)	
NFLK	Norfolk	
NHMP	Northamptonshire	
NLNC *	N Lincolnshire	LINC
NMBR	Northumberland	
NOTT	Nottinghamshire	
NPTT	Neath Port Talbot	
NSOM *	North Somerset	SOME
NYKS	North Yorkshire (including York)	
OXON	Oxfordshire	
PBRO *	Peterborough	CAMB
PEMB	Pembrokeshire	
PLYM	Plymouth	
PWYS	Powys	
RDNG *	Reading	BERK
RHND	Rhondda	
RUTL *	Rutland	LEIC
SGLS	South Gloucestershire	
SHRP	Shropshire	
SLGH *	Slough	BERK
SOME	Somerset	
SRRY	Surrey	
SSUX	Sussex (including East & West, and Brighton & Hove)	
STAF	Staffordshire	
STOK *	Stoke on Trent	STAF
SUFF	Suffolk	
SWAN	Swansea	
SWIN *	Swindon	WILT
SYKS	South Yorkshire (PTE area)	
TEES *	Tees-side	DRHM
THRK *	Thurrock	ESSX
TLFD	Telford	
TORF	Torfaen	
TRBY *	Torbay	DEVN
TYNE	Tyne and Wear (PTE area)	
WARK	Warwickshire	
WBKS *	West Berkshire	BERK
WILT	Wiltshire	
WKGM *	Wokingham	BERK
WMID	West Midlands (PTE area)	
WNSR *	Windsor & Maidenhead	BERK
WORC	Worcestershire	
WRTN	Warrington	
WRXM	Wrexham	
WSUX *	West Sussex	SSUX
WYKS	West Midlands (PTE area)	
YORK *	York (City)	NYKS

Appendix E Counties included in regions in spreadsheet export

Tyne & Wear	Existing PTE region
Merseyside	Existing PTE region
Greater Manchester	Existing PTE region
West Yorkshire	Existing PTE region
South Yorkshire	Existing PTE region
West Midlands	Existing PTE region
Bristol	Bristol, N Somerset, Bath & NE Somerset, South Glos
South West	Cornwall, Devon & Somerset
South Central	Wilts, Dorset, Hants, Berks, IOW
South East	Surrey, Sussex (E&W), Kent
North Wales	Wrexham, Flint, Denbigh, Conwy, Gwynedd, Anglesey
West/Central Wales	Powys, Cardigan, Carmarthen, Pembroke
South Wales	the rest of Welsh counties/unitary authorities
SW Midlands	Hereford, Glos, Worcs
SE Midlands	Warwick, Oxon, Bucks, Herts, Northants
NW Midlands	Staffs, Shropshire, Cheshire
NE Midlands	Derby, Leics, Notts
East	Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Lincs, Cambs
N East	N Yorks, York, Durham, Northumberland
N West	Lancs, Cumbria