

## **Sustainable Travel Options / Bus Linkage to Train Services in Dronfield and Hasland**

Update from Dronfield Green Belt Residents' Group, Dr Lynne Gadsden 18.11.18

### **From reg 19 rep (7112) Distribution of Growth and the Settlement Hierarchy, March 2018:**

*The Sustainability Appraisal 2018, Appendix A, states that all three Green Belt sites proposed for development in Dronfield, "are within the 2km target distance of Dronfield railway station, which is in the centre of town. Prospective residents are anticipated to be able to reach the station quite conveniently via bus." (The 43, 44, 14 and 15 services are mentioned.)*

Timetable links supplied are now outdated, hence fresh searches have been done: Traveline East Midlands, DCC website, TM Travel and Stagecoach websites, calls to Traveline to verify. Telephone operatives stated that these are the two operatives for Dronfield station links. The TM 16A route has been identified by residents, hence this and school buses with public access have also been checked.

**Bus routes for each site are tabulated overleaf.** There are some changes to timing of services since March 2018, but nothing to significantly change overall patchy linkage to commuter trains.

### **Friends of Dronfield Station (FoDS) Community Group Information:**

Gaps in bus connectivity to the railway station has been a longstanding problem, highlighted by FoDS <http://www.friendsofdronfieldstation.org.uk/about-us/#WATTI>

As the FoDS website is not up to date, FoDS Chairperson, Peter Hayward, has offered the following observations regarding past and present problems with viability of services:

"When Dronfield Station first re-opened (1981), bus links with peak-time trains to/from Sheffield **were** provided which served Gosforth, Holmesdale and Hill Top. Subsidised by DCC, these proved (then) not to be viable and were all withdrawn after a couple of years, the Gosforth service lasting the longest." ... "The current basis of public transport in this area is competition, not coordination."

A summary of further comments is provided in Appendix A.

### **Complex Timetabling presents a barrier to passengers finding and using bus services:**

The online timetables (links in Appendix B) are difficult to interpret, even with knowledge of the locality, to get a full picture of options. The 44 has five different routes for example and the nearest 43 stop to the station is 10 minutes' walk away. Services often don't follow simple patterns, particularly at peak times. It has taken considerable time to find all options and cross-check with trains.

### **Summary of key issues raised in hearing statements and previous representations:**

There is a heavy reliance on car usage for other journeys within town, to access services and amenities.

This is due to several factors including steep topography, lack of local amenity in some parts of town (notably no GP surgery, convenience / groceries store in southern estates at Hilltop and Shakespeare.)

**Hence, bus services need to be frequent, fast and convenient to "buck the trend" of car dependency. Generally, there are issues with frequency and convenience with all the services from DR1, 2 and 3.**

**SITE DR1      CHESTERFIELD ROAD, SHAKESPEARE CRESCENT**

The nearest bus stop is Unstone Hill (B6057, becomes Chesterfield Road) adjacent to Halfacre Lane. Estimated walking time from DR1 is 5-10mins. Services from Shakespeare estate also re-checked, as these could be accessed with footpath linkage from the site. Searches verify that very few services operate from here now and no connections to the railway station.

***Walking, cycling and driving times to station from DR1 from google maps:***

Walking - 22 minutes, flat route, 1007 traffic movements between 08:30 and 09:30 hence pollution concerns (Safer Dronfield data, March 2016 – link in Appendix A.) No footpath along B6057 from the site to the bus-stop and for some distance towards the station. Road bordered by long grass verges.

Cycling - 7 minutes (8 spaces in station bike rack)      Driving – 3 minutes

**Table 1: DR1      Bus Connections for Commuter Trains Dronfield to Sheffield**

5 minutes is minimum time necessary to transfer from bus to northbound platform via bridge.

\* = optimum connection wait of 5-19 minutes      \* = connection wait of 20-29 minutes

\* = connection wait of 30-45 minutes. (Waits longer than 45 minutes are considered as no service.)

Train Departures	06:32	07:01	07:18	07:49	08:04	08:27	09:02	10:02
Bus Operator	<span style="background-color: #FF0000;">S44</span>	<span style="background-color: #FF0000;">S44</span>	X	<span style="background-color: #FFFF00;">S44</span>	X	<span style="background-color: #FFFF00;">S44</span>	X	X
Departure time Unstone Hill	<span style="background-color: #FF0000;">05:52</span>	<span style="background-color: #FF0000;">06:25</span>	No service	<span style="background-color: #FFFF00;">07:25</span>	No service	<span style="background-color: #FFFF00;">08:01</span>	No service	No service
Arrival time at train station	<span style="background-color: #FF0000;">05:55</span>	<span style="background-color: #FF0000;">06:28</span>	X	<span style="background-color: #FFFF00;">07:28</span>		<span style="background-color: #FFFF00;">08:05</span>	08:55 arrives	09:55 arrives
Waiting time	<span style="background-color: #FF0000;">37mins</span>	<span style="background-color: #FF0000;">33 mins</span>	X	<span style="background-color: #FFFF00;">21 mins</span>	X	<span style="background-color: #FFFF00;">22 mins</span>	X	X
Train Arrivals	16:14	16:48	17:14	17:55	18:13	19:14	20:11	
Bus Operator	<span style="background-color: #FF0000;">S44</span>	<span style="background-color: #90EE90;">S44</span>	<span style="background-color: #FF0000;">S44</span>	No Service	<span style="background-color: #FF0000;">S44</span>	No buses after 18:51		
Waiting Time	<span style="background-color: #FF0000;">42 mins</span>	<span style="background-color: #90EE90;">8 mins</span>	<span style="background-color: #FF0000;">44 mins</span>	X	<span style="background-color: #FF0000;">38 mins</span>	X	X	
Bus departure time	<span style="background-color: #FF0000;">16:56</span>	<span style="background-color: #90EE90;">16:56</span>	<span style="background-color: #FF0000;">17:58</span>	X	<span style="background-color: #FF0000;">18:51</span>	X	X	
Arrival time Unstone Hill	<span style="background-color: #FF0000;">17:00</span>	<span style="background-color: #90EE90;">17:00</span>	<span style="background-color: #FF0000;">18:02</span>	X	<span style="background-color: #FF0000;">18:55</span>	X	X	

**SITE DR2      ECKINGTON ROAD, COAL ASTON**

Bus stops close to site DR2 include Coal Aston Methodist Church (CAMC), Opp Ferndale Road and Opp Firthwood Road. Estimated walking time from development at DR2 to these stops is 5-10 mins.

***Walking, cycling and driving times to station from DR2 from google maps:***

Walking - 30 mins via Eckington Road / Green Lane, steep hill on return, 637 traffic movements 08:30 - 09:30 along Eckington road. Safer Dronfield data not available for Green Lane - known "hot-spot" for peak traffic (secondary school, several primary schools, Callywhite Lane close to route.)

Cycling - 14 minutes

Driving – 5 minutes

**Table 2: DR2      Bus Connections for Commuter Trains Dronfield to Sheffield**

\* = considered optimum connection wait of 5-19 minutes

\* = connection wait of 20-29 minutes

\* = connection wait of 30-45 minutes

Train Departures	06:32	07:01	07:18	07:49	08:04	08:27	09:02	10:02
Bus Operator	X	X	TM 14	S44	S44	S44	S44	S44
Departure time CAMC	No service	No Service	07:10	07:08	07:47	07:47	No Service	09:41
Arrival time at train station	X	X	07:13	07:17	07:57	07:57	08:56 arrives 09:05	09:50
Waiting time	X	X	5 mins	32 mins	7 mins	30 mins	X	12 mins
<b>Train Arrival Time</b>	<b>16:14</b>	<b>16:48</b>	<b>17:14</b>	<b>17:55</b>	<b>18:13</b>	<b>19:14</b>	<b>20:11</b>	<b>21:11</b>
Bus Operator	TM14/15	S44	TM14	S44	TM14/15	S44	X	S44
Connection Wait Time	30 mins	23 mins	38 mins	13 mins	30 mins	28 mins	No Service	31 mins
Bus departure time	16:44	17:11	17:52	18:08	18:43	19:42	X	21:42
Arrival time	16:49 Ferndale	17:22 CAMC	17:58 Firth-wood	18:19	18:48 Ferndale	19:57	X	21:51

\* = Journey timetabled to take 3 minutes but has 3 stops before station. As connection wait is only 5 minutes, very minor delays at stops could compound, resulting in a missed connection.

**SITE DR3: STUBLEY LANE / STUBLEY HOLLOW**

Nearest bus stop is Stubley Place, estimated walking time from site 3-5 mins. There are no services between this / other feasible stops directly to the station. Stagecoach 43 stops at Wreakes Lane top (WL) near Sainsburys and at the Fire Station (FS), Cemetery Road / Hallows Lane. Both approximately 10 mins walk from railway station. **However, bus route from the Fire Station to Stubley Place is much more circuitous than the route from Wreakes Lane, hence the latter incurs higher carbon emissions.**

**Walking, cycling and driving times to station from DR3 from google maps:**

Walking - 19 mins, moderately flat, 756 traffic movements on High Street between 08:30 and 09:30am, no safer Dronfield data for Stubley Lane.

NOTE: Given the 3-5 minute walk from site to Stubley place bus stop, plus 10-minute walk from Wreakes Lane / Fire Station to the railway station, existing bus options are unlikely to be well used from this site. Those able and willing to walk 13-15 mins for complex bus connections are likely to walk the 19 mins full route.

Cycling – 8 mins

Driving – 5 mins

**Table 3: DR3 Bus Connections for Commuter Trains Dronfield to Sheffield – all Stagecoach 43**

\* = considered optimum connection wait of 5-19 minutes

\* = connection wait of 20-29 minutes

\* = connection wait of 30-45 minutes

Train Departures	06:32	07:01	07:18	07:49	08:04	08:27	09:02	10:02
Departure time Stubley Place	06:07	06:31	06:51	07:21	07:46	08:03	08:36	9:40
Arrival time at WL / FS	06:11 FS	06:34 WL	07:00 FS	07:31 FS	07:49 WL	08:06 WL	08:46 FS	09:43
Cumulative walk & wait time	21 mins	27 mins	18 mins	18 mins	15 mins*	21 mins	26 mins	19 mins
Train Arrivals	16:14	16:48	17:14	17:55	18:13	19:14	20:11	21:11
Cumulative walk & wait time	18 mins	14 mins	30 mins	25 mins	12 mins	30 mins	23 mins	13 mins
Bus departure time	16:32 FS	17:02 WL	17:44 WL	18:20 WL	18:25 FS	19:44 WL	20:34 WL	21:24 WL
Arrival time	16:42	17:04	17:46	18:22	18:35	19:46	20:36	21:26

\* 1 stop after Stubley Place before reaching Wreakes Lane, hence this short connection feasible.

### Walking Time to Railway Station from Alternative, non-Green Belt Sites Suggested in Dronfield:

Sheffield FC, corner of Sheffield Road and Wreakes Lane:	10 mins
Alma Site, Sheffield Road, South of Holmley Lane:	8 mins
Gladys Buxton centre, Oakhill Road	14 mins
Padley and Venables, Callywhite Lane	16 mins

### Bus services connecting settlements in the south of the district to Chesterfield railway station - "Chesterfield HS2 stop":

Timetable link was supplied in MM7 Hearing Statement 22.10.18 – rechecked and services have not changed, hence the same narrative applies:

There are some excellent bus services to Chesterfield HS2 stop already in place from settlements in the south of NED; notably Clay Cross, North Wingfield, Grassmoor and Hasland. These run at least every 30 mins from around 5am until approx. 11pm, increasing to a frequency of every 10-15 mins between 7am and 7pm. These HS2-linked services also extend southwards beyond Clay Cross to Shirland, Higham, Mickley and Stretton, though are less frequent from these settlements.

<https://bustimes.org/services/54-chesterfield-north-wingfield-clay-cross?date=2018-10-01>

Additional note: the precise location of bus stops in relation to specific allocated sites has not been checked. There are other bus services covering the south of NED that have not been analysed in detail. Of note, the TM 16A has a two hourly service connecting Hasland to both Chesterfield and to parts of Dronfield Woodhouse and Dronfield Civic Centre.

### **APPENDIX A: Observations regards bus services to Dronfield Railway station throughout the day from Peter Hayward, Chairperson of Friends of Dronfield Station (from email 18.11.18)**

Overall, “there is **NO** coordination between bus services and local trains although it is possible in some circumstances to use the bus to get to/from the station if you don't mind a long wait.”

“Any link on or off trains is fortuitous, not planned.”

Coal Aston area served by Stagecoach route 44 (Sheffield to Chesterfield) and TM Cross Town service which stops outside railway station. Operates hourly during weekdays until early evening.

Dronfield Woodhouse better served by buses with Stagecoach route 43 (Sheffield to Chesterfield) 7 days a week, every 20mins weekdays and hourly evenings and Sundays. BUT nearest stops to station are at Sainsbury's or Cemetery Road (Fire Station), both about 10mins walk to/from the station.

FoDS also advocate **walking to the station** as most of Dronfield is within a 30-minute walk. (DGBRG supports this but acknowledges that 30 minutes vs 5-10 mins by car from outer reaches of town is difficult to overcome, particularly given the steep return walk home.)

## **APPENDIX B: Links to Traffic Count Data and Timetables**

Safer Dronfield Traffic Count Data March 2016

[file:///C:/Users/Lynne/Documents/Dronfield%20Traffic%20Counts%203rd%20March%202016\[17580\].pdf](file:///C:/Users/Lynne/Documents/Dronfield%20Traffic%20Counts%203rd%20March%202016[17580].pdf)

Train times Dronfield – Sheffield

<https://www.thetrainline.com/train-times/dronfield-to-sheffield>

Train times Dronfield – Chesterfield

<https://www.thetrainline.com/train-times/dronfield-to-chesterfield>

Traveline provides the most comprehensive bus information: DCC website signposts to this link to search for services ran by all operators.

[http://www.travelineeastmidlands.co.uk/em/XSLT\\_SELTT\\_REQUEST?language=en&itdLPxx\\_multiSTT](http://www.travelineeastmidlands.co.uk/em/XSLT_SELTT_REQUEST?language=en&itdLPxx_multiSTT)

☰ Telephone 0871 200 22 33

Stagecoach 43

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/routes/yorkshire/43/chesterfield-sheffield/xuao043.o>

Stagecoach 44

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/routes/yorkshire/44/sheffield-chesterfield/xuao044.i>

TM Travel 14

<https://bustimes.org/services/14-chesterfield-apperknowle-dronfield>

TM Travel 15

<https://bustimes.org/services/15-marsh-lane-apperknowle-dronfield>

TM Travel 16A

<https://bustimes.org/services/16a-broomfield-chesterfield-barlow-dronfield>