

Service 68

Faringdon to Wantage via Longcot, Uffington, Childrey and the Letcombes (Monday to Saturday)

Peak and off-peak service linking Wantage and Faringdon via listed villages. Two off-peak journeys in each direction operate via East Challow (Sarajac Avenue and Hedge Hill Road).

Operator Pulhams

Days of operation Monday to Saturday

Frequency Morning peak journey from Faringdon to Wantage and evening peak return. 3 off-peak journeys in each direction.

Parishes served Faringdon, Little Coxwell, Longcot, Fernham, Uffington, Kingston Lisle, Sparsholt, Childrey, Letcombe Bassett, Letcombe Regis, East Challow, Wantage

Divisions served Grove and Wantage, Shrivenham, Faringdon

Alternative services

The Oxfordshire villages served by service 68 between Wantage and Faringdon have no alternative public transport provision, except for East Challow (A417) which is served by broadly hourly peak/off-peak service 67 (Faringdon – Stanford-in-the-Vale – Wantage) and Oxfordshire County Council service 85 (Wantage area villages circular service: Wednesdays only).

The Uffington, Baulking and Woolstone minibus also links Uffington with Wantage on Wednesdays and Fridays but generally caters for those who may have difficulty using conventional bus services.

Current subsidy per annum £181,350 (inflation increase pending)

Reported patronage for June: 798

The cost per passenger journey is **£18.94**.

Officers' comments

- It is anticipated that peak/off-peak (as now) and off-peak only variants of the timetable will be made available for tender.
- The cost per passenger journey is high, but not unexpected given the service had only been in operation for 7 months.
- Recorded usage of the morning and evening peak services is low and their continuation may depend on prices received.
- If the peak service does continue, are the timings for these journeys suitable (on the understanding that with a single vehicle operation, only one morning peak journey is feasible)?
- The timing and start point of the first off-peak inbound journey to Wantage is to a large degree dictated by the arrival time of the morning peak arrival in Wantage.
- Is continued provision for Longcot (which necessitates a lengthy detour) worthwhile given that fewer than one passenger per day on average uses the service?

Current timetable

SERVICE 68

Monday to Saturday

Faringdon Market Place	0740	0930	1130	1430
Longcot Green	0750	0940	1140	1440
Fernham Manor Farm Close	0754	0944	1144	1444
Uffington Post Office	0801	0951	1151	1451
Kingston Lisle Hill View	0806	0956	1156	1456
Kingston Lisle Telephone Box	0807	0957	1157	1457
Westcot Letter Box	0811	1001	1201	1501
Sparsholt Bus Shelter	0813	1003	1203	1503
Childrey Village Hall	0817	1007	1207	1507
Letcombe Bassett Gramps Hill	0823	1013	1213	1513
Letcombe Regis Church	0825	1015	1215	1515
East Challow Sarajac Avenue	----	1019	1219	----
Wantage Market Place	0833	1024	1224	1523
Wantage Market Place	----	1230	1530	1730
East Challow Sarajac Avenue	----	1235	1535	----
Letcombe Regis Church	----	1239	1539	1735
Letcombe Bassett Gramps Hill	----	1242	1542	1738
Childrey Village Hall	----	1248	1548	1744
Sparsholt Bus Shelter	----	1252	1552	1748
Westcot Letter Box	----	1254	1554	1750
Kingston Lisle Telephone Box	----	1258	1558	1754
Kingston Lisle Hill View	----	1259	1559	1755
Uffington Post Office	0900	1304	1604	1800
Fernham Manor Farm Close	0907	1311	1611	1807
Longcot Green	0911	1315	1615	1811
Faringdon Market Place	0921	1325	1625	1821

Service 68**Recorded patronage June 2024**

<i>Location</i>	<i>Total passengers June 2024</i>	<i>Daily average</i>	<i>Morning peak total</i>	<i>Morning peak average</i>	<i>Saturday total</i>	<i>Saturday average</i>
Childrey	65	2.6	2	<1	7	1.4
East Challow	21	<1	0	<1	5	1
<i>Faringdon</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>2.4</i>
Fernham	10	<1	0	0	2	<1
Kingston Lisle	23	<1	4	<1	4	<1
Letcombe Bassett	13	<1	1	<1	5	1
Letcombe Regis	87	3.3	5	<1	16	3.2
Little Coxwell	87	3.3	21	1	0	0
Longcot	12	<1	0	0	0	0
Sparsholt	31	1.2	7	<1	3	<1
Uffington	78	3.0	8	<1	30	6
<i>Wantage</i>	<i>298</i>	<i>11.5</i>	<i>----</i>	<i>----</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>9.6</i>
Westcot	8	<1	0	0	2	<1

Village locations in bold

Service 108

Oxford to Bicester via Forest Hill, Stanton St John, Beckley, Horton cum Studley and Piddington (Monday to Saturday)

Peak and off-peak service linking Forest Hill, Stanton St John, Beckley and Horton cum Studley with Oxford. Off-peak service linking Horton cum Studley, Piddington and Blackthorn with Bicester.

Operator Oxford Bus Company

Days of operation Monday to Saturday

Frequency Morning/evening peak service to/from Oxford. Off-peak services to/from Oxford and Bicester

Parishes served Risinghurst and Sandhills, Forest Hill, Stanton St John, Beckley, Horton cum Studley, Piddington, Blackthorn and Bicester

Divisions served Headington and Quarry, Barton Sandhills and Risinghurst, Wheatley, Otmoor, Ploughley, Bicester Town

Alternative services

The Oxfordshire villages served by service 108 between Oxford and Bicester have no alternative public transport provision, except areas of Ambrosden which are only served due to their location on the most logical route between Blackthorn and Bicester. Langford is also served by Ability CIC service 108: the two services offer four journeys between Langford and Bicester in combination.

Current subsidy per annum £190,650 (inflation increase pending)

Reported patronage for June: 1,354

The cost per passenger journey is **£11.73**.

Officers' comments

- There is no evidence of persistent reliability issues with the current timetable. However, officers will consult with the operator prior to re-tendering the contract in case minor modifications will be helpful.
- The cost per passenger journey is high, but not unexpected given the service had only been in operation for 7 months.
- Occasional capacity issues have been reported with the 108 service. As a result, it is intended that two versions of the specification will be made available for tender to explore the possibility of operation with a slightly larger vehicle (around 25 seats). However, it is not intended that the bus will replace existing provision to schools in Headington and Oxford.
- It has been suggested that the service could potentially revert to its former route in Stanton St John, operating via the B4027 instead of Middle Road and Cox Lane. Officers are keen to hear from Stanton St John Parish Council on this issue.
- Usage from Blackthorn and Piddington is disappointing (fewer than one passenger per day on average).

Current timetable

SERVICE 108

Monday to Saturday

Bicester Pioneer Square stop 1	----	----	1120	1430	----
Langford Medical Practice	----	----	1130	1440	----
Blackthorn Bus Shelter	----	----	----	1449	----
Piddington Bus Shelter	----	----	----	1454	----
Boarstall St James's Church	----	----	1142	1500	----
Horton-cum-Studley Forge Close	0727	0915	1147	1505	----
Beckley The Abingdon Arms	0735	0923	----	----	----
Forest Hill Powell Close	0745	0932	----	----	1614
Stanton St John Village Shop	0749	0936	----	----	1618
Beckley The Abingdon Arms	----	----	----	----	1623
Headington Shops stop HS2	0806	0946	1200	1518	1633
Brookes University stop B5	0811	0951	1205	1523	1638
Oxford Carfax	0826	1001	1215	1538	1653
Oxford Turl Street stop T1	----	1010	1310	1550	1735
Brookes University stop B2	----	1021	1321	1601	1751
Headington Shops stop HS6	----	1025	1325	1605	1755
Forest Hill Powell Close	----	----	1334	1614	1804
Stanton St John Village Shop	----	----	1338	1618	1808
Beckley The Abingdon Arms	----	----	1343	1623	1813
Horton-cum-Studley Forge Close	----	1035	1350	----	1820
Boarstall St James's Church	----	1040	1355	----	----
Piddington Bus Shelter	----	1046	----	----	----
Blackthorn Bus Shelter	----	1051	----	----	----
Langford Medical Practice	----	1100	1410	----	----
Bicester Pioneer Square	----	1110	1420	----	----

Service 108**Recorded patronage June 2024**

Location	Total Passengers June 2024	Daily average	Morning peak total	Morning peak average	Saturday total	Saturday average
Ambrosden	2	<1			0	0
Barton (Stowford Farm)	60	2.4				
Beckley	98	3.9	22	1.1	6	6
<i>Bicester</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>2.0</i>				
Blackthorn	7	<1			0	0
<i>Boarstall</i>	<i>1</i>	<i><1</i>			<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Brookes University/Headington</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>4.7</i>				
Forest Hill	136	5.4	20	1	19	3.8
<i>Headington</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>10.0</i>				
Horton-cum-Studley	91	3.6	8	0.4	18	3.6
Langford Village	72	2.9			11	2.2
<i>Oxford City Centre</i>	<i>242</i>	<i>9.7</i>				
Piddington	15	0.6			1	<1
<i>St Clements</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>3.1</i>				
Stanton St John	133	5.3	51	2.55	24	4.8
<i>Thornhill P&R</i>	<i>1</i>	<i><1</i>				
Village locations in bold						

Service 122

Watlington to Reading via Nettlebed, Rotherfield Peppard and Sonning Common

Service 123

Watlington to Reading via Stoke Row, Checkendon and Kidmore End

Shoppers' services linking Watlington with Reading.

Operator	Red Rose Travel
Days of operation	Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Frequency	One return trip on services 122 and 123, plus an afternoon 'positioning' journey from Watlington to Reading on service 122
Parishes served	Watlington, Swyncombe, Nettlebed, Stoke Row, Checkendon, Highmoor, Rotherfield Peppard, Sonning Common, Kidmore End
Divisions served	Chalgrove and Watlington, Sonning Common, Goring

Alternative services

Watlington is served by the following additional services:

- Daily service 11 to Cowley and Oxford (broadly hourly from morning to early evening Monday to Saturday, with four journeys each way on Sunday).
- Tuesday and Thursday services 126 and 127 to Thame (two return journeys). **These services are also included in this consultation.**
- Friday-only service 137 to Wallingford (single return journey).

Nettlebed is linked with Henley, Wallingford, Didcot and Abingdon by daily Thames Travel services 33/33A (broadly hourly from morning to early evening).

Stoke Row, Checkendon and Rotherfield Peppard are linked with Henley by Oxfordshire County Council service H1 (Thursday only: single return journey).

Sonning Common is linked with Reading by daily service 25/25A (operates half-hourly Monday to Saturday, hourly on Sunday).

Services 122/123 provide the only timetabled bus services for Cookley Green, Park Corner, Highmoor, Exlade Street, Gallowstree Common, Kidmore End and Chalkhouse Green.

Current subsidy per annum £86,436 (includes services 126 and 127: inflation increase pending)

Reported patronage for June:

Service 122 – 112

Service 123 – 27

Based on the above and an approximate price per day of £341 for services 122 and 123, the cost per passenger journey is **£29.43**.

Officers' comments

- Officers intend to re-tender services 122 and 123 broadly on the current basis and hope that with patronage now a known quantity tender prices (and therefore the cost per passenger journey) will reduce to a degree.
- The cost per passenger journey is very high, but not unexpected given the service had only been in operation for 7 months. However, this would need to improve over the new contract period to secure ongoing continuation.

Current timetables

SERVICE 122

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Watlington Library	0900	1245
Cookley Green, Bus Shelter	0907	1252
Nettlebed, The Green	0915	1300
Highmoor Cross, Holly Close	0918	1303
Satwell, The Lamb	0920	1305
Rotherfield Peppard, Red Lion	0923	1308
Sonning Common, Sedgewell Road	0926	1311
Emmer Green, The Pond	0931	1316
Caversham, Church Street	0936	1321
Reading, Friar Street	0946	1331

Reading, Friar Street	1200
Caversham, Church Street	1206
Emmer Green, The Pond	1210
Sonning Common, Sedgewell Road	1215
Rotherfield Peppard, Red Lion	1218
Satwell, The Lamb	1221
Highmoor Cross, Holly Close	1223
Nettlebed, The Green	1226
Cookley Green, Bus Shelter	1234
Watlington Library	1241

SERVICE 123

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Stoke Row, Church View	1019
Checkendon, Whitehall Lane	1022
Gallowstree Common, Orchard Field	1031
Kidmore End, St Johns Church	1034
Chalkhouse Green Lane	1037
Emmer Green, The Pond	1042
Caversham, Church Street	1047
Reading, Friar Street	1057

Reading, Friar Street	1335
Caversham, Church Street	1341
Emmer Green, The Pond	1345
Chalkhouse Green Lane	1349
Kidmore End, St Johns Church	1353
Gallowstree Common, Orchard Field	1356
Checkendon, Whitehall Lane	1405
Stoke Row, Church View	1408
Highmoor Cross, Holly Close	1412
Nettlebed, The Green	1415
Cookley Green, Bus Shelter	1423
Watlington Library	1430

Service 126

Watlington to Thame via Chalgrove, Stadhampton, Little Milton, the Haseleys, Great Milton and Moreton

Service 127

Watlington to Thame via Lewknor, South Weston, Postcombe, Tetsworth and Milton Common

Shoppers' services linking Watlington with Thame.

Operator Red Rose Travel

Days of operation Tuesday and Thursday

Frequency One return trip on each of services 126 and 127.

Parishes served Watlington, Cuxham, Chalgrove, Stadhampton, Pyrton, Shirburn, Lewknor, Postcombe, Tetsworth, Great Haseley, Great Milton, Little Milton, Thame.

Divisions served Chalgrove and Watlington, Thame and Chinnor.

Alternative services

Watlington is served by the following additional services:

- Daily service 11 to Cowley and Oxford (broadly hourly from morning to early evening Monday to Saturday, with four journeys each way on Sunday).
- Monday, Wednesday and Friday services 122 and 123 to Reading (one outbound and two return trips on services 122 and 123, plus an afternoon 'positioning' journey from Watlington to Reading on service 122). **These services are also included in this consultation.**
- Friday-only service 137 to Wallingford (single return journey).

Cuxham, Chalgrove and Stadhampton are linked with Cowley and Oxford by daily service 11 (broadly hourly from morning to early evening Monday to Saturday, with four journeys each way on Sunday).

Lewknor (M40 Bus Interchange) is linked with Oxford by the daily frequent Oxford Tube service.

Postcombe, Tetsworth and Milton Common are linked with Oxford and Chinnor by Monday to Friday service 275 (morning peak journey to Oxford and evening return, plus three off-peak round trips).

Great Milton is linked with Cowley and Oxford by daily hourly service 46 (early morning until late night).

Services 126 and 127 provide the only timetabled bus services for Pyrton, Shirburn, Lewknor village, South Weston, Great Haseley, Little Haseley and Moreton.

Current subsidy per annum £86,436 (includes services 126 and 127: inflation increase pending)

Reported patronage for June:

Service 126 – 88

Service 127 – 101

Based on the above and an approximate price per day of £341 for services 126 and 127, the cost per passenger journey is **£14.43**.

Officers' comments

- Officers intend to re-tender services 126 and 127 broadly on the current basis and hope that with patronage now a known quantity tender prices (and therefore the cost per passenger journey) will reduce to a degree.
- The cost per passenger journey is high, but not unexpected given the service had only been in operation for 7 months.
- Given that the majority of use of service 126/127 is on Tuesday, is the Thursday service worth retaining or is there a potential alternative use of the bus on Thursdays?

Current timetables

SERVICE 126

Tuesday and Thursday

Watlington Library	0900
Cuxham, Half Moon	0904
Chalgrove, Red Lion	0910
Stadhampton, Green	0915
Little Milton, Old Field	0921
Little Milton, Old Chapel	0923
Little Haseley, Green	0927
Great Haseley, Horse Close Cottages	0930
Great Milton, The Bull	0936
Moreton, War Memorial	0946
Thame, Town Hall	0953

Thame, Town Hall	1210
Moreton, War Memorial	1218
Great Milton, The Bull	1228
Great Haseley, Horse Close Cottages	1234
Little Haseley, Green	1237
Little Milton, Old Chapel	1241
Little Milton, Old Field	1243
Stadhampton, Green	1247
Chalgrove, Red Lion	1252
Cuxham, Half Moon	1258
Watlington Library	1302

SERVICE 127

Tuesday and Thursday

Watlington Library	1040
Shirburn, Castle Road	1045
Lewknor, Leathern Bottel	1048
South Weston, Rectory Lane	1050
Postcombe, Salt Lane	1053
Tetsworth, Green	1058
Milton Common, Common Cottage	1103
Thame, Town Hall	1115

Thame, Town Hall	1330
Milton Common, Common Cottage	1342
Tetsworth, Green	1347
Postcombe, Salt Lane	1352
South Weston, Rectory Lane	1355
Lewknor, Leathern Bottel	1357
Shirburn, Castle Road	1400
Watlington Library	1405

Service 320

Chinnor to Princes Risborough via Bledlow and Longwick

Morning and evening peak service linking Chinnor with rail services at Princes Risborough.

Operator Red Rose Travel

Days of operation Monday to Friday

Frequency Two morning peak trips from Chinnor to Princes Risborough, three evening peak journeys from Princes Risborough to Chinnor plus associated return journeys.

Parishes served Chinnor

Divisions served Thame and Chinnor.

Alternative services

Although daily service 40 (hourly Monday to Saturday, two-hourly Sunday) offers peak hour journeys linking Chinnor with High Wycombe, they serve the bus station rather than the rail station and thus are of little benefit to rail commuters.

Chinnor is also linked with High Wycombe by service 331 (schooldays plus off-peak journeys on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday), with Oxford by Monday to Friday service 275 (three off-peak round trips), and with Princes Risborough by Wednesday and Friday service 5 (three off-peak round trips).

Current subsidy per annum £73,836 (inflation increase pending)

Note: Buckinghamshire Council makes a proportionate contribution to this service.

Reported patronage for June: 314

Based on the above and an approximate price per day of £292 for service 320, the cost per passenger journey is **£18.60**.

Officers' comments

- Officers intend to re-tender service 320 broadly on the current basis and hope that with patronage now a known quantity tender prices (and therefore the cost per passenger journey) will reduce to a degree.
- The cost per passenger journey is very high and disappointing given that the service (in some form) has been in operation for a significant period of time. A considerable improvement in usage is required to maintain this service in the long term.

Current timetable

Service 320

Monday to Friday

Chinnor, Red Kite Road	0620	0720	1800	1900
Chinnor, Estover Way	0622	0724	1804	1904
Chinnor, The Wheatsheaf	0625	0725	1805	1905
Chinnor, Red Lion	0628	0728	1808	1908
Bledlow, Village Hall	0631	0731	1811	1911
Longwick, Chestnut Way	0634	0734	1814	1914
Princes Risborough Railway Station	0641	0741	1821	1921
Princes Risborough Railway Station	0650	1730	1830	1930
Longwick, Chestnut Way	0656	1736	1836	1936
Bledlow, Village Hall	0700	1740	1840	1940
Chinnor, Springfield Gardens	0703	1743	1843	1943
Chinnor, Estover Way	0705	1745	1845	1945
Chinnor, The Wheatsheaf	0706	1746	1846	1946
Chinnor, Red Kite Road	0710	1750	1850	1950