

HAMBLETON DIAMOND NETWORK

HarBus Vision for Hambleton & Richmondshire Bus Services

Produced by HarBus (Hambleton & Richmondshire Bus Users Group)

Updated in July 2025 to take account of the Catterick Integrated Care Centre planned to open in 2026

Updated in July 2026 to include all other bus services in Richmond, Northallerton and Thirsk.



Introduction

The Yorkshire Dales and the rural east towards the A1 is one of the most beautiful areas of England, as befits such a jewel we believe that the area should have a bus service to match that enables residents and visitors to travel the area easily and without stress. Sadly, this is not currently the case. By whatever criteria used bus services in this area are inadequate. They neither meet the needs of residents going about their daily business nor of visitors wishing to enjoy the delights of the area.

The reasons for this are many, and include services:

- not running at times suitable for travelling to/from employment, education or medical facilities;
- not connecting with other services;
- not going where people want to go;
- not running in the evening or on Sundays;
- being run with unsuitable vehicles that cannot cope with wheelchairs, mobility scooters, luggage or groups of people and much more beside.

The result of this is:

- increased rural isolation and social exclusion;
- traffic congestion and increased pollution;
- inability to access employment opportunities;
- the impossibility of making a lifestyle choice and eschewing the private car for public transport.

We believe that a modest investment could turn the situation round and thus improve the quality of life for residents and visitors alike by increasing the choices available to them. At the heart of the proposal is a network of bus services running at regular intervals throughout the area all day seven days a week, thus reflecting the society in which we now live. In addition, services would connect at Leyburn, Masham, Northallerton, Richmond, Ripon and Thirsk making travel within the area and beyond much easier.

Central to achieving this is the **Hambleton Diamond** comprising services between Richmond, Leyburn, Masham and Ripon; Ripon, Thirsk & Northallerton; and Northallerton & Richmond. The services are discrete but the vehicles would continue across Richmond, Ripon and Northallerton after a short break thus guaranteeing onward connections around the diamond. On the way they also serve other significant places such as Catterick Garrison and the new Integrated Care Centre there, Middleham and Alanbrooke Barracks. Passengers would not need to change buses and through fares would be available between any bus stops on the diamond.

Crossing the **Hambleton Diamond** at Northallerton and Leyburn is the **Wensleydale Pearl** linking Northallerton, Bedale and Leyburn with villages in Upper Wensleydale on its way to Hawes. Guaranteed connections at Leyburn enable travel between Wensleydale and Catterick Garrison, Richmond, Masham or Ripon with just one change of bus. Branching off the **Wensleydale Pearl** at Bedale is the **Masham Pearl** providing through services between Northallerton Bedale and Masham.

Linking with the **Hambleton Diamond** at Richmond is the **Swaledale Ruby**. This is an improved version of the Swaledale Shuttle running from Richmond right through Swaledale to Muker, Keld and Kirkby Stephen. On Summer Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays alternate journeys would cross the Buttertubs Pass to Hawes.

Completing the package are improvements to the **Garsdale Station Shuttle** from Hawes to Garsdale Station providing connections with all trains at Garsdale Station.

The **Hambleton Diamond** should connect at Northallerton, Thirsk, Richmond and Ripon with the wider bus network, with improvements designed on a similar basis.

A real and tangible benefit of the scheme is that it improves the bus service offering in almost every community in the Hambleton and Richmondshire area - a very significant proportion of the population of rural North Yorkshire. In doing so it moves the perception of the bus being the means of travel for those who have no other option to one of the bus being a vital tool in improving quality of life and responding to the challenge of climate change.

To maximise the benefit through fares should be available to passengers changing buses at Hawes, Leyburn, Masham or Northallerton as well as between any stops on the Diamond. Additionally daily, weekly and monthly tickets should be available covering all bus services in the area, with payment available by, cash, card and contactless.

The full network we are proposing increases the number of buses required from thirteen to seventeen on weekdays and from one to seven on Sundays. Crucial to its operation is that all services in each group are run by the same operator in order for vehicles to run through from one route to another even if there is a change of driver.

This scheme offers the opportunity to begin improvements incrementally by initially running the Hambleton Diamond at a lower frequency together with the Wensleydale Pearl. This would be followed by incremental increases as resources permit until the full network is achieved.

The next section details the new network and is followed by an outline map and full route descriptions and finally indicative timetables for each service.

Northern & Eastern Dales Bus Services

 Hambleton Diamond	Connecting the Market Towns & Catterick Integrated Care Centre		
	164 Northallerton - Kirkby Fleetham - Catterick Village - Catterick Garrison CICC - Richmond		<i>two-hourly Monday to Saturday</i>
	165 Northallerton - Great Langton - Scorton - Richmond		<i>two-hourly Monday to Saturday</i>
	169 Richmond - Leyburn - Masham - Nosterfield - Ripon		<i>two-hourly Monday to Saturday</i>
	168 Richmond - Catterick Garrison CICC - Leyburn - Masham - Ripon		<i>two-hourly Monday to Saturday</i>
	160 Ripon - Dishforth - Alanbrooke - Thirsk - South Kilvington - Northallerton		<i>two-hourly Monday to Saturday</i>
	161 Ripon - Dishforth - Thorpefield - Thirsk - South Otterington - Northallerton		<i>two-hourly Monday to Saturday</i>
	Current routes need five vehicles New routes need eight vehicles Gives an improved service throughout		
Operationally the routes would be linked as 160/165/168/160 etc and 161/164/169/161 etc			
<i>A two hourly Diamond on 160/165/168/160 etc would operate on Sundays and Bank Holidays requiring four vehicles</i>			
 Wensleydale Pearl	Connecting Wensleydale		
	156 Northallerton - Bedale - Finghall - Leyburn - West Burton - Aysgarth - Bainbridge - Hawes		<i>two-hourly Monday to Saturday</i>
	157 Northallerton - Bedale - Hunton - Leyburn - Redmire - Askrigg - Bainbridge - Hawes		<i>two-hourly Monday to Saturday</i>
	Current routes need four vehicles New route needs four vehicles Gives an improved service west of Bedale		
	<i>On Sundays and Bank Holidays a two-hourly service would operate alternately by each route</i>		
Current service requires one vehicle Revised service requires two vehicles Gives an improved service throughout			



Masham Pearl

Connecting Northallerton, Bedale and Masham

153 Northallerton - Leeming Village - Bedale - Thornton Watlass - Snape - Masham

two-hourly Monday to Saturday

154 Northallerton - Bedale - Burneston - Snape - Masham

two-hourly Monday to Saturday

Current route needs two vehicles

New routes need two vehicles

Gives an improved service Bedale to Masham

A two-hourly service on Pearl 153 would operate on Sundays and Bank Holidays requiring one vehicle



Swaledale Ruby

Connecting Swaledale with Richmond, Catterick Integrated Care Centre and Kirkby Stephen

130 Catterick CICC - Richmond - Reeth - Swaledale - Muker

every ninety minutes Monday to Saturday

130 extends from Muker via Buttertubs to Hawes on Summer Saturdays, Sundays & Bank Hols

every three hours

131 extension of 130 from Muker to Keld and Kirkby Stephen

every three hours

Current route needs one vehicle

New routes need two vehicles

Gives an improved service throughout

The Summer Saturday, Sunday and Bank holiday service would require two vehicles

Garsdale Station Shuttle

Connecting Wensleydale with the Leeds - Settle - Carlisle Railway

150 (Aysgarth - Askrigg - Bainbridge first westbound & last eastbound journey only) - Hawes - Garsdale Station

Daily

Current service requires one vehicle

New service requires one vehicle

Notes:

Services on all routes should run all day and into the evening.

Crucial to this scheme the timetables would be arranged so that east and west bound Wensleydale Pearl 156 & 157's and north and south bound Hambleton Diamond 168's & 169's all pass in Leyburn thus providing connections in all directions.

Northallerton to Bedale would see a regular service every thirty minutes provided by the Masham and Wensleydale Pearl on Mondays to Saturdays and an hourly service on Sunday.

These improvements could be introduced incrementally with: -

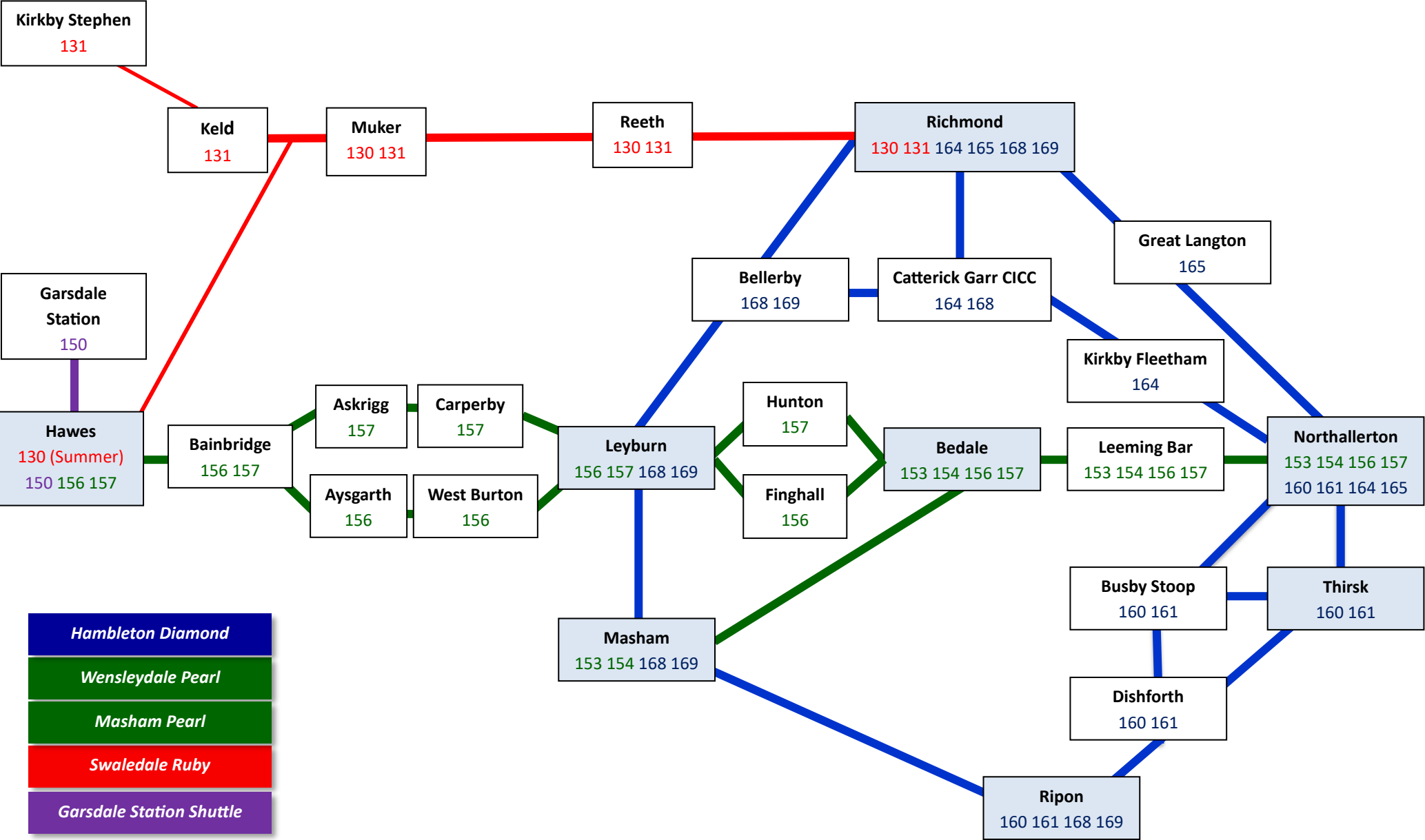
- the Hambleton Diamond initially running two-hourly not hourly
- the Bedale to Masham section of the Masham Pearl only running three days a week.

It may also be necessary to split the 156/157 at Bedale on Mondays to Saturdays initially

The vehicles used would need to be able to cope with both regular travellers and occasional travellers that might include walkers, wheelchairs, pushchairs, shopping trolleys, luggage etc. It is expected that this improved integrated network will result in passenger growth. These factors suggest a 9.8m (35 seats) single-decker as a minimum on most services. Turning space at Garsdale Station limits the vehicle size on the Garsdale Station Shuttle to 8.5m (27 seats). All should have GPS-tracking.

Hambleton Diamond Bus Network Diagrammatic Map

See next section for full route descriptions



Hambleton Diamond Network Route Descriptions

130	Swaledale Ruby	Daily	RICHMOND - Swaleview - Grinton - Reeth - Low Row - Gunnerside - Muker - Thwaite - Keld continuing on Summer weekends to Buttertubs - HAWES
131	Swaledale Ruby	Daily	RICHMOND - Hudswell - Downholme - Grinton - Reeth - Low Row - Gunnerside - Muker - Thwaite - Keld - KIRKBY STEPHEN
150	Garsdale Station Shuttle	Daily	HAWES - Hardraw - Moorcock - GARSDALE STATION
153	Masham Pearl	Daily	NORTHALLERTON - Ainderby Steeple - Morton-on-Swale - Leeming Bar - Leeming Village - Londonderry - Bedale - Burrill - Thornton Watlass - Snape - Well - MASHAM
154	Masham Pearl	NSuBH	NORTHALLERTON - Ainderby Steeple - Morton-on-Swale - Leeming Bar - Bedale - Exelby - Burneston - Carthorpe - Snape - Well - MASHAM
156	Wensleydale Pearl	Daily	NORTHALLERTON- Ainderby Steeple - Morton-on-Swale - Leeming Bar - Bedale - Crakehall - Patrick Brompton - Newton-le-Willows - Finghall - Spennithorne - Harmby - LEYBURN - Wensley - West Witton - West Burton - Thoraby - Aysgarth - Bainbridge - HAWES - Gayle
157	Wensleydale Pearl	Daily	NORTHALLERTON- Ainderby Steeple - Morton-on-Swale - Leeming Bar - Bedale - Crakehall - Patrick Brompton - Hunton - Constable Burton - Harmby - LEYBURN - Wensley - Preston-under-Scar - Redmire - Castle Bolton - Carperby - Woodhall - Askrigg - Bainbridge - HAWES - Gayle
160	Hambleton Diamond	Daily	RIPON - Sharrow - Dishforth - Rainton - Asenby - Topcliffe - Alanbrooke - Busby Stoop - Carlton Miniott - THIRSK - South Kilvington - Thornton-le-Street - NORTHALLERTON (<i>bus continues as 165</i>)
161	Hambleton Diamond	NSuBH	RIPON - Sharrow - Dishforth - Rainton - Asenby - Topcliffe - Thorpefield - THIRSK Allenbrooke -Carlton Miniott - Busby Stoop - Sandhutton - South Otterington - Thornton-le-Moor - Thornton-le-Beans - NORTHALLERTON (<i>bus continues as 164</i>)
164	Hambleton Diamond	NSuBH	NORTHALLERTON - Scruton - Great Fencote - Kirkby Fleetham - Marne - Catterick Village - Tunstall - Scotton - Catterick Garrison CICC - RICHMOND (<i>bus continues as 169</i>)
165	Hambleton Diamond	Daily	NORTHALLERTON - Yafforth - Great Langton - Kiplin Hall - Bolton-on-Swale - Scorton - Brompton-on-Swale - RICHMOND (<i>bus continues as 168</i>)
168	Hambleton Diamond	Daily	RICHMOND - Catterick Garrison CICC - Bellerby - LEYBURN - Middleham - East Witton - MASHAM - West Tanfield - North Stainley - Lightwater Valley - North Lees - RIPON (<i>bus continues as 160</i>)
169	Hambleton Diamond	NSuBH	RICHMOND - Downholme - Bellerby - LEYBURN - Middleham - East Witton - MASHAM - Thornborough - Nosterfield - West Tanfield - North Stainley - Lightwater Valley - North Lees - RIPON (<i>bus continues as 161</i>)

Notes: NSuBH = Not Sundays or Bank Holidays

Beyond The Diamond

At four key places the Hambleton Diamond meets other bus services. It is important that these other services connect with the Hambleton Diamond Plus services listed above. These services are listed below

Northallerton

172	Daily	NORTHALLERTON – Brompton – The Cowtons – DARLINGTON	2 hrly
173	NSuBH	NORTHALLERTON – Brompton – A167 – DARLINGTON	2hrly
		<i>Running alternate buses fast via the A167 provides a much needed improvement. Current route requires one vehicle, new routes require two vehicles</i>	
174	Daily	NORTHALLERTON TOWN BUS linking all residential areas with the High Street, Station & Medical Facilities	half-hrly (hrly SuBH)
		<i>The current facility is not meeting the needs of a growing town. This provides a very welcome improvement</i>	
		<i>Current route requires one vehicle, new routes require two vehicles,</i>	
180/189	Daily	NORTHALLERTON – Brompton – Osmotherley – Hutton Rudby or Great Broughton – Stokesley – Great Ayton – GUISBOROUGH	each 2 hrly (4hrly SuBH)
		<i>replaces 18/80/89 operating as a through service across Stokesley to aid connectivity. Current routes require two vehicles, new routes require three vehicles</i>	
190	Daily	NORTHALLERTON – Brompton – A19 – James Cook Hospital – MIDDLESBROUGH	2 hrly NEW ROUTE
		<i>It is essential that Northallerton has a direct link to James Cook Hospital both for out-patients and visitors. Requires one vehicle</i>	

Richmond

X24/X26	Daily	DARLINGTON – Scotch Crnr – Skeeby – Richmond – Catterick Garrison – Colburn – Catterick Village – Scotch Crnr – DARLINGTON	hrly (2 Hrly SuBH)
X25/X27	Daily	DARLINGTON – Scotch Crnr – Skeeby – Richmond – Catterick Garrison – Scotton – Catterick Village – Moulton – DARLINGTON	hrly (2 Hrly SuBH)
		<i>Extending the current services between Darlington Richmond and Catterick Garrison through the existing and new housing developments in the Catterick area and back to Darlington provides a significant and much needed boost to public transport in the area. Replaces X26/X27/34</i>	
		<i>Current routes require six vehicle, new routes require eight vehicles</i>	
29	NSuBH	RICHMOND – Aldborough St John – Manfield – Cleasby – DARLINGTON	2 hrly
		<i>no change suggested. Current and new route requires one vehicle</i>	
31	NSuBH	RICHMOND TOWN BUS same routes as current 31A/31B	hrly
		<i>extended hours of operation to include peak hour journeys is vital. Current and new route requires one vehicle</i>	
79	Daily	RICHMOND – Ravensworth – Dalton – Newsham – Dalton Bridge – BARNARD CASTLE	2 hrly
		<i>The addition of a Sunday service is proposed. Current and new route requires one vehicle</i>	

Thirsk

30	Daily	THIRSK - Raskelf – Easingwold – Tollerton – Shipton – YORK	2 hrly
30X	NSuBH	THIRSK – Easingwold – Shipton – York	2 Hrly
		<i>Extended hours of operation and A Sunday service are essential. Current and new routes 30/30X/32 require three vehicles.</i>	
32	Daily	THIRSK TOWN BUS linking all residential areas in Thirsk & Sowerby with Thirsk Station and Market Place	hrly
		<i>A dedicated link from Thirsk station to all residential areas is vital</i>	
35-39		These are the current infrequent, certain days only, Thirsk village services 59/60/60A/147/150 renumbered. No timetable changes	

Ripon *No change in vehicle requirements*

Ripon is outside the HarBus area but strategically important as a place of employment, retail, leisure and onward connectivity

Bus services here are markedly better than in the HarBus area but would benefit from an evening and Sunday service on the route to Boroughbridge and York

36	Daily	RIPON – Harrogate – LEEDS	half hrly (hrly evenings)
		<i>no change</i>	

82-84	Daily	RIPON – Boroughbridge – YORK	hrly (2hrly SuBH)
		<i>extended hours of operation and a Sunday service needed, with service extending to Fountains Abbey</i>	

182	NSuBH	RIPON – KNARESBOROUGH	2 hrly
		<i>no change</i>	

Ripon City and local services continue unchanged

Two further areas need consideration:

Stokesley

In addition to the 180/189 listed under Northallerton:

28A	Daily	STOKESLEY – Great Ayton – Nunthorpe – James Cook Hospital – MIDDLESBROUGH	hrly (2 hrly SuBH)
		<i>extended hours of operation and a Sunday service needed. Current and new route need two vehicles</i>	

Hawes

Apart from school buses and Summer Sunday DalesBus services there are currently no buses west of Hawes to Sedbergh or Ingleton. We suggest two additional services:

880	TThS	HAWES – Ribbleshead – INGLETON	2 hrly
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832	MWF	HAWES – Garsdale – SEDBERGH	2 hrly
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These new routes require one vehicle

Codes for this section

MWF	Monday Wednesday & Friday only	TThS	Tuesday Thursday & Saturday only	SuBH	Sundays & Bank Holidays only
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NSuBH	Not Sundays and Bank Holidays
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HarBus (Hambleton & Richmondshire Bus Users Group) is a voluntary group hosted by Hambleton Community Action with the purpose of working with bus operators and local authorities to improve and market bus services.

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