

Formal Route Test - Route 386

Held on 12 March 2014

Vehicle used: Double deck dual door bus (LX11BCZ)

Dimensions: 10.2 metres (length), 2.55 metres (width), 14'6 (height)

Attendees:

- Wayne Butler (WB) London Buses, Performance Team
 - Gemma Joseph (GJ) London Buses, Performance Team
 - Clive Evennett (CE) London Buses, Bus Operations
 - [REDACTED] Stagecoach, Route Performance Manager
 - [REDACTED] Stagecoach, Driver/ Union representative
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Background

Route 386 is operated by Stagecoach, operating between Woolwich, Beresford Street and Blackheath, Royal Parade, using single door single deck buses which are 9.3 metres in length.

Purpose for the route test

The purpose of the route test was to check the suitability of introducing double deck buses on route 386, operating from Woolwich, Beresford Street and Blackheath, Royal Parade. The route was tested from end to end. The dimensions of the vehicle tested were 10.2 metres (length) & 2.55 metres (width), 14'6" (height).

Streets traversed

The following streets were traversed:

Towards Blackheath Parade:

Woolwich High Street, Hare Street, Powis Street, John Wilson Street, Castile Road, Monk Street, Calderwood Street, Thomas Street, Woolwich New Road, Vincent Road, Burrage Road, Crescent Road, Bloomfield Road, Plumstead Common Road, Herbert Road, Woolwich Common, Ha Ha Road, Stadium Road, Baker Road, Shooters Hill Road, Corelli Road, Holburne Road, Dursley Road, Woolacombe Road, Wricklemarsh Road, Weyman Road, Shooters Hill Road, Old Dover Road, Westcombe Hill, Westcombe Park Road, Vanbrugh Hill, Trafalgar Road, Romney Road, Nelson Road, Greenwich High Road, Greenwich South Street, Blackheath Hill, Shooters Hill Road, Prince Charles Road, Montpelier Row, Montpelier Vale, Tranquil Vale, Royal Parade

Towards Woolwich Beresford Street:

Tranquil Vale, Hare And Billet Road, Wat Tyler Road, Shooters Hill Road, Blackheath Hill, Greenwich South Street, Greenwich High Road, Greenwich Church Street, College Approach, King William Walk, Romney Road, Trafalgar Road, Woolwich Road, Vanbrugh Hill, Westcombe Park Road, Westcombe Hill, Charlton Road, Old Dover Road, Shooters Hill Road, Weyman Road, Wricklemarsh Road, Woolacombe Road, Dursley Road, Holburne Road, Corelli Road, Shooters Hill Road, Baker Road, Stadium Road, Ha Ha Road, Woolwich Common, Herbert Road, Sandy Hill Road, Woolwich New Road

Issues discussed:

1. Tree pruning requirements on the following streets (in both directions):
 - Herbert Road
 - Dursley Road
 - Wricklemarsh Road
 - Weyman Road
 - Westcombe Park Road
 - Vanbrugh Hill
 - Burrage Road (towards Blackheath only)

Action: LB Greenwich

Conclusion

Although there were no problems with the length of the vehicle, there were some major concerns relating to its height on the above roads, as there were major tree pruning requirements specifically on Dursey Road Wricklemarsh Road and Weyman Road. Double deck vehicles were not approved on this basis.

In order for double deck vehicles to be used on this route, buses would need to omit serving Corelli Road, Holbourne Road, Dursley Road, Woolacombe Road, Wricklemarsh Road and Weyman Road. Buses would instead need to be re-routed via shooters Hill.