
*Portishead Branch Line (MetroWest
Phase 1) Environmental Impact
Assessment*

Transport Assessment Appendix L: Match Day Impacts

Prepared for
West of England Councils

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Ashton Gate

1.1 Introduction

Ashton Gate Stadium is home to Bristol City Football Club and Bristol Rugby and has a capacity of 27,000. The stadium is located in the south-west of the city approx. 2 miles from the city centre. In addition to football and rugby games, the venue also hosts other events such as conferences and weddings.

With the stadiums close proximity to the Portishead Branch Railway line (approx. 400m), the impact of the scheme on the operation of the highway network during football match days in particular has been considered by the TA. According to soccerstats.com, the average attendance at Ashton Gate for football games over the current season to date (2017/18) has been almost 17,000. This results in significant increases in traffic (including buses) on the local highway network together with increases in pedestrian movements and on-street parking in the vicinity of the stadium.

1.2 Stadium Access

1.2.1 By Foot

The stadium site is accessible to pedestrians via Ashton Road, Raynes Road and Winterstoke Road.

- The most direct route to the Atyeo stand is via Ashton Road.
- The most direct route to the Dolman stand is via Ashton Road.
- The most direct route to the South stand is via Raynes Road and Winterstoke Road.
- The most direct route to the Lansdown stand is via Ashton Road and Winterstoke Road.

1.2.2 By Rail

The closest station to Ashton Gate is Parson Street, a 10-15 minute walk from the stadium. Parson Street is accessible from mainline stations including Bristol Temple Meads, Bristol Parkway and Weston Super Mare. Pedestrians walking from the station to the stadium are likely to either travel via Winterstoke Road or Duckmoor Road.

1.2.3 By Bus

In conjunction with FirstBus, Bristol City and Bristol Rugby have five dedicated supporter services operating on match days. The AG1, AG2 and AG4 operate on football match days while AG1, AG3 and AG5 operate on rugby match days. Table 1.1 presents details of these services.

Table 1.1 Supporter buses for match days

Service	Details	Times
AG1 (Football and Rugby)	Portway P&R to Ashton Gate	For 15:00 Kick Off (KO): 12:40 to 14:20 For 17:45 KO: 17:20 to 19:00 Services depart every 20 mins
	Ashton Gate to Portway P&R	For 15:00 Kick Off (KO): 17:00 to 18:40 For 17:45 KO: 21:45 to 23:25 Services depart every 20 mins
AG2 (Football)	Brislington P&R to Ashton Gate	For 15:00 Kick Off (KO): 12:40 to 14:20 For 17:45 KO: 17:20 to 19:00 Services depart every 20 mins
	Ashton Gate to Brislington P&R	For 15:00 Kick Off (KO): 17:00 to 18:40 For 17:45 KO: 21:45 to 23:25 Services depart every 20 mins

AG3 (Rugby)	Horefield Common, Muller Road to Ashton Gate	For 15:00 Kick Off (KO): 12:30 to 13:45 For 17:45 KO: 14:45 to 18:30 Services depart every 15-30 mins
	Ashton Gate to Horefield Common, Muller Road	For 15:00 Kick Off (KO): 17:00 to 18:45 For 17:45 KO: 21:45 to 23:15 Services depart every 15-30 mins
AG4 (Football)	Whitchurch, Whanecliffe Gardens to Ashton Gate	For 15:00 Kick Off (KO): 13:45 For 17:45 KO: 18:30 One departure
	Ashton Gate to Whitchurch, Whanecliffe Gardens	For 15:00 Kick Off (KO): 17:10 For 17:45 KO: 21:55 One departure
AG5 (Rugby)	Bristol Temple Meads to Ashton Gate	For 15:00 Kick Off (KO): 12:45 to 14:15 For 17:45 KO: 17:30 to 19:00 Services depart every 30 mins
	Ashton Gate to Bristol Temple Meads	For 15:00 Kick Off (KO): 17:00 to 18:30 For 17:45 KO: 21:45 to 23:15 Services depart every 30 mins

Abus also operate a dedicated match day service on football match days only.

In addition to the above listed supporter buses, the stadium is also served by the following public buses: Service 24 (stops at Ashton Drive (The Robbins Public House)), Service 71 (stops at Blackmoors Lane (Ashton Bridge)) and Services X1, X3, X4, X6, X8 and X9 (stops at Blackmoors Lane (Ashton Bridge)).

1.2.4 By Car

FROM M5: Leave the M5 motorway at junction 18, travel along the Portway (A4) following the signs for Bristol Airport/Taunton (A38). Over the swing bridge (Brunel Way), branching left into Winterstoke Road, and left again at the traffic lights for Ashton Gate.

FROM M4*: At junction 19, exit onto M32 towards Bristol. Continue on A4032. Turn left at A4044/Bond Street. Continue to follow A4044. At Temple Circus Gyratory, take the 2nd exit onto A4/Templegate. At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto A370/York Road. Continue to follow A370. Go through one roundabout. Slight left to merge onto Brunel Way. Take the next left at traffic lights for Ashton Gate.

**This route directs through Bristol City Centre and journey time can be significantly increased due to traffic. Travelling along the Portway via the M5 is often considerably quicker. For the Portway, leave the M4 at junction 20 and join the M5 South-bound, then follow the above directions for M5*.*

Street parking surrounding the stadium is severely limited and it's therefore advised that supporters utilise public transport as an alternative. Parking controls are in place in the vicinity with on-street parking restricted to residents. However, there are a number of Bristol City Council (BCC) operated carparks as well a scheme which involves local residents renting out their private drives or on-street spaces to stadium attendees (Justpark.com).

Scheme Impacts

2.1 Parking

The introduction of passenger services is likely to result in a decrease in supporters travelling from the Pill and Portishead areas using a private vehicle in order to travel to the stadium. This in turn will reduce the pressure on on-street parking in the vicinity thus having a positive impact.

For those opting to drive, access to on-street parking on Ashton Vale Road, where more spaces are expected to be available at typical KO times (3pm on Saturdays, 7:45pm on weekdays and a few games on Sundays), maybe be restricted during the construction phase with the works proposed at the Ashton Vale Road/Winterstoke Road junction.

2.2 Highway Flow

The scheme is likely to have a positive impact on highway flow during match days relative the existing conditions. Bearing in mind the typical KO times, this will generally be outside both AM and PM peak times (there may be an overlap with the PM peak for the weekday evening KOs) and construction working hours.

As alluded to above, the likely reduction in highway traffic as a result of the proposed passenger trains from Portishead and Pill will have a positive impact on highway flow as supporters travelling from these locations may opt to use the train as opposed to a private car.

Thus overall, the scheme on completion, is likely to have a positive impact on highway flow on match days.

2.3 Public Transport

The overall impact on public transport is likely to be negligible with the introduction of a passenger service on the Portishead Branch Railway Line. Impacts on numbers using the supporter's buses are likely to be negligible as these buses travel from locations not serviced by the proposed scheme (refer to Table 1.1 above) while numbers using the various public bus services may decrease, namely those using the X3/X4 service from Pill and Portishead as supporters travelling from these locations may opt to use the train.

2.4 NMUs

The scheme is unlikely to have a significant impact on the movement of NMUs on match days. The vast majority of pedestrians are likely to approach from the south (Parson St. Station) via Winterstoke Road and Duckmoor Road, from the west (from the City Centre) and from the various bus stops nearby the stadium. NMUs approaching from Ashton Vale Road will be required to use the new 4m wide shared footbridge over the Portishead Branch Railway line, which is considered an improvement on the previously used Barons Close crossing, which has now been closed.

Conclusion

Overall, the scheme is likely to benefit the operation of the highway in the vicinity of Ashton Gate stadium on match days. The introduction of passenger trains on the Portishead Branch Railway Line is likely to result in a decrease in private vehicles travelling from Portishead and Pill. This in turn will reduce the demand for on-street parking in the vicinity of Ashton Gate on match days which will benefit the residents and local businesses in the area.