

Katch

All-Electric Demand- Responsive Bus Service

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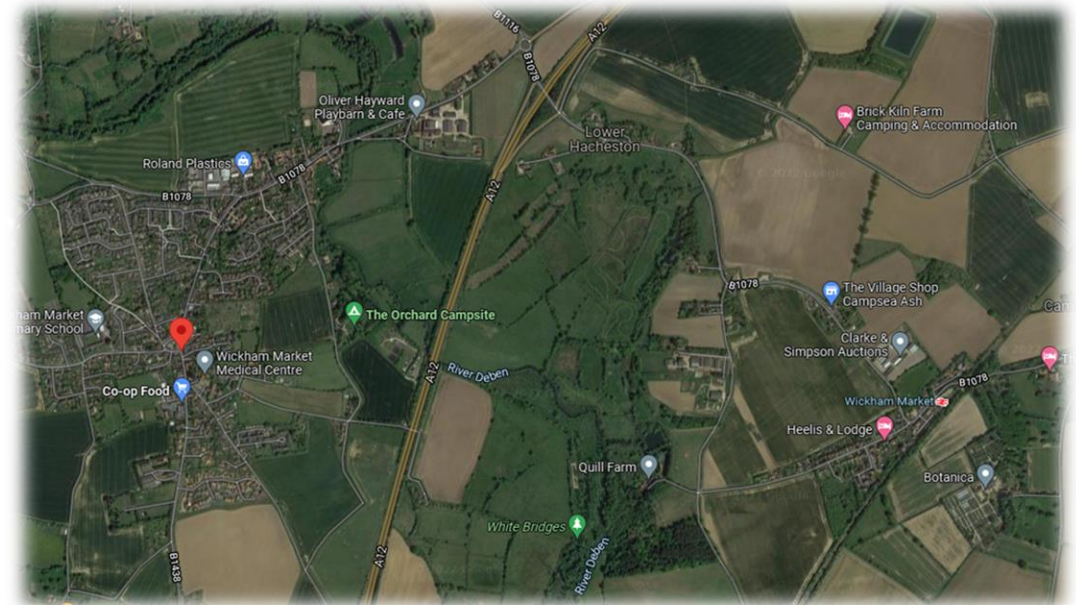
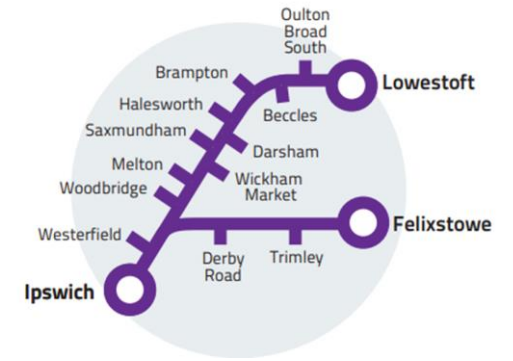


Location

East Suffolk line is a vital sustainable transport spine through the east of Suffolk, linking our two largest towns

Serves several market towns on the route, but there are a lot of communities not served by rail who need efficient access to the East Suffolk line

Wickham Market is an historic market town, but the railway station is in the neighbouring village of Campsea Ashe, separated by the A12 dual carriageway.



Katch

The Katch electric demand responsive bus project is a partnership between:

- Suffolk County Council
- East Suffolk Lines Community Rail Partnership
- Cars Smart (local cab operator)
- Grant from DfT - Community Rail Network Development Fund

Two fully electric minibuses



Coverage

Focused on Wickham Market (Campsea Ashe) Railway Station

Framlingham is a growing town – with an Ed Sheeran connection

Snape Maltings is a key leisure, cultural and retail centre – with a Benjamin Britten connection



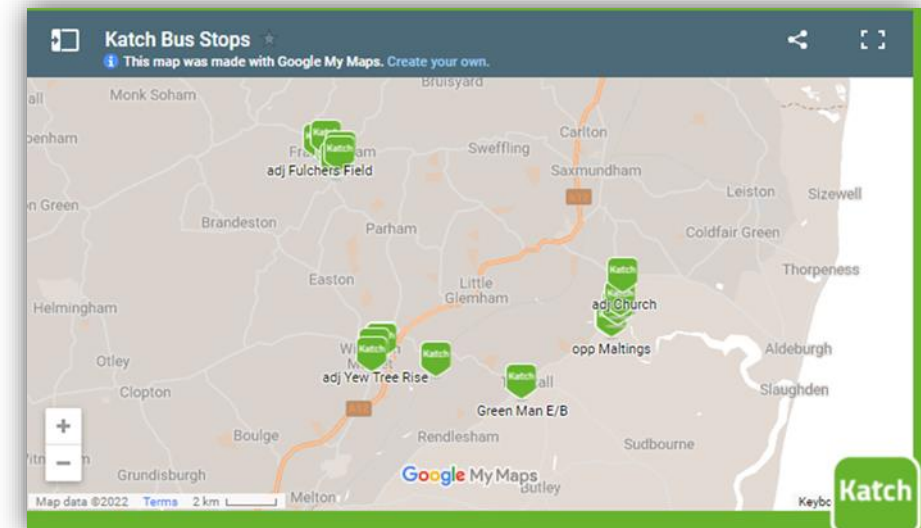
Operation

What are the operating times of the bus?

- Available on demand 7 days a week
- Monday – Friday: 7.50am – 8.00pm
- Saturday: 8.00am – 8.00pm
- Sundays & Bank Holidays: 10.00am – 6.00pm

How much is the fare?

- £7 return for an adult & £3 for a child or £4 single fare for an adult & £1.50 for a child.
- Pre-booked from the App (available on Android Play and Apple IOS store for free download) or by phone



Challenges

Electric buses have a disappointing range – better vehicles are available now

100 miles in optimum conditions but falling to 60 when it is cold

One bus is always charging while the other is in operation

But even then, conventional bus backups have been required at times

Sunday usage has been very low

Evenings and Saturdays are low too, and 11 o'clock to 2 PM tends to be quiet as well

Pressure to extend the service to neighbouring towns, which would stretch the current operation, increasing costs

Opportunities

Excellent
Partnership Working
– something to build
upon

Wickham Market
Mobility Hub?

Should car parking
be free at the
station?

App has been very
popular 50% of
users booked via it

People like the 'real
time' information

Award!

Award Winning

The project recently won the
**'Influencing Positive Change and
Sustainability'** Award at National
Community Rail Awards



Next Steps

Pilot end 15th May

Looking to extend
to Christmas 2022

Looking at
covering
Saxmundham
Station too

Any Questions

