



A proposal, not yet a service. No Phoenix bus runs yet. The route and times below are a draft, and we are gathering support, volunteers and funding.

Village feeders

Proposed, not running. None of these minibuses runs. The times are planning estimates, worked back from Phoenix's own draft timetable so every feeder meets the bus. Late feeders depend on the proposed late bus going ahead.

Phoenix's main bus runs from Paddock Wood to Maidstone and no longer goes into the villages. The feeders are four small minibuses that would bring the villages to it — Yalding, Laddingford, East Peckham, Hadlow, Mereworth, Golden Green, Beltring, Capel, Five Oak Green, Whetsted, Lamberhurst Quarter, Horsmonden, Brenchley, Matfield, Chainhurst, Collier Street and Marden — arriving 10 minutes before Phoenix leaves for Maidstone and leaving 10 minutes after it gets back.

Three meet Phoenix at **Paddock Wood station**; one meets it at **the Hop Pole, Nettlestead Green**. They would be small minibuses driven by volunteers from the villages.

Book a seat

Every feeder journey, early morning to late evening, would run **only when someone has booked a seat**. Book up to an hour before the journey leaves its first stop, except the first journey of the morning, which closes at **22:00 the evening before**. For the late feeders, book by 22:00 for the Hop Pole and 22:07 for Paddock Wood. If nobody books, that journey does not run, so no minibus drives empty lanes. The times stay fixed, so you always know when your connection is.

How booking would work

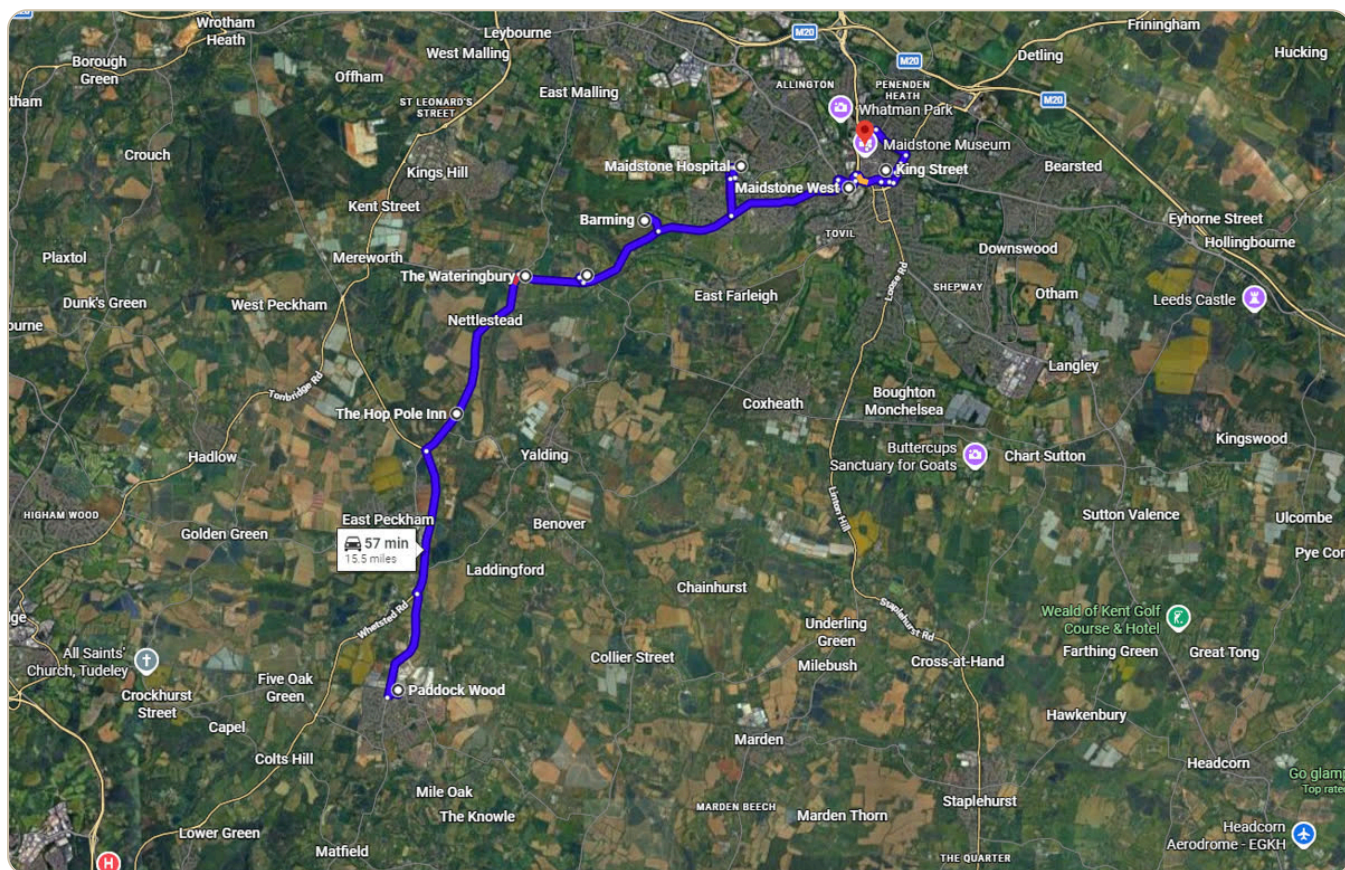
- **Online**, at any hour, up to the cut-off.
- **By text**, to one Phoenix mobile number, in plain words — for example *Horsmonden early tomorrow both*. The reply spells the booking out so you can check it.
- **Regular journeys** — the same trip every weekday, say — can be booked once and kept until you cancel. A relative or neighbour can set one up for you.

Book both ways at once, so the minibus knows to bring you home. Tell us how many of you are travelling, and if you need the wheelchair space. You would pay on board, as on the main bus, and bus passes would be accepted; booking itself would be free.

If your plans change, cancel as early as you can, so a driver isn't called out for nobody.

Try a demonstration of booking, online or by text. Nothing booked there is real: no feeder runs yet.

If Phoenix is running late, the feeder waiting for it would wait. And if a booked journey home could not run — a driver taken ill, a minibus off the road — we would text and call you and arrange another way home.



The main route, Paddock Wood to Maidstone — about 15.5 miles, 57 minutes by car. Map data and imagery © Google.

The Phoenix buses the feeders meet					
PHOENIX	EARLY	MIDDAY	AFTERNOON	EVENING	LATE
Leaves Paddock Wood for Maidstone	06:40	10:10	13:40	18:10	-
Leaves the Hop Pole for Maidstone	06:48	10:18	13:48	18:18	-
Back at the Hop Pole	08:15	11:45	15:15	19:45	22:50
Back at Paddock Wood	08:22	11:52	15:22	19:52	22:57

The four feeders at a glance

Minutes from the first stop. Schematic, not to scale.

A · Western villages

○ Hadlow	0 min
○ Mereworth	10
○ Golden Green	23
○ East Peckham	35
○ Beltring	43
● Paddock Wood station	55

B · Capel and Five Oak Green

○ Capel	0 min
○ Five Oak Green	6
○ Whetsted	12
● Paddock Wood station	22

C · Southern villages

○ Lamberhurst Quarter	0 min
○ Horsmonden	12
○ Brenchley	22
○ Matfield	30
● Paddock Wood station	45

D · Marden to the Hop Pole

○ Marden station	0 min
○ Chainhurst	10
○ Collier Street	20
○ Laddingford	30
○ Yalding village	38
○ Yalding Station	43

Feeder timetables

A · Western villages

Towards Paddock Wood station BOOK A SEAT				
STOP	TRIP 1	TRIP 2	TRIP 3	TRIP 4
Hadlow	05:35	09:05	12:35	17:05
Mereworth	05:45	09:15	12:45	17:15
Golden Green	05:58	09:28	12:58	17:28
East Peckham	06:10	09:40	13:10	17:40
Beltring	06:18	09:48	13:18	17:48
Paddock Wood station — arrive	06:30	10:00	13:30	18:00

Back to the villages BOOK A SEAT			
STOP	AFTERNOON	EVENING	LATE
Paddock Wood station — depart	15:32	20:02	23:07
Beltring	15:44	20:14	23:19
East Peckham	15:52	20:22	23:27
Golden Green	16:04	20:34	23:39
Mereworth	16:17	20:47	23:52
Hadlow	16:27	20:57	00:02

The main bus no longer goes into East Peckham; this feeder is how it would connect, along with Hadlow, Mereworth, Golden Green and Beltring.

With one minibus, the early and midday returns would reach Hadlow after its next trip should already have left, so they are left out and the minibus goes straight back for its next trip instead. Filling the gap needs a second vehicle, a shorter route, or a change to the main timetable.

B • Capel and Five Oak Green

Towards Paddock Wood station BOOK A SEAT				
STOP	TRIP 1	TRIP 2	TRIP 3	TRIP 4
Capel	06:08	09:38	13:08	17:38
Five Oak Green	06:14	09:44	13:14	17:44
Whetsted	06:20	09:50	13:20	17:50
Paddock Wood station — arrive	06:30	10:00	13:30	18:00

Back to the villages BOOK A SEAT					
STOP	EARLY	MIDDAY	AFTERNOON	EVENING	LATE
Paddock Wood station — depart	08:32	12:02	15:32	20:02	23:07
Whetsted	08:42	12:12	15:42	20:12	23:17
Five Oak Green	08:48	12:18	15:48	20:18	23:23
Capel	08:54	12:24	15:54	20:24	23:29

C · Southern villages

Towards Paddock Wood station BOOK A SEAT				
STOP	TRIP 1	TRIP 2	TRIP 3	TRIP 4
Lamberhurst Quarter	05:45	09:15	12:45	17:15
Horsmonden	05:57	09:27	12:57	17:27
Brenchley	06:07	09:37	13:07	17:37
Matfield	06:15	09:45	13:15	17:45
Paddock Wood station — arrive	06:30	10:00	13:30	18:00

Back to the villages BOOK A SEAT			
STOP	AFTERNOON	EVENING	LATE
Paddock Wood station — depart	15:32	20:02	23:07
Matfield	15:47	20:17	23:22
Brenchley	15:55	20:25	23:30
Horsmonden	16:05	20:35	23:40
Lamberhurst Quarter	16:17	20:47	23:52

With one minibus, the early and midday returns would reach Lamberhurst Quarter after its next trip should already have left, so they are left out and the minibus goes straight back for its next trip instead. Filling the gap needs a second vehicle, a shorter route, or a change to the main timetable.

D • Marden to the Hop Pole

Towards Hop Pole, Nettlestead Green BOOK A SEAT					
STOP	TRIP 1	TRIP 2	TRIP 3	TRIP 4	
Marden station	05:48	09:18	12:48	17:18	
Chainhurst	05:58	09:28	12:58	17:28	
Collier Street	06:08	09:38	13:08	17:38	
Laddingford	06:18	09:48	13:18	17:48	
Yalding village	06:26	09:56	13:26	17:56	
Yalding Station	06:31	10:01	13:31	18:01	
Hampstead Lane	06:36	10:06	13:36	18:06	
Hop Pole, Nettlestead Green — arrive	06:38	10:08	13:38	18:08	

Back to the villages BOOK A SEAT					
STOP	EARLY	MIDDAY	AFTERNOON	EVENING	LATE
Hop Pole, Nettlestead Green — depart	08:25	11:55	15:25	19:55	23:00
Hampstead Lane	08:27	11:57	15:27	19:57	23:02
Yalding Station	08:32	12:02	15:32	20:02	23:07
Yalding village	08:37	12:07	15:37	20:07	23:12
Laddingford	08:45	12:15	15:45	20:15	23:20
Collier Street	08:55	12:25	15:55	20:25	23:30
Chainhurst	09:05	12:35	16:05	20:35	23:40
Marden station	09:15	12:45	16:15	20:45	23:50

The main bus no longer goes into Yalding, Laddingford, Yalding Station or Hampstead Lane; this feeder is how they would connect.

Why the main bus no longer goes into the villages

The first draft ran the main bus through Yalding, Laddingford and East Peckham before Paddock Wood, which took about an hour and a quarter of every round trip. Starting at Paddock Wood instead lets one bus keep a simple, reliable timetable to Maidstone, while the feeders reach far more villages than one bus could.

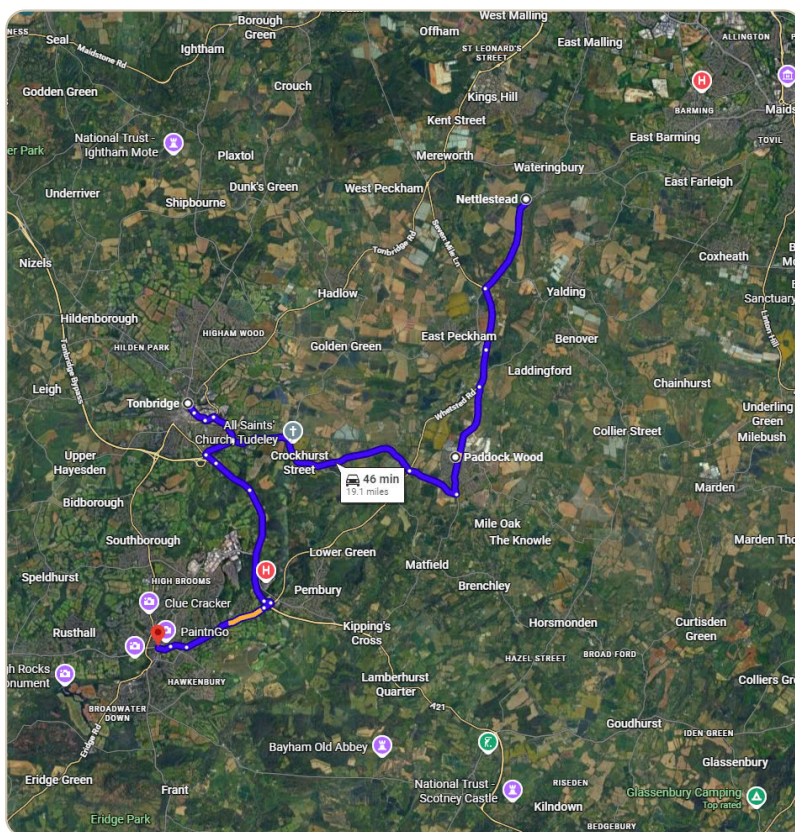
It is a trade-off: people in Yalding, Laddingford and East Peckham would change buses where the first draft let them stay on one all the way. The feeders are timed so the change is a short, fixed wait.

Would a feeder work for your journeys? [Tell us](#).

Also being looked at: Tunbridge Wells

A second idea, with no times yet: a link from Nettlestead through Paddock Wood and Tonbridge to Tunbridge Wells, for its hospital at Pembury, shops and trains.

- Nettlestead
- Paddock Wood
- Tonbridge
- Tunbridge Wells



Nettlestead to Tunbridge Wells — about 19.1 miles, 46 minutes by car; a bus stopping on the way would take longer. Map data and imagery © Google.

Phoenix Community Transport — a proposed not-for-profit community bus from Paddock Wood, Nettlestead and Watlingtonbury to Maidstone, with minibuses from the villages around.

Contact: hello@phoenixbus.co.uk

phoenixbus.co.uk/feeders.html · draft of 29 September 2026