

Powering Liverpool's next generation of electric buses

Stagecoach's Gillmoss depot has been electrified to support Liverpool City Region's phased transition to zero-emission buses and bus franchising. The upgraded site provides charging infrastructure for more than 100 battery-electric double-decker buses.

Context

Liverpool City Region is electrifying its bus network in phases, alongside the rollout of publicly owned buses and the move to a franchised model.

Gillmoss will play a central role in that transition. Operated by Stagecoach, the depot serves routes across Liverpool and Knowsley and will act as the primary hub for the region's expanding electric fleet.

The site is supporting the introduction of more than 100 publicly owned battery-electric double-decker buses, built in the UK by Alexander Dennis and Wrightbus, with vehicles designed to travel up to 275 miles on a single charge.

What was delivered

VEV delivered the high-powered charging infrastructure and electrical backbone needed to support electric bus operations at scale at Gillmoss.

The works included the installation of 54 dual-socket 160kW chargers, providing 108 charging sockets, supported by a new 5MVA power connection, three substations and three low-voltage panels.

The VEV-IQ smart charging platform will help reduce energy costs by shifting load to cheaper times of the day.

Delivered as part of a multi-party project with Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Stagecoach, SP Energy Networks and Liverpool City Council, the programme provides a practical platform for phased vehicle rollout, driver training, testing and day-to-day electric bus operations.

Infrastructure at a glance

- 54 dual-socket 160kW chargers
- 108 charging sockets
- 5MVA power capacity
- Three substations
- Three low-voltage panels
- Charging capacity for more than 100 battery-electric buses

The rollout of the new state-of-the-art vehicles is a key element of Mayor Steve Rotheram's plans to revolutionise bus services in the Liverpool City Region, which include bringing the network back under local public control for the first time in more than 40 years.

Gillmoss shows how depot electrification can support wider transport reform: aligning charging infrastructure, power capacity, operational planning and public-sector investment to help a major city region move towards cleaner, publicly controlled bus services at scale.