



## Loans & Demonstrators Part 2 : 1970-1987



## Provincial Bus Community



When Provincial became part of the NBC in 1970, control of their Private Hire and contract work passed to Hants & Dorset. This also meant that the majority of the coaches operated by Provincial during this period were legally owned by H&D and some – such as Bedford SBs 56-58, Bedford VAL 59, Bedford VAMs 61-63 and Bristol LS 28/58/67 - were given H&D 2xxx fleet numbers 'on paper'. Most of the vehicles listed below were transfers from the Hants & Dorset fleet on either temporary or long-term loan. Those marked \* were photographed at Hoeford, but it isn't clear whether they actually operated in service for Provincial.

<b>Date In</b>	<b>Date Out</b>	<b>Reg</b>	<b>Chassis/Body</b>	<b>Owner</b>
08/70	08/70	LRU 63*	Bristol KSW6G/ECW H60R	Hants & Dorset 1334
02/10/72	30/11/72	KRU 955	Bristol KSW6B/ECW L55R	Hants & Dorset 1352
02/10/72	30/11/72	KRU 961	Bristol KSW6B/ECW L55R	Hants & Dorset 1358
C. 1972	C. 1972	KRU 964*	Bristol KSW6B/ECW L55R	Hants & Dorset 1361
02/07/76	25/07/76	JHO 702E	Bedford VAM 14/Plaxton C41F	Hants & Dorset 2008
02/07/76	25/07/76	EOU 703D	Bedford VAL 14/Plaxton C49F	Hants & Dorset 2052
26/07/76	05/09/76	EMR 300D	Bristol MW6G/ECW DP41F	Hants & Dorset 835
26/07/76	05/09/76	FEL 425D	Bristol MW6G/ECW C39F	Hants & Dorset 1013
26/07/76	05/09/76	412 FOR	Leyland Leopard/Wbrook B53F	Hants & Dorset 2651
09/76	03/77	164 AUF	Leyland Leopard/Weymann C49F	Hants & Dorset 3094
09/76	06/77	FRU 875D	Bristol MW6G/ECW C39F	Hants & Dorset 1021
03/77	C. 1977	PFX 744R	Ford A/Alexander DP27F	Hants & Dorset 2003
05/77	06/77	FRU 827D	Bristol MW6G/ECW C39F	Hants & Dorset 1022
05/77	06/77	163 AUF	Leyland Leopard/Weymann C49F	Hants & Dorset 3093
07/77	07/77	HCD 379E	Bristol MW6G/ECW C39F	Hants & Dorset 1022
07/77	30/09/78	HCD 380E+	Leyland Leopard/Duple C49F	Hants & Dorset 3081
1977	1977	FEL 750D	Bristol MW6G/ECW C39F	Hants & Dorset 1014
1977	1977	FJA 228D	Leyland Leopard/Duple C41F	Hants & Dorset 3004
01/81	01/81	TRU 227J	Bristol LH6L/ECW B43F	Hants & Dorset 527
05/81	08/81	ORU 540M	Bristol LH6L/ECW B43F	Hants & Dorset 3540
11/83	11/83	VTY 130Y	Leyland Tiger/Duple C51F	Demonstrator
02/03/87	14/03/87	415 DCD	Leyland PD3/4/NCME FCO69F	Southdown 3215
07/03/87	14/03/87	WLT 831	AEC Routemaster/P. Royal H64R	London RM 831
14/03/87	15/04/87	145 CLT	AEC Routemaster/P. Royal H64R	London RM 1145

*Note: + this vehicle subsequently became Provincial 81.*



*Bristol K 1352 basking in the late Autumn sun at Hoeford on October 25, 1972. This bus and 1358 were used mainly on School duties.*

**Photo: Stephen Didymus**



*Ex King Alfred Bedford VAL 2052 at Hoeford in June 1976. A few weeks later this coach and 2008 were transferred to Bournemouth to replace vehicles damaged in the July fire.*

**Photo: Alan Lambert collection**



Three vehicles superseded 2008 and 2052 at Hoeford, including this Willowbrook-bodied Leyland Leopard, 412 FOR, also originally new to King Alfred. **Photo: Malcolm Audsley**



Four Bristol MW6G coaches were loaned to Provincial in the mid 1970s, including FEL 750D seen resting quietly in Southampton. **Photo: Colin Caddy**



*Also in Southampton, 3094(164 AUF) was one of a pair of ex Southdown Leopards with Weymann Castillian bodies that were based at Hoeford for a brief period.*

**Photo: Stephen Didymus Collection**



*Still on a Southdown theme, two more Leopards - this time with Duple bodies - spent short spells with Provincial. 3081(HCD 380E), at Hoeford flanked by a Leyland National and Bristol RE 9.*

**Photo: Stephen Didymus collection**



*Alexander-bodied Ford A 2003 (PFX 744R) paid a fleeting visit to Hoeford in March 1977. Originally a 27-seater, it was later converted to an 18-seat coach and transferred to the Shamrock & Rambler fleet.*

**Photo: Bob Gray collection**



*Another coach to make Hoeford its temporary home in 1977 was 3004(FJA 228D), a Duple-bodied Leopard formerly with North Western. This photo was taken in Bournemouth the previous summer.*

**Photo: Colin Caddy**



Leyland Tiger VTY 130Y, with Duple Laser body, was used by Leyland as a demonstrator before becoming Northern General 7014. This coach was inspected at Hoeford in November 1983, but is thought not to have been used in service. **Photo: PM Photography**



A little known episode happened just before the People's Provincial ESOP buyout. Provincial hired RM831 from London Buses in March 1987 and operated it between Fareham & Gosport, alongside a Leyland PD3 "Queen Mary" hired from Southdown, to evaluate a possible return of conductor operated buses. RM831 failed after a week & was replaced by RM1145 (145 CLT) seen here in West Street, Fareham. This was returned on 15/4/87. The Southdown PD3 was loaned between 2/3/87 and 14/3/87. Thanks to Malcolm Audsley for this information. **Photo: Malcom Audsley**



*The RM on route 1 to Gosport passing under the viaduct near Fareham Creek.*

**Photo: Malcom Audsley**



*he Queen Mary (415 DCD) in "Beautiful Britain" livery, (basically Southdown with adverts) seen here leaving Gosport Bus Station.*

**Photo: Malcolm Audsley**



*RM 831 (WLT 831) spent a week on loan at Hoeford in March 1987 before being replaced by RM 1145 (145 CLT).*

**Photo: Bob Gray**

