

Loans & Demonstrators Part 3 : 1987 - 1995



Provincial Bus Community



James Freeman brought many fresh ideas and innovations to People’s Provincial, and many demonstrators were trialled during this period. Although the Leyland National remained the backbone of the fleet, the welcome re-introduction of the double-decker – both closed top and open-top – plus the proliferation of minibuses ensured there was more variety and interest for the enthusiast than there had been for many years. We hope that the photos selected reflect this.

Date In	Date Out	Reg.	Chassis/Body	Owner
20/07/87	11/92	HOR 592E	Leyland Atlantean/Roe O74F	FoKAB
08/87	09/87	ERV 249D	Leyland Atlantean/MCW O77F	Portsmouth 8
09/87	10/87	ERV 254D	Leyland Atlantean/MCW O77F	Portsmouth 7
10/88	10/87	D67 OVP	Freight Rover Sherpa/Carlyle B21F	Demonstrator
03/03/88	11/03/88	E968 SVP	Iveco 49.10/Carlyle B25F	Demonstrator
30/03/88	08/04/88	E576 ANE	Renault-Dodge S56/NCME B25F	Demonstrator
30/03/88	08/04/88	E425 XKU	Renault-Dodge S56/Reeve Burgess B25F	Demonstrator
12/04/88	24/04/88	E358 KPO	Iveco 49.10/Robin Hood B21F	Demonstrator
16/04/88	22/04/88	E518 EWF	Metrorider/MCW B23F	Demonstrator
12/05/88	22/05/88	E338 KKV	Talbot-Pullman/Talbot B22F	Demonstrator
13/05/88	27/05/88	E36 VKP	Iveco 49.10/Dormobile B25F	Demonstrator
26/05/88	06/06/88	E70 XKW	Mercedes 709D/Reeve Burgess B25F	Demonstrator
03/06/88	06/06/88	E949 LAE	Iveco 49.10/Robin Hood B21	Red Admiral
09/06/88	21/06/88	E952 LAE	Iveco 49.10/Robin Hood B21	Red Admiral
21/06/88	28/06/88	E45 KKV	Talbot-Pullman/Talbot B20F	Barrow Borough
29/06/88	07/07/88	E77 TDA	Metrorider/MCW B25F	Demonstrator
25/07/88	30/07/88	E639 MTP	Renault-Dodge S56/WSV B25F	Demonstrator
11/11/88	23/11/88	F369 TVN	CVE Omni/CVE B22F	Demonstrator
29/11/88	05/12/88	E45 KKV	Talbot-Pullman/Talbot B20F	Barrow Borough
19/01/89	25/01/89	F956 XCK	Leyland Swift/WSV B39F	Demonstrator
23/04/89	17/05/89	F326 PPO	Mercedes 709D/Robin Hood B29F	Demonstrator
20/06/89	03/09/89	ERV 254D	Leyland Atlantean/MCW O77F	Portsmouth 7
09/08/89	11/09/89	SPM 21	Bristol FS6B/ECW O60R	Brighton & Hove
09/08/89	11/09/89	F326 PPO	Mercedes 709D/Robin Hood B29F	Demonstrator
19/10/89	20/10/89	RUF 38R	Leyland National/LN B44D	Brighton & Hove
19/10/89	20/10/89	UFG 53S	Leyland National/LN B44D	Brighton & Hove
19/10/89	20/10/89	YCD 80T	Leyland National/LN B44D	Brighton & Hove

Date In	Date Out	Reg.	Chassis/Body	Owner
02/11/89	09/11/89	F792 DWT	DAF-Optare Delta/Optare B47F	Demonstrator
02/03/90	03/90	G449 LKW	Iveco 49.10/Reeve Burgess B25F	Demonstrator
03/90	03/90	F368 RPO	Iveco 49.10/Phoenix B26F	Demonstrator
16/06/90	25/06/90	G241 AHP	Talbot-Pullman/Talbot B22F	Demonstrator
27/07/90	04/08/90	G895 XPX	Dennis Dart/Wadham Stringer B33F	Demonstrator
08/08/90	05/09/90	ERV 249D	Leyland Atlantean/MCW O77F	Red Ensign 506
12/02/91	18/02/91	H908 DTP	Dennis Dart/Wadham-Stringer B35F	Demonstrator
01/08/91	07/08/91	J556 GTP	Dennis Dart/Wadham-Stringer B35F	Demonstrator
10/10/91	25/10/91	H47 NDU	Leyland Lynx/Leyland B50F	Nottinghamjam
14/02/92	23/02/92	J348 GKH	Dennis Dart/Plaxton B40F	Demonstrator
03/04/92	07/05/92	D736 OOG	Freight Rover Sherpa/Carlyle B20F	Midland Red (S)
03/04/92	07/05/92	D271 OOG	Freight Rover Sherpa/Carlyle B20F	Midland Red (S)
03/04/92	01/06/92	D220 SKD	Mercedes 608D/Alexander B18F	G'ford&W.Surrey
03/04/92	01/06/92	D210 SKD	Mercedes 608D/Alexander B20F	G'ford&W.Surrey
04/04/92	07/05/92	G115 OGA	Mercedes 608D/Alexander B33F	Blythswood (Dealer)
07/04/92	05/08/92	E486 ONX	Iveco 49.10/CarlyleB25F	West Midlands
07/04/92	05/08/92	E511 TOV	Iveco 49.10/CarlyleB25F	West Midlands
19/04/92	05/92	C310 SPL	Mercedes 608D/R.Burgess B20F	G'ford&W.Surrey
12/12/92	15/11/92	K90 DRH	Dennis Lance/W'ham Stringer B35F	Eastbourne
04/02/93	18/02/93	J228 OKX	Iveco 59.12/Marshall B29F	Demonstrator
09/06/93	14/07/93	BOK 49V	Metrobus/MCW H73F	West Midlands
09/06/93	14/07/93	A741 WVP	Metrobus/MCW H73F	West Midlands
09/06/93	15/07/93	BOK 47V	Metrobus/MCW H73F	West Midlands
09/06/93	14/07/93	A735 UOE	Metrobus/MCW H73F	West Midlands
10/06/93	14/07/93	BOK 46V	Metrobus/MCW H73F	West Midlands
10/06/93	14/07/93	BOK 66V	Metrobus/MCW H73F	West Midlands
10/06/93	14/07/93	BOK 48V	Metrobus/MCW H73F	West Midlands
10/06/93	14/07/93	A734 UOE	Metrobus/MCW H73F	West Midlands

Date In	Date Out	Reg.	Chassis/Body	Owner
07/07/93	11/07/93	MFN 116R	Leyland National/LN B49F	Redby Travel
09/07/93	26/07/93	K891 KGS	Iveco City Turbo 50/Alexander B45F	Demonstrator
19/01/94	02/02/94	J228 OKX	Iveco 59.12/Marshall B29F	Demonstrator
12/05/94	20/05/94	L416 PAR	Dennis Dart/Marshall B40F	Demonstrator
28/05/94	20/09/94	ADV 299A	Leyland Atlantean/MCW O75F	Leisurelink
16/02/94	27/02/94	M822 RCP	DAF 220/Northern Counties B51F	Demonstrator
25/05/95	19/05/95	D750 SJO	Metrorider/MCW B25F	City Of Oxford
25/05/95	19/05/95	E751 VJO	Metrorider/MCW B25F	City Of Oxford
25/05/95	19/05/95	E753 VJO	Metrorider/MCW B25F	City Of Oxford
25/05/95	19/05/95	E754 VJO	Metrorider/MCW B25F	City Of Oxford



One of the earliest minibus demonstrators to be tried was this Carlyle-bodied Freight Rover Sherpa, D67 OVP

Photo: Kevin Young



Northern Counties-bodied Renault-Dodge S56 E576 ANE at Hoeford. In the background is National 2 49 (BPR 49Y) which had been recently repainted into Ferryport livery.

Photo: Solentslide



MCW Metrorider E77 TDA in Fareham Bus Station.

Photo: Malcolm Audsley



E639 MTP, another Renault-Dodge S56, this time with a Wadham Stringer body, was on loan in late July 1988.

Photo: Bob Gray



Several examples of the Iveco 49.10 were hired in 1988, including E36 VKB which bodywork by Dormobile.

Photo: Solentslide



Of all the minibuses, CVE Omni F369 TVN was probably the most strikingly original vehicle to operate for Provincial since the Guy-Deutz rebuilds. Photo: Solentslide



People's Provincial also looked at 3 examples of the Talbot-Pullman six-wheeler between 1988-90, with E45 KKV paying two visits. It is seen here in Fareham sporting the livery of Barrow Borough Transport. Photo: Bob Gray



As well as minibuses, Provincial were also looking at possible long-term replacements for their Leyland National fleet. One such example being this Wadham Stringer-bodied Leyland Swift F956 XCK, seen at Hoeford in January 1989.

Photo: Stephen Didymus collection



Over the weekend of 19/20 October 1989, Provincial borrowed three Mk.1 Leyland Nationals, including UFG 53S, from Brighton & Hove for use as shuttle buses in connection with 'Operation Minotaur' - the removal of WW2 bombs discovered in the vicinity of HMS Daedalus.

Photo: Gordon McGregor collection



This very smart DAF-Optare Delta, F792 DWT, was inspected in November 1989 as another possible Leyland National replacement. Photo: Stephen Didymus collection



Iveco demonstrator F368 RPO, with Phoenix body almost identical to those delivered to Provincial in 1989, captured in March 1990 leaving Gosport Bus Station.

Photo: Malcolm Audsley



The elegant lines of Nottingham's Leyland Lynx 750 (H47 NDU) shown to good effect at Portsmouth Hard on 24 October 1991.

Photo: Mal Saltmarsh



Plaxton-bodied Dennis Dart J348 GKH in Fareham West Street on 19 February 1992.

Photo: Mal Saltmarsh



A combination of the late delivery of new Ivecos and the start of new services in Spring 1992 meant that Provincial had to hire in a number of minibuses from various sources, one such was Midland Red(S)486 (D271 OOJ), a Freight Rover Sherpa with Carlyle body. **Photo: Stephen Didymus collection**



Guildford & West Surrey provided 3 Mercedes 608Ds including this Reeve Burgess bodied example, D210 SKD, seen alongside Provincial's own 138 in Fareham Bus Station. **Photo: Stephen Didymus**



A further Mercedes, this time the larger 811D model with Alexander body, was hired from a dealer.

Photo: Mal Saltmarsh



The award of a major contract to supply rail replacement vehicles in 1993, led to Provincial hiring 8 MCW Metrobuses from West MidlandsTravel. These were superb machines, what a pity none of them stayed permanently as they would have looked wonderful in Green & Cream. 2066 is seen here in Elm Lane, Havant.

Photo: Stephen Didymus collection



Eastbourne's Wadham Stringer-bodied Dennis Lance at Hoeford on 13 December 1992.
Photo: Roy Jetten



This former East Kent Leyland National was hired from Redby Travel during July 1993.
Photo: Roy Jetten



Another 'big bus' on loan in July 1993 was this Alexander-bodied Iveco Turbo City 50, K891 XGS, which was surprisingly comfortable to travel on. **Photo: Mal Saltmarsh**



Nicely proportioned DAF demonstrator M822 RCP at Hoeford on 21 February 1995. **Photo: Mal Saltmarsh**



arshall-bodied Dennis Dart L416 PAR leaving a rather damp Fareham Bus Station on 14 May 1995.

Photo: Mal Saltmarsh

