

Epsom Coaches



Final Fleet List 1920 - June 2017



Introduction

Epsom Coaches was founded by Herbert Roderick Richmond in 1920. Known as "HRR" his initials still feature on many of the number plates of today's modern fleet.

This brochure details the bus and coach fleet operated from those early days up to 2017 covering over 550 coaches and in later years, buses.

The Company also operated horse transport from 1920 until 1953. Details of these vehicles were not recorded and are therefore not included. The listing also excludes the numerous support vehicles used over the years, ranging from cars to heavy recovery and hired buses and coaches.

We would like to thank Geoff Heels for his assistance in compiling this list.

1920 - 1939

The Company's first new vehicle was a Ford Model T "Charabanc", affectionately known as the "Epsom Belle", first registered in 1920. A wide variety of Charabancs were soon replaced by covered saloon coaches as we moved towards the 1930's and the Second World War.

All the Company's coaches were purpose built and carried only passengers, unlike many at the time, which had the dual purpose of carrying goods as well!

At the outbreak of the war, the Company operated 6 motor coaches and 6 horse boxes.

1920 - 1939

P6231	Ford Model 'T' Charabanc "Epsom Belle"	14	1920
P5180	Lancia Charabanc "Annie Laurie"	18	1920
PB8058	Lancia Z Type Warwick Charabanc	17	1921
PA9538	Straker-Squire Burtonshaw		1921
Unknown	Thornycroft Charabanc (Solid Tyres)	28	1922
Unknown	Thornycroft Charabanc (Solid Tyres)	28	1922
Unknown	AEC B Type Charabanc (Solid Tyres)	26	1924
Unknown	Thornycroft Charabanc (Solid Tyres)	28	1925
Unknown	Lancia		1925
UU5955	Albion PR28 Viking Six 7040J London Lorries	31	1929
PK1815	Reo Speed Wagon	C20F	1928
PL503	Gilford 1680T Duple	C32F	1932
PK7883	Albion PM28 7043B Duple Half Cab 4274	C31F	1929
PK5568	Lancia		1932
PJ4824	Bedford WLB 108350 Duple	C20F	1933
PJ5953	Bedford WLB 108594 Duple	C20F	1933
BPG516	Bedford WLB 109457 Duple Vista	C20F	1934
GPC408	Bedford WTB 111974 Duple Vista II 4885/2	C25F	1938
GPE744	Bedford WTB 111974 Duple Vista II 4886/2	C25F	1938

At the outbreak of the Second World War, the Company not only operated coaches but also horse transport, for which no records exist. The government requisitioned all but one of the combined fleet.

Both of Mr Richmond's sons were called up and tragically Jack, his eldest son was killed in action.

Mr Richmond continued to drive the sole remaining coach PK7883, an Albion half cab, bodied by Duple which saved the business through the war years carrying local school children and prisoners of war.

Progress after the war was difficult as none of the requisitioned vehicles came back into the fleet. Rationing was in place and new vehicles scarce, so many pre-war vehicles came back into use.

The first new coach since 1938 was purchased during the war in 1944, followed by a whole range of new models which by the early fifties were reflective of an era that many regard as the heyday of coaching in the UK.

The business was booming and expanded with the acquisition of Leatherhead Coaches and Bookham Saloon Coaches in 1953, with additional garage facilities in Bookham aiding post war expansion.



1939 - 1953

Bedford OWB 22861 Duple Utility 39081	UB32F	1944
Bedford OB 12795 Duple Vista 42112	C27F	1946
Bedford OB 40308 Duple Vista 43350	C29F	1947
Bedford OB 47163 Duple Vista 43351	C29F	1947
Bedford OWB 30676 Duple Utility/Vista	UB32F	1948
Bedford OB 73185 Duple Vista 43352	C29F	1948
Maudsley Marathon 2 Whitson (Half Cab)	C33	1948
Maudsley Marathon 2 Whitson (Half Cab)	C33	1948
Crossley SD42 97847 Whitson (Half Cab)	C33	1949
Austin CXB 138557 Whitson	C29	1949
Crossley SD42 97900 Whitson (Half Cab)	C33	1949
Bedford OB106948 Duple Vista 46505	C29F	1949
Bedford OB112001 Duple Vista 46506	C29F	1949
Bedford OB136582 Duple Vista 47997	C29F	1950
AEC Regal III 9621A994 Whitson	FC35F	1950
AEC Regal IV 9821E457 Whitson	C41C	1951
Bedford SB 1282 Duple Vega MK1	C33F	1951
Bedford SBG 2138 Duple Vega MK1	C33F	1951
Maudsley Marathon 3 Whitson	C35	1951
AEC Regal IV Yeates 305	C41C	1952
Bedford SB 9059 Gurney Nutting	C38F	1952
Bedford SB 1685 Gurney Nutting	C33F	1953
Bedford SBG 18557 Yeates Riviera 371	C35F	1953
Bedford SB 18233 Yeates Riviera 372	C35F	1953
	Bedford OB 12795 Duple Vista 42112 Bedford OB 40308 Duple Vista 43350 Bedford OB 47163 Duple Vista 43351 Bedford OB 73185 Duple Vista 43352 Maudsley Marathon 2 Whitson (Half Cab) Maudsley Marathon 2 Whitson (Half Cab) Crossley SD42 97847 Whitson (Half Cab) Crossley SD42 97900 Whitson (Half Cab) Bedford OB106948 Duple Vista 46505 Bedford OB112001 Duple Vista 46506 Bedford OB136582 Duple Vista 47997 AEC Regal III 9621A994 Whitson AEC Regal III 9621A994 Whitson Bedford SB 1282 Duple Vega MK1 Bedford SB 1282 Duple Vega MK1 Maudsley Marathon 3 Whitson	Bedford OB 12795 Duple Vista 42112C27FBedford OB 40308 Duple Vista 43350C29FBedford OB 47163 Duple Vista 43351C29FBedford OWB 30676 Duple Utility/VistaUB32FBedford OB 73185 Duple Vista 43352C29FMaudsley Marathon 2 Whitson (Half Cab)C33Maudsley Marathon 2 Whitson (Half Cab)C33Crossley SD42 97847 Whitson (Half Cab)C33Austin CXB 138557 WhitsonC29Crossley SD42 97900 Whitson (Half Cab)C33Bedford OB106948 Duple Vista 46505C29FBedford OB112001 Duple Vista 46506C29FAEC Regal III 9621A994 WhitsonFC35FAEC Regal IV 9821E457 WhitsonC41CBedford SB 1282 Duple Vega MK1C33FMaudsley Marathon 3 WhitsonC35FAEC Regal IV Yeates 305C41CBedford SB 1685 Gurney NuttingC33FBedford SB 1685 Gurney Nutting



In this golden era for coaching in the UK, a large number of vehicles were purchased in the six years from 1954, majoring on Bedford chassis, but with a range of bodies including those from Yeates, Duple and for the first time, a smaller mini-bus based on an Austin J2 chassis, taking advantage of the requirement for smaller groups.

The maximum seating capacity in those days was 41 seats and this would have been considered a large vehicle given the restrictions that existed at the time.

It should be remembered that these coaches although stylish, were relatively basic and certainly did not have the comforts of today's vehicles. However, Epsom Coaches were at the forefront of high specification coaches, which included such luxuries as heaters and armrests!

Prices were rising fast throughout the fifties. In the first part of the decade a 1951 Bedford SB cost £1,800 including purchase tax. By 1959, this had risen to over £3,800 for a Bedford Burlingham Seagull and represented a considerable investment.

There was more to come to cater for ever increasing demand as the swinging sixties approached. Legislation allowing for longer coaches was also much needed to cater for larger groups.

1954 — 1960

TPL990	Bedford SB 19870 Yeates Riviera 393	C36F	1954
VPB155	AEC Reliance Yeates Riviera 438	C41C	1954
VPE888	Bedford SBG Yeates Riviera II	C36F	1954
VPK500	Bedford SBG Yeates Riviera II	C36F	1954
77EMC	Bedford SBG Duple Super Vega	C38F	1955
78EMC	Bedford SBG Duple Super Vega	C38F	1955
YPF70	Bedford SBG Yeates Riviera IV	C41F	1955
UPF668	Bedford SBG Duple Vega	C36F	1956
601BPA	Bedford SBG Duple Super Vega	C41F	1956
111CPB	ACE Reliance Yeates Europa 596	C39/41C	1957
590CPF	Bedford A4/L7 Plaxton Consort	C29F	1957
225DPA	Bedford SBG Yeates Europa 618	C41F	1957
715DPD	Bedford SB3 Yeates Europa 624	C41F	1957
121EPL	Bedford SB8 Duple Super Vega	C37F	1958
825FPJ	Bedford C4Z2 Duple Super Vista	C29F	1958
MUR204	Maudsley Marathon 3 Whitson	C35	1958
80JPF	Bedford SB1 Burlingham Seagull	C41F	1959
495KPC	Bedford SB1 Burlingham Seagull	C41F	1959
205MPG	Bedford C5Z1 Duple Super Vista	C29F	1960
204MPG	Bedford SB8 Duple Super Vega	C41F	1960
YXH867	Bedford SB8 Duple Super Vega	C41F	1960
YXH868	Bedford C5Z1 Duple Super Vista	C29F	1960
261OPB	Austin J2BA Kenex	12	1960

Great strides were made in coach design with a record number of vehicles entering the fleet from 1961 onwards, again mainly featuring the Bedford chassis with Duple, Plaxton and the Harrington Legionnaire, a revolutionary coach of its time with twin axles at the front and best known as one of the stars of the film The Italian Job starring Michael Caine.

The intention of the twin steering axles was to improve ride comfort, but this met with limited success.

Seating capacities were now increasing up to 54 seats within a 36 foot (11 metre) body. This followed the relaxation of the regulations restricting the length of coaches. Epsom Coaches were the first to have a longer 36 feet vehicle, taking full advantage of the additional passenger capacity as it expanded it's holiday and day trip programme which included express services to the south coast.

British coach builders reigned supreme with bodies built during the winter months in coastal resorts such as Hove, Blackpool and Scarborough, taking advantage of the plentiful supply of seasonal labour, as coaches were nearly always delivered in the early spring, ready for the summer season ahead.

The large panoramic windows that are a common feature of coaches today started to appear, with opening widows replaced by forced air ventilation and opening roof hatches.



1	961 — 19	64	4
299BLB	Bedford SB1 Duple Super Vega	C41F	1961
273AOU	Bedford SB8 Duple Super Vega	C41F	1961
274AOU	Bedford SB8 Duple Super Vega	C41F	1961
415BYR	Karrier D98A Plaxton	14	1961
675CJJ	Bedford SB1 Duple Super Vega	C41F	1961
661WPE	Bedford SB5 Duple Super Vega	C37F	1962
220WPL	Bedford VAS1 Plaxton Embassy	C29F	1962
113XPA	Bedford SB5 Duple Super Vega	C41F	1962
348XPJ	AEC Reliance Plaxton Panorama Continental	C51F	1962
469XPL	AEC Reliance Plaxton Panorama Continental	C51F	1962
LFJ737	Bedford SBG Duple Vega MK1	C33F	1962
109LTV	Bedford SB8 Duple Super Vega	C41F	1962
4280PL	Austin J2BA	12	1962
3242PJ	Bedford VAS1 Plaxton Embassy	C23F	1963
4096PJ	Bedford VAS1 Plaxton Embassy	C23F	1963
TEL593	Bedford SBG Duple Super Vega	C41F	1963
UPL7	Bedford SBO Duple Vega	C36F	1963
942AWR	Bedford SB1 Yeates Pegasus 894	DP44F	1963
4230PE	Bedford VAL14 Willowbrook	B54F	1964
716CMJ	Bedford SB1 Duple Super Vega	C41F	1964
826FMH	Karrier Reading	C12F	1964
531LOR	Bedford VAL14 Harrington Legionnaire	C49F	1964
532LOR	Bedford VAL14 Harrington Legionnaire	C49F	1964
533LOR	Bedford VAL14 Harrington Legionnaire	C49F	1964
534 LOR	Bedford SB5 Plaxton Embassy IV	C41F	1964
535LOR	Bedford VAL14 Harrington Legionnaire	C49F	1964



Almost an exclusive period for Bedford with both Duple and Plaxton bodies, stylish with plenty of chrome, these were real eye catchers representing one of the newest fleets in the coach industry.

The wide variety of seating capacities available is indicative of the benefits of a large fleet, with a coach to suit all group sizes. This had its problems though as more and more work was taken on, any coach and it's driver may have more than one job and therefore flexibility was becoming ever more important.

It was around this time that work for tour operators was becoming more common, with Epsom Coaches going on to be the largest coach operator in London specialising in this kind of business. This in addition to the daily requirements in and around its home town of Epsom, providing transport for school children and workers alike on a contract basis as well as private hire for local groups and societies.

Coaches were changing, with the front engine design moving towards the engine mounted under the floor in the middle of the vehicle. This had the advantage of reducing noise but increased the floor height and therefore the number of steps up to the passenger saloon. It also restricted maintenance access. Luggage was conveyed in the rear boot and lockers were built into the sides of the coach to accommodate further storage, but it was never sufficient, with luggage on seats often required. 1964 — 1967

536LOR	Bedford VAL14 Harrington Legionnaire	C49F	1964
100HOR	Bedford VAL14 Duple Vega Major	C52F	1964
537NHO	Bedford VAS1 Plaxton Embassy	C29F	1964
538NHO	Bedford VAS1 Plaxton Embassy	C29F	1964
AHO539C	Bedford SB5 Plaxton Embassy	C41F	1965
AHO540C	Bedford SB5 Plaxton Embassy	C41F	1965
AHO541C	Bedford SB13 Duple Firefly	C37F	1965
AHO542C	Bedford SB13 Duple Firefly	C37F	1965
BHO543C	Bedford CALZ30 Martin Walter	11	1965
BOT544C	Bedford VAL14 Duple Vega Major	C52F	1965
DCG545C	Bedford VAS1 Plaxton Embassy IV	C29F	1965
DHO546C	Bedford VAM14 Duple Bella Venture	C41F	1965
EAA547D	Bedford VAS1 Plaxton Embassy IV	C29F	1966
MPA550D	Bedford VAM14 Duple Bella Venture	C41F	1966
MPA551D	Bedford VAM14 Duple Bella Venture	C41F	1966
MPA552D	Bedford VAM14 Duple Bella Venture	C41F	1966
FAA553D	Bedford VAM14 Duple Bella Venture	C42F	1966
FAA554D	Bedford VAM14 Duple Bella Venture	C45F	1966
FOU301D	Bedford VAM14 Duple Bella Venture	C45F	1966
HOT932E	Ford Transit South Hants	12	1967
JAA302E	Bedford VAM14 Duple Viscount	C45F	1967
JAA303E	Bedford VAM14 Duple Viscount	C45F	1967
JAA304E	Bedford VAM14 Duple Viscount	C45F	1967
JAA305E	Bedford VAM14 Duple Viscount	C45F	1967
JAA548E	Bedford VAS1 Plaxton Panarama	C29F	1967
JOT686E	Ford Transit Williams	12	1967

As the 70's dawned, the fleet continued to major on Bedford chassis but Ford also featured for the first time. The Ford chassis was in some ways behind the times, still persisting with the front engine layout, with an engine cover that impeded access in and out of the vehicle. It was also noisy. Ford never did make much impact on the coach industry and later withdrew from the market.

Chassis design was moving on, with increased power, although still relatively underpowered compared to today's vehicles, they were lightweight. Air brakes were introduced, although the cable operated handbrake remained for some time. Plaxton had become the favoured body builder, with the demise of Harrington of Hove although Duple also continued to build coaches for the fleet as part of a dual supplier policy.

A solitary Seddon Pennine chassis fitted with a Plaxton Elite body was not a huge success although it had its devotes. It did not remain in the fleet for long.

The wide variety of coach seating capacities was consolidated to offer large (53 seats) medium (41 seats) and small (29 seats) with a further option for 12 seats in a Ford Transit with a Williams body conversion. The latter were notoriously difficult to start on a cold day, producing clouds of back smoke until warmed up. Imagine that today!



1968 1972 LOR631F **Bedford VAS5 Plaxton Panarama** 1968 **C29F** NOR632F **Bedford VAS5 Plaxton Panarama** C29F 1968 NOR633F **Bedford SB5 Plaxton Panarama** C37F 1968 NOR634F 1968 **Bedford SB5 Plaxton Panarama** C37F NOR635F 1968 **Bedford VAL70 Plaxton Panarama C52F OJU636F** C45F 1968 Bedford VAM70 Duple Viceroy LNC391G 12 1968 **Ford Transit Williams** LNE524G **Ford Transit Williams** 12 1968 **VYT491G** C45F 1969 **Bedford VAM70 Duple Viceroy VYT492G Bedford VAM70 Duple Viceroy** C45F 1969 C53F **VYT493G** Bedford VAL70 Duple Viceroy 37 1969 **VYT494G** Bedford VAL70 Duple Viceroy 37 C53F 1969 **VYT495G** Bedford VAL70 Duple Viceroy 37 C53F 1969 BPJ555H Ford R192 Plaxton Elite 10m C41F 1970 DPD556J Ford R192 Plaxton Elite 10m C41F 1970 OTM526H C49F 1970 Ford R226 Plaxton Elite 11m **XOT470J Bedford YRQ Plaxton Elite 2 10m** C41F 1971 **XOT919J Bedford PJK Plaxton Panarama C29F** 1971 **XOT920J Bedford PJK Plaxton Panarama C29F** 1971 WUR859J **Bedford PJK Duple Vista 25 C29F** 1971 WUR869J C41F 1971 **Bedford YRQ Plaxton Elite 2 10m** WNK480J Ford R226 Duple Viceroy **C52F** 1971 SMJ225J Ford R226 Plaxton Elite 2 11m C53F 1971 **XUR271J** Seddon Pennine 4 Plaxton Elite 2 11m C53F 1971 7 **GPG602K Volkswagen Mircobus** 1971 EOR557K **Bedford YRQ Plaxton Elite 2 10m** C41F 1972

Key: C - Coach B - Bus 24 - Seats F - Front Door D - Double Door 1990 - Year of vehicle

C41F

1972

Bedford YRQ Plaxton Elite 2 10m

EOR558K



1973 Bedford/Plaxton Elite

1972 - 1975

The Company moved to its new state of the art headquarters in Longmead in 1971 with a fleet that had grown to over 30 coaches, with a small number stationed in Bookham.

Despite the heavy investment in the new garage, the fleet was continually being renewed with heavyweight coaches entering the fleet in 1974 in the form of the AEC Reliance fitted with the familiar Plaxton Elite body, 36 feet (11 metres) long. This enabled up to 57 passengers to be carried, a record at the time, but more normally 53 seats and for smaller coaches, Bedfords with both 29 and 41 seats, confirmed a consolidated range of vehicle sizes including now a single 12 seat Ford Transit, body by Deansgate.

The move to heavyweight chassis reflected the increased distances covered and the motorway era. Increased power and larger engines ensured longer term durability and enhanced hill climbing ability.

The first of what was to be a succession of Leyland Leopards were trialled in 1973, these being fitted with a semi automatic gearbox, which made the driver's job easier particularly in the increasing congestion of central London.

The Leyland Leopard was a big hit with drivers and passengers alike and although it had less power than the AEC, its brakes were superior and it featured an air handbrake, something the AEC never had the benefit of.

1972 - 1975

EOR559K	Bedford YRQ Plaxton Elite 2 10m	C41F	1972
EOR560K	Bedford YRQ Plaxton Elite 2 10m	C41F	1972
FOU216K	Ford Transit Deansgate	12	1972
FCG921K	Bedford PJK Plaxton Panarama	C29F	1972
FGC922K	Bedford PJK Plaxton Panarama	C29F	1972
JHO923L	Bedford PJK Duple Vista 25	C29F	1972
JHO924L	Bedford PJK Duple Vista 25	C29F	1972
OYL217L	Ford Transit Deansgate	12	1972
LHO530L	Bedford YRT Plaxton Elite 3 11m	C53F	1973
MCG531L	Bedford YRT Duple Dominant 11m	C53F	1973
MOR410L	Bedford YRT Plaxton Elite 3 10m	C41F	1973
MOU532L	Bedford YRT Plaxton Elite 3 11m	C53F	1973
MOU533L	Bedford YRT Plaxton Elite 3 11M	C53F	1973
ORO326L	Leyland Leopard Plaxton Elite 11m	C55/57F	1973
KNR327L	Leyland Leopard Plaxton Elite 11m	C53F	1973
KNR328L	Leyland Leopard Plaxton Elite 11m	C53F	1973
OOU534M	Bedford YRT Plaxton Elite 3 11m	C53F	1973
OOU535M	Bedford YRT Plaxton Elite 3 11m	C53F	1973
TOT536M	Bedford YRT Plaxton Elite 3 11m	C53F	1974
WJH322M	AEC Reliance Plaxton Elite 11m	C55/57F	1974
WJH323M	AEC Reliance Plaxton Elite 11m	C55/57F	1974
WJH324M	AEC Reliance Plaxton Elite 11m	C55/57F	1974
WJH325M	AEC Reliance Plaxton Elite 11m	C55/57F	1974
HPB670N	Bedford YRT Plaxton Elite 3 11m	C53F	1975
HPB671N	Bedford YRT Plaxton Elite 3 11m	C53F	1975
HPB660N	Bedford YRT Plaxton Elite 3 10m	C41F	1975
HPB661N	Bedford YRQ Plaxton Elite 3 10m	C41F	1975

This was a record period for new vehicle investment, with 11 heavyweight vehicles entering the fleet in 1976. This included more Leyland Leopards, which were to be a mainstay of the fleet throughout the 70's and early 80's. In addition, smaller coaches were catered for with the Bristol LHS chassis. Epsom Coaches were the largest users of the coach version of this popular model.

These changes saw the last of the Bedfords enter the fleet, with the first purchased in 1933. Bedford had not developed their product and although there was a belated attempt to upgrade the power and produce a more heavyweight option, Epsom Coaches moved to an almost exclusively Leyland fleet.

The legislation allowing longer coaches up to 40 feet (12 metres) was taken advantage of with all new full size coaches being of this size. The traditional mid engine layout was well developed, but the luggage capacity of coaches lagged behind the increased seating capacity, especially when touring with American groups.

A unique feature of Epsom Coaches at the time was deeply tinted glass, giving a sleek look to the fleet, which made it stand out. Standard equipment included a PA system and a carpeted central aisle, well ahead of its time.

Reclining seats were another unique innovation, with less seats and more leg room, paving the way for today's touring coaches.



19	975 - 19	78	3
HPB662N	Bedford YRQ Plaxton Elite 3 10m	C41F	1975
KGN261N	Bedford YRT Plaxton Elite 3 11m	C53F	1975
GNM232N	Bristol LHS6L Plaxton Supreme IV 8m	C33F	1975
GNM233N	Bristol LHS6L Plaxton Supreme IV 8m	C33F	1975
GNM234N	Bristol LHS6L Plaxton Supreme IV 8m	C33F	1975
KGT895N	Bristol LHS6L Plaxton Supreme IV 8m	C33F	1975
NGO663P	Bedford YRQ Plaxton Supreme IV 10m	C41F	1976
NGP100P	Ford Transit Deansgate	12	1976
RGF230P	Bristol LHS6L Plaxton Supreme IV 8m	C33F	1976
RGF231P	Bristol LHS6L Plaxton Supreme IV 8m	C33F	1976
PGN320P	Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV	C55F	1976
PGN321P	Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV	C55F	1976
OGT329P	Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV	C51F	1976
PGN330P	Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV	C51F	1976
UGK228R	Bristol LHS6L Plaxton Supreme IV 8m	C33F	1976
UGC229R	Bristol LHS6L Plaxton Supreme IV 8m	C33F	1976
SGN331R	Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV	C46F	1976
WGK316R	Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV	C55F	1977
VGJ317R	Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV	C55F	1977
UGO318R	Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV	C55F	1977
UGO319R	Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV	C55F	1977
VGK332R	Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV	C46F	1977
BGJ311S	Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV	C55F	1978
BGK312S	Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV	C55F	1978
CGF313S	Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV	C55F	1978
CGF314S	Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV	C55F	1978
CGF315S	Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV	C55F	1978



1978 – 1982

As one of the largest purchasers of Leyland products, it was natural that when the Leyland Leopard was phased out in the early 80's, Epsom Coaches would move onto the new Leyland Tiger, which was a more powerful version of the Leopard fitted with Plaxton Supreme 4 coachwork.

These vehicles were the flagship of their day with 50 reclining seats and superb comfort with wide panoramic windows, although these had yet to be double glazed. The Leyland Tiger was short lived with only five entering the fleet, one of which was a manual version for driver training.

The design although well intentioned was flawed, with reliability issues and the competition in the form of the Volvo B10M chassis was already ahead of the market. Eventually, Leyland Bus was taken over by Volvo and there ended a long line of British products that used to lead the world.

With the one exception of a sole Mercedes Benz 18 seater conversion, Leyland products were exclusively purchased, with the Bristol, LHS making a fine smaller coach for up to 33 passengers. They were never popular with drivers however, given their heavy non powered steering, heavy clutch and ponderous handling. The later versions had power steering but the heavy controls persisted.

1982 1978 **EGT308T** C55F Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV 1978 FGC309T Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV C55F 1978 **FGJ310T** Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV C55F 1978 GGF227T **Bristol LHS6L Plaxton Supreme IV 8m** C33F 1978 C50F GGT334T Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV 1979 **GGT335T** C50F 1979 Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV JGO336T C50F 1979 Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV **KGP305T** Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV C55F 1979 **KGF306T** Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV C55F 1979 **HGN307T** Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV C55F 1979 C50F MGC337V Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV 1979 **MGC338V** Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV C50F 1979 **PGC339V** Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV C50F 1980 PGC340V Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV C50F 1980 **PGH341V** Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV C50F 1980 **PGO342V** 1980 Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme IV C50F OGK240V Mercedes L608D Reeve Burgees Van C18F 1980 SGH241V **C18F** 1980 Mercedes L608D Reeve Burgees Van **XGO225W** C30F 1981 **Bristol LHS6L Plaxton Supreme IV 8m XGO226W** 1981 C30F **Bristol LHS6L Plaxton Supreme IV 8m AGJ343W C50F** 1981 Leyland Tiger Plaxton Supreme IV AGJ344W Leyland Tiger Plaxton Supreme IV **C50F** 1981 BGP345X C50F 1981 Leyland Tiger Plaxton Supreme V 12m GGC223X C30F 1982 **Bristol LHS6L Plaxton Supreme IV 8m** GGC224X **Bristol LHS6L Plaxton Supreme IV 8m** C30F 1982 **GGJ346X** Leyland Tiger Plaxton Supreme V GT **C50F** 1982 **GGJ347X** Leyland Tiger Plaxton Supreme V GT C50F 1982

1983 was a significant year with the introduction of the first Volvo B10M coaches to a very high specification in NGT 1Y and 2Y. These vehicles were purchased for the pioneering Riviera Express route with a regular service to the South of France and the only one to be licenced by the French authorities. These were also the first coaches to be equipped with a toilet and full air-conditioning. They also included a refreshment servery and just 44 seats, providing generous leg room in the 12 metre body.

A range of Plaxton Paramount vehicles were then introduced, the first ones based on the highline 3500 and followed by the lower version 3200, the height being dictated by the garage at the time, which would not take the full height vehicles on both sides, although it had been widened to take 12 metre coaches. Volvo also featured a smaller version called the B9M. Two 36 seat Paramount 3200's were purchased and proved to be very popular with smaller groups.

This period was also significant as the first purpose built buses were delivered, these being Bedford YMT with Plaxton Derwent bus bodies, purchased for £39,000 each. These signalled a serious intention on the local bus network, following de-regulation of the bus industry in 1986. Prior to this, older coaches had been used as buses, but did not afford the accessibility of today's modern low floor fleet.



19	983 — 19	8	7
NGT1Y	Volvo B10M GT Plaxton Paramount 3500	C44F	1983
NGT2Y	Volvo B10M GT Plaxton Paramount 3500	C44F	1983
NGT303Y	Volvo B10M GT Plaxton Paramount 3500	C50F	1983
NGT304Y	Volvo B10M GT Plaxton Paramount 3500	C50F	1983
A236EPA	Volkswagen Transporter	7	1983
A400WGH	Volvo B10M GLT Plaxton Paramount	C44F	1984
A401WGH	Volvo B10M GLT Plaxton Paramount	C44F	1984
A500WGF	Volvo B10M GLT Plaxton Paramount	C50F	1984
A501WGF	Volvo B10M GLT Plaxton Paramount	C50F	1984
A502WGF	Volvo B10M GLT Plaxton Paramount	C50F	1984
A503WGF	Volvo B10M GLT Plaxton Paramount	C50F	1984
B504CGP	Volvo B10M GT Plaxton Paramount 3200	C50F	1985
B505CGP	Volvo B10M GT Plaxton Paramount 3200	C50F	1985
B506CGP	Volvo B10M GT Plaxton Paramount 3200	C50F	1985
B507CGP	Volvo B10M GT Plaxton Paramount 3200	C50F	1985
B508CGP	Volvo B10M GT Plaxton Paramount 3200	C50F	1985
C200HGF	Mercedes L608D Plaxton Mini Supreme	C20F	1985
C201KGJ	Mercedes L608D Plaxton Mini Supreme	C20F	1986
C360HGF	Volvo B9M Plaxton Paramount 3200	C36F	1985
C361HGF	Volvo B9M Plaxton Paramount 3200	C36F	1985
C509HGF	Volvo B10M (A) Plaxton Paramount 3200	C50F	1985
C510LGH	Volvo B10M (A) Plaxton Paramount 3200	C50F	1986
C511LGH	Volvo B10M (A) Placton Paramount 3200	C50F	1986
D202PGJ	Mercedes L608D Plaxton Mini Supreme	C21F	1986
D600RGJ	Bedford YMT Plaxton Derwent 2	B53F	1987
D601RGJ	Bedford YMT Plaxton Derwent 2	B53F	1987
D602RGJ	Bedford YMT Plaxton Derwent 2	B53F	1987



Volvo B10M/Van Hool Alizee

1987 – 1992

The company continued to invest heavily in new vehicles and in particular introduced smaller buses based on Mercedes L709 chassis with Reeve Burgess Beaver bodies and a one off Optare City Pacer, which was a revolutionary design, but not particularly successful or reliable.

A 1991 Mercedes - Benz/Optare Starrider was one of the few vehicles purchased second hand, to fulfil a need for a slightly larger bus. It was not a great success, being notoriously underpowered.

These smaller buses complimented the Plaxton Derwent vehicles with a full range of bus services being launched in Epsom and the surrounding areas. It was also during this period that the first of the Volvo B10M Vanhool Alizee coaches came into the fleet and were reckoned by many to be some of the finest coaches ever operated at the time, with seating capacities ranging from 53 seats to luxury touring vehicles with 49 seats.

The first and only Japanese vehicles appeared in 1992, with the introduction of 3 Toyota/ Caetano 18 seat coaches. They proved to be reliable and car like in their comfort and construction, but suffered from their low gearing and limited fuel range. Even a return trip to Birmingham would require refuelling, such was their limited fuel capacity. In 2004 a fleet of Toyota Yaris cars were purchased for crew transfers and also proved to be exceptionally reliable.

	<i>J</i> 0/ <u> </u>	94	
D603RGJ	Bedford YMT Plaxton Derwent 2	B53F	1987
D604RGJ	Bedford YMT Plaxton Derwent 2	B53F	1987
D203RGH	Volkswagen LT55 Optare City Pacer	B25F	1987
E204YGC	Mercedes L709D Reeve Burgess Beaver	B25F	1987
E205YGC	Mercedes L709D Reeve Burgess Beaver	B25F	1 9 88
E206BGN	Mercedes L709D Reeve Burgess Beaver	B25F	1 9 88
E512YGC	Volvo B10M Van hool Alizee H	C53F	1 9 88
E513YGC	Volvo B10M Van hool Alizee H	C53F	1 9 88
E514YGC	Volvo B10M Van hool Alizee H	C53F	1988
E515YGC	Volvo B10M Van hool Alizee H	C53F	1 9 88
F207DGT	Mercedes L709D Reeve Burgess Beaver	B25F	1 9 88
F208GGH	Mercedes L709D Robin Hood	B25F	1 9 88
F209GGH	Mercedes L709D Robin Hood	B25F	1988
F691MPF	Volkswagen Mircobus Devon Conversion	11	1 9 88
F516GGJ	Volvo B10M Van hool Alizee H	C53F	1989
F517GGJ	Volvo B10M Van hool Alizee H	C53F	1989
F684SPC	Volkswagen Mircobus Devon Conversion	11	1989
G518OGP	Volvo B10M Van hool Alizee H	C53F	1990
G519OGP	Volvo B10M Van hool Alizee H	C53F	1990
H210UGO	Mercedes L709D Phoenix	B26F	1990
H531WGH	Volvo B10M Van hool Alizee H	C53F	1991
H532WGH	Volvo B10M Van hool Alizee H	C53F	1991
H533WGH	Volvo B10M Van hool Alizee H	C53F	1991
F670NPG	Mercedes Optare Starrider	B33F	1991
C331DND	Volvo B10M Van hool Alizee H	C53F	1992
C529DND	Volvo B10M Van hool Alizee H	C53F	1992
J721FGP	Toyota Caetano Optimo II	C18F	1992

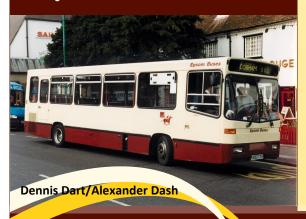
1087 - 1002

With the move to Volvo Vanhool complete, the final Vanhool coaches were delivered into the fleet in 1993. These had been complimented by replacements for the earlier Mercedes Plaxton Mini Supremes with two more Toyota Caetano Optimo II coaches, which provided real coach comfort in a smaller car-like body. The Mercedes L709 however, continued to be popular and moved to bus duties with purpose built vehicles arriving later and used to pioneer the local "hopper" bus network.

A busy time saw the first of the Dennis Javelin coaches enter the fleet with the Plaxton Premiere 3200 body, ranging in seating capacity from 44 seats for touring to a maximum of 53 seats in 12 metre bodies. Dennis Javelin was a successful product with the Epsom vehicles based on the more powerful GS chassis.

The Javelin was a product of its time, with the unique advantage of not only a large rear boot, but also generous luggage accommodation in the side lockers. This due to the engine mounting just ahead of the rear axle. The lack of space for luggage still being an issue with British coach designs.

In a change from the usual buying pattern, a one off Dennis Dart fitted with an Alexander Dash body was purchased in 1992. This proved to be a solid bus, but the more traditional pattern of Dennis Dart with the well known Plaxton Pointer body was the mainstream mid size bus model, although Marshall bodies also featured.



19	992 - 19	9	6
K460PNR	Toyota Caetano Optimo II	C18F	1992
K892CSX	Dennis Dart 9.8 Alexander Dash	B40F	1992
K593BEG	Mercedes L709D Marshall/Carlyle	B27F	1992
K288GDT	Volvo B10M Van hool Alizee H (A8HRR)	C53F	1993
K289GDT	Volvo B10M Van hool Alizee H (A9HRR)	C53F	1993
K465PNR	Toyota Caetano Optimo II	C18F	1993
K112NGK	Dennis Dart 9.8 Plaxton Pointer	B40F	1993
K113NGK	Dennis Dart 9.8 Plaxton Pointer	B40F	1993
K321GEW	Dennis Dart 9.8 Marshall/Carlyle	B40F	1993
L894NAV	Mercedes L709D Marshall/Carlyle	B27F	1993
L231BUT	Dennis Javelin Plaxton Premiere 320	C53F	1994
L232BUT	Dennis Javelin Plaxton Premiere 320	C53F	1994
L233BUT	Dennis Javelin Plaxton Premiere 320	C53F	1994
L234BUT	Dennis Javelin Plaxton Premiere 320	C53F	1994
M960CGF	Dennis Dart 9.8 Plaxton Pointer	B40F	1994
M790LPH	Dennis Javelin Plaxton Premiere 320	C53F	1995
M791LPH	Dennis Javelin Plaxton Premiere 320 (A8HRR)	C53F	1995
M792LPH	Dennis Javelin Plaxton Premiere 320 (A9HRR)	C53F	1995
M793LPH	Dennis Javelin Plaxton Premiere 320	C53F	1995
M332MPG	Dennis Javelin Plaxton Premiere 320	C53F	1995
N401SPA	Dennis Dart 9.8 Plaxton Pointer	B40F	1995
N402SPA	Dennis Dart 9.8 Plaxton Pointer	B40F	1995
N405SPC	Dennis Javelin Plaxton Premiere 320	C44F	1996
N406SPC	Dennis Javelin Plaxton Premiere 320	C53F	1996
N407SPC	Dennis Javelin Plaxton Premiere 320	C53F	1996
N408SPC	Dennis Javelin Plaxton Premiere 320	C53F	1996
N409SPC	Dennis Javelin Plaxton Premiere 320	C53F	1996



Another variation on the Volvo B10M was introduced with the Jonckheere Mistral 50, of which five examples were purchased in 1997. This provided an interesting contrast with the Vanhool product.

This period also saw the introduction of the Optare Metrorider, eleven examples of which were purchased second hand from London General, following their request for us to take over two routes, the 413 and the S1 London services given their shortage of drivers. The Optare Metroriders were refurbished and painted in our own paint shop, but proved to be unreliable and were later replaced with the Quality Line fleet in 1998. These were Dennis Dart/Plaxton Pointer 2 and some of the first low floor buses in the UK. They introduced the concept of drivers air conditioning, (which is now a standard feature in London) and interurban seating, to improve comfort.

However, the first London bus service operated on behalf of what is now TfL was the S4, using three Mercedes L810D UVG Citistar bonneted buses which proved to be a great success. These were purchased in 1997.

The first of 5 Dennis Javelins fitted with Berkhof Radial bodywork, were purchased in 1998, with a one off high liner Axial appearing in 1999. These proved to be almost unique in the UK, but served the Epsom fleet well for a number of years, with the continued requirement for low height coaches dictated by garage constraints.

10	996 — 19	9	8
N479VPA	Dennis Javelin Plaxton Premiere 320	C53F	1996
P570APJ	Mercedes L709D Plaxton Beaver	B27F	1996
H947JPA	Mercedes L709D Reeve Burgess Beaver	B25F	1997
P707DPA	Dennis Javelin Plaxton Premiere 320	C53F	1997
P708DPA	Volvo B10M Jonckheere Mistral 50	C53F	1997
P709DPA	Volvo B10M Jonckheere Mistral 50	C53F	1997
P710DPA	Volvo B10M Jonckheere Mistral 50	C53F	1997
P806DPA	Volvo B10M Jonckheere Mistral 50	C49F	1997
P807DPA	Volvo B10M Jonckheere Mistral 50	C49F	1997
H679YGO	Optare Metrorider	B26F	1997
H680YGO	Optare Metrorider	B26F	1997
H681YGO	Optare Metrorider	B26F	1997
H682YGO	Optare Metrorider	B26F	1997
H683YGO	Optare Metrorider	B26F	1997
H684YGO	Optare Metrorider	B26F	1997
H685YGO	Optare Metrorider	B26F	1997
H686YGO	Optare Metrorider	B26F	1997
H687YGO	Optare Metrorider	B26F	1997
H688YGO	Optare Metrorider	B26F	1997
H689YGO	Optare Metrorider	B26F	1997
R211MGT	Mercedes L810D UVG Citistar	B27F	1997
R212MGT	Mercedes L810D UVG Citistar	B27F	1997
R213MGT	Mercedes L810D UVG Citistar	B27F	1997
R711KGK	Dennis Javelin Berkoff Radial	C53F	1998
R712KGK	Dennis Javelin Berkoff Radial	C53F	1998
R713KGK	Dennis Javelin Berkoff Radial	C53F	1998
R714KGK	Dennis Javelin Berkoff Radial	C53F	1998

New vehicle purchases were almost exclusively buses during this period with an intake of 11 low floor buses, the first in the fleet and some of the first in the UK.

Coaches were not forgotten however, with two 27 seat vehicles, based on an unusual design by lveco with the IndCar Maxim body introduced in 2000.

Most buses were purchased in the form of Dennis Dart, low floor Alexander ALX200, a body which would feature heavily in the fleet as the years moved on and perceived as a higher quality version of the Plaxton Pointer.

The first dedicated training vehicle was purchased second hand in 1998. This being a 1983 Bedford YMP, fitted with a 10 metre Plaxton Supreme Mk 4 body. This was a special build though, having originally been built as one of a pair for the South Yorkshire Police specifically to transport officers for the long running miners strikes of that era. As a consequence it had under chassis armour plating and other security features, none of which looked particularly effective!

Until the arrival of the Bedford trainer, drivers had been trained on a service vehicle. The addition of a dedicated training bus, allowed the driver training to be stepped up to cater for a fleet that was growing at an unprecedented, rate.



V511MGO

W813AAY

G47TGW

W871VGT

W872VGT

W873VGT

Mercedes 0810D/Plaxton Beaver

10	998 - 20)0	0
A301XWF	Bedford YMP Plaxton Supreme	C35F	1998
S451LGN	Mercedes 0810D Plaxton Beaver	B31F	1998
S452LGN	Mercedes 0810D Plaxton Beaver	B31F	1998
S453LGN	Mercedes 0810D Plaxton Beaver	B31F	1998
S454LGN	Mercedes 0810D Plaxton Beaver	B31F	1998
S455LGN	Mercedes 0810D Plaxton Beaver	B31F	1998
S456LGN	Dennis Dart SPD Plaxton Pointer 2	B29F	1998
S457LGN	Dennis Dart SPD Plaxton Pointer 2	B29F	1998
S458LGN	Dennis Dart SPD Plaxton Pointer 2	B29F	1998
S459LGN	Dennis Dart SPD Plaxton Pointer 2	B29F	1998
S460LGN	Dennis Dart SPD Plaxton Pointer 2	B29F	1998
S461LGN	Dennis Dart SPD Plaxton Pointer 2	B29F	1998
S462LGN	Dennis Dart SPD Plaxton Pointer 2	B29F	1998
S463LGN	Dennis Dart SPD Plaxton Pointer 2	B29F	1998
S464LGN	Dennis Dart SPD Plaxton Pointer 2	B29F	1998
S465LGN	Dennis Dart SPD Plaxton Pointer 2	B29F	1998
S466LGN	Dennis Dart SPD Plaxton Pointer 2	B29F	1998
T467EGT	Dennis Dart SFD Plaxton Pointer 2	B33F	1999
T468EGT	Dennis Dart SFD Plaxton Pointer 2	B33F	1999
T715GGT	Dennis Javelin Berkoff Radial	C53F	1999
T808TGP	Dennis Javelin Berkoff Axial	C49F	1999

Key: C - Coach B - Bus 24 - Seats F - Front Door D - Double Door 1990 - Year of vehicle

Dennis Dart SFD Alexander ALX200

Dennis Dart SFD Alexander ALX200

Dennis Dart SFD Alexander ALX200

Iveco Euro Midi Maxim

Iveco Euro Midi Maxim

Dennis Dart SDL Carlyle

C27F

C27F

B28F

B29F

B29F

B29F

2000

2000

2000

2000

2000

2000



Continued bus purchases meant a growing network including more low floor, Dennis Darts with Plaxton Pointer bodywork and the last of the line ALX 200's with 28 seats were purchased in 2001, being phased out in favour of the Pointer.

As part of the 80th anniversary celebrations, two of the then new Volvo B10M/Plaxton Panther coaches were introduced into the fleet. This model went on to have a long production run with Plaxton, although spent a relatively short period in the Epsom fleet. These were the first coaches to have fully automatic transmission after a period of manual gearbox Volvos although three automatic Volvos were trialled in 1985/6 following many years of semi automatic Leylands. Automatic transmission is now standardised across the fleet including support vehicles.

An unusual purchase in 2001 was eight Volkswagen Caravelle 7 seaters to service a contract for the drugs company Pfizer, providing staff transport. These were operated in a standard blue livery and were not sign written.

Early 2002 saw a significant event with the first of a long line of Setra coaches which have formed the mainstream fleet ever since. The first order was for a pair of Setra 315 GT-HD coaches, both to 49 seat touring specification.

In 2002 the first Optare Solos entered the fleet, which has become a mainstay of the small bus requirement to the present day.

2000-2002

W874VGT	Dennis Dart SFD Alexander ALX200	B29F	2000
W875VGT	Dennis Dart SFD Alexander ALX200	B29F	2000
W876VGT	Dennis Dart SFD Alexander ALX200	B29F	2000
W877VGT \	Volvo B10M Plaxton Panther	C49F	2000
W878VGT \	Volvo B10M Plaxton Panther	C49F	2000
T75JBA	Dennis Dart SLF Plaxton Pointer		2001
T76JBA	Dennis Dart SLF Plaxton Pointer		2001
V943DNB	Dennis Dart SLF Plaxton Pointer		2001
LB510CF	/olkswagen Caravelle	7	2001
LB510CG	/olkswagen Caravelle	7	2001
LB51OCH	/olkswagen Caravelle	7	2001
LB51OCK	/olkswagen Caravelle	7	2001
LB51OCL	/olkswagen Caravelle	7	2001
LB510CR	/olkswagen Caravelle	7	2001
LB51UFS	/olkswagen Caravelle	7	2001
LB51UFU	/olkswagen Caravelle	7	2001
SN51UCH	Dennis Dart Alexander ALX200	B28F	2001
SN51UCJ	Dennis Dart Alexander ALX200	B28F	2001
SN51UCL	Dennis Dart Alexander ALX200	B28F	2001
SN51UCM	Dennis Dart Alexander ALX200	B28F	2001
SN51UCO	Dennis Dart Alexander ALX200	B28F	2002
SN51UCP	Dennis Dart Alexander ALX200	B28F	2002
SN51UCR	Dennis Dart Alexander ALX200	B28F	2002
SN51UCS	Dennis Dart Alexander ALX200	B28F	2002
BX02CMO	Setra S315GT-HD	C49F	2002
BX02CMU	Setra S315GT-HD	C49F	2002
YE52FHH	Optare Solo	B28F	2002

Optare Solos continued to enter the fleet to service newly won London Bus contracts. Some are still retained and have been refurbished with a new lease of life for the re-launched local bus network, which has seen the return of the Epsom Buses brand with the Silver Service sub branding emphasising a quality operation. The local bus network vehicles and the coach fleet are named after former Derby winners, emphasising still further the local connection.

A fleet of full size Mercedes - Benz Citaros, were purchased in 2003 to service the newly won TfL 293 route, between Epsom and Morden. After the contract finished they were sold on, but later were hired by Metrobus to cover the X26 service, a route that was later won by Quality Line. One of the original Citaros is retained and operates as a spare on X26.

The link with Mercedes-Benz was firmly cemented, with more Setras joining the coach fleet. Mercedes Benz had acquired the long established Setra brand, from its founding family, the Kassbohrers and developed the coach as a premium model as part of their wider product range.

Whilst the Optare Solos were also powered by Mercedes-Benz, one of the Solos was for a time converted to hybrid power, as part of an experiment in conjunction with TfL. Therefore another first for Epsom Coaches with the first hybrid bus in London.



20	002 - 20	$\mathbf{)}0$	4
YE52FHJ	Optare Solo M850	B28F	2002
YE52FHK	Optare Solo M850	B28F	2002
YE52FHL	Optare Solo M850	B28F	2002
YE52FHM	Optare Solo M850	B28F	2002
YE52FHN	Optare Solo M850	B28F	2002
YE52FHO	Optare Solo M850	B28F	2002
YE52FHP	Optare Solo M850	B28F	2002
YE52FHR	Optare Solo M850	B28F	2002
YE52FHS	Optare Solo M850	B28F	2002
YE52FGU	Optare Solo M850	B28F	2002
YN03ZXF	Optare Solo M850 (E3HRR) 'Octavius'	B28F	2003
YN53SWF	Optare Solo M850	B28F	2003

12321113		D201	2002
YE52FGU	Optare Solo M850	B28F	2002
YN03ZXF	Optare Solo M850 (E3HRR) 'Octavius'	B28F	2003
YN53SWF	Optare Solo M850	B28F	2003
YN53SUF	Optare Solo M850 (E4HRR) 'Spread Eagle	B28F	2003
BW03ZMZ	Mercedes Citaro	B34D	2003
BW03AWZ	Mercedes Citaro	B34D	2003
BU53AXA	Mercedes Citaro	B34D	2003
BU53AWY	Mercedes Citaro	B34D	2003
BU53AWX	Mercedes Citaro	B34D	2003
BU53AWW	Mercedes Citaro	B34D	2003
BW03ZMY	Mercedes Citaro	B34D	2003
BU53ZWN	Setra S315GT-HD	C48F	2003
BU53ZWP	Setra S315GT-HD	C48F	2003
BU53ZWR	Setra S315GT-HD	C48F	2003
YN53SVK	Optare Solo M850 (E5HRR) 'Archduke'	B28F	2004
YN53SVL	Optare Solo M850 (E6HRR) 'Champion'	B28F	2004
YN53SVO	Optare Solo M850 (E7HRR) 'Sefton'	B28F	2004
YN53SVP	Optare Solo M850	B28F	2004



Setra became the mainstay of the coach fleet and featured in various combinations, including two 2004 315 GT-HD models operating Terravision services between Stansted and London Victoria. They left the fleet in 2013 and had each covered 1.8 million kms on the same driveline.

The first of the new generation Setra 416 GT-HD coaches, 13 metres in length with three axles entered the fleet in 2006 and set the pace for the future fleet up to the present day. Additional leg room and a very high specification ensured these coaches were the best yet.

Smaller vehicles still featured as two new Mercedes – Benz Sprinter 16 seaters were introduced to service a local NHS contract.

Possibly the most unusual vehicle and very much a one off was the Ford Excursion, a left hand drive stretch limo, the first to be of PSV specification in the UK with a passenger capacity of 12. This venture had limited success and the vehicle was later sold to an operator in Bristol.

Another one off, was the 2006 Dennis Dart/ Caetano, acquired second hand to replace the Bedford training vehicle. This London specification trainer, has dual doors and is perfectly suited to today's training needs.

The first of many East Lancs bodies entered the fleet at this time to service TfL routes based on the familiar Dennis Dart chassis. These were a variation of the previous Myllennium body known as the Esteem.

2004-2007

	-		
YN53SVR	Optare Solo M850	B28F	2004
YN53ZZA	Optare Solo M850	B28F	2004
YN53ZXB	Optare Solo M850	B28F	2004
BU04EXT	Setra S315GT-HD	C48F	2004
BU04EXV	Setra S315GT-HD 'Ladas 11'	C53F	2004
BU04EXW	Setra S315GT-HD	C53F	2004
BU04EXX	Setra S315GT-HD	C53F	2004
BX54ECF	Setra S315GTHD 'Shergar'	C53F	2004
BX54ECJ	Setra S315GT-HD 'See The Stars'	C53F	2004
PL05PLN	Dennis SLF East Lancs	B26F	2005
PL05PLO	Dennis SLF East Lancs	B26F	2005
PL05PLU	Dennis SLF East Lancs	B26F	2005
PL05PLV	Dennis SLF East Lancs	B26F	2005
PL05PLX	Dennis SLF East Lancs	B26F	2005
BU06CSF	Setra S416GT-HD 'Pour Moi'	C48F	2006
BU06CSO	Setra S416GT-HD 'Quest For Fame'	C48F	2006
LX06FFA	Mercedes Sprinter 413CDI	C16F	2006
LX06FFB	Mercedes Sprinter 413CDI	C16F	2006
HY06CJO	Ford Excursion LHD Stretched Limo	12	2006
HV52WSZ	Dennis SLF Caetano	B31D	2006
BX56VTY	Setra S416GT-HD 'Mill Reef'	C48F	2006
BX56VTZ	Setra S416GT-HD 'Motivator'	C48F	2006
PE56UFH	Dennis SLF East Lancs Esteem	B25D	2007
PE56UFJ	Dennis SLF East Lancs Esteem	B25D	2007
PE56UFK	Dennis SLF East Lancs Esteem	B25D	2007
PE56UFL	Dennis SLF East Lancs Esteem	B25D	2007
PE56UFM	Dennis SLF East Lancs Esteem	B25D	2007

In 2007, a further delivery of East Lancs Esteem buses joined the fleet to operate another contract term on TfL route S1.

A successful bid for TfL routes 406 and 418 Epsom to Kingston, saw the purchase of the company's first double decker buses. These presented an operating challenge as the garage entrances were not high enough to accommodate them. Therefore in typical Epsom style, an in house team raised the entrances and also altered the bodyshop and wash bay to accommodate the additional height. The relocated workshop had been adapted with double deckers in mind when it opened on an adjacent site in 2004.

After a detailed analysis of the available models on the market, the Alexander Dennis Enviro 400 double decker was chosen and 10 were ordered for commencement of the contract in June 2007.

More Optare Solos joined the fleet with a mix of Setra tri-axle vehicles also augmenting the coach fleet making it one of the most modern in the UK and certainly one of the highest specification.

Two new Mercdes Benz/Plaxton Cheetah 25 seat coaches replaced the lveco/Indcar Maxims in 2008.

All the new intake from 2007 were to Euro 4 standard and required the installation of adblue pumps for the after exhaust treatment. Epsom Coaches were one of the first to introduce this new environmental technology.



PE56UFN
PE56UFP
PE56UFR
PE56UFS
PN07KRZ
PN07KSE
SK07DZA
SK07DZB
SK07DZC
SK07DZD
SK07DZE
SK07DZF
SK07DZG
SK07DZH
SK07DZJ
SK07DZL
LJ08RJY
YN08DMV
YN08DMX
BK58URT
ҮЈ09МНК
YJ09MHL
ҮЈ09МНМ
YJ09MHN
YJ09MHO
YJ09MHU
YJ09MHV

20	007 - 20	00	9
PE56UFN	Dennis SLF East Lancs Esteem	B25D	2007
PE56UFP	Dennis SLF East Lancs Esteem	B25D	2007
PE56UFR	Dennis SLF East Lancs Esteem	B25D	2007
PE56UFS	Dennis SLF East Lancs Esteem	B25D	2007
PN07KRZ	Dennis SLF East Lancs Esteem	B25F	2007
PN07KSE	Dennis SLF East Lancs Esteem	B25F	2007
SK07DZA	Alexander Dennis Enviro 400 SFD	B67D	2007
SK07DZB	Alexander Dennis Enviro 400 SFD	B67D	2007
SK07DZC	Alexander Dennis Enviro 400 SFD	B67D	2007
SK07DZD	Alexander Dennis Enviro 400 SFD	B67D	2007
SK07DZE	Alexander Dennis Enviro 400 SFD	B67D	2007
SK07DZF	Alexander Dennis Enviro 400 SFD	B67D	2007
SK07DZG	Alexander Dennis Enviro 400 SFD	B67D	2007
SK07DZH	Alexander Dennis Enviro 400 SFD	B67D	2007
SK07DZJ	Alexander Dennis Enviro 400 SFD	B67D	2007
SK07DZL	Alexander Dennis Enviro 400 SFD	B67D	2007
LJ08RJY	Alexander Dennis Enviro 200 SFD	B26F	2008
YN08DMV	Mercedes 0816D Plaxton Cheetah	C25F	2008
YN08DMX	Mercedes 0816D Plaxton Cheetah	C25F	2008
BK58URT	Setra S416GT-HD 'Amato'	C53F	2008
YJ09MHK	Optare Solo M880	B24F	2009
YJ09MHL	Optare Solo M880	B24F	2009
YJ09MHM	Optare Solo M880	B24F	2009
YJ09MHN	Optare Solo M880	B24F	2009
YJ09MHO	Optare Solo M880	B24F	2009
YJ09MHU	Optare Solo M880	B24F	2009
YJ09MHV	Optare Solo M880	B24F	2009



An increasing number of Optare Solos in the bus fleet were augmented with the newly introduced Optare Versa in 2010. Eight examples of this stylish bus entered the fleet to operate newly won TfL Contract route 411 Molesey to Kingston.

Two more Mercedes - Benz Sprinter 16 seaters were purchased to operate staff transport links for the Royal Marsden Hospital and Institute of Cancer, soon being augmented with a third vehicle.

The first two of four Volvo B9R Caetano Lavante coaches entered the fleet to operate on dedicated National Express contracts. This saw a return to Volvo which were last purchased in 2000. This specialist contract requires three coaches, with the spare in Epsom Coaches livery and otherwise used on private hire as a 48 seater.

Three more ADL Enviro 400 double deckers joined the fleet, to operate newly won contract 467 in 2011. These were supplied to Euro 5 specification and brought the double decker fleet up to 13 buses.

The tradition of operating high specification small coaches continued with the purchase of two Mercedes - Benz Vito 7 seaters. These are in a distinctive "Home to Holiday" livery, and used to service the Company's pick up from home services as well as bus driver transfers and are available for small group hire when required.

2009-2012

YJ09MHX	Optare Solo M880	B24F	2009
BF10VBX	Mercedes 515CDI	M16	2010
BF10VBY	Mercedes 515CDI	M16	2010
YJ60KGA	Optare Versa V1110	B30D	2010
YJ60KGE	Optare Versa V1110	B30D	2010
YJ60KGK	Optare Versa V1110	B30D	2010
YJ60KGG	Optare Versa V1110	B30D	2010
YJ60KGK	Optare Versa V1110	B30D	2010
YJ60KGN	Optare Versa V1110	B30D	2010
YJ60KGO	Optare Versa V1110	B30D	2010
YJ60KGP	Optare Versa V1110	B30D	2010
BF60OFD	Setra S416GT-HD 'Ruler of the world'	C53F	2011
BF60OFE	Setra S416GT-HD 'April the fifth'	C49	2011
FJ11GLF	Volvo B9R Caetano Lavante 'Nijinsky'	C48F	2011
FJ11GMV	Volvo B9R Caetano Lavante	C48F	2011
SN11BVG	Alexander Dennis Enviro 400 SFD	B67D	2011
SN11BVH	Alexander Dennis Enviro 400 SFD	B67D	2011
YJ11EJA	Optare Solo	B23F	2011
YJ11EJC	Optare Solo	B23F	2011
YJ11EJD	Optare Solo	B23F	2011
BF59NHN	Mercedes 515CDI	M16	2011
RJ11ZWW	Mercedes Vito 122CDI	М7	2011
RJ11ZWX	Mercedes Vito 122CDI	М7	2011
YX61FYR	Alexander Dennis Enviro 400 SFD	B67D	2012
FJ61EYK	Volvo B9R Caetano Lavante	C49F	2012
FJ61EYL	Volvo B9R Caetano Lavante	C49F	2012
BN12EOP	Mercedes Citaro	B38F	2012

2012 – 2014

Mercedes-Benz Citaro once again featured with success in winning the X26, a cross orbital London bus route. Ten buses were purchased and have proven to be an excellent fleet vehicle working almost 22 hours a day, 7 days a week. They are complimented with the remaining Citaro from 2003, originally purchased for route 293.

Five more Optare Versas entered the fleet to service the newly won TfL route 465, Dorking to Kingston. These were interworked with the original fleet of Versas purchased to operate route 411. All Versas were built to Euro 5 environmental standard with Mercedes Benz drivelines.

Route 470 was re-awarded to Quality Line and a fleet of 9 Optare Solo SR buses were acquired to operate the services. These buses were to a new design, which built on the success of the Optare Solo. The buses were built with dual doors with length increased to 9.7 metres to suit.

In 2013, two further Setra 416 GT-HD coaches joined the fleet, one to touring specification with 49 seats and the other with 53 seats. Both have toilet/washrooms and are based on the tri-axle 13 metre body that had become the standard coach for the Epsom Coaches fleet.

The 2008 Plaxton Cheetah 25 seat coaches were replaced in 2014, with a pair of new coaches to similar specification, with Euro 5 Mercedes-Benz drivelines.



Optare Solo SR 9.7 metre dual door

2012 - 2014

BN12EOR	Mercedes Citaro	B38F	2012
BN12EOS	Mercedes Citaro	B38F	2012
BN12EOT	Mercedes Citaro	B38F	2012
BN12EOU	Mercedes Citaro	B38F	2012
BN12EOV	Mercedes Citaro	B38F	2012
BN12EOW	Mercedes Citaro	B38F	2012
BN12EOX	Mercedes Citaro	B38F	2012
BN12EOY	Mercedes Citaro	B38F	2012
BN12EOZ	Mercedes Citaro	B38F	2012
YJ12PKV	Optare Versa V1110	B30D	2012
YJ12PKX	Optare Versa V1110	B30D	2012
YJ12PKY	Optare Versa V1110	B30D	2012
YJ12PKZ	Optare Versa V1110	B30D	2012
YJ12PLF	Optare Versa V1110	B30D	2012
YJ62FUD	Optare Solo M970SR	B25D	2012
YJ62FUG	Optare Solo M970SR	B25D	2012
YJ62FVN	Optare Solo M970SR	B25D	2012
YJ62FVT	Optare Solo M970SR	B25D	2012
YJ62FWB	Optare Solo M970SR	B25D	2012
YJ62FXA	Optare Solo M970SR	B25D	2012
YJ62FXG	Optare Solo M970SR	B25D	2012
YJ62FXK	Optare Solo M970SR	B25D	2012
YJ13HJN	Optare Solo M900SR	B26F	2013
BX63BBZ	Setra S416GT-HD 'Authorized'	C53F	2013
BX63BCE	Setra S416GT-HD 'Airbourne'	C49F	2013
YX14EFG	Mercedes 0816D Cheetah 'Blenheim'	C25F	2014
YX14EFH	Mercedes 0816D Cheetah 'Austrailia'	C25F	2014



Ahead as ever, some of the first Euro 6 vehicles in the UK entered the fleet, headed up by five Alexander Dennis Enviro 400 double deckers to service expansion of TfL routes 406 and 418. These were the last of the line Enviro 400s in preference to the new MMC model, given comparability with the 13 existing buses of that type in the fleet. The double decker fleet, encompasses Euro 4, 5 and 6 technology although all look similar in appearance.

The double deckers were closely followed by twelve Optare Metrocity buses with Mercedes Euro 6 drivelines. This variation on the familiar Optare Versa design, were specifically built for London operation.

A further Optare Metrocity later joined the fleet. This was a former demonstration vehicle fitted with a Euro 5 Cummins engine.

The first new buses since 1991 for the local "commercial" bus network were introduced in 2014. These were to the new style Optare Solo SR design and look very attractive in the local bus "Silver Service" livery. A further two silver Optare Solos were purchased to operate an expanded contract for staff transport for the local NHS trust.

The last of the Setra 416s were delivered in early 2013.

As we entered 2015, the Euro 6 fleet was complimented further with delivery of six Alexander Dennis Enviro 200, 9 metre single deck buses for route S3

2014—2015

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YJ14BGK	Optare Solo M900SR 'Noble'	C34F	2014
YJ14BGO	Optare Solo M900SR 'New Approach'	C34F	2014
YJ14BGU	Optare Solo M900SR	C34F	2014
YJ14BGV	Optare Solo M900SR	C34F	2014
YJ14BFA	Optare Metrocity	B25D	2014
YJ14BFE	Optare Metrocity	B25D	2014
YJ14BFF	Optare Metrocity	B25D	2014
YJ14BFK	Optare Metrocity	B25D	2014
YJ14BFL	Optare Metrocity	B25D	2014
YJ14BFM	Optare Metrocity	B25D	2014
YJ14BFN	Optare Metrocity	B25D	2014
YJ14BFO	Optare Metrocity	B25D	2014
YJ14BFP	Optare Metrocity	B25D	2014
YJ14BFU	Optare Metrocity	B25D	2014
YJ14BFV	Optare Metrocity	B25D	2014
YJ14BFX	Optare Metrocity	B25D	2014
YJ14BFY	Optare Metrocity	B25D	2014
SL14LND	Alexander Dennis Enviro 400	B67D	2014
SL14LNE	Alexander Dennis Enviro 400	B67D	2014
SL14LNF	Alexander Dennis Enviro 400	B67D	2014
SL14LNG	Alexander Dennis Enviro 400	B67D	2014
SL14LNH	Alexander Dennis Enviro 400	B67D	2014
YY64TXB	Alexander Dennis Enviro 200	B25F	2015
YY64TXC	Alexander Dennis Enviro 200	B25F	2015
YY64TXD	Alexander Dennis Enviro 200	B25F	2015
YY64TXE	Alexander Dennis Enviro 200	B25F	2015
YY64TXF	Alexander Dennis Enviro 200	B25F	2015

The six new Alexander Dennis Euro 6 buses replaced Euro 3 Dennis Dart/East Lancs vehicles.

Given Mercedes-Benz decision to no longer offer the Setra product in right hand drive, research into the available coaches on the market was undertaken. This process determined the superiority of the Mercedes-Benz product and the decision to in future place orders for the Mercedes-Benz Tourismo model, which is similar to the Setra 416 GT HD. An initial test model was delivered in April 2015. The coach is specified to a high standard, based on a tri axle design with 49 seats.

Future known orders for delivery in January 2016 include three new Volvo/Caetano coaches to National Express specification, which will see the existing National Express coaches re-modelled into Epsom Coaches livery. The entire coach fleet will be replaced by June 2020, with Euro 6 vehicles to comply with the London Ultra Low Emission Zone due to be introduced in September 2020.

The bus fleet will likely feature hybrid drivelines in future and will continue to be amongst the youngest in the UK.

The development of vehicles over 95 years has shown no limits, what will the future hold?



2015 - 2016

YY64TXG	Alexander Dennis Enviro 200	B25F	2015
BJ15BDO	Mercedes Tourismo M	C49F	2015
YD63UZL	Optare Metrocity	B29D	2014
BX65WDF	Volvo B8R Caetano Levante	C48 F	2016
BX65WDG	Volvo B8R Caetano Levante	C48F	2016
BX65WCY	Volvo B8R Caetano Levante	C48F	2016
SN64CTZ	Wright StreetLite	B28F	2015
SN64CUA	Wright StreetLite	B28F	2015
SN64CUH	Wright StreetLite	B28F	2015
SN64CUK	Wright StreetLite	B28F	2015
SN64CUU	Wright StreetLite	B28F	2015
SN64CUV	Wright StreetLite	B28F	2015
SN64CUW	Wright StreetLite	B28F	2015
SN64CUY	Wright StreetLite	B28F	2015
SN64CVB	Wright StreetLite	B28F	2015
SN64CVC	Wright StreetLite	B28F	2015
YJ14BFY	Optare Metrocity	B25D	2014





2017

2017, saw another large intake of vehicles, including a return to Mercedes Benz Citaro, this time the Citaro K, a shorter version at 10.5 metres. These operated the newly won contract for route 413. The first ADL MMC buses were also purchased for route S3, joining some older models as part of a new contract.

Not shown, are four new Mercedes Tourismo coaches, due for delivery in February. These were cancelled, following the decision to close Epsom Coaches

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Optare Solo M900SR	C27F	2017
Mercedes Benz Citaro K	B28D	2017
Mercedes Benz Citaro K	B28D	2017
Mercedes Benz Citaro K	B28D	2017
Mercedes Benz Citaro K	B28D	2017
Mercedes Benz Citaro K	B28D	2017
Mercedes Benz Citaro K	B28D	2017
Mercedes Benz Citaro K	B28D	2017
Mercedes Benz Citaro K	B28D	2017
Mercedes Benz Citaro K	B28D	2017
ADL Enviro 200 MMC	B24F	2017
ADL Enviro 200 MMC	B24F	2017
ADL Enviro 200 MMC	B24F	2017
	Mercedes Benz Citaro K Mercedes Benz Citaro K Adl Enviro 200 MMC ADL Enviro 200 MMC	Mercedes Benz Citaro KB28DMercedes Benz Citaro KB28DADL Enviro 200 MMCB24FADL Enviro 200 MMCB24F

2017







Epsom Coaches Group

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