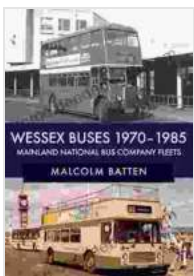


# A Comprehensive Overview of Wessex Buses 1970-1985: Mainland National Bus Company Fleets

Wessex Buses, a subsidiary of the National Bus Company (NBC), played a significant role in the public transportation network of southern England from 1970 to 1985. This article aims to provide a comprehensive overview of Wessex Buses during this period, with a focus on the diverse fleets operated under the Mainland National Bus Company.



## Wessex Buses 1970-1985: Mainland National Bus Company Fleets by Leisure Arts

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 74080 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 158 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported



## Historical Background

The origins of Wessex Buses can be traced back to the early 20th century, with the formation of numerous independent bus operators in the Wessex region. In 1931, these operators were consolidated into a single entity known as the Wessex National Omnibus Company, which became part of the NBC in 1970.

As part of the NBC, Wessex Buses operated under the Mainland National Bus Company, responsible for bus services in southern and central England. This article will delve into the bus fleets operated by Wessex Buses during this period, providing detailed descriptions and insights into their historical significance.

## **Fleet Overview**

Wessex Buses operated a varied fleet of vehicles to cater to the transportation needs of the region. The fleet consisted of a mix of single- and double-decker buses, each with its unique characteristics and purpose.

### **Single-Decker Buses**

Single-decker buses formed a significant part of Wessex Buses' fleet, primarily used on local services and shorter routes. Notable models included:

- **Leyland National:** Introduced in 1972, the Leyland National was a popular single-decker bus with Wessex Buses. It featured a distinctive boxy design and was powered by a rear-mounted Leyland engine.
- **Bristol RE:** Another common sight in the Wessex Buses fleet was the Bristol RE. This single-decker bus was known for its reliability and was widely used on rural and urban routes.
- **Ford R1014:** The Ford R1014 was a smaller single-decker bus, primarily used on school and contract services. Its compact size and maneuverability made it suitable for narrow roads and congested areas.

### **Double-Decker Buses**

Double-decker buses were the backbone of Wessex Buses' operations, providing high-capacity transportation on longer routes and express services. The fleet included:

- **AEC Routemaster:** The iconic AEC Routemaster was a staple in the Wessex Buses double-decker fleet. Its open rear platform and distinctive red livery became synonymous with London and the surrounding areas.
- **Bristol VR:** The Bristol VR was another popular double-decker bus with Wessex Buses. It featured a spacious interior and a powerful Gardner engine, making it suitable for both urban and rural routes.
- **Leyland Atlantean:** The Leyland Atlantean was a high-capacity double-decker bus, often used on express services. Its sleek design and powerful engine provided a comfortable and efficient ride for passengers.

## **Livery and Branding**

Wessex Buses adopted a distinctive livery and branding throughout its operations. The buses were painted in a vibrant red and cream livery, with the company's logo emblazoned on the sides. The logo featured a stylized "W" and the words "Wessex National" in bold lettering.

The livery and branding of Wessex Buses played a crucial role in establishing a recognizable identity for the company. The distinctive red and cream color scheme became synonymous with public transportation in the Wessex region.

## **Operational Significance**

Wessex Buses played a vital role in the transportation network of southern England, connecting towns, cities, and rural communities. The company's fleet of buses provided reliable and efficient services, catering to the diverse transportation needs of the region.

Wessex Buses was responsible for operating a wide range of services, including local routes, express services, school transport, and contract services. The company's buses were a familiar sight on the roads of the Wessex region, providing essential transportation for commuters, students, and leisure travelers.

### **Preservation and Legacy**

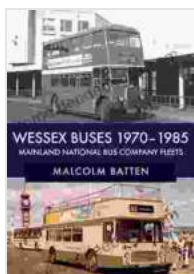
Today, some of the buses that operated with Wessex Buses during the 1970s and 1980s have been preserved by enthusiasts and heritage organizations. These preserved buses serve as a reminder of Wessex Buses' historical significance and the role it played in the transportation network of southern England.

The legacy of Wessex Buses continues to live on through these preserved vehicles, allowing future generations to appreciate the iconic vehicles and the company's contribution to public transportation.

Wessex Buses, under the Mainland National Bus Company, operated a diverse and significant fleet of buses from 1970 to 1985. These vehicles played a crucial role in connecting communities and providing essential transportation services in the Wessex region.

The distinctive livery and branding of Wessex Buses became synonymous with public transportation in southern England. The preserved buses of this

era serve as a testament to the company's historical significance and its lasting impact on the transportation landscape of the region.



## Wessex Buses 1970-1985: Mainland National Bus Company Fleets

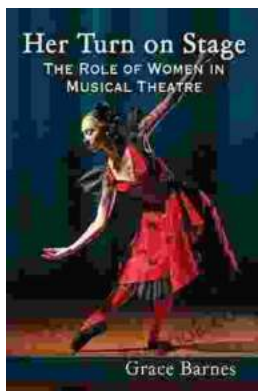
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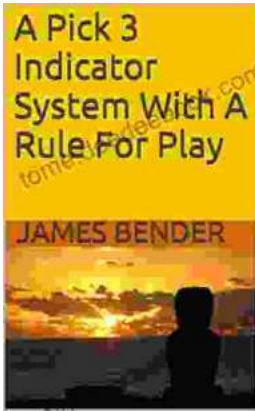
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