

Bradford 746 **(EKU 746)**



Chassis:	B.U.T. 9611T
Chassis No:	9611T015
Motor:	English Electric 410 rated at 120hp
Bodywork:	Roe H31/25R
Body No:	GO2833
Length:	26 ft 0 in
Width:	8 ft 0 in
Unladen Weight:	8t 9cwt 2qtrs
Entered Service:	1949
Withdrawn:	31 July 1971
Owner:	Private

BRIEF HISTORY

746 was one of a batch of 12 Weymann bodied AEC trolleybuses ordered in September 1946 for the conversion of the Bradford Moor tramway, with a further 8 similar vehicles being ordered the following February. These 20 vehicles turned out to be the last completely new trolleybuses purchased by Bradford Corporation, none being rebodied and all subsequent purchases were secondhand.

The 1946 order was much delayed and to speed delivery Weymann were allowed to sub-let the bodywork contract for the first twelve to CH Roe of Leeds, which at that time was not one of the Corporation's usual suppliers. However, the delay allowed them to be built to the newly-permitted 8 foot width, whilst AEC had formed a joint enterprise with Leyland: British United Traction (BUT). Delivery eventually took place between December 1948 and February 1949.

The Roe-bodied batch was placed in store and not licenced until December when they took up service on the Bradford Moor service, which a month later was linked across the city centre to the existing Crossflatts via Bingley and Saltaire trolleybus route. Having a high rating motor in a 2-axle bus gave these vehicles impressive acceleration and they easily coped with the steep (1 in 9.5) climb past Bradford Cathedral: few 3-axle trolleys at the time had such large motors.

By late 1952 all 20 were allocated to Saltaire Depot - on the line of the combined route - thus becoming known as the "Saltaire BUTs". 746 spent most of its remaining operational life there, only being transferred to Thornbury Depot when the Crossflatts - Bradford section was being prepared for conversion to motor buses.

For many years it was believed that 746 was withdrawn from passenger service in October 1963 as part of the fleet reduction when the Crossflatts route was converted to diesel buses. Recent research, backed up by photographic evidence, indicates that it was one of several given a light overhaul, remaining in service until the following February. 746 was then again placed in store to re-emerge in January 1967 as driver training vehicle 063. In this role it was used for the last Ministry of Transport trolleybus driver test in the UK on 30 July 1971, after which it was delicensed and sold for preservation.

In 1955 or 1956 746 had been re-seated to H33/25R. In preservation it regained its original layout and livery. 746 was taken out of service in 2024 pending further restoration work and a repaint.