

Huddersfield pole crane (unregistered)



Chassis: Dyson draw-bar 2-axle trailer
Bodywork: Morris pole crane
Entered Service: 1 November 1962
Withdrawn:
Owner: The Trolleybus Museum at Sandtoft

BRIEF HISTORY

Like tower wagons, pole cranes were essential for the installation and maintenance of electric tramway and trolleybus overhead. Traction poles are usually made of cast iron, have to be buried in 6 feet (1.83m) of concrete, and support the overhead wiring so that it is at least 21 feet (6.4m) above the road surface. Poles are therefore quite heavy.

Early pole cranes were horse drawn until petrol engines became a reliable option. Not much is known about this crane but it appears to have been built for towing behind a motor vehicle, most likely a tower wagon.

This pole crane arrived at Sandtoft in the early days and was used in the installation of many of our traction poles. Of necessity it had to be stored outside and deteriorated as a result. A long restoration was completed in 2025 and the crane is once more on display.