

LEYLAND NATIONAL 2

Strathtay Scottish Omnibuses Limited was established in 1985 inheriting the eastern operations of Midland Scottish and the southern operations of Northern Scottish.

It operated a fleet of 11 Leyland National 2 buses. The seven from Midland Scottish were 11-6m long with single door and no roof pod. SN1 DMS20V, SN2 DMS21V, SN3 DMS22V, SN6 NLS986W, SN7 NLS987W, SN8 NLS988W and SN9 NLS989W.



The four buses from Northern Scottish were 10-6m long with single door. Two of them had no roof pod (SN4 GS07V/KRS541V, SN5 GS08V/KRS542V/PIL2755) and the other two carried short roof pods (SN10 MSO 9W, SN11 MSO 11W).



By the time of Strathtay's thirtieth anniversary in 2015 only SN9 NLS989W survived. However it had been converted to a mobile exhibition unit and was beyond economic restoration. Instead Leyland National 2 WBW735X, which was of similar specification, was painted in to Strathtay livery as a tribute.

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Leyland National 2 WBW735X is 11-6m long with single door and no roof pod. It can carry 75 passengers, 52 seated and 23 standing. It was first registered by the UK Atomic Energy Authority at Harwell near Didcot on 16 February 1982.



Ownership transferred to Tappin's of Didcot on 18 June 1991 where it was given the cherished registration 653GBU and the L11 engine exchanged for a turbo TL11-B 245bhp unit. The interior was also retrimmed and many exterior panels replaced. Routemaster Buses of Nantwich took ownership on 1 November 2010 and operated it until 24 June 2014.



WBW735X was bought for preservation on 1 August 2014 and then rallied "as acquired" for the rest of the year. It was prepared for a full repaint over the winter and made its first rally appearance in Strathtay Scottish livery with fleet number SN12 on 17 May 2015. At this Scottish Vintage Bus Museum event it won the Roland Williams 'Best Bus' award.