

TURNING A BUS ROUND AT THE TERMINUS!

By John Bishop



In the days of the electric trolleybus in the United Kingdom up to 1972 this mode of transport with its silent and clean credentials had one disadvantage which was the ability to turn round in restricted areas. To overcome this Bournemouth Corporation in Dorset who operated trolleybuses until 1969 came up with this ingenious device at Christchurch – a turntable.

Their forerunners, the electric tram operated to Christchurch and could quite simply stop in the street and turn the trolley pole round and return to Bournemouth. The trolleybus whilst route bound came up with the solution of installing a turntable as depicted above. The trolleybus would simply turn into the area, de-pole, turn and re-pole to return to Bournemouth. The turntable is seen in the foreground and the trolleybus has collected the passengers for the return journey. The ruins of the priory are seen in the background.

Today the area has been built over and the turntable still exists in the rear of the premises built over the gap. Were there any others for turning trolleybuses and the answer is yes at a garage in Bilston, in the West Midlands, Huddersfield and Solingen in Germany which it still exists and is still inoperable condition.

Text and photograph – John Bishop



Passengers are seen waiting, while the trolleybus is turned