

# Public Transport

*A brief history of public transport in and locally to Ainsworth Village by Alan Taylor.*



It would appear that the earliest mention of any regular public transport in this area was in 1796, this being a horse drawn coach between Rochdale and Manchester which passed through Bury (approximately 3 miles from Ainsworth Village).

The opening of the Lancashire & Yorkshire railway in 1848 would likely have been the first public transport available to the masses in the area. This ran from Rochdale to Bolton passing through local stations of Black Lane later know as Radcliffe Black Lane (approximately 1.75 miles from Ainsworth Village) and Bradley Fold (approximately 1.9 miles from Ainsworth Village). The line was closed in 1970.

In 1907 the tram line from Bury was extended from Bury Barracks to Brightmet allowing Ainsworth Villagers to walk down to Bury and Bolton to pick up this service.

Around 1926 bus services from both Bury and Bolton were started to Ainsworth Village operated by Bury Corporation Transport and Bolton Corporation Transport respectively. In 1938 the Radcliffe to Three Arrows service was extended to Ainsworth Village. Bolton buses were coloured maroon and cream. Bury buses were red and cream but due to problems getting paint during the war some had to be painted grey. Post-war they were changed to green and cream.

My first memories of buses in Ainsworth Village were seeing rear platform buses being reversed into Ainsworth Hall Road to turn around, with the Conductors directing drivers behind the buss. Today's Health & Safety lobby would no doubt be horrified by such as practice. At a later stage, a turning circle was constructed but ironically shortly afterwards a through service was started between Bury and Bolton thus ending the need for buses to turn around in the village.

In 1969 local council services around Manchester were amalgamated under one public operator SELNEC (South East Lancashire North East Cheshire) with its distinctive orange and cream livery. In the mid-1980s bus deregulation was introduced by the Government which meant bus operation was taken over by private companies.

Today a through service between Bury and Bolton still run through the village as well as a Bury to Radcliffe service via Bradley Fold.