

Airdrie & Coatbridge Tramways Company



1904 - 1921

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Cover Illustration: No. 8 was a 1904 Brush built double-deck open-top 4-wheel car that became No. 1080 in the Glasgow Corporation fleet in 1922. (R. C. Platt).

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Proposals to link the towns of Airdrie and Coatbridge to Glasgow by tramway had been mooted since 1870, but it was not until 1904 that a tramway was actually built. However, this only connected the two towns and it would be another 20 years before the link with Glasgow was made.

The single track 4ft 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins gauge line was constructed under the Airdrie and Coatbridge Tramways Act 1900 by the BET (who had succeeded the original promoters, the Scottish House-to-House Electric Supply Company) and operated by its subsidiary the Airdrie & Coatbridge Tramways Company.

The first section to open on 8 February 1904 ran from Motherwell Street in Airdrie along the main road through Airdrie Cross and Coatdyke to the boundary at Kirkwood Street, Coatbridge. Services commenced with ten (Nos. 1-10) Brush-built open-top double-deckers operating in a maroon and cream livery from the depot on Main Street, halfway between Coatdyke and Coatbridge. The fleet was completed the following year, when three more Brush cars arrived.

On 16 August 1905 the western terminus was extended to Woodside Street in Coatbridge to complete the system.

The company commenced a feeder bus service to the Glasgow Corporation tram terminus at Baillieston in October 1911 using hired buses from the

associated BET-owned Greenock and Port Glasgow Tramways Company, which proved highly successful. As a consequence in 1912 the company decided to introduce further services (with the vehicles hired from the same source) connecting Airdrie to Caldercruix and Coatbridge to the terminus of the Lanarkshire Tramway Company at Bellshill.

On 1 January 1914 the shares in the company were transferred by the BET to the Scottish General Transport Company, who took over operation of the bus services and left the tramway company to operate the trams.

On 1 October 1920 Scottish General sold its interest in the tramway company to the Airdrie and Coatbridge Tramways Trust - a joint committee of the Airdrie and Coatbridge councils. The tramway company continued to manage the system until 31 December 1921, when the assets (including the trams) were taken over by Glasgow Corporation.

Through running to Glasgow finally commenced on 23 May 1925 after the system had been completely rebuilt and the line doubled.

Tram Fleet List 1904-1921

This listing is in the format - Year into service; Fleet No; Type; Trucks; Body; Seating.

1904

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1-12 | Double-deck open-top 4-wheel | Brush AA | Brush | 34/22 |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|

Nos. 1-12 to Glasgow Corporation 1/22; re-numbered 1073-1084 respectively.

1905

| | | | | |
|-----------|--|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 13 | Double-deck open-top 4-wheel | Brush Radial | Brush | 36/22 |
| 14 | Double-deck top-covered 4-wheel | Brush Radial | Brush | 36/22 |
| 15 | Double-deck open-top 4-wheel | Brush Radial | Brush | 36/22 |

Nos. 13, 15 fitted with top-covers in 1906; to Glasgow Corporation 1/22 re-numbered 1085-1087 respectively.

Airdrie & Coatbridge Tramways Company 1904-1921



Car 10 in Main Street, Coatbridge around the time of the system's opening in 1904. (A D Packer collection).

Bus Fleet List 1911-1914

This listing is in the format - Year into service; Fleet No; Reg. No; Chassis; Chassis No; Body; Seating.

1911

| | | | | |
|-------|--------------|----|-----------------|------|
| VS201 | Leyland 30hp | ?? | Mitchell & Sons | B30F |
| VS202 | Leyland 30hp | ?? | Mitchell & Sons | B30F |
| VS203 | Leyland 30hp | ?? | Mitchell & Sons | Ch?? |

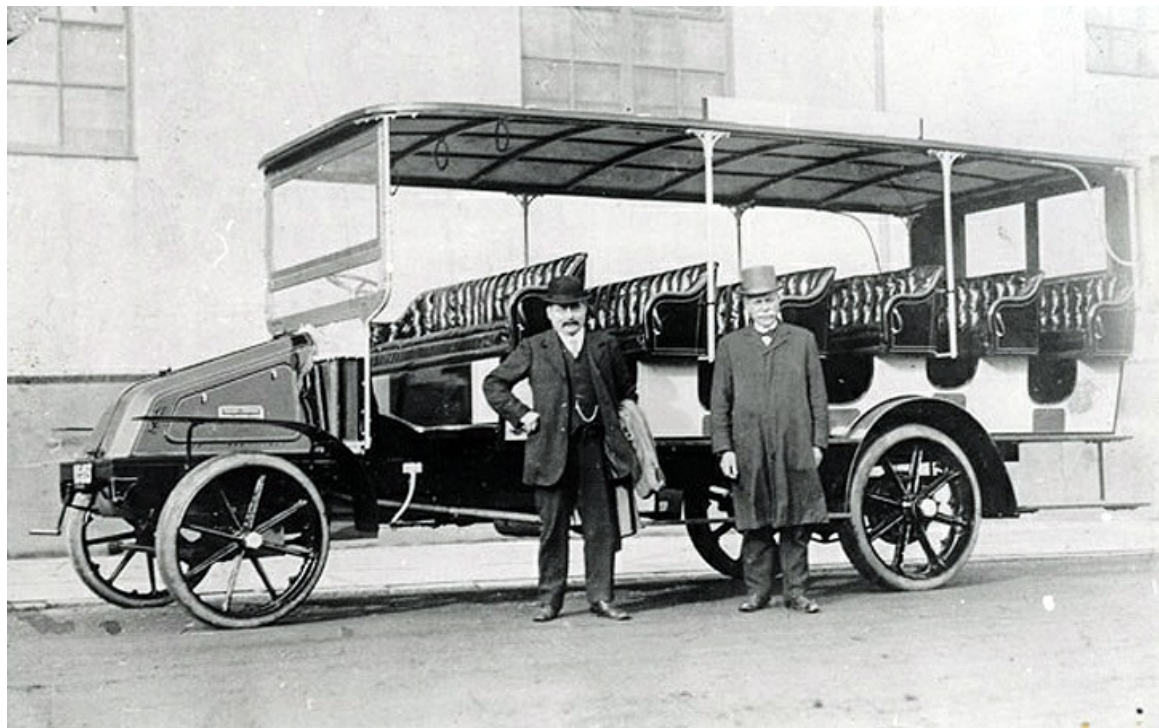
VS201-VS203 on loan from Greenock & Port Glasgow Tramways Company; it is uncertain which vehicle was the charabanc; to Scottish General Transport Co 1/14

1912

| | | | | |
|----------|----------------------|----|------------------|------|
| VS213-15 | Tilling-Stevens TTA1 | ?? | Fleming & Taylor | Ch30 |
|----------|----------------------|----|------------------|------|

VS213-VS215 on loan from Greenock & Port Glasgow Tramways Company; to Scottish General Transport Company 1/14.

Airdrie & Coatbridge Tramways Company 1904-1921



VS213 was a Tilling-Stevens TTA1 with Fleming & Taylor 30-seat charabanc body, on loan from the Greenock & Port Glasgow Tramways Company. It passed to the Scottish General Omnibus Company when the bus services were taken over in 1914. (LTHL collection).

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Additional information, corrections and photographs are always welcome.
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