



### **E86443 Mk 1 General Utility Van (GUV)**

Built	1959
Built By	Pressed Steel for British Railways
Type	GUV
First Number carried	E86443
Last Number carried	96212
Other Numbers Carried	93443, 96161
Gauge	4 feet 8½ inches
Length	57 feet
Width	8 feet 6 <sup>3/4</sup> inches
Weight	30 tonnes
Maximum speed	90 mph later upgraded to 110 mph

GUVs were built to carry general parcel, newspaper and goods traffic either in dedicated trains or as part of passenger workings. E86443 was built by Pressed Steel, probably at their Linwood plant in Scotland. These steel bodied 1950s vehicles were to replace an assortment of similar (but non-standard) older versions that British Railways had inherited from the four private companies which were nationalised in 1948. The vehicles were designed to have a wide route availability (they have a slab sided appearance to enable use through restricted tunnels) and even have opening doors each end for cars to be driven into them for transport. Smaller goods were loaded into one of the 6 sets of double opening body-side doors, which were wider than those used in passenger coaches to accommodate newspaper trolleys.

E86443, along with over 900 other GUVs, then spent an uneventful career transporting a variety of goods around the United Kingdom.

E86443 was renumbered under the TOPS system to 93443, its primary use being as a mail van. In 1987 it was converted to a Motorail van carrying the number 96161 for use on the West Coast Main Line and their new push/pull working. This conversion saw the vehicle fitted with B5 bogies, buckeye coupling, a rubbing plate, dual braking and its maximum speed upgraded to 100 mph. Finally it was modified again in 1993 and at this point it was also fitted with new B4 bogies and concertina end doors with its maximum speed upgraded to 110 mph. It was then given its final running number of 96212.

The GUV still retains internal signs and painted floor markings relating to its use between Euston and Scotland.



E86443 arrived at Dartmoor Railway in July 2006 in its Motorail livery and has been used for a variety of purposes including a cycle hire store. It was repainted back to original livery in 2011 and given back its original number in 2012.



E86443 is located at Platform 1 at Okehampton station which was the old branch line bay platform that served places such as Bude and Padstow before these lines were closed.

