

Ford Thames 400E 10/12 Cwt Van

The Ford **Thames 400E** was a commercial vehicle made by Ford of Britain to meet market demand for a compact van with 10/15/20 cwt carrying capacity. It was introduced in 1957 and proved popular with a wide audience. A total of 187,000 were produced between 1957 and 1965.



By incorporating the current Consul engine into a capacious carrying area, Ford had produced a good looking, convenient and nippy answer to customer requirements of the time. It was quickly taken up by all manner of users and acquired a special niche in the world of transport.

The model was available as an integral all steel panel van with hinged doors to the cab and a pair of hinged doors at the rear; an additional hinged door on the nearside was an optional extra. It was available in two payload ratings, 10/12 cwt as the BK Museum version or 15 cwt. The second standard body was the 8/10 seat estate car, which had three windows to each side to the rear of the cab section, one of these being in the standard nearside door with automatic folding step for easy entry. For the mounting of special bodies the 400E was available in chassis only, chassis/scuttle, and chassis/cab form.

This particular vehicle was acquired by Bart Keaney in 1994 and an extensive restoration project was completed in 1997.