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It seems likely that the first registration in Worcestershire, AB 1, issued in 1903, was used for the Chief Constable's car. Certainly it was so by about 1907, when his car was the Humber shown here. However, this was the second vehicle to use the mark, the first having been a 5hp single-cylinder Wolseley in 1903.

The 1930s



Probably the Flying Squad's most famous car, the Railton Straight Eight saloon of 1933, met their requirements precisely. Railton was one of the first makes to see the merit of a cheap but powerful American engine in a light, sporty chassis. The resultant combination of speed, comfort and relatively low price was just what was needed.

The Reading force were early users of MG Midgets. No doubt they appreciated the combination of performance and manoeuvrability which the cars provided. Shown here is a PA model of 1934, about to go out on traffic patrol. In spite of their compact dimensions the P-type MGs were available in a four-seater version, as seen here.



British Police Cars

Right - When in 1959 they took over responsibility for patrolling part of the new M1 motorway, Bedfordshire traffic section decided that their cars had to be more visible. They therefore ordered their new Ford Farnham estate cars to be painted entirely in white (they claim they were the first force to do so). The blue roof light was also an innovation.

In 1959 the Stockport Borough force was running a whole fleet of General Motors vehicles - Vauxhalls and Bedfords. Area cars were Wyverns, vans were Bedfords, and the traffic cars were PA Veloxes, as shown here.



The 1960s

By 1963, when this picture was taken, MG had replaced the MGA model with the MGB. The Metropolitan Police decided to try out the new car for traffic patrol work. Here it is shown with an all-woman crew - the first time this had happened in the "Met".



The 1970s

Right - Leicestershire was yet another force to be persuaded by the virtues of the Rover V8 3500. This 1975 model has the roof spotlights that were coming into use at that time. By now Leicestershire and Rutland had amalgamated with the Leicester City force and reverted to the simpler name of Leicestershire.

Yet another type of Ford in the Lancashire fleet, this time in 1975, was the Consul GT estate shown here. Effectively a Granada in size and engine capacity, it represented an attractive combination of space, performance and value-for-money.

