



Irish Railway Factsheet: Bessbrook & Newry Tramway

By 1946, the **Bessbrook & Newry Tramway (B&NT)** had become considerably run down. The track was overgrown, there were gaps in the conductor rail and the tramcars had become very slow, in particular when climbing the 1 in 50 gradient out of Newry. The demise of the line was in sight when the Northern Ireland Road Transport Board started a frequent bus service between Newry and Bessbrook.

The timetable published on 5 October 1947 showed just eight journeys between Newry and Bessbrook each day. This proved to be the company's last timetable, for just three months later, on 10 January 1948, the line closed and was subsequently lifted. Part of the route can still be seen to this day as one crosses the Craigmore Viaduct on the Dublin-Belfast main line.



B&NT tram car No. 2 outside the depot at Bessbrook, circa 1948. (Photo © Harold Fayle - IRRS Archive)



B&NT open wagon and goods van, circa 1948. (Photo © Harold Fayle - IRRS Archive)



Disused tram depot and platform at Bessbrook, recorded after closure of the B&NT, 22 March 1953. (Photo © Leslie Hyland - IRRS Archive)