

1280 **The 1954 Churchill Land Rover**  
1954 86inch Series 1 Land Rover  
Reg. No. UKE 80  
Chassis No. 57101759  
Engine No. 57104178

On the occasion of his 80th birthday on the 30th November 1954, Rover presented Sir Winston Churchill with this unique Series 1 Land Rover. As documented in the original buff logbook, it was registered UKE 80 just 3 days later to the Rt Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill KG. OM. CH. MP. Chartwell, Westerham, Kent although his signature is absent.

The UKE registration number is a standard Kent issue for December 1954 but many have noted the United Kingdom Empire reference whilst the '80' would be a fantastic coincidence indeed if it was not deliberately applied.

Generally acknowledged as the greatest statesman of the 20th century, Churchill was the lion that roared Britain's defiance in those dark days of World War 2. His leadership was called on again in the early 1950's when once again he became Prime Minister. It was in April 1955 in his eightieth year that he retired from politics as Prime Minister to spend the rest of his days at his Kent Estate, Chartwell.

The chauffeur driven unique Land Rover was put to good use taking Sir Winston around the 300 landscaped acres of the estate now owned by the National Trust.

The vehicle was especially put together by Rover bearing in mind the requirements of the VIP, the passenger accommodation is an 'extra wide' modification, suitably commodious for the great mans great seat, the 8 inch wide middle seat is converted to a padded fold down armrest whilst a leather clad grab handle is fitted to the bulkhead. A later addition and boon for the comfort of the noble passenger, is the truck cab and foot well heater, no doubt welcome on a cold Kent morning.

UKE 80 remained on the Chartwell estate until Churchill's death in January 1965, shortly after, in June of that year, the buff logbook records the new custodian as Winston Churchill's son-in-law the Rt Hon. A C Soames CBE. MP. Hamsell Manor, Eridge, Tonbridge Wells, Kent. It is known that the Land Rover was only road taxed until December 1967 and thereafter used exclusively around the Eridge farm until 1973, a warning note not to use the vehicle on the road still survives from this time. Christopher Soames had by this time become Vice President of the EEC and this prompted a sale of farm equipment at Hamsell Manor, amongst which was the Land Rover. Mr Norman Mills placed a successful bid at the sale of £160 and, following an argument with the auctioneer, managed to obtain the logbook, paid for his lot and then wondered how to get it home.

Normans neighbour Frank Quay was asked to come to the rescue, Frank, on also seeing the logbook and sharing Normans surprise at the previous owner recorded, decided to make Norman an offer of doubling his money on the spot, the offer was taken and UKE 80 passed into just its third official ownership.

Frank and the Land Rover were soon put to work towing his daughters horse box to various events for the next four years, at this time Frank started to form an opinion as to the uniqueness of his vehicle and, in 1977, decided it was too important an asset to keep driving and UKE80 went into the shed. Occasional outings to local events and charity fund raising were all that disturbed the Land Rover for some twenty plus years. UKE 80 was put up for auction around 1999 but the early days of on-line auctions proved fraught with difficulties and Frank decided discretion was the better approach and the shed beckoned for the next decade.

The image of Churchill and UKE 80 standing at the front of Chartwell is very well known, two of Britain's most recognisable sons perhaps, the photographer who took the image, Frank Tapley, wrote a letter to Frank Quay in 2000 describing the photo session in February 1955 further adding to the firm provenance of this most significant of Land Rovers.

Documentation supplied includes copies of various articles, the original buff logbook, green continuation logbook and current V5 document.

As a beautifully untouched, wonderfully original, running Series 1 Land Rover with just 12,932 genuine miles, this is a remarkable and desirable vehicle. As the purpose built property of, arguably, the most famous British leader of all time, it is historic in every sense.

**Estimate: £50,000 - £60,000**



Page 2

Name and Address of the Person Registered with the Council whose Date Stamp is affixed hereto, as the Person keeping the Vehicle, the particulars of which are given on page 7.

1st CHANGE  
 Full Name (IN BLOCK CAPITALS) *Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill*  
 Address *Chartwell, Westsicham, Surrey*  
 Email Signature

2nd CHANGE  
 Full Name (IN BLOCK CAPITALS) *HAROLD M. A. CRISP GREEN*  
 Address *14, Grosvenor Walk, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1*  
 Email Signature *Christina*

3rd CHANGE  
 Full Name (IN BLOCK CAPITALS)  
 Address  
 Email Signature

4th CHANGE  
 Full Name (IN BLOCK CAPITALS)  
 Address  
 Email Signature

5th CHANGE  
 Full Name (IN BLOCK CAPITALS)  
 Address  
 Email Signature

6th CHANGE  
 Full Name (IN BLOCK CAPITALS)  
 Address  
 Email Signature

