

# Q Class 541 Overhaul Progress

By Steve Pilcher and Chris Hunford, Maunsell Locomotive Society

A briefer than normal report as due to holidays etc. neither of the authors have had chance to visit Sheffield Park recently, so we are unable to report on recent work on the tender. However the Maunsell Locomotive Society volunteers have continued cleaning and priming various sections of the loco's boiler cladding that are present at Sheffield Park.

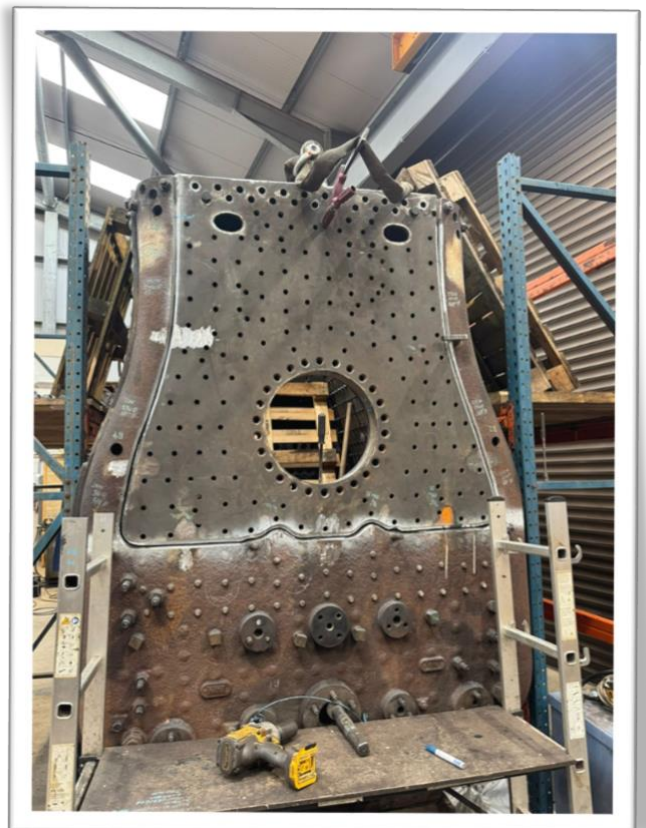
Meanwhile down at Leaky Finders works in Devon, the driving wheels have returned from the South Devon Railway having had their journals and thrust faces machined. Work can now start on setting everything up for machining of the new crowns. The new lefthand side frame insert is drilled and ready for fitting. Before this can be completed, the horn blocks require some cast iron welding repairs which will be completed at a specialist supplier. Once returned these and the frame insert can be fitted.

Work on the boiler has focused on repairing fractures to the copper doorplate and completing the manufacture of the foundation ring rivets. These rivets are now away for heat treating. Once the fractures are repaired the steel backhead and door plate can be fitted, which should be taking place as you read this. The next step is then to complete the riveting of the foundation ring. The boiler will then be able to be turned and positioned upright so the process of fitting the boiler tubes can begin.

Whilst submitting this report, it is timely to mention that the Maunsell Locomotive Society's [PMV van](#), (which is used for storage at Sheffield Park), has been for a trip up the line to Horsted Keynes. It has been used as part of a photo charter by Jon Bowers and whilst it is up there it is hoped that a few remedial works can take place.

**Top:** Q class wheelsets after turning of journals and thrust faces.  
Photo: Leaky Finders

**Bottom:** New section of steel backhead being trial fitted. Photo: Leaky Finders







**Left:** Another view of the new tender tank and chassis temporarily re-wheeled.

Photo: Steve Pilcher

**Below:** The Maunsell Locomotive Society PMV is the second vehicle behind 80151 in the photograph below, which was taken on a Jon Bowers' photo charter at Horsted Keynes on 12 July. Jon writes:

"[Various operational issues earlier in the day] meant we only had about half the time originally intended and so weren't able to get as many pictures as hoped. However all the Ops Staff did a brilliant job to maximise what we could get in the time we had left, especially so given the high temperatures.

Quite a lot of planning went into the logistics for this charter so thanks should also go to the loco works for getting No.32424 repaired in time to take part; to the C&W staff who ensured the vans were fit to run for the event; to the respective van owners and custodians who very kindly allowed us to make use of their vehicles; to the infrastructure teams for keeping the areas we wanted to take pictures in relatively free of modern clutter; and to Martin for keeping the buffet open for us for a steady supply of drinks and snacks throughout the evening!"

Photo: Jon Bowers

