

Q Class 541 Overhaul Update

By Chris Hunford and Steve Pilcher, Maunsell Locomotive Society

April has seen a significant step forward in the overhaul of Q class 541 with the delivery of the new tender tank to Sheffield Park on the 9 April. After being temporarily placed on the ground within the Loco Works, the new tank is now sitting on the chassis to enable the holes for the holding down bolts to be drilled. Once complete and after a bit of 'fettling', the new tank will be permanently bolted to the chassis. Our thanks and appreciation must go to our friends at the 4253 Locomotive Group who have done a first-class job fabricating the new tank.

The Maunsell Locomotive Society working party have continued cleaning and painting various parts of 541's cladding as well as cleaning up the loco springs ready for testing. These are all vital 'behind the scenes' tasks which contribute to the overhaul.

Meanwhile in the south west of England at Leaky Finders, work is continuing on the loco's boiler and chassis. The machining of over 300 new monel stays for the boiler is almost complete while work to fit the new patch screws to the new outer wrapper boiler plate is finished.

Alongside the boiler work, three areas of the chassis have progressed. The removal, reaming, countersinking, supply and fitting of new fitted bolts for the lefthand and righthand side cylinder blocks has been completed, while on the main loco frames, the reattachment of the leading and driving horns with new fitted bolts and nuts is complete.

This completion of both tasks marks another significant milestone.

Top: New tender tank placed on the tender chassis for drilling and fitting of new holding down bolts.
Photo Melvyn Frohnsdorff

Bottom: Completed patch screws on the new outer wrapper. Photo courtesy Leaky Finders





Left: Completed copper and monel stays plus tapping the remaining holes on the new outer wrapper. Photo courtesy of Leaky Finders.

Below: Reaming of the main frame holes ready for attaching the horns with new fitted bolts. Photo courtesy of Leaky Finders.

