

MAUNSELL THIRD OPEN S 1381 S

Using underframes and bogies constructed by Southern Railway's Lancing Carriage Works, SR's Eastleigh Carriage Works built the carriage body and interior in December 1930 to diagram 2005 as part of Lot number 461.

The coach is 61ft 7in long with painted galvanised metal bodywork. Interior was polished Mahogany with upper panels and some doors having a white celluloid inlay. Seating for 56 passengers was in 7 bays, sub-divided into three saloons, with upholstery of uncut moquette. It was always a 'loose' coach and would have travelled widely across the Southern Railway and BR's Southern Region.

Withdrawn from revenue-earning service in October 1961 it was stripped and converted for use by Southern Region's Mechanical Engineers Department as a Staff & Tool Coach by July 1962. It carried the departmental number ADS 70175 and was based at Horsham as a rule. Eventually, SR's Power Supply Section took over using it but on final withdrawal it was moved for storage at Micheldever sidings between Basingstoke and Winchester.

It was purchased privately and moved to Swanage in 1979. Refurbishment then took place with seating, etc. recovered from withdrawn Southern Electric Multiple Units and corridor end connections re-instated using BR Mk1 components from a scrapped coach.

It ran on the Swanage Railway for several years from 1985 until the 1990's. After a period in store, it was sent to Rampart Engineering for a full bodywork overhaul in 2014. On its return to Swanage, on Tuesday 21st February 2017, the Railway's C&W volunteers worked on the interior to get 1381 back to passenger-carrying standards once more. It re-entered service in the Summer 2019.

Since then, 1381 has been available for passenger service although, in more recent times, it developed wheel flats which could only be removed easily by the attention of wheel-lathe equipment. At the beginning of March 2022, 1381 was taken away by road for movement to the Bristol Barton Hill Depot of Arriva Train Care and the attention of its ground lathe. 1381 was duly returned to Arne Road Interchange sidings a few days later, on Thursday 10th March to be precise, from where it was collected and transported to await its next turn of duty on the Swanage Railway.

Peter Sykes 4/3/2017 [Updated 18/03/2022]

Revised by Peter Short 8/3/2017