

## **LSWR 8T VENTILATED GOODS VAN AD 47266**

This ventilated goods van was built by London & South Western Railway (LSWR) Carriage & Wagon Works at Eastleigh during, it is believed, 1908. Many details are uncertain, however, as evidence of its original number has been lost. What can be gleaned from its appearance is that it was constructed to design diagram 1401.

These were 'passenger rated' vans meaning that they would have been vacuum braked. The two axles were fitted with 3 ft 5 ins Mansell (not Maunsell) wheels, which it appears to have retained to this day. Mansell wheels have wooden centres surrounded by a steel tyre. It has a wooden frame fitted with long coach-type springs to aid good riding at higher speeds. The design also has a slightly longer wheelbase of 11 ft and had the capacity to carry up to 8 Tons .

Ventilation holes in the side planking would have been protected with metal sheets but the doors were unventilated. Torpedo vents were installed in the roof. The vehicle's length over head stocks is 18 ft, and 21 ft 5 ins over buffers, with a body width of 7 ft 9½ ins.

What is known is that after withdrawal from revenue earning service the vehicle entered War Department service. Its first number was WD47266 and subsequently re-numbered as AD47266. Presumably the vacuum brake equipment was removed, as not being needed, whilst in War Department service.

It was bought from Ministry of Defence Bicester, in 1981, by the Bitton Signal Box Group and delivered to the Avon Valley Railway for use as a stores van.

Subsequently it was purchased and moved to Swanage. It awaits funding for its complete refurbishment.

Information compiled by Peter Sykes 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021

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