

BR 22T 5-PLANK OPEN WAGON “TUBE” ADB 732180

In 1955, British Railways (BR) ordered its wagon works at Faverdale to build a batch of lengthened 5 plank open wagons to design diagram 1/448. Lot No. 2740 covered the construction of 350 vehicles numbered B 732040 to B 732389.

The basic design was an updated and lengthened version of an LMS 5 plank design. BR ordered various batches between 1954 to 1961 with 2,350 vehicles being built in six batches. The 5 plank sides have a central drop door plus the corrugated steel ends are wood lined.

As constructed they were 32 ft long over headstocks giving an internal load space of around 31 ½ ft. The two axle design had a wheelbase of 18 ft 6 ins and was fitted with vacuum braking equipment operating eight brake blocks (two per wheel). Also fitted from new were Oleo pneumatic buffers and Hybox style of roller bearing axle boxes. In service it had the TOPS code STV and given the telegraphic code “TUBE”.

One of the many duties undertaken by these wagons would have been the transport of steel tubing from the Corby tube works to steel stockholders around the country.

Eventually it was condemned at BR's former Hither Green Civil Mechanical & Electrical Engineering department (CM&EE), which had been based there since 1991. On Privatisation it had been taken over by Balfour Beatty.

Several wagons were condemned awaiting disposal and B732180 was purchased by the Southern Catering Project Group with the wagon arriving at Norden during April 1998. Currently B 732180 awaits a decision as to possible restoration or use as source of spares.

Subsequently it was decided to dispose of B 732180 and it has been purchased as a restoration project for the Braunton Community Mens Shed in Devon.

Information compiled by Peter Sykes 22nd October 2021

Updated 5th May 2023