

Q Class 541 Overhaul Update

By Steve Pilcher, Treasurer, Maunsell Locomotive Society [Photos](#) Leaky Finders / Steve Pilcher

The locomotive is now fully dismantled at Leaky Finders premises in Devon. The boiler has been the focus of the overhaul and good progress has been made, the boiler has been gutted, cleaned internally and externally and undergone a full NDT analysis. On the 19 October the full scope of the boiler repair was agreed between Bluebell Railway Plc, Bluebell's boiler inspector and Leaky Finders. Work is proceeding in rolling the boiler and starting to cut out the life expired platework on the outer firebox wrapper.

The locomotive frames have been fully dismantled, including removing the wheelsets and other components. The wheelsets have been sent to South Devon Railway Engineering (SDRE) for ultrasonic testing of the axles and tyre measurements. A decision will then be made as to whether new tyres are required or whether the existing tyres can undergo one more turning.

The tender had been stored behind 31618, thus creating what appeared to be a U class with two tenders, reminiscent of Flying Scotsman in its two tender days. The tender has now been moved into the maintenance shed at Sheffield Park. At the time of writing this report, work was about to start to free up the tender tank, dismantle the brake gear, remove the wheelsets and examine the condition of the dragboxes.



THE Q NEEDS YOU!

The [Maunsell Locomotive Society](#) has agreed to try and raise £40,000 towards the cost of overhauling the tender and providing a new tender tank. The Q is an ideal size and economical loco for Bluebell operations. It fits in well with the 'Southern' image, and it did actually operate in the vicinity.

Online payments to the appeal can be made by clicking the [DONATE](#) button on the Bluebell website and following the online payment instructions. Select Q Class 541 Overhaul in the drop-down box.

For those who prefer to use cheques, please send a cheque, made payable to the 'Bluebell Railway Trust' (and a [Gift Aid Form](#) – if appropriate) to the Bluebell Railway Trust, Sheffield Park Station, Uckfield TN22 3QL. Please add a note to say it is for the 541 Overhaul Appeal.

At the time of writing, there is over £26,000 in place towards the target of providing £40,000 towards this project. As ever, a very warm 'thank you' to all concerned who have generously contributed thus far. Please consider assisting reaching the target of £40,000 – and thus play a part in getting this very useful loco back in action at Bluebell.