

Progress towards returning the 4TC to service at Swanage continues to make progress on several fronts. Following our successful appeal to raise £20,000, 76275 has been away at Rampart Engineering Ltd since October having full restoration work undertaken.

As you can see from the photo below (taken on 16<sup>th</sup> March), the fundraising efforts were certainly worth it:



However, 76275 was worse in several areas than anticipated, and actually ended up costing just over £95,000 against the original estimate of £64,000.

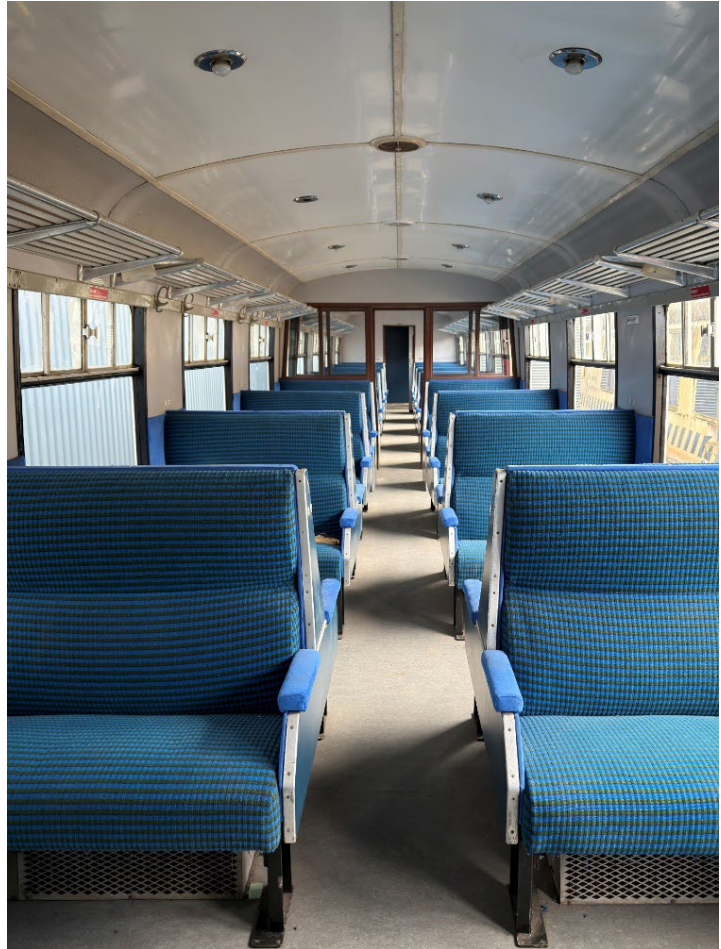
£14,270 of this was additional work requested by us such as retrimming the seats (£9,740) and replacement of all the internal and external glass as it was heavily damaged throughout with etched graffiti (£3,480).

On top of this there was another £17,546 of unavoidable work discovered once the vehicle was stripped – for example, extra corrosion repairs (£5,554), and replacement hardwood mouldings for the window surrounds (£4,500).

And as you can also see from these photos the interior is looking fantastic too.

In addition to the work already mentioned, some of the other work completed includes:

- Corrosion repairs to the body sides, ends, and roof
- Replacement of corroded bodyside framework, crash pillars and door pillars
- Overhauling of all doors including locks and windows
- Overhaul of gangways
- Remove and reseal all window frames
- New flooring throughout
- Internal doors overhauled
- New GRP panels below windows
- Cab refurbished internally and painted
- Air tanks overhauled
- Bogies overhauled including UAT
- Full exterior repaint



Pictures of the overhaul work on 76275 are included at the end of this update report.



## Swanage Railway 4TC Group Spring 2026 update



Following on from the progress with 76275 we are excited to announce that thanks to the donation of a generous supporter, we have been able to also send Trailer First Corridor (TFK) 70855 away for restoration at Rampart Engineering Ltd late last year. 70855 requires a similar level of work to 76275.

We are very grateful to our generous supporter, who has brought the prospect of a complete working 4TC at Swanage Railway considerably closer. Without his support it could have potentially been years before we were able to restore 70855. We expect both coaches to return to the railway in 2026 with only minor finishing work required.

As you can see this is a very exciting time for the 4TC group and any donations would be gratefully received as there are other expenses to cover – such as the transport of coaches to and from Rampart (circa £5,000 per move) and the finishing works required to 70824 and 76322.

Donations can be made in the following ways:

- visit [www.4tcgroup.co.uk](http://www.4tcgroup.co.uk) and click on the “Donate” page
- direct bank transfer to Account Number 13462420, Sort Code 20-68-79
- or by cheque payable to “Swanage Railway Trust - 4TC Group” and posted to “Swanage Railway Trust - 4TC Group”, Station house, Swanage, BH19 1HB.

### **Vehicle updates:**

#### Trailer Brake Standard Corridor (TBSK) 70824

This vehicle is presently stored in Herston Carriage shed, where it has been since September 2025. We are waiting for the coach to be moved back to Swanage so that the final finishing tasks can be completed. We are expecting the coach to move back to Swanage during April 2026 for these works to begin.

#### Driving Trailer Standard Open (DTSO) 76322

Presently this vehicle is presently at Harmans Cross under a tarpaulin. There are several jobs to undertake on this, such as repairs to the pipework and cabling underneath. This will be completed after 70824's works are finished.

#### Driving Trailer Standard Open (DTSO) 76275

Undergoing restoration work at Ramparts, expected to return to Swanage Railway in Spring 2026.

#### Trailer First Corridor (TFK) 70855

Moved to Ramparts for restoration work in December 2025. Work is due to commence during May or June 2026.

#### 4BIG Buffet Coach 69322

In store at Harmans Cross awaiting funds for its restoration.

#### DTSOs 76298, 76301 & 76302

Stored at Harmans Cross. 76302 is likely to be stripped of spares and disposed of at some point this year given its poor condition and significant modifications for its last role as a cafe and kitchen.

76275 restoration photos taken at Rampart during December





76275 showing the extent of work carried out to the body sides



An area of significant corrosion discovered in the roof/ceiling once work had begun.  
This was down to the failure of a previous poor repair carried out by BR.



Pictures showing the extent to which the interior was stripped out for repair work to take place





Pictures showing repairs to the floors, including new hardwood door step inserts





The non-cab end vestibule floor and walls required extensive repairs



A completed 76275 seen at a recent Barrow Hill open weekend

Thank you for taking the time to read this update and thank you for your continued support.

Dan Bennett, Swanage Railway Trust 4TC Group Trustee.

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