



Swanage Railway Trust 4TC Group Spring/Summer 2025 Update



76275 at Norden on 18/08/25 awaiting collection

76275 appeal and overhaul update

Firstly, some exciting news!

As I write this, Driving Trailer Standard Open (DTSO) 76275 is on the back of a lorry and making its way to Rampart Engineering at Barrow Hill for overhaul!

We initially hoped that 76275 would move to Rampart in April, as 76275 was due to take the place of another Swanage Railway vehicle (Bulleid Coach 4366) once completed. The overhaul of this is taking longer than anticipated due to the extra work found to be required, but last week we received a phone call to say that another job had been cancelled, and a slot was available to us if the coach arrived this week!

The departure of 76275 for overhaul is an exciting moment for the TC Group as we close in on returning a 3TC to service. Any support or additional donations you can give to making this a reality would be greatly appreciated as you will see below...

Our appeal to raise £20,000 to overhaul 76275 got off to a flying start, and now after just a few months we have raised (at the time of writing) **£19,182!** With 76275 on its way to overhaul, it would be amazing if we could push our appeal over the line and hopefully build an extra reserve too for any unforeseen work required. For example, the cost of road transport of around £6,000 for today's move to Rampart is not included in the fundraising target and is being paid for from existing reserves.

With the help of the Swanage Railway Trust and a generous supporter, we have over £65,000 in place to begin the overhaul of 76275 - getting us close to our target of £70,000.

If you would like to donate, it can be done in the following ways:

- Visit www.4tcgroup.co.uk and click on the “Donate” page
- Direct bank transfer to Account Number 13462420, Sort Code 20-68-79
- By cheque payable to “Swanage Railway Trust - 4TC Group” and posted to “Swanage Railway Trust - 4TC Group, Station house, Swanage, BH19 1HB.

Diesel Gala

At this year's Diesel Gala, Swanage Railway played host to the Southern Electric Traction Group's 4VEP. This unit looked fantastic and was a real testament to the hard work of the team at Strawberry Hill (particularly the orange curtains!). It was very much appreciated by the paying public too, giving us a tantalising vision of how our 3TC might be received in service.

Trailer Brake Standard Corridor (TBSK) 70824

Work continues to focus on 70824 as we now undertake the finishing touches of the restoration, with only the Toilet Water Tank left to fit alongside some minor pieces of the trim internally and other finishing jobs. Some seat cushions have been retrimmed by Lynn at SETG and were delivered by the VEP at the Diesel Gala to replace those which were unusable. Early next year it is planned to give 70824 a repaint to bring it up to the same external standard as the driving trailers. In a few months, work will refocus onto 76322 and the outstanding finishing jobs required to complete this.

Driving Trailer Standard Open (DTSO) 76322

Presently this vehicle is at Harmans Cross under a tarpaulin, in the next month or two this coach will be moved down to Swanage to take the place of 70824 outside the Goods Shed. There are several jobs to undertake on this, such as repairs to air pipework, and the replacement of stolen ETH cabling underneath. We hope to complete this work by early 2026 to enable the two restored TC coaches to be 'ready to go' when 76275 returns to the railway.

Trailer First Corridor (TFK) 70855

In store at Harmans Cross awaiting funds for its restoration. Replacement tarpaulins recently fitted.

4BIG Buffet Coach 69322

In store under tarpaulins at Harmans Cross awaiting funds for its restoration.

DTSOs 76298, 76301 & 76302

Stored at Harmans Cross. Replacement tarpaulins fitted to 76298.

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

dan.bennett@swanagerailway.co.uk