



J Class, Type 2-8-0 :

Group : Nos. 500-529 (coal burners) ;
530-559 (oil burners)

Cylinders (2), 20" diameter, 26" stroke

Wheels, coupled, 4' 7 ¹/₁₆" diameter

Wheelbase, rigid, 15' 6" ; engine and tender, 50' 8 ¹/₂"

Length overall : 60' 5 ¹/₂"

Weight in working order :

Engine 66 tons 19 cwt.

Tender 45 tons 16 cwt. TOTAL : 112 tons 15 cwt.

Adhesive weight : 57 tons 7 cwt.

Axle load (max. : 14 tons 10 cwt.

Boiler heating surface :

Tubes, 1317 sq. ft., Firebox, 118 sq. ft., Arch Tubes, 9 sq. ft., Superheater, 238 sq. ft. TOTAL : 1682 sq. ft.

Grate area : 31 sq. ft.

● Boiler pressure : 175 lb. per sq. in.

Tractive effort at 85%, boiler pressure, 28,650 lb.

Tender capacity : water, 4,200 gal. (coal burners), 4,100 gal. (oil burners); coal, 7 tons; oil 1500 gal.

Built by Vulcan Foundry Ltd., Newton-le-Willows, Lancashire, England, 1953-54.

The J class locomotives are suitable for turning on 53 ft. turn-tables.

THE DIMBOOLA SECTION OF THE VICTORIAN RAILWAY'S INSTITUTE DECIDED TO PURCHASE ENGINE 539J AND TO RAISE THE MONEY. CITIZENS OF DIMBOOLA WERE OFFERED SECTIONS OF THE LOCO. THIS ENTITLED THE PURCHASER THE RIGHT TO SUCH PART ENTITLED. THE PURCHASER WAS ENTITLED TO PRESERVE AND KEEP CLEAN THE PART PURCHASED BUT DID NOT GIVE THE PURCHASER OF SUCH PART THE RIGHT TO REMOVE IT FROM THE LOCO.

UNFORTUNATELY UNAUTHORISED PERSONS HAVE REMOVED MANY PARTS FROM THE LOCO AND THIS HAS DISAPPOINTED THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR PLACING THE LOCO AT THIS SITE. THE LOCO WAS PLACED HERE WITH ACCESS TO ALL PERSONS TO ENJOY. VANDALISM AND THEFT DETRACT FROM THE PLEASURE OF MANY WHO STOP TO LOOK AT 539J.

TO PLACE 539J IN THIS POSITION REQUIRED A MASSIVE WORKING-BEE BY THE CITIZENS OF DIMBOOLA AND ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY CO-OPERATED. THE SITING OF 539J REQUIRED THE INNOVATION OF A JUMP-RAIL (NEVER PREVIOUSLY USED BECAUSE OF CONTINUOUS WELDED RAILS OF THE MAIN LINE WHICH COULD NOT BE BROKEN).

TAKE OFF POINT WAS ADJACENT TO PARK ST. AND THIS NECESSITATED A RAMP BEING CONSTRUCTED. THIS CONSTRUCTION AND RAIL SECTIONS WERE MOVED TO THE FRONT OF LOCO AS IT WAS MOVED TO EACH SECTION - A DISTANCE OF 700 YARDS.

DATE OF THE PLACEMENT OF THE LOCO HERE WAS SUNDAY 17TH. AUGUST 1975.

THE DIMBOOLA V.R.I. COMMITTEE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE WONDERFUL SPIRIT OF ALL WHO ASSISTED IN THE HARD WORK ENTAILED AND ALSO THE DONATIONS GIVEN TO MAKE THIS MEMORIAL TO THE STEAM LOCOMOTIVE POSSIBLE.

DATE OF MANUFACTURE : 1954
BUILT BY : Vulcan Foundry, Lancashire, England.
INTO SERVICE WITH VICTORIAN RAILWAYS : 3.9.54
OUT OF SERVICE : 20.5.71
MILEAGE RUN : 77,526 miles
MAX. PERMISSABLE SPEED: 50 m.p.h.