

North British Railway Reid Class L, LNER Class Class C16 4-4-2 tank engines.

By Peter Sheppard

The following information was obtained mainly but not exclusively from Yeadon's Register of LNER Locomotives Volume 40 which is referred to hereafter as "Yeadon".

The North British Railway used the Yorkshire Engine Company of Leeds to build a class of 30 4-4-2 tank engines known as Yorkshire Tanks. These were built between 1911 and 1913 and became LNER Class C15. (See separate article).

In December 1915 Reid brought out a superheated version which had greater water capacity (90 gallons more) and a greater coal capacity (half a ton). Otherwise dimensions were essentially the same as class C15. 21 locomotives were made by North British and became numbers 9438 to 9452 and 9511 to 9516. No. 9451 initially carried the number 451B and Nos. 9511 to 9516 originally carried Nos. 511 to 516.

Westinghouse pumps were fitted to the right side of the smokebox.

The locomotives became part of the LNER and in that company's 1946 renumbering were given numbers 7482 to 7502. In 1948 all entered British Railways and were renumbered 67482 to 67502 inclusive.

Examples overhauled in early BR days were given lined black livery with the words "BRITISH RAILWAYS" on the side tanks i.e. no crest. Some received the incorrect curly 6 but this was later corrected. The numberplates on the smokebox doors were all cast with the correct Gil sans 6.

All 21 received lined black livery with the early crest. Again some received the incorrect curly six but this was usually corrected later.

Only five (Nos. 67484, 67486, 67490, 67501 and 67502) received the late crest although this was applied with the lion facing incorrectly to the front on the right hand tank side. This error was never corrected. See Yeadon page 83.

The attached table shows the numbers and BR liveries carried.

Notes for modellers

1. Westinghouse cylinders

Originally the exhaust pipe entered the smokebox above the centre line. By BR days this had been altered so that it entered at the base of the smokebox (see pictures in Yeadon Pages 73 and 74).

2. Safety Valves.

The originals were large Ross valves with a circular base cover but by BR days all had been fitted with smaller Ross pop safety valves. Some had rectangular base covers e.g. 67490 and 67500.

3. Bunker coal rails.

As built the locomotives had open coal rails but these were plated in the 1920s. A BR model would have the plated coal rails.

4. Bunker hand rail and step.

By BR days all had a hand rail in a high position just below the coal rails. There was also a centrally positioned footstep. See photograph in Yeadon Page 72

5. Smokebox and Smokebox door.

a) Hand rail

All were built with a separate curved handrail on the smokebox door. In BR days this was removed from some locomotives. Yeadon states p 72 that in BR days two locomotives Nos. 67482 and 67489 were the only two to lose the curved handrail.

Photographic evidence, some in the same book, shows this statement to be incorrect.

Nos. 67484, 67486, 67490, 67491, 67494 and 67502 were all photographed with the curved handrail removed and there may have been others.

b) Snap head rivets

In BR days some had snap head rivets on the smokebox.

This is definitely so for Nos. 67490 and 67501 which had them when photographed in Yeadon. 67494 and 67502 are photographed with them in Scottish Steam in the 1950s and 1960s.

6. Chimney

The original Reid type tapered outwards slightly to the top.

7. Vacuum Brake pipes

Until 1938 the front vacuum pipe was short and placed behind the buffer beam. From 1939 a taller standpipe was used and placed in front of the buffer beam.

8. Mechanical Lubricator

Originally these were fitted to the footplate but from 1947 some were modified so that they were placed on a small platform with the drive taken off the eccentric. Photographs of Nos. 67482, 67483, 67484, 67486, 67488, 67489, 67492, 67497, 67501 show them with this modification.

Atlantic tanks (NBR Class L and LNER Class C16) details.

Numbers Carried				BR Livery details	Date withdrawn	Curved smokebox handrail	
NB	LNER	LNER 1946	BR			latest with	earliest without
438	9438	7482	67482	(1) BR unlined black with smokebox numberplate and numerals beneath "LNER" on tanks from 7 May 49 (2) BR lined black livery with early emblem from 19 Jul 52	09-Oct-59		undated
439	9439	7483	67483	(1) BR lined black with "BRITISH RAILWAYS" (curly 6 on bunker) from 1 Apr 49 (2) BR lined black livery with early emblem from 11 Aug 51	20-Apr-56		undated
440	9440	7484	67484	(1) BR lined black livery with early emblem from 29 Oct 49 (2) BR lined black livery with late emblem from 13 Sep 1957	22-Apr-60		14/04/1956
441	9441	7485	67485	(1) BR lined black with "BRITISH RAILWAYS" (curly 6 on bunker) from 23 Sep 48 (2) BR lined black livery with early emblem	03-Apr-61		
442	9442	7486	67486	(1) BR lined black with "BRITISH RAILWAYS" (curly 6 on bunker) from 20 Nov 48 (2) BR lined black livery with early emblem from 3 Feb 51 (3) BR lined black livery with late emblem from 22 March 1958	22-Apr-60		23/08/1955
443	9443	7487	67487	(1) BR unlined black with numerals beneath LNER on tanks from 22 May 48, no smokebox number (2) BR lined black with "BRITISH RAILWAYS" (curly 6 on bunker) from 21 Oct 48 (3) BR lined black livery with early emblem from 21 Sep 50	22-Oct-59		
444	9444	7488	67488	BR lined black livery with early emblem from 21 Jun 52	09-Oct-59	31/03/1956	
445	9445	7489	67489	(1) BR lined black with "BRITISH RAILWAYS" (curly 6 on bunker) from 25 Feb 49 (2) BR lined black livery with early emblem from 27 Jan 51	15-Feb-61	11/05/1946	19/09/1955
446	9446	7490	67490	(1) BR unlined black with curly numerals below "NE" on tanks from 25 Mar 48, no smokebox number (2) BR lined black with "BRITISH RAILWAYS" (curly 6 on bunker) from 11 Feb 49 (3) BR lined black livery with early emblem from 10 Nov 50 (4) BR lined black livery with late emblem from 19 Jan 58	22-Apr-60	11/02/1949	14/04/1956
447	9447	7491	67491	(1) BR unlined black with smokebox numberplate and numerals beneath "LNER" on tanks from 3 Jun 49 (2) BR lined black livery with early emblem from 29 Dec 51	02-Mar-60		03/06/1949
448	9448	7492	67492	(1) BR unlined black with curly numerals on bunker "BRITISH RAILWAYS" on tanks from 26 Jun 48, no smokebox number (2) BR lined black livery with early emblem from 4 Aug 51	02-Mar-60	26/08/1958	
449	9449	7493	67493	(1) BR lined black with "BRITISH RAILWAYS" (curly 6 on bunker) from 28 May 49 (2) BR lined black livery with early emblem from 24 Mar 51	13-Apr-56		
450	9450	7494	67494	BR lined black livery with early emblem from 24 Nov 51, still had this in July 1960	15-Feb-61		21/04/1956
451 & 451B	9451	7495	67495	BR lined black livery with early emblem from 19 Nov 49	08-May-56		
452	9452	7496	67496	(1) BR lined black with "BRITISH RAILWAYS" (curly 6 on bunker) from 30 Dec 48 (2) BR lined black livery with early emblem from 7 Jul 51	02-Mar-60		
511	9511	7497	67497	BR lined black livery with early emblem from 15 Apr 50	09-Oct-59		
512	9512	7498	67498	(1) BR unlined black with smokebox numberplate and numerals beneath LNER on tanks from 4 Sep 48 (2) BR lined black livery with early emblem from 2 Nov 51	01-Aug-55		
513	9513	7499	67499	(1) BR lined black with "BRITISH RAILWAYS" (curly 6 on bunker) from 5 Sep 48 (2) BR lined black livery with early emblem from 16 Dec 50	02-Nov-55		
514	9514	7500	67500	BR lined black livery with early emblem from 10 Jan 53	22-Oct-59		
515	9515	7501	67501	(1) BR lined black with "BRITISH RAILWAYS" (curly 6 on bunker) from 12 Jan 49 (2) BR lined black livery with early emblem from 10 Jun 50 (3) BR lined black livery with late emblem from 6 Jul 1957	22-Apr-60	01/09/1950	
516	9516	7502	67502	(1) BR lined black with "BRITISH RAILWAYS" (curly 6 on bunker) from 11 Nov 48 (2) BR lined black livery with early emblem from 30 Dec 50 (3) BR lined black livery with late emblem from 30 Nov 1957	22-Apr-60	01/04/1956	