

Why Did BR Give Up On Steam ?

– And Could It Have Been Avoided

Part 4 – Shunters

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7th October 2023

Objective

- ▶ This presentation seeks to answer two questions:
 1. What were the reasons given at the time for the perceived superiority of diesel over steam traction ?
 2. Would it have been possible for different designs of steam locomotive to the BR Standards actually built to have addressed these perceived weaknesses ?
 3. Part 4 focusses on shunting locomotives
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Contents – Part 4

1. Requirements Recap
 - Perceived Steam Shortcomings
 - Shunting vs. Main Line Requirements
 2. Water Troughs
 3. Previously Proposed Solutions
 - BR Class 08
 - Steam vs. Diesel Shunting
 - Less Traditional Steam Shunters
 4. New Solutions
 - Target Specifications
 - Technologies
 - Design
 5. Assessment & Conclusions
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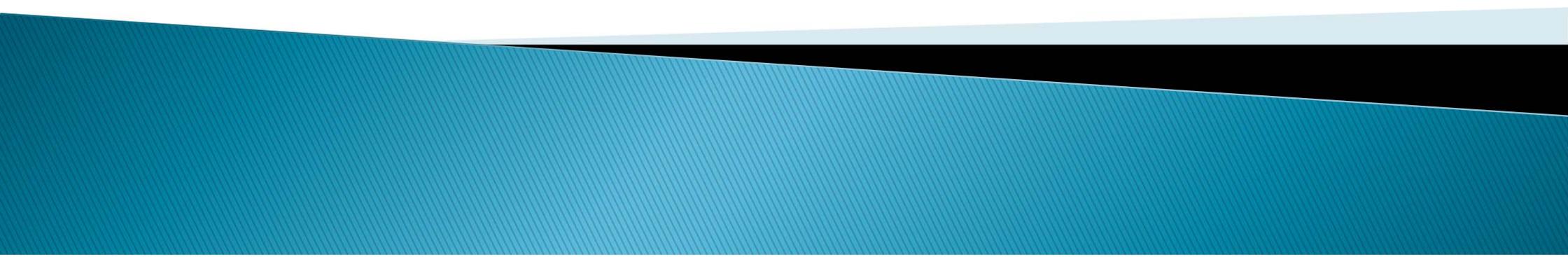
Requirements For Steam to Compete With Diesel

- ▶ Less Old Fashioned
 - ▶ Cleaner
 - → Less Pollution
 - → Better combustion (with lower quality coal)
 - ▶ Less Manual Labour
 - Cleaning/Serviceing
 - Firing
 - → machine washing, stoker firing & reduced service reqmts
 - ▶ Higher Low Speed Performance
 - → Better Acceleration & Hill Climbing
 - → consistent higher power outputs (Kiefer Rule) → mech. firing
 - → better use of locomotive weight for adhesion
 - ▶ Reduced OPEX
 - Reduce Fuel costs to Diesel levels → Higher Efficiency
 - ▶ Higher Availability/Utilisation → match diesels
 - Increased Operating Range w/o refuelling/water/ash removal
 - Reduced terminal time (turn, water, coal, ash)
 - Reduced servicing
 - Increased major repair intervals
- 

Shunting vs. Main Line Loco Design

- ▶ Even Riddles & Cox accepted D.E. superior to traditional steam for shunting
 - ➔ Need to do something different for steam to compete
 - ▶ (Much) lower max speeds
 - ➔ (much) less max power required
 - ▶ Matching diesel low speed performance critical
 - ➔ tractive effort
 - ➔ adhesive weight
 - ▶ Matching diesel availability (& hence utilisation) equally important
 - ➔ maximise operational endurance between refuel/water stops
 - ➔ minimise routine maintenance requirements
 - ▶ Arguably a more difficult technical challenge than main line locos
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Water Troughs



Water Troughs

- In October 1937 the northbound Coronation had had to make an unscheduled stop at Newcastle due to taking insufficient water at Wiske Moor Troughs to reach Lucker Troughs, 98 miles further north.
- The north and southbound Coronations crossed at Wiske Moor. Both locos took water. Speed was 70 mph.
- Loco inspectors were put on both locos to ensure the max amount of water was picked up
- The firemen were unable to manually raise the scoop because of the high speed.
- Water overflowing from the northbound loco tender hit the southbound loco, breaking the spectacle glass, a piece of which hit and killed the loco inspector on the southbound loco.



- Photo shows an A4 being tested on Wiske Moor troughs after the accident
- Wiske Moor Troughs were 623 yards long – 18 seconds at 70 mph
- Fireman had to manually lower scoop once loco over troughs
- Not surprising actual water pick-up was variable

Water Troughs (2)

Pre-Grouping Water Troughs	
GC	2
GE	2
GN	4
GSW	1
GW	11
GW/LNW	1
LNW	16
LNW/LY	1
LY	9
MR	5
NE	2
Total	54

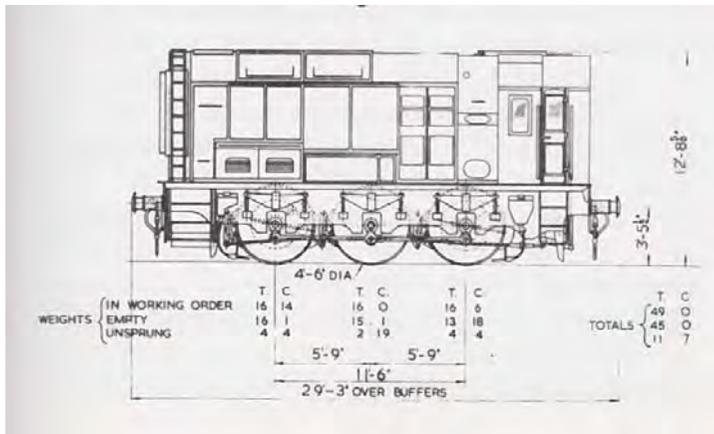
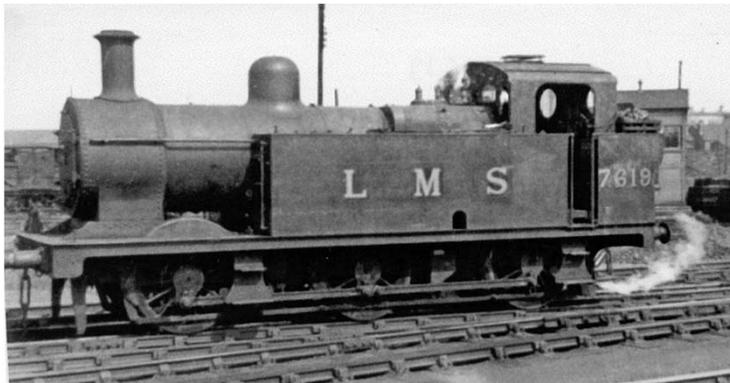
ECML Water Troughs			
		Miles From KX	Miles From Previous
1	Langley	26	26
2	Werrington	80	54
3	Muskham	121	41
4	Scrooby	146	25
5	Wiske Moor	220	74
6	Lucker	318	98
	Edinburgh	391	73

ECML LNER Pacifics Water Balance		
Water Required		
gal/mile	Distance (miles)	gal
50	400	20,000
Water Supplied		
Boiler		3,000
Tender Tank		5,000
Pickup /Trough		2,000
ntrough	6	
Total Pickup		12,000
Total Supply		20,000

- At 2000 gal pickup/trough, LNER Pacific operation was on the limit
- Higher power locos would need more water
 - Bigger tenders/longer troughs/more troughs/automated pickup
 - Or condensing

Previous Solutions

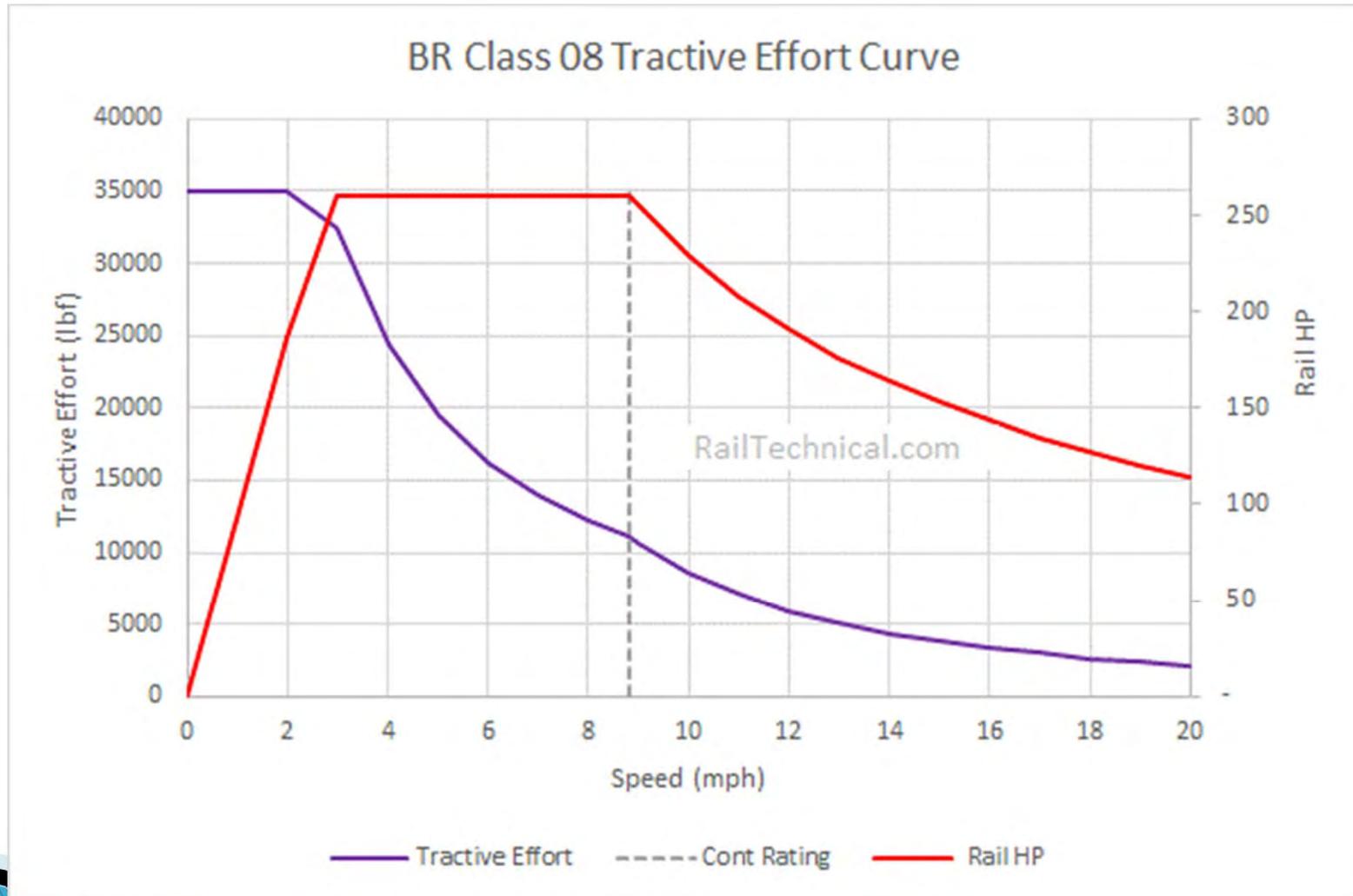
Traditional Steam Shunting Loco vs D.E.



	3FT	Class 08	
Loco Max power	480	350	hp
Loco Max Weight	50	49	T
Adhesive Weight	50-42.3	49-46.5	T
Starting T.E.	20,835	35,000	Lbf
Starting Mu	0.189	0.319	
Empty Tanks & Bunker	0.223	0.336	
Max Speed		20	mph
Fuel	2.3	2.5	T
Water	5.4		T

	Fuel Capacity	Energy Density	Energy Input	Thermal Efficiency	Energy Output
	litres or t	MJ/L or GJ/t	GJ	%	GJ
Class 08	3040	38	115	24	28
Steam	10.3	30	308	9	28

Class 08 Power Curve

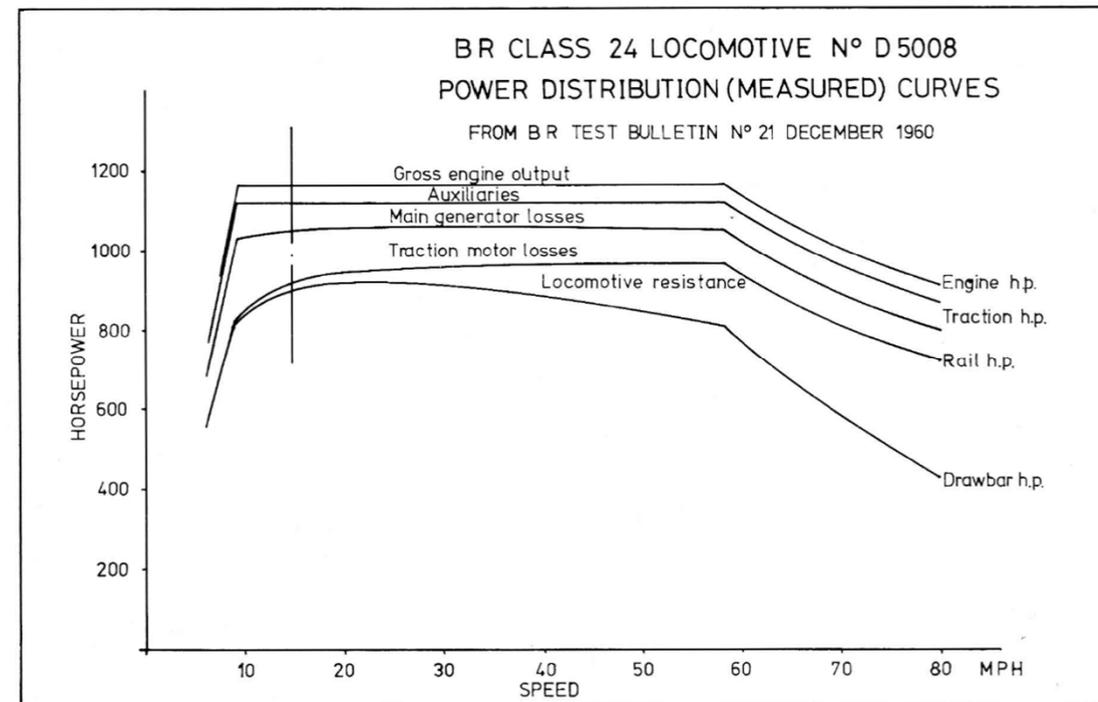


Diesel Power Curve Characteristics

- Quoted HP is Engine SHP
- RHP is SHP - Aux & Transmission Losses
- RHP is approx. 80% of shaft hp

For the Class 56 the losses are:

- Ancillaries 3.2% (104hp)
- Generator Efficiency 93.3% (211 hp)
- TM Efficiency 92% (235hp)
- i.e. 17% loss from SHP to RHP
- Diesel Loco resistance curve similar to Steam
- RHP is therefore most analogous to Steam IHP
 - Wardale used 4% difference IHP to RHP in 5AT FDCs



Thanks to steve@railtechnical.com for the diesel info

R.E. 1951 Report – Operating Benefits of D.E. Shunters

- ▶ One man operation
 - ▶ Better low speed performance
 - ▶ Improved visibility (but worse audibility)
 - ▶ Continuous availability, 24 hours/day for up to 16 days
 - UK practice 6 day week, 7th day inspection/servicing/maintenance
 - LMS/LNER experience DE shunter availability 86%–93%
 - Trad. steam has coal for 24 hours only, also needs fire cleaning & water several times/day
 - ▶ More intensive operation possible with D.E. shunters (no breaks reqd for water etc.) → fewer D.E. shunting locos reqd
 - ▶ 52 350hp D.E. shunters taken over from Big 4, further 162 ordered by time of R.E Report
 - ▶ Under BR, 369 new 0–6–0T steam shunters were built
- 

Comparative Shunting Engine Costs

	3F Tank		350 hp Diesel		3ATT
	R.E Rpt	Single Manned	R.E Rpt	No CAPEX Reduction	Target
CAPEX (£)	6,200		21,000		6,200
	d./mile		d./mile		d./mile
Interest on CAPEX	15.51		23.91	52.53	15.51
Renewal	7.85		27.51		7.85
Repairs incl. admin	42.79		34.75		42.79
Running Expenses					
Wages & NI	132.54	53.72	53.72		53.72
Fuel	94.78		26.26		47.39
Water, lubricants, misc	15.02		4.19		7.51
Total OPEX	307.7	228.88	181.04	209.66	174.77

- ▶ Target 3ATT fuel & water ½ of 3F
- ▶ 3ATT single manned
- ▶ Target 3ATT CAPEX & OPEX both lower than DE

SR Class Z

Holcroft shunter design criteria:

- 100% Adhesion
- 3 cylinders - maximise usable T.E.
- Small grate - minimize stand-by losses
- No superheater - intermittent duties

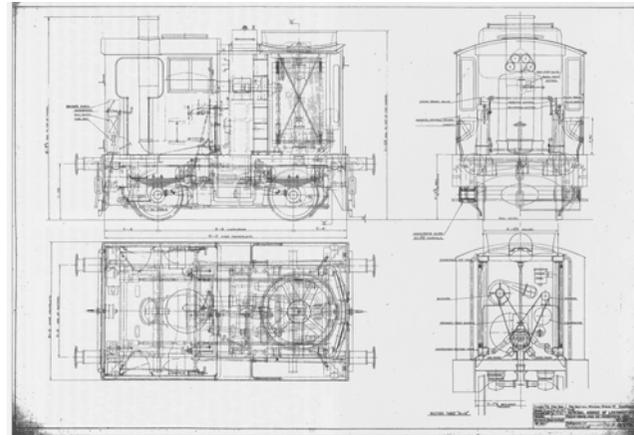


SR Class	Wheel Arrgt	N Cyl	Coal	Water	Total weight	Adhesive Weight (t)		Grate Area	Max Axle Load	Tractive Effort	Mu	
						Full	Empty				Full	Empty
Z	0-8-0T	3	t	gall	t	72	62.3	ft2	t	lbf	0.182	0.210
G16	4-8-0T	2	3.0	1500	72	73	60.6	27	18.3	29,376	0.204	0.246
H16	4-6-2T	2	3.5	2000	95	60	60	27	20.0	33,391	0.210	0.210

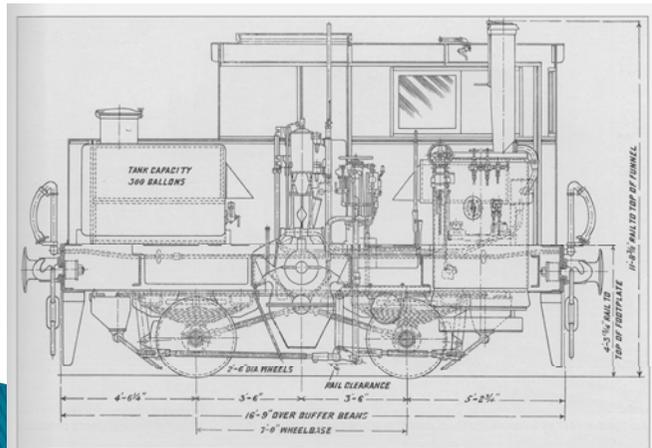
Sentinel Shunters – 100/200 hp



Job Number 8477 as complete and finish painted at Shrewsbury for the LNER. (Author's collection)



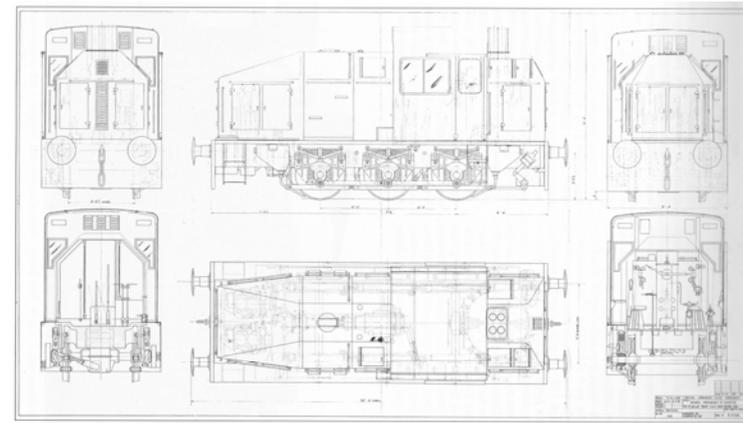
General Arrangement drawing of Job Number 8805



A side elevation of the CEDG locomotive.

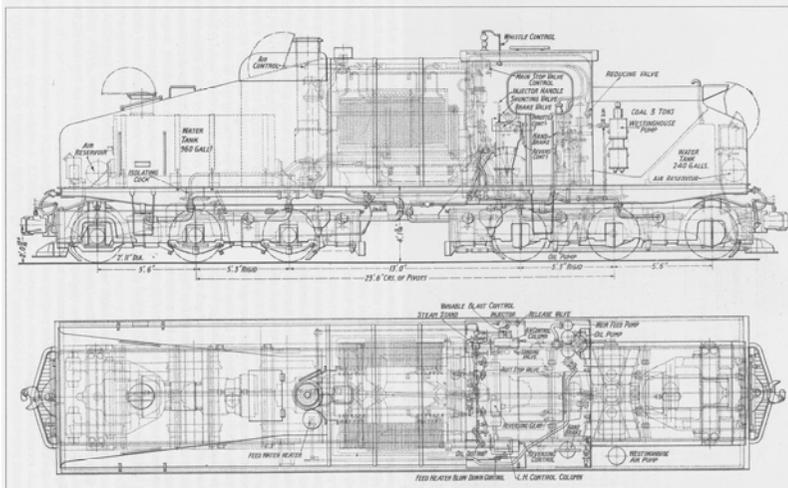


Job Number 8805 as built at Shrewsbury with two side mounted condensers. (Author's collection)



General Arrangement for X49 as original built.

Sentinel Locos – 600 hp



Elevation and plan of the Columbian locomotives from Sentinel drawing 15907. This drawing has an 'R' prefix, indicating it had been redrawn to a higher standard with additional details added, something that was usually done for publication purposes.

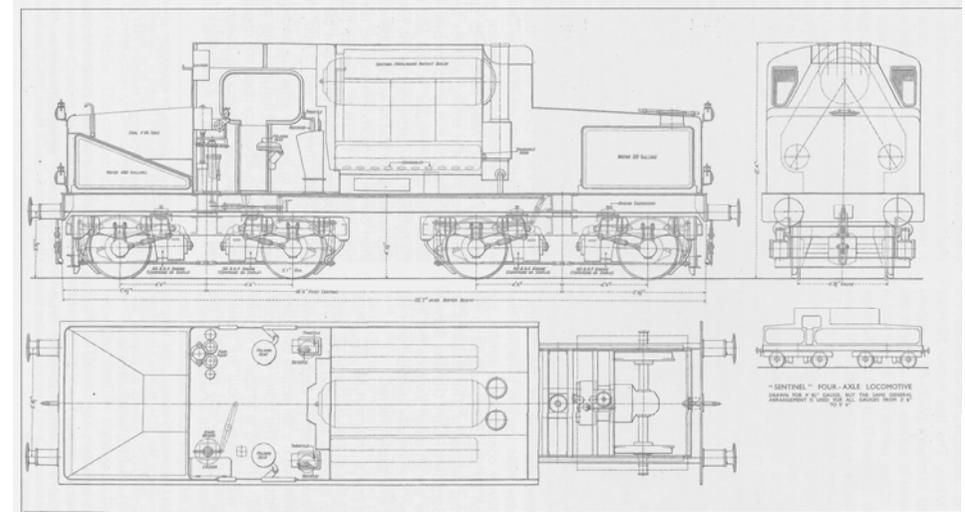


Job Number 8808 on trial in Belgium near Champlon 1934.

(Author's collection)

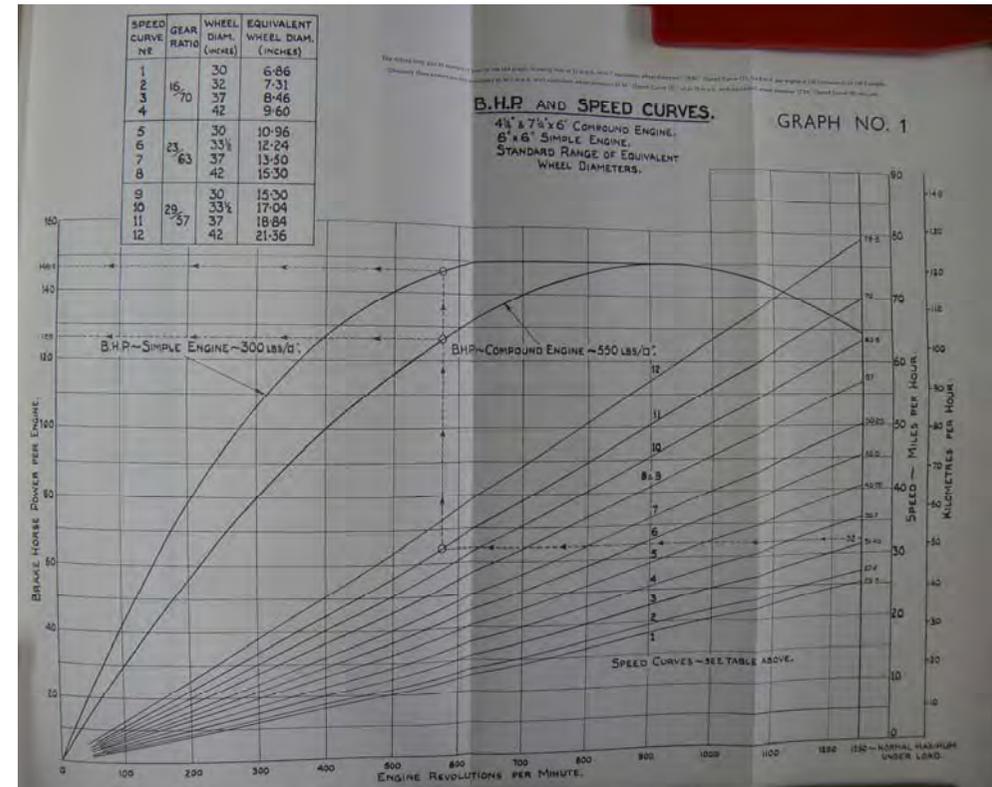
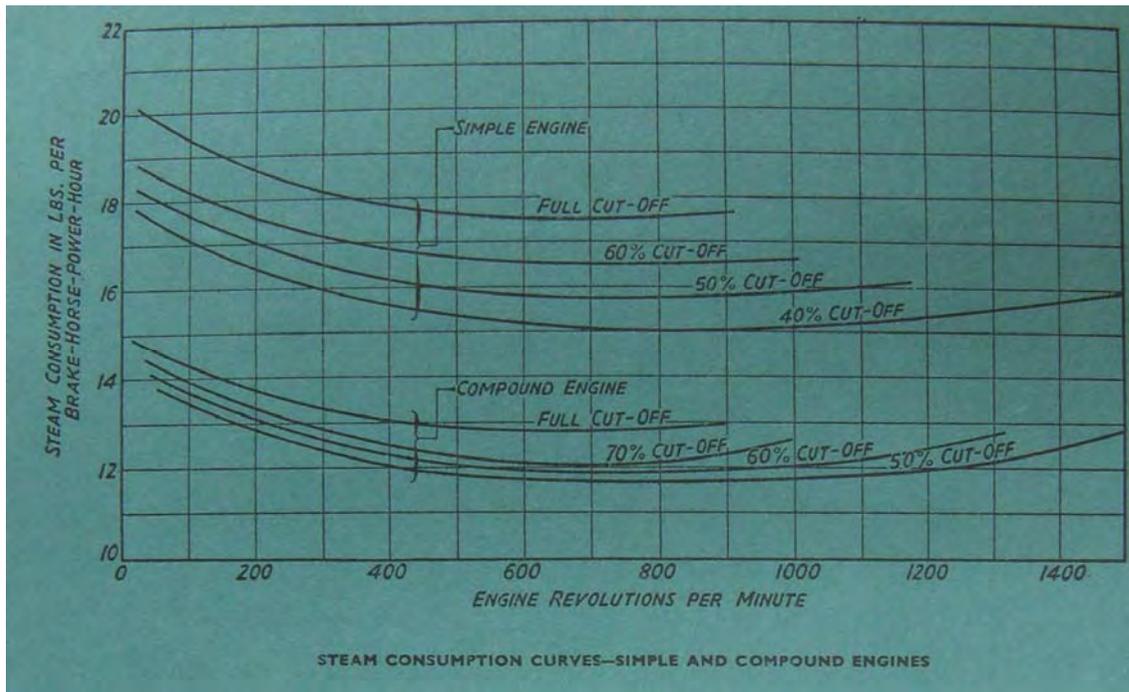


Nigel Gresley, CME of the LNER, was a keen exponent of the Sentinel locomotive and railcar, the LNER being far and away Sentinels biggest customer for rail vehicles. It is therefore appropriate to include a photograph of Mr Gresley ascending the cab of Job Number 8808 during the trials in Belgium: a visit that resulted in the LNER ordering the abortive bogie locomotive to Job Number 9129. On the left William Stanier of the LMSR waits his turn. (Author's collection)

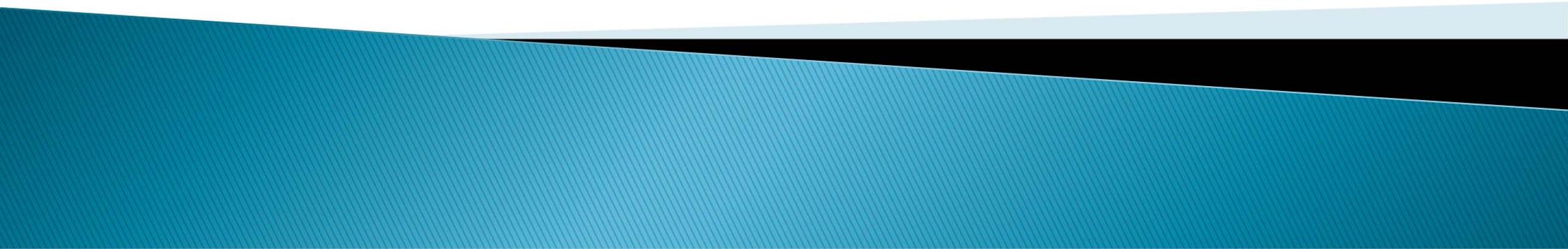


SENTINEL FOUR-AXLE LOCOMOTIVE
DRAWN BY F. H. GILES FOR THE LNER GROUP
REPRODUCED BY THE LNER GROUP

Sentinel Performance Curves



New Solutions



Target Specifications

Power		Max TE	Max Speed	Min Endurance	Crew	Max Power
rhp	ihp	lbf	mph	days		hours
280	269	35,000	20	6	1	42.2

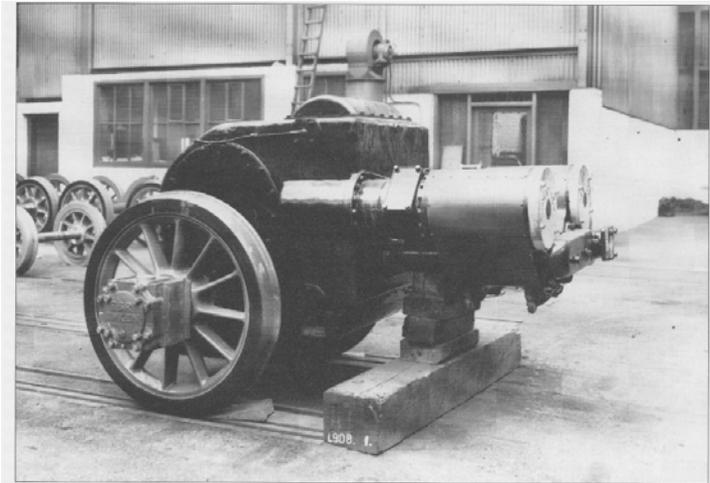
- Spec provides equal performance to Class 08
- Max Power Hours proxy for fuel and water capacities based on matching Class 08

Technologies Assumed

- ▶ Woolnough water tube boiler
 - Sentinel claimed that c.f. trad steam:
 - ▶ “50% saving in fuel burnt”
 - ▶ “steam raised in half time”
- ▶ Less advanced steam cycle than 5AT
 - 305psi, 400 deg C (750 deg F) steam temp
 - 14 psi cylinder back pressure
- ▶ Pulverised Coal Firing, same efficiency as hand firing
- ▶ Sentinel 6 cylinder single acting engine
- ▶ Sentinel geared drive
 - 2 gears, engageable when stationary from cab
- ▶ Rotary Cam poppet valve gear, fully variable cutoff
- ▶ Atmospheric Condensing to improve Availability

All Proven Technology

Alternative Cylinder/ Final Drive Configs.



A Complete Sentinel engine unit for the Egyptian locomotives awaits fitting in the North British Locomotive Company's Workshops in Glasgow. (Author's collection)



Job Number 9299 as completed by the North British Locomotive Company for Egypt. (Author's collection)

- Sentinel Enclosed Engine Unit
 - Fitted to 8 locos & 16 railcars
- Sentinel 6 Cylinder Single Acting Engine
 - Fitted to 163 railcars (52 LNER)

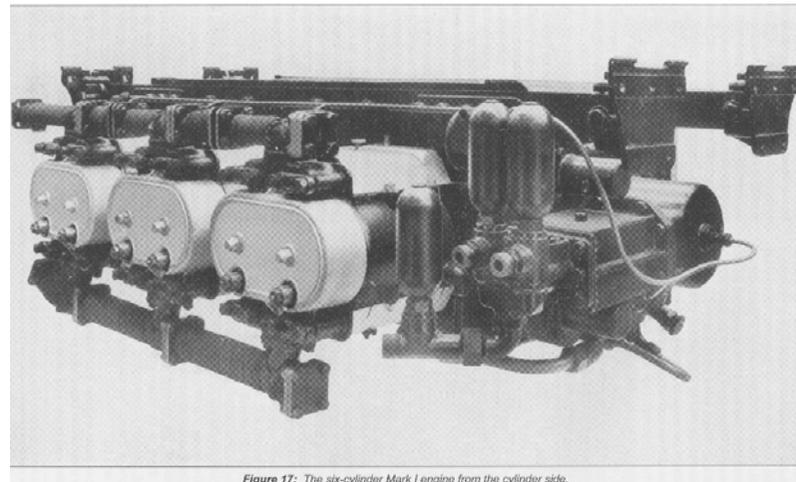
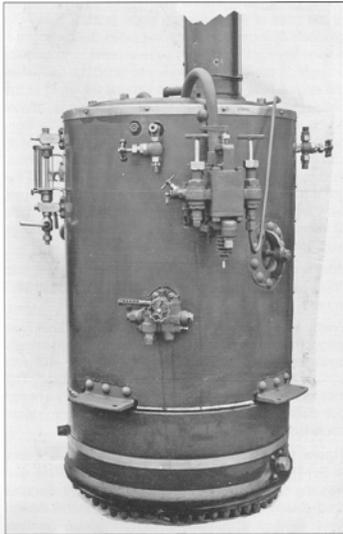


Figure 17: The six-cylinder Mark I engine from the cylinder side.

Sentinel Boilers



A Super-Sentinel vertical boiler, complete with fittings. The

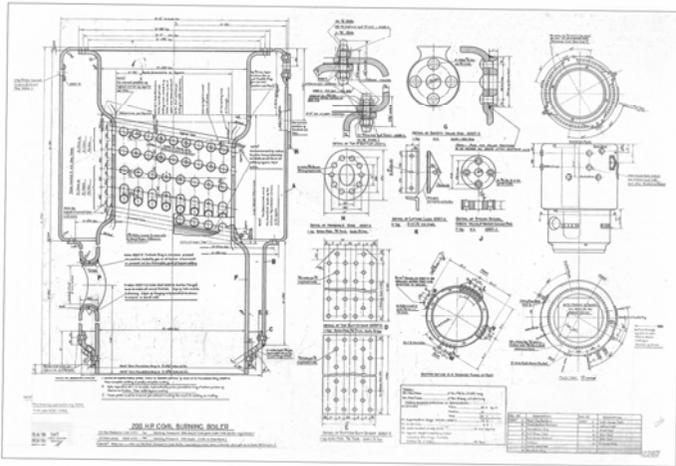
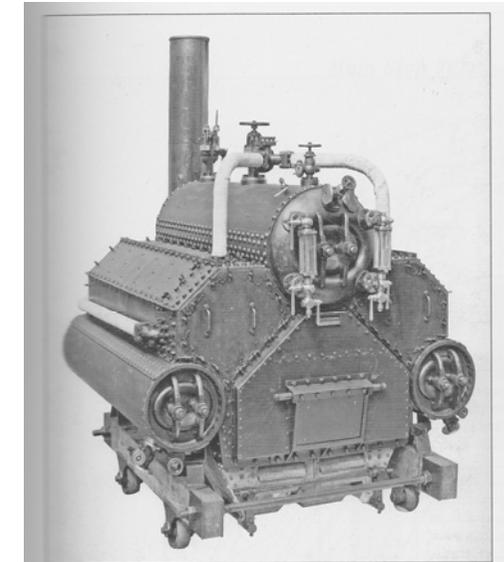


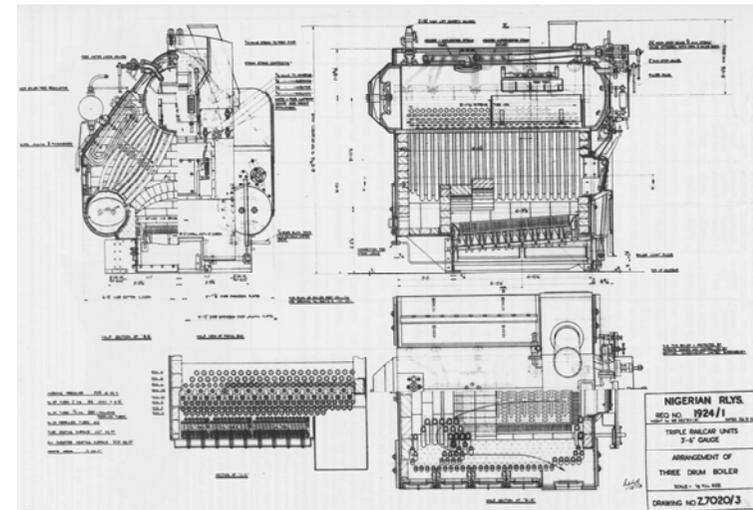
Figure 10: Boiler 12267

Type	Evap lb/hr	HS ft2	Grate Area ft2
Vertical	1600*	70	5
Woolnough	4500	233	9
Woolnough	5000	282	9
Woolnough	7500	393	12
Woolnough	10000	503	14.8
Woolnough	12500	580	18

* calculated



The Woolnough boiler fitted in LNER Job Numbers 7822 and 7823 from the firing end. (Author's collection)



Drawing of Woolnough boiler fitted in the Nigerian Railways Railcars supplied in 1953.

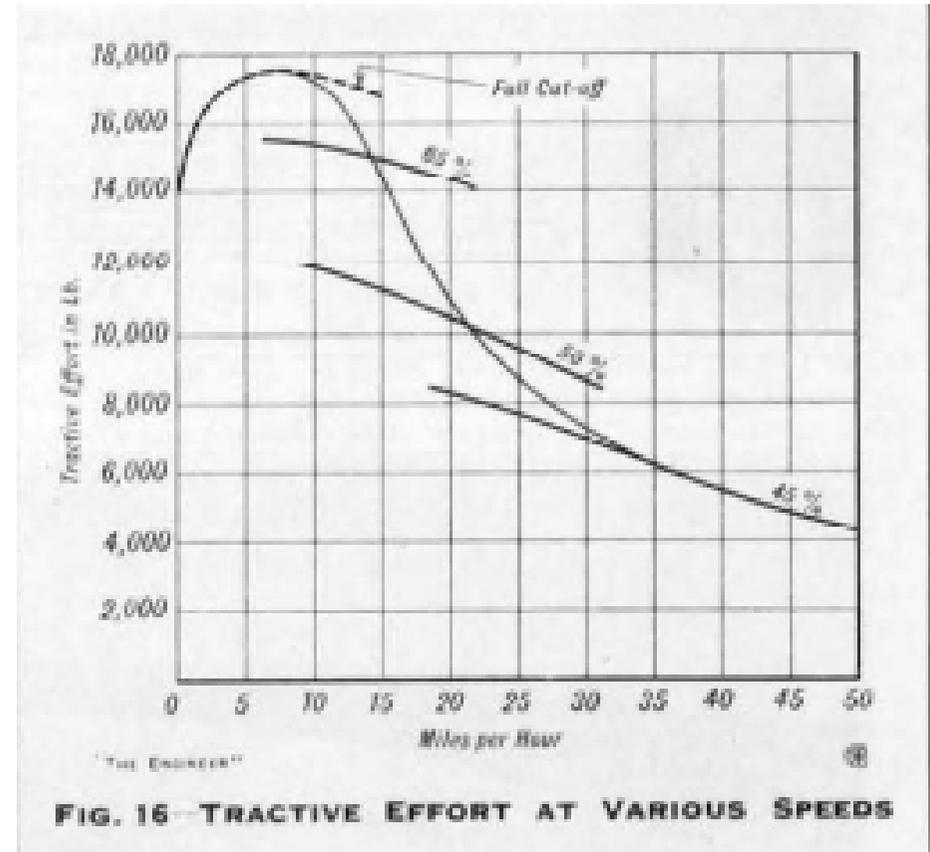
The Real Thing @ Bucks Rly Centre



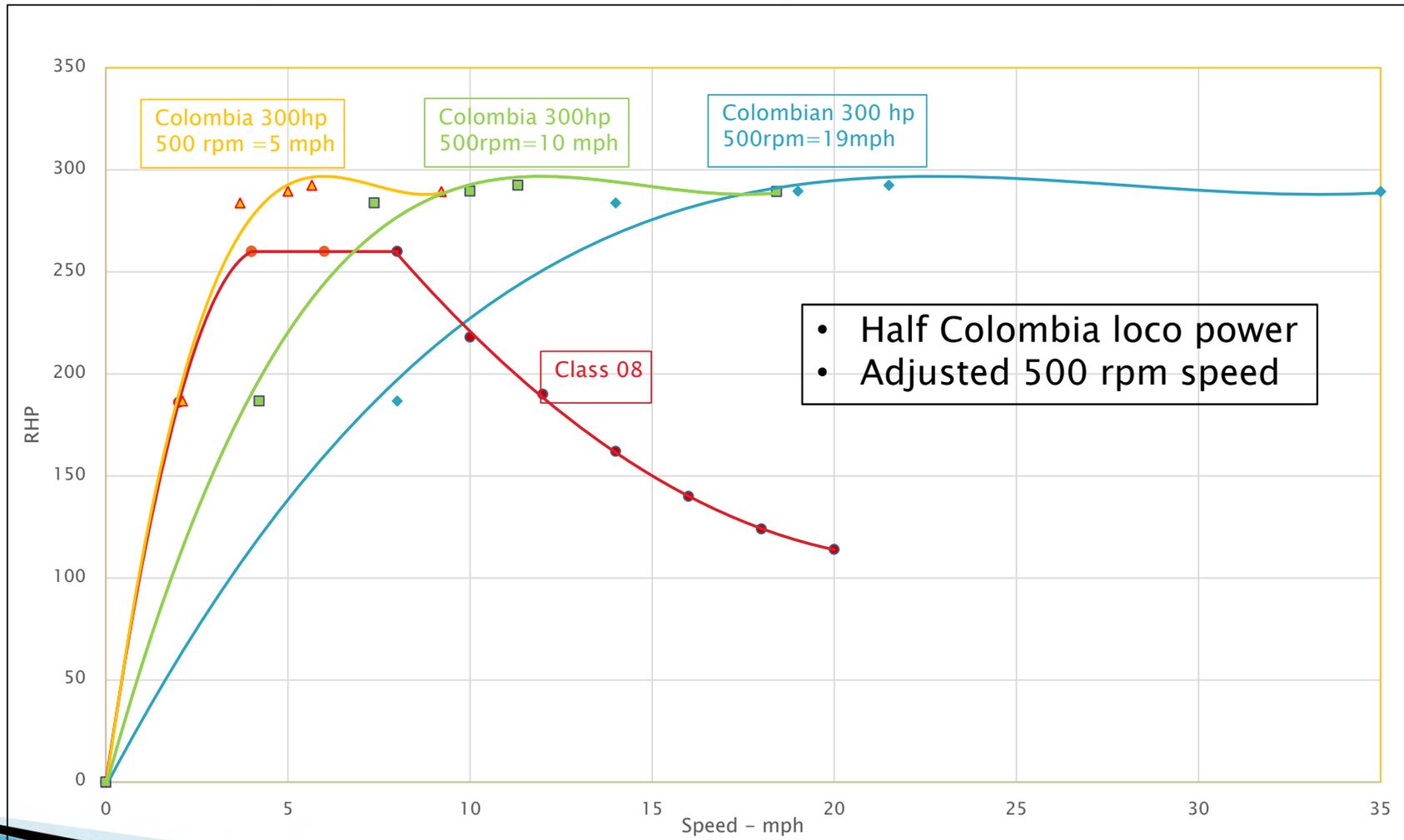
Design

Parametric Design

- ▶ Power curves scaled from Colombian Loco T.E. Curve
- ▶ Thermodynamic Performance estimated from 1st principles
- ▶ Roosen for Condenser
- ▶ Weight Estimates derived from Sentinel locos
- ▶ *Deviate as little as possible from traditional Stephenson form to minimise risk*
 - Traditional Steam shunters had lost to D.E. – need to do something different, but credible

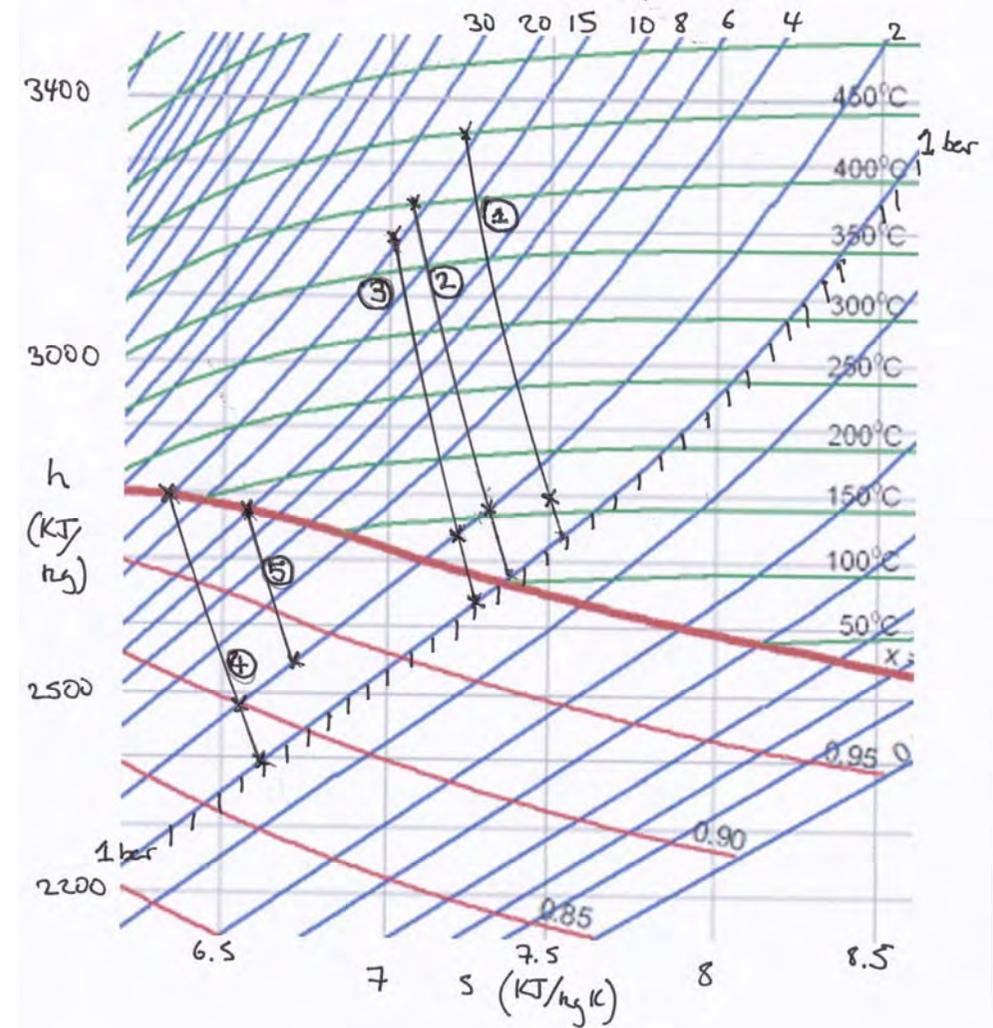


Class 08 Equiv - 3ATT Options



hs Diagrams – Shunters

		Pressure		SH Temp		Isen. Effy	Delta h	% 5AT Cycle
		psig		Deg C	Deg F			
1	5AT	305		450	842	85	550	100%
2	Woolnough	305		400	750	80	437	79%
3	Woolnough	305		370	700	80	417	76%
4	Woolnough	305		Sat	Sat	75	307	56%
5	3F	160		Sat	Sat	75	213	39%



Woolnough Thermodynamics

Woolnough Open Cycle		Pressure	Temp	h	isen eff	SSC	
Coal MJ/kg	30	psig	deg C	KJ/kg	%	Lb/lhp-hr	Lb/DBHP-hr
SH Exit		305	399	3243			
HP Steam chest		290	399	3245			
Cyl exit	isen.	15	120	2699	80%		
	adiab.	15	170	2808			
Total Cyls Adiabatic				437			
Total Cyls				415			
5 mph						14.3	14.8
20 mph						14.3	16.8

Woolnough Condensing		Pressure	Temp	h	isen eff
Coal MJ/kg	30	psig	deg C	KJ/kg	%
SH Exit		305	399	3243	
HP Steam chest		290	399	3245	
Cyl exit	isen.	15	120	2699	80%
	adiab.	15	170	2808	
Turbo In		15	170	2808	
Turbo Out	isen.	0	100	2657	80%
	adiab.	0	101	2680	
Total Cyls Adiabatic				437	
Total Cyls				415	
Turbo				129	

	Speed	Rpm	Power			Coal	Evap	Cyl Feed	SSC	DB Effy
	mph		IHP	LR (hp)	DBHP	lb/hr	lb/hr	lb/hr	Lb/ihp-hr	%
3ATT/	5	500	269	10	259	546	4009	3836	14.3	7.7
3ATTC	20	500	269	40	229	546	4009	3836	14.3	7.7

Full Power	42.2	Hours
Coal	10.3	tons
Water	16,936	gall
per day	2,823	gall

Auxilliaris Design

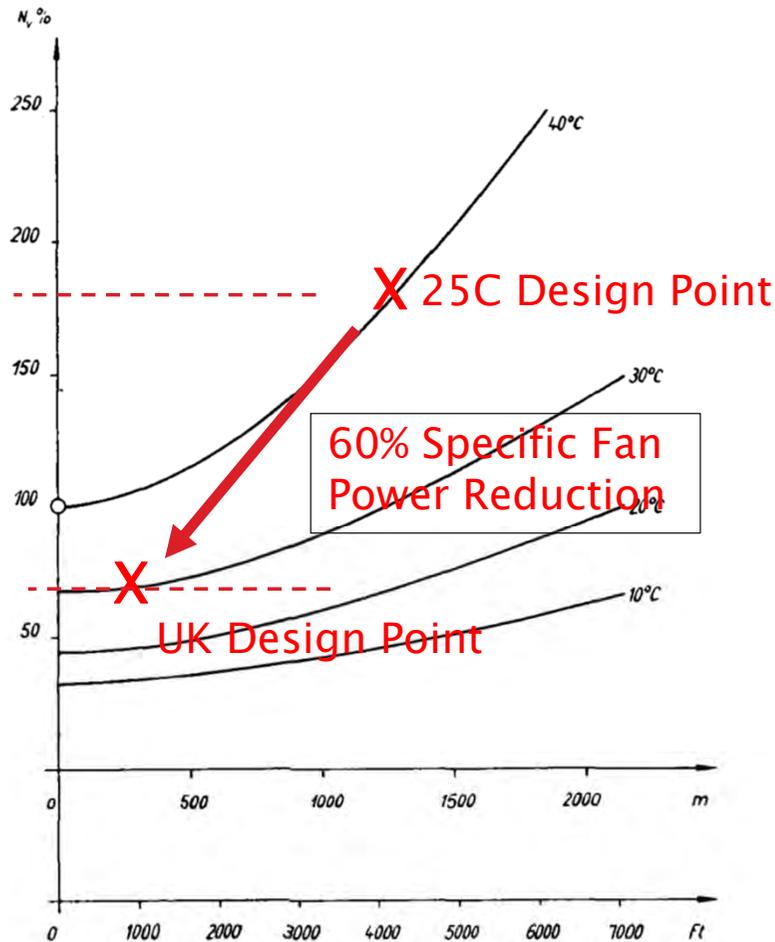


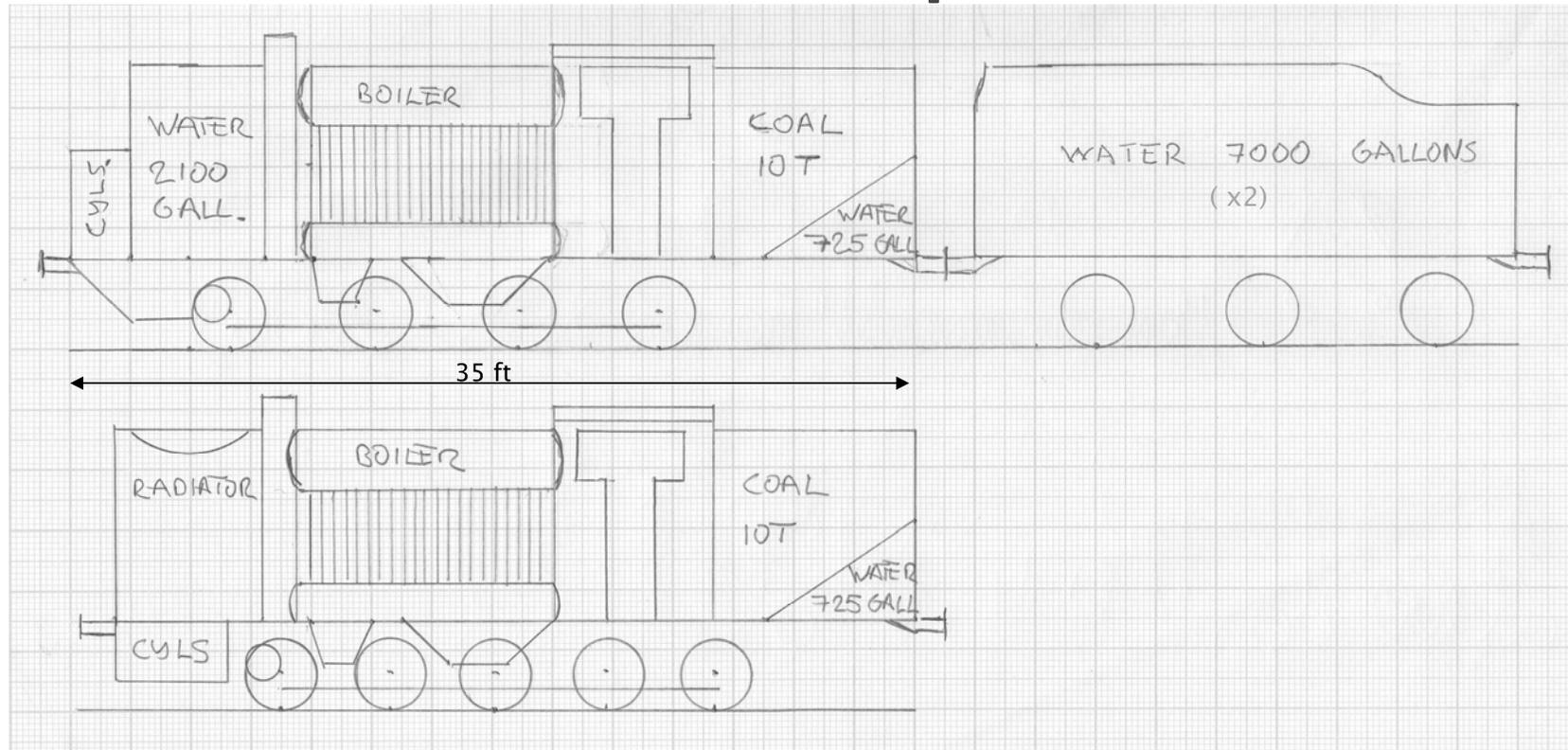
FIG. 8

EFFECT OF ALTITUDE AND AMBIENT AIR TEMPERATURE ON POWER DEMAND N_v , RELATED TO SEA LEVEL AND 40°C = 104°F.

Radiator Design Conditions				
	Steam Mass Flow	Heat Transfer	Design Altitude	Design Amb Temp
			Alt	Temp
	t/h	KW	ft	deg C
25C	25	17,132	4500	40
3ATTC	1.8	566	1000	30

	Alt & Temp Factor	N fans	Rad Area Ratio	Fan Power Factor	Fan Power	Induced Draft Fans	Total Fan Power
					hp	hp	hp
25C	1	5	1	1	550	150	700
3ATTC	0.36	0.13	1	1	14	11	25
	0.36	1	0.5	0.48	7	11	18

3ATT/3ATTC Class 08 Equivalent



Loco	N Axles	Max IHP	500 rpm Speed	Cyls			Driver Dia	Gearing	Starting T.E.	Empty Weight	Max Weight	Max Axle Load
				n	dia	stroke						
			mph		in	in	in		Lbf	T	t	t
3ATT/ 3ATTC	4	269	5	6	6.62	7	36	10.71	35,021	53.7	76.6	19.1
	5		20					2.68	8,756			15.3

3ATT vs Traditional Steam

		3F	Z	Sentinel CEDG	Sentinel Rod Drive	Sentinel Colombian	3ATT (Woolnough)
Boiler Pressure	psig	160	180	275	275	550	305
Grate Area	ft2	16	18.6	5.1	5.1	18	9
Evap	ft2	1064	1279	73	73	580	233
S/H	ft2	0	0	13	13	253	102
IHP	hp	500*	600*	100	200	600	269
Loco Empty weight	t	42.6	63.0	18.7	44	40	53.7#
Coal	t	2.3	3.0	0.75	1.8	3	10.3
Water	gall	1200	1500	300	850	1200	2823
T.E.	lbf	20,835	29,376	15,962	31,924	14,000	35,234
Mu (Empty)		0.22	0.21	0.39	0.33	0.16	0.291

*Calculated from Johnson Ratios for sat.steam
includes ballast

Assessment & Conclusions



Assessment

Diesel Equiv.	Assessment
Class 08	Technology to match Class 08 performance with steam available in 1950s
	Steam individual CAPEX much lower
	Potential for Steam to match Diesel OPEX
	Steam much lower technical and operational risk

Requirements vs. Traditional Steam	3ATT	3ATTC
Cleaner		
Less Manual Labour	X	X
Low Speed Performance	X	X
Reduced OPEX	X	X
Increased Operating Endurance	X	X
Increased major repair intervals		

Uncomfortable Questions

- ▶ Is the boiler the achilles heel of the steam locomotive ?
 - Inspection requirements – safety
 - Maintenance costs
 - → Low Availability ?
 - *6 day operating cycle allows boiler inspections to be performed on 7th day without affecting availability*
 - Frequent Servicing Required
 - Water, Ash, Fuel
 - → Low Utilisation ?
 - *Coal for 6 days carried, daily water refill (open cycle) or condensing*
 - *Ash ?*
- ▶ Does direct side-rod drive inevitably mean low annual mileages ?
 - Fluctuating, asymmetric loads imposed on frames, axleboxes etc.
 - Mitigations – Tandem coupling rods, Franklin Wedges etc.
 - *Geared drive minimizes effects ?*

Conclusions

- ▶ Yes, BR could have done something different
 - ▶ Proven technologies were available
 - ▶ Performance is the easiest issue to address
 - *Manual firing not an issue, but single manning essential*
 - ▶ Competitiveness of steam dependent on price ratio of coal/oil (and environmental acceptability)
 - ▶ Availability & Utilisation constraints of steam may be limiting factors, not performance
 - *Design to match diesel 6 day operating cycle*
 - ▶ Still To Come:
 - Multiple Units
 - British Superpower
 - What Does it All Mean ?
- 

**End of Part 4
Presentation**



Main References

- ▶ Sentinel Locomotives
 - “Sentinel Locomotives & Sentinel–Cammell Railcars”, Hutchings, IRS, 2020
 - “Sentinel General Service Locos”, Sentinel brochure 1930s
 - ▶ Performance
 - 5AT FDCs, Wardale & Newman, ASTT, 2015
 - “Top Shed”, Townend, Ian Allan, 1975
 - ▶ Condensing
 - “Camels & Cadillacs”. Phil Girdlestone, Stenvalls 2014
 - “Class 25 Condensing Locomotives on SAR – Design & Operating Experiences”, Roosen, IMechE paper 1960
- 

Weight Estimate

Loco	Rly	Config	Max Power	Starting Tractive Effort	Empty No Ballast	Ballast	Empty With Ballast	Coal	Water	Full	Naxles driving	Mu		Max Axle Load
			ihp	lbf	ton			ton	gall			Full	Empty	Full
08	LMS/BR	0-6-0T	269	35,000	45					49	3	0.32	0.35	16.3
3F	LMS	0-6-0T		20,835	43			2.3	1,200	50.3	3	0.19	0.22	16.8
Z	SR	0-8-0T		29,376	63			3.0	1,500	72.7	4	0.18	0.21	18.2
Sentinel CEDG	LNER	0-4-0T	100	15,962	18.7			0.75	300	20.8	2	0.35	0.39	10.4
				12,600								0.28	0.31	10.4
Sentinel rod drive	Dorman Long	0-6-0T	200		44			1.8	850	50.0	3	0.00	0.00	17
Sentinel	SNCF Colombia	Co-Co	600	17,500	40			3	1200	48.0	6			8.0
Sentinel	LNER Bogie	Bo-Bo	600	21,804	40			3	1300	48.4	4	0.07	0.08	12.1
3ATT		0-8-0T	269	35,000	40	13.7	53.7	10.3	2,823	76.6	4	0.21	0.29	19.1
3ATTC		0-10-0T	269	35,000	40	13.7	53.7	10.3	2,823	76.6	5	0.21	0.29	15.3

	2 Cyl	3 Cyl
T.E. (lbf)	35,000	35,000
Usable Mu	0.25	0.291
Reqd Adhesion (t)	62.5	53.7

Ballast	8m x 2m
tons	t (m)
6	0.05
14	0.11

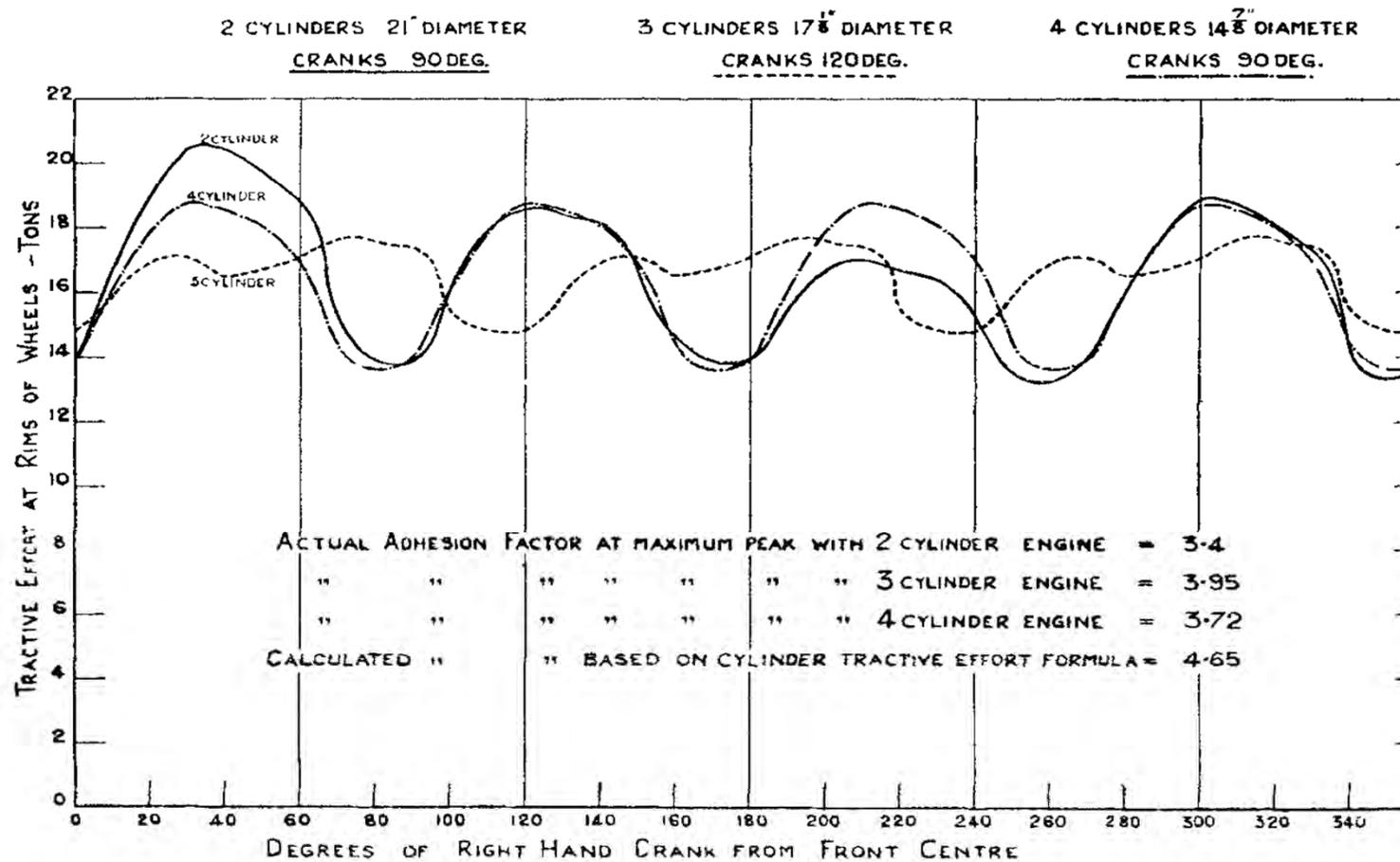
3 Cylinders

- Constant calculated coefficient friction (= 0.215) for 2,3,4 cyl designs of equal cyl volume
- 3 Cylinders give a more even turning moment than either 2 or 4 Cylinders and hence a 14% higher useable coefficient of friction than 2 cyl designs

N Cyl	Peak Mu
2	0.294
3	0.253
4	0.269
Calc	0.215

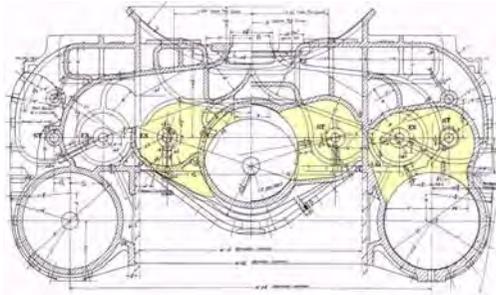
FIG. 2. Variation in Tractive Effort at Rims of Wheels for one Revolution with 2, 3 and 4 Cylinder Engines of Equal Cylinder Volume.

Boiler Pressure 180 lb. per sq. inch. Stroke 28 inches. Wheel Diameter 56 inches. Cut-off 75 per cent. Connecting Rod 8 times crank radius. Adhesive Weight 70 tons.

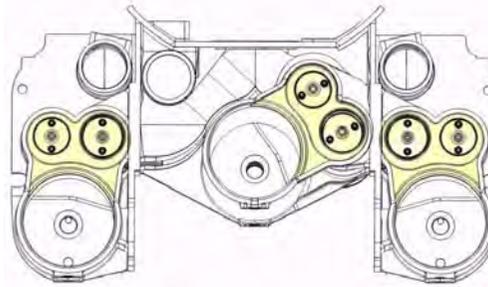


Valve Gear

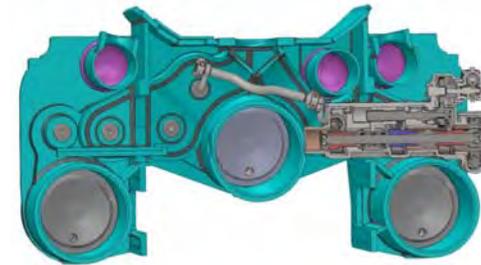
- ▶ “All valve gears give practically the same diagram”
 - Porta, Fundamentals of the Porta Compound System
- ▶ Personal preference is for rotary cam poppet valve gear
 - Technically most elegant
 - Enclosed, therefore lower maintenance (Bond)
 - Lighter, therefore more suited to high speed (Chapelon 5kg poppet valve cf. 100kg piston valve)
 - → RC Lenz, Franklin B or British Caprotti



2001 original Gresley P2
Large centre cyl clearance vol



2007 P2 redesign
Reduced clearance vols, rocking shaft
Drive to centre cyl inlet valve



Sentinel Design Parameters – 1930s Gen Svc Locos

	Performance		Endurance	
	Av Steam Consumption	Evap	Coal	Water
	lb/BHP-hr	lb water / lb coal	hrs	hrs
Compound	14	9	5	2
Simple	17.5	7.2	4	1.5

Woolnough Boiler Pressures & Temps					
	S/H out	steam chest	receiver	S/H temp	Back pressure
	psi	psi	psi	deg F	psi
compound	550	500	140	750	5
simple	335	300		750	

Woolnough Boiler Standard Sizes		
Evap	HS	Grate Area
lb/hr	ft2	ft2
4500	233	9
5000	282	9
7500	393	12
10000	503	14.8
12500	580	18