

“Get me out a 2-6-0 with 5 foot 8 inch wheels, outside cylinders, the No. 4 boiler and as many standard parts as could be used.”

George Jackson Churchward to Chief Draughtsman Harry Holcroft in 1910

A brief history of the GWR Moguls

By 1910 George Jackson Churchward, the Great Western Railway's Locomotive Superintendent, had completed a range of standard locomotives capable of operating the heavier services that were becoming the norm. He asked Harry Holcroft, his Chief Draughtsman, “to get me out a 2-6-0 with 5 foot 8 inch wheels, outside cylinders, the No. 4 boiler and as many standard parts as could be used”. It took only a few days to outline the new locomotive and, because few new drawings were needed, materials could be requisitioned straight away. Twenty were soon under construction with 4301 completed in June 1911. Churchward envisaged the 2-6-0 as a replacement for 0-6-0 tender locomotives on main line goods, however, they were such an immediate success that Moguls were soon replacing inside cylinder 4-4-0s on passenger trains, plus they had the advantage of not requiring assistance on Cornwall's steep gradients.

Such was their versatility that no less than 322 of the class were built between 1911 and 1925. Churchward's successor Charles Collett then turned out a further twenty Moguls in 1932 – of which 9303 is one – with modifications that included a side window cab, outside steam pipes and an extended buffer beam which was designed to reduce tyre wear on the leading driving wheels. Moguls operated all over the GWR system working long goods, cross country passenger services, parcels and excursion trains with ease. They were also well-used on holiday expresses and engineering trains.

Moguls operated on the Severn Valley line from the 1930s (when Kidderminster to Bewdley, Stourport and Tenbury became a 'blue' route), being seen on excursions, cattle and fruit trains and coal trains. Eventually, in the mid to late 1950s, Kidderminster shed was allocated four Moguls for working coal trains of up to 36 wagons from Alveley Colliery to Stourport and Buildwas power stations. They handled even more wagons on sugar beet trains to Foley Park.

9303 became 7325 when BR made modifications in 1958 and was eventually withdrawn in 1964. The Association plan is to restore the locomotive to its original Collett specification. 9303 is an ideal locomotive for the range of services on the Severn Valley Railway.

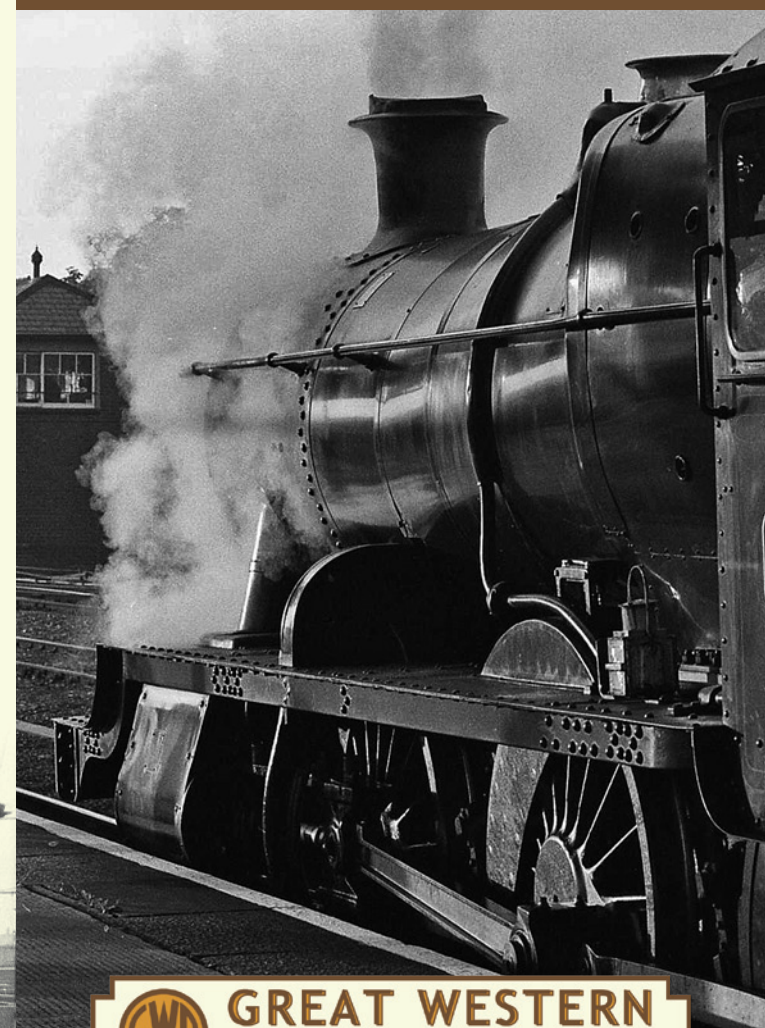
*Photographs: Front Cover: As 7325 at Worcester, 4th November 1995 (Paul Dorney)
Below: As 7325 at Gloucester, June 1963.*



**GREAT WESTERN
(SVR) ASSOCIATION**

Collett Mogul 9303

Returning this unique locomotive to steam



© Colurail



**GREAT WESTERN
(SVR) ASSOCIATION**

50TH ANNIVERSARY APPEAL



From workhorse to rare beast

9303 is one of just two survivors from the GWR 2-6-0 'Mogul' class that once numbered 342 and is the only Collett example in existence. The other Mogul in preservation, 5322, is the earlier Churchward version and is owned by the Didcot based Great Western Society.

Turned out from Swindon Works in February 1932 as 9303, the locomotive had completed almost one million miles when withdrawn in April 1964. Acquired by the Great Western (SVR) Association in 1974 it returned to steam in 1992 after restoration by Association volunteers with the help of Bridgnorth Motive Power Department. Running on the Severn Valley Railway mainly as 7325 – its post-1958 BR specification – it left service in August 2000. However, during this time 7325 made several notable appearances on the main line including two not to be forgotten climbs of the formidable Lickey Incline with Stanier Mogul 42968. 7325 also featured in the acclaimed 1998 TV film *Goodnight Mister Tom* starring John Thaw.

Since withdrawal, display at the McArthur Glen shopping centre at its birthplace of Swindon, and more recently at The Engine House, Highley, has protected the locomotive from major deterioration.



The Great Western (SVR) Association has been based at Bewdley on the Severn Valley Railway for 50 years. In that time the Association has acquired and restored no less than twenty former Great Western Railway carriages and has gained an enviable reputation for the quality of restoration work resulting in a number of prestigious awards.

www.gw-svr-a.org.uk

Charity Registration No 1078718

The proposed restoration

For the Association's 50th year, we are launching a fund to return our Mogul to the Collett GWR condition of 9303, having previously run in its 1958 incarnation of 7325 when the weight at the back of the buffer beam was removed to allow operation over a wider network. The extra weight will not be a problem when running on Severn Valley Railway metals or on other heritage railways.

A new chimney, smokebox, boiler refurbishment and 'bottom end' are required to get the locomotive into running order. It is an early candidate for attention at Bridgnorth with its replacement in The Engine House, 7819 Hinton Manor, having arrived back on the SVR. A number of admirers have already formed the 'Collett Mogul Supporters Group' to help with the overhaul. If you would like to assist with the restoration please complete the form opposite.

Find us on Facebook:  The Collett Mogul Supporters Group

Photographs:

Above: As 7325 hauling main line special at Beeston Castle, 21st March 1998.

Below: 9303 takes on water at Tyseley on 17th July 1955.



9303 Restoration Appeal

Please complete and return to Rob Massey, Secretary
9 Shandon Close, Harborne, Birmingham B32 3XB

Donations

I would like to make a donation of £ towards the restoration of Collett Mogul 9303.

Please make cheques payable to 'Great Western (SVR) Association'.

Name:

Address:

..... Post Code:

Email address:

Donations can also be made online via the Charity Aid Foundation website – please see: www.gw-svr-a.org.uk/how_to_help.html

Standing Order

Please pay from date until further notice

£ per month in favour of the Great Western (SVR) Association.

The HSBC Bank, 31 Church Street, Kidderminster, Worcs, DY10 2AY
Account Number: 61000217 Sort Code: 40-10-13

Bank: Bank PLC

Address:

..... Post Code:

My Account Number:

Sort Code:

Signed:

Date:

Gift Aid Declaration

Please treat all donations and subscriptions that I make today and in the future as Gift Aid donations.

giftaid it
You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax in each tax year at least equal to the tax that the GW(SVR)A will claim from HM Revenue & Customs on your Gift Aid donation(s).

Signed:

Date:

Please notify the GW(SVR)A if you: 1. Want to cancel this declaration. 2. Change your name or home address. 3. No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Help with Restoration

I would like to help with the restoration of Collett Mogul 9303.

Name:

Telephone No.