

AC Railbus W79978 – restoration update August 2023

Progress over the last few months has mainly focussed on body frame repairs.

The section we have been working on is the middle of the right-hand side around the sliding door, and the adjacent interior partitions and floor. This area, like the rest of the vehicle, has suffered severe corrosion to the body frame as a result many years of rainwater coming in through the roof vents and running down between the outer skin and interior ceiling and sidewall panels.

As previously mentioned, it is planned to carry out the restoration in stages, complete a section, run the vehicle, and then move on to the next section. This way it will break the work into manageable sections and still enable occasional outings for the vehicle to hopefully maintain interest.



Interior partition panels and floor removal



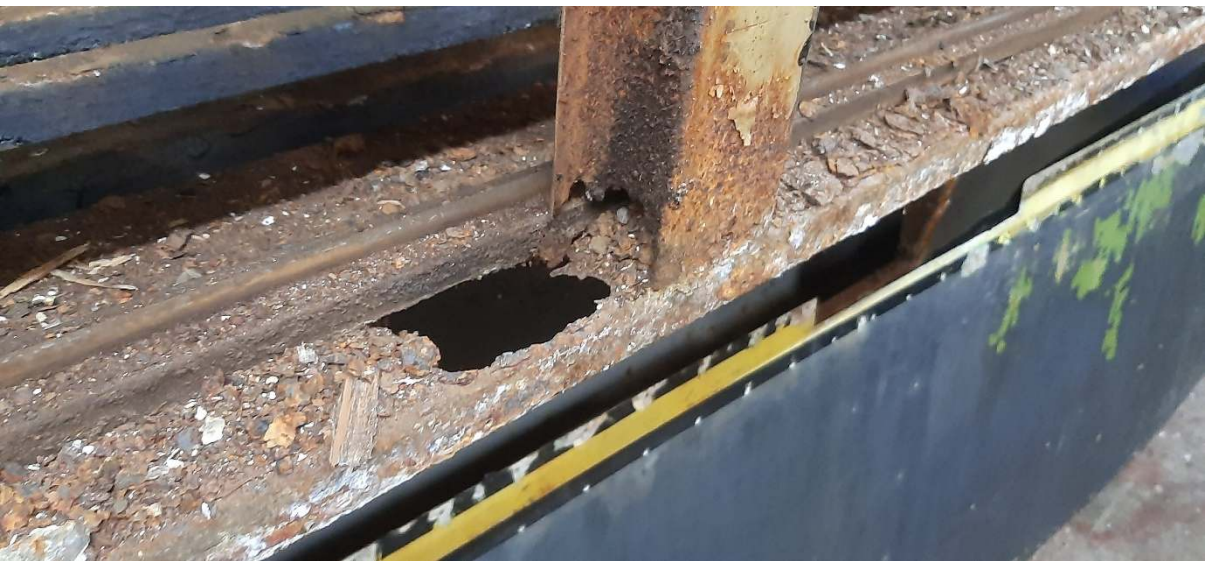
Lower exterior panel and window removed



Doorstep frame before repair.



And after.



Door runner support plate before.



Replacement section welded in place. Also visible are repair sections on two of the bodyside vertical pillars and a horizontal brace which has been replaced.



Final section of door runner support plate fitted, also repaired section of outer door post and doorstep.



And from the inside. Also visible are a replacement channel section for the partition and repairs to corrugated floor panel.



Interior partition frame and bodyside support pillar. Several new sections of steel are visible.



Above and below, before repair.



Frame repairs complete and primer painted.



New outer skin panel fitted and painted in red oxide primer.

The Rainstrip and roof beading have been refitted.

Over the next few weeks, the lower outer skin panel and side window will be refitted and the interior reassembled.

The Railbus will be on display, and hopefully operational on the mixed traffic weekend on the 23rd and 24th September, so why not come along and see the progress for yourself!