



31452 – Class 31

Built	1961
Built By	Brush Works Loughborough
Type	Brush Type 2
First Number carried	D5809
Last Number carried	31452
Other Numbers carried	31279
Power output	1470hp English Electric 12SVT
Weight	107 tonnes
Maximum speed	90 m.p.h.
Train heating	Steam heat boiler later replaced by Electric Train heating

The British Rail Class 31 is a class of British railway diesel-electric locomotive that was developed by Brush Traction. A total of 263 Class 31s were built at Brush's Works, Loughborough between 1957 and 1962.

They were fitted initially with the Mirlees JVS12T 1,250 producing between 1,250 and 1365 bhp. These quickly developed major problems and all were replaced by English Electric 12SVT engines as were used in class 37s though derated to 1470 bhp. This wholesale replacement of the power units of the whole class after only a few years at great cost raised a few eyebrows.

31452 was built as D5809 as part of the 31/1 sub class with steam heating equipment fitted. It entered service in BR Green livery. In July 1961 it was allocated new to Sheffield Darnall shed. It rapidly moved round a number of Yorkshire sheds eventually settling at Tinsley before in 1971 being allocated to the Western region. It spent 3 years there allocated at either Old Oak Common or Bristol Bath Road. In 1974 it was then allocated back to the Eastern region at March tmd. Later on it returned to the Western region.

Class 31s performed secondary and relief passenger services, parcels and freight services. In times of dmu shortages they were often utilised with loco replacements services including the Exeter – Barnstaple line.

At the end of 1973 D5809 it was renumbered under the BR TOPS scheme to 31279. It eventually was also repainted into standard BR Monastrial blue livery.

In 1984 after a major refurbishment 31279 was fitted with Electric Train Heating and had its steam heat boiler removed. It was then renumbered again to its current number 31452.

After sectorisation and then privatisation of BR, 31452 was owned by various operators including EWS, Fargoset, Mainline, FM Rail, and then DCR. In 1999 whilst with Fragonset it was named Minotaur, the plates being removed at a later date. In this period it carried various liveries reflecting the company that owned it at the time. Its last mainline livery being the DCR (Devon & Cornwall Railways) green livery.



Pictured here at Manchester Piccadilly whilst numbered as 31279

31452 was still running on the main network in 2017 some 56 years after it being built. Latterly it was used hauling light engines, empty stock or track maintenance vehicles around the network for DCR. By that time it was the last class 31 running on the mainline. It arrived at Dartmoor Railway in November 2017 to provide traction for the 'Train to Christmas Town' event. It now is used for event trains and occasional use on heritage services.

