

# Mk3a Convertible Sleeper

BR



Mk.3a SLEP No.10588 in BR Inter City blue & grey livery. At Barrow Hill, 09/10 (© Hugh Llewelyn).

Numbers	10518, 10611, 10595 (stored at Meldon)
Built	1981-84
Built By	Derby Carriage & Wagon Works
Type	British Rail Mark 3a SLEP
Weight	43 tons
Length	75 feet
Maximum speed	125 mph

A **Sleeper Either class (SLE)** and **Sleeper Either class with Pantry (SLEP)** are a type of railway sleeping car. Some units were later modified for better wheelchair access as **Sleeper Either class Disabled (SLED)**.

A total of 208 vehicles were built at Derby Carriage and Wagon Works by British Rail Engineering Ltd. between 1982 and 1984 to the British Rail Mark 3a profile. They were introduced to replace an ageing fleet of Mark 1 sleeper cars built to various designs and which dated from the late 1950s to early 1960s. The order consisted of 88 SLE variants, numbered 10646–10733, which were constructed with thirteen bedrooms each, and 120 SLEP variants, numbered 10500–10619 constructed with twelve bedrooms with the last compartment used for an attendant.

Between 1988–1998, ten SLE carriages were leased to Danish State Railways (DSB) for use in Denmark. As of 2017, the only mainline operators of these type of carriages are Great Western Railway on the Night Riviera between London Paddington and Penzance, and Serco on the Caledonian Sleeper between London Euston and Scotland.

Following the withdrawal of many overnight sleeper services in the late 1980s, many Mark 3 sleeper carriages were obtained by heritage railways in order to provide sleeping accommodation for staff and volunteers. As of 2015 there were 32 SLEs and 2 SLEPs in preservation at heritage railways, with 3 SLEPs at the Dartmoor Railway.