

North British Locomotive Plans

Introduction

North British Locomotive (NBL) was founded in 1903 by the amalgamation of three older Glasgow locomotive manufacturers. These were: Dübs & Company; Neilson Reid & Company; and Sharp Stewart & Company. It was the largest manufacturer of locomotives in Europe pre-1914. Many of the steam engines it manufactured were sold abroad. NBL went into liquidation in 1963 and its plans were acquired by Andrew Barclay & Co of Kilmarnock (founded c1850s).

Records of North British Locomotive are held within the [Andrew Barclay Archive](#) (ref: GD 329) and the [North British Locomotive Co Ltd Archive](#) (ref UGD 11). Records relating to the production of locomotives are held with GD 329, with the locomotive plans having the reference prefix RHP.

Plan holdings

- Plans: 1903-63

Format

The majority of plans are hand drawn in Indian ink on waxed linen. Some, however, are ink drawn on paper backed with material and others ink drawn on tracing paper (perhaps original drawings). Each plan is unique, and length can vary from a few feet to over twenty feet.

Finding out what is held

To find out the plans held for a locomotive you need the locomotive contract number. These have the prefix L. The numbers run L1 to L999 from 1903 until c1949 when they start again from L1.

Contract numbers are recorded in the NBL engine orders book (ref: GD329/11/3). This can be searched by date and by name of the company placing the order.

You can visit the searchroom to search this book yourself, or contact us and we will undertake a search on your behalf.

The L number is then used to search the catalogue of the main arrangement drawings.

You can undertake take a search of the paper catalogue in the searchroom, or search the online catalogue available through the National Records of Scotland: www.nas.gov.uk/onlineCatalogue/

Full details of how to search the online catalogue will be provided to you with the L number.

For detailed drawings, you can search the database in our searchroom, or contact us to undertake a search on your behalf.

Viewing and copying the plans

Plans can be consulted in our searchroom. Please [contact us](#) to make an appointment to visit.

Copies of the plans can be ordered. Prior to any copies being made, permission must be obtained from the owners of the intellectual property rights. Archive Services staff will seek this permission on submission of a copy order form. Copies will only be made where permission is granted and the copying process does not cause damage to the original plan. Details of our reprographics services are available online: www.gla.ac.uk/services/archives/copyingservices/

Points to note

- Plans for Andrew Barclay, Dübs & Co, Neilson Reid & Co, and Sharp Stewart & Co locomotives are also held as part of the Andrew Barclay Archive. The process for discovering and accessing these plans are similar to those outlined above.
- Many pre-1903 plans for the NBL constituent companies (Dübs, Neilson Reid, and Sharp Stewart) are held by the National Railway Museum, Leeman Road, YORK, YO2 4XJ.
- Photographs of NBL locomotives are available at the Mitchell Library, 201 North Street, Glasgow, G3 7DN.

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