

Article - Unofficial depot logos carried by Class 45 locos 1986-88



Many British Rail diesel and electric depots have over the years featured unofficial symbols featuring animals, early examples being the Scottie Dog for Eastfield and the Highland Stag for Inverness. Around February 1986, Toton allocated locomotives started appearing with stickers

depicting a rabbit, normally positioned next to the data panel under the loco number. A total of 5 Class 45/0s and 25 Class 45/1s received them during 1986, but many had them on one side only.

Unfortunately, the rabbits on 45s were soon to die off, as the remaining 45/0s were transferred to Tinsley on 28/09/86 and the 45/1s followed suit on 23/11/86. All the rabbits disappeared by the time they were transferred or very soon after. The only locos thought to have retained their rabbits are those that were withdrawn before being transferred – 45009 (both sides) and 45036 (A side only). Both locos went for scrap at Vice Berrys with rabbit stickers still in place. Soon after transfer to Tinsley, Class 45s started gaining painted snail symbols, normally positioned just above the number. In total, 5 Class 45/0s and 16 Class 45/1s received them, but again some on one side only. Only 2 45/0s and 12 45/1s carried both depot symbols at some point. All of the locos with snails that were scrapped were cut up with the snail logos still in position.

The table below details the locos that had depot rabbit and/or snail logos applied during 1986/87.



Key: Green = logo carried (note many locos carried a logo on one side only, indicated in table by A or B side.

| Number | Toton Rabbit | Tinsley Snail | Notes |
|--------|--------------|---------------|---|
| 45009 | | | Scrapped with Rabbit logos in place |
| 45013 | | | |
| 45022 | | | Snails painted above painted on nameplates |
| 45033 | | | |
| 45036 | | | Scrapped with Rabbit logo in place |
| 45049 | | | |
| 45070 | A side only | | |
| 45076 | A side only | B side only | Snail was larger than normal size! |
| 45103 | | | |
| 45105 | | | |
| 45106 | B side only | | |
| 45107 | | | |
| 45108 | | | |
| 45111 | | | |
| 45112 | | | |
| 45113 | A side only | | |
| 45114 | A side only | | |
| 45115 | A side only | | |
| 45116 | | | |
| 45118 | B side only | | Rabbit carried above number |
| 45119 | | | |
| 45120 | | | |
| 45122 | A side only | | |
| 45124 | | | |
| 45125 | | | |
| 45127 | | | |
| 45128 | | | |
| 45130 | B side only | | Rabbit carried on B side only on driver's cab side. |
| 45133 | | | |
| 45134 | B side only | | |
| 45139 | B side only | | |
| 45141 | | | |
| 45142 | B side only | | |
| 45144 | A side only | | |
| 45145 | A side only | | Rabbit carried above number |
| 45146 | A side only | | |
| 45148 | A side only | | |

Steve Dexter