



Shaun the Sheep Land-Rover by Dixon Kenner

Every so often you comes across a vehicle that needs to be written about. And one where someone, like Michael Bishop, innocently asks you "So, can you tell me what Land Rover this is?" and you quickly take a look from afar, think this is really easy, despite the question itself being a warning, and get it all very very wrong...

So, to repeat that experience, Shaun the Sheep Land Rover can currently be found in the Collections Centre of the British Motor Museum, where all of the vehicles not on active display are stored, bumper to bumper, in neat rows together. Shaun is out where you come up to the second floor where the collection is arranged. From afar you think this is easy. Some sort of a Series II or IIA from a distance ...

Then you get closer you begin to notice things are not so straight forward:

- The vehicle has a definite waistline, as introduced in 1958 with the Series II.
- It also has the deep sills that are from the Series II or IIA. Easy peasy. But ...
- Six studded rims? Like on the 101
- Forward control, though here using spacers on the original axles
- Then you notice the bonnet is neither razor, deluxe, or dished, but flat and chopped at the front. The hinges are certainly not any Series, which means you now look at the bulkhead ...
- The bulkhead looks Series III or later with the raised pedestals for the windshield brackets, which itself happens to be an interesting, yet odd Defender-ish split windshield;
- The doors are using Series II/IIA hinges, the upper hingers being late IIA with the mount for the mirror.
- The front end, with both parking and signal lights has a definite Series IIA look to it, the rear turns out to be a rather modified Defender rear box.
- It is when you look inside that you do the double take, and see the unique 80 inch instrument panel, the pedals going

down through the floor, and the 80 inch steering column and wheel, with the later 86" through early IIA wiper motors and late Series I through IIA Tex-Magna turn indicator switch.

Finally, just for fun, when you get to the last photo (bottom right) and look at the chassis number (VIN) plate you see the prefix 36100551, which corresponds to a right hand drive, 1953 80 inch originally built in the late Summer, 1952 .

So, in the end, Shaun the Sheep is a 1953 80 inch, with a lot of latter body panels crafted onto him over the period of seven weeks in 2007 in the Solihull Engineering Tool room where all of the cut aways and very special project are done. A project that Roger Crathorne lead from when he was in PR, and well reflects the reality of Land Rovers working on farms. They are adapted and continue to work and do important things.

Photos - Michael Bishop, Dixon Kenner



