

## THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

The Captain's log was started in January 2007 by Jim Bramwell as a handwritten record of work undertaken by the Mid-week gang. This is a transcribed version of his files. Following the loss of Jim, Martin Knowles continued to update the log digitally and post it on the website document archive.

### MILESTONE DATES

Event	Dates
Formation of the Society	07/96
CCT arrived Echt	06/00
Class 14 arrived at Echt	11/00
GUV arrived at Echt	11/00
Class 03 D2134 arrived at Echt	01/01
Brake van arrived at Echt	01/01
Waterloo Quay tracklifting	06/01
Mk 2 BSO arrived at the Milton	03/02
Mk2 TSO arrived at the Milton	03/02
Sanderson forklift arrived	2002
CCT moved to the Milton	10/03
Class 14 moved to the Milton	14/12/03
BMU arrived at Echt	8/01 or 28/11/03 ?
Sideloader arrived	2003
Class 03 D2134 moved to the Milton	01/04
Crane arrived at Echt	20/7/05
Laying concrete foundations for platform	28/01/06
Brake van moved to the Milton	12/05/06
BMU moved to the Milton	12/05/06
Crane move at Echt	23/05/06
Crane de-railment at Echt	02/06/06
Crane proof test at Echt	10/06
Lay-by panels reduced in height	10/06
Ironmen arrived	2006
Crane moved to the Milton	17/1/07 ?
Dogfish arrived at the Milton	17/1/07 ?
First section of platform officially opened	21/04/07
Started laying FB track at the first gate	06/07
Dogfish repairs and paint	07/07
GUV repairs at Echt	01/07 – 05/07
GUV move to the Milton	09/05/07
Started laying flat bottom track	06/07
Culvert area of line excavated by Bert	09/07
Guild street track removal project	12/07
Barclay arrival at the Milton	09/5/08 or 04/08

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Started tracklaying from the culvert	03/08
East platform built by McCombies	03/08
Tracklaying passed under the power lines	07/08
Barclay de-railment	19/04/09
Water tank painting	05/09
Bon-Accord Shed siding works	08/5/09 – 31/10/09
Crane slip ring failure repair	27/11/09 – 01/12/09
Bon-Accord shed construction	31/10/09 – 01/10
Car wreck on line	24/12/09
Bon-Accord move to the Milton	27/3/10
Bon-Accord commissioning runs	04/10
Level crossing construction and installation	04/01/10 – 30/10/10
Crossover preparation and installation	09/04/10 – 26/10/10
Tube (coal) wagon arrived	16/2/11
Crane pallet forks arrived	24/2/11
Oldmeldrum station work started on site	12/5/11
Bon-Accord eccentric strap broken	25/5/11
BA returned to service after front bearing mods	18/6/11
Track laying reached white posts	30/9/11
Track laying reached the lay-by	25/11/11
BA springs removed	02/01/12
A93 access ramp created at lay-by	08/2/12
Barclay steam loco 1931 arrived	30/03/12
Dismantling of OM station building completed	21/5/12
Began repairing OM station wall panels	30/5/12
Began erection of the station building in situ	18/9/12
D 2094 de-railed on engine shed turnout	28/4/13
Started station east extension construction	29/7/13
Started station west extension construction	18/11/13
Andrew Barclay 'Salmon' arrived on site	24/4/14
Station construction completed	1/3/2015

(Data from various sources, e.g. Captain's log, digital photo EXIF data, etc. some conflicting).

THE LOG

23/1/07 JB, BH, MK, CM 9 manhrs  
Cleared out the GUV at Echt.

26/1/07 MK, JB, BH 15 mhrs  
Erected scaffolding, greased underneath, started roof stripping, eased doors

27/1/07 JB, MK, BH, CM 3 mhrs  
Made an end piece for the lower door, finished initial scraping of the roof, preliminary work on freeing the brakes.

30/1/07 MK, BH, CM 10 mhrs  
Preparation and scraping of end doors.

3/2/07 MK, JB, CM, BH 12 mhrs  
Site re-organisation

6/2/07 MK, JB, CM, BH 24 mhrs  
Site re-organisation

7/2/07 MK, JB, CM, BH 18 mhrs  
Site re-organisation

9/2/07 MK, JB, CM, BH, JF 18 mhrs  
Site re-organisation

13/2/07 MK, JB, CM, DC 20 mhrs  
Removed steel panels, painted plywood

16/2/07 MK, CM, DC, BH 13.5 mhrs  
Fitting new side panels, priming plywood

20/2/07 MK, CM, DC, BH 13 mhrs  
Fitting new side panels, gutter. Priming plywood, removing old metal panels

23/2/07 MK, JB, BH 13 mhrs  
Remove shelving racks, fit rear door

24/2/07 BH, CM, JB, MK 16 mhrs  
Fit side panels, fit rear door, prime ply sheets

28/2/07 BH, MK, JB 11 mhrs  
West end double doors, sheet priming, side double door cream undercoat

2/3/07 MK, JB, BH 7.5 mhrs  
Completed side panel and door. Fitted lock. Second coat cream undercoat.

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3/3/07 MK, BH, CM, JB 20 mhrs  
Cleaned roof joining strips and painted. Undercoated side panels. Prepared and undercoated end doors.

6/3/07 JB, MK, BH, CM, JF 25 mhrs  
Undercoating beading and window surrounds.

9/3/07 MK, JB, BH 9 mhrs  
Line and cut bottom sheets. Removed end door fittings. Undercoated window frames.

10/3/07 MK, JB, BH 13.5 mhrs  
Wire brush and clean roof. Undercoat with red oxids. Undercoat gutter. Fix doors.

13/3/07 BH, MK, JB, CM 21 mhrs  
Strip second side of all metal panels. Remove gutters. Scrape and undercoat.

16/3/07 BH, CM, MK, JB 20 mhrs  
Fit guttering / replace panels. Prepare end door and buffer beams, and treat with red oxide. Greet client.

20/3/07 MK, CM, JB, BH 19 mhrs 272 mhrs  
Cut and fit rear door inset piece. Scrape buffer, remove parcel shelves. Scrape rear door insides.

21/3/07 MK, JB, BH 14 mhrs 286 mhrs  
Renovate internal panelling and prime. Complete repair rear door. Prime end door.

23/3/07 MK, JB, BH 20 mhrs 306 mhrs  
Complete replacement of side panels. Undercoated end and side panels.

24/3/07 MK, DC, JB 12 mhrs 318 mhrs  
Paint and cut lines marked door panels

27/3/07 MK, JB, CM, BH 22 mhrs 340 mhrs  
Fit beading, glaze one window. Undercoat roof and window fittings. Fit roof selant to joints.

3/4/07 MK, JB, BH 15 mhrs 355 mhrs  
Six windows glazed, beaded and painted. Undercoated beading far side.

5/4/07 MK, DC 2 mhrs 357 mhrs  
Window beading

7/4/07 MK, JB, BH, DC 9 mhrs 367 mhrs  
Glaze final window, seal ventilators. End roof repairs. Gloss end doors

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10/4/07 CM, MK, BH, JB 22 mhrs 389 mhrs  
Painting roof. Gloss end doors

12/4/07 MK, JB 10 mhrs 399 mhrs  
Door furniture, Roadside wall panels nailed.

13/4/07 MK, JB, BH 12 mhrs 410 mhrs  
Complete fitting door furniture. Replace internal roof panels. Complete roof paint.  
Undercoat side panels.

17/4/07 MK, JB, BH 16 mhrs 426 mhrs  
Sevice and fix brakes. Fit door bumpers. Ease axle box covers. Undercoat and  
topcost far side (part).

18/4/07 BH, MK, JB 12 mhrs 425 mhrs  
Top coat far side, erect partition supports, check and oil bearings

20/4/07 MK, JB, CM, Peter Exel, BH 23 mhrs 460 mhrs  
Clear site in preparation for GUV move.

21/4/07 MK, JB, CM, BH 18 mhrs 478 mhrs  
Complete site preparation and lay track panel. Erect partition.

24/4/07 BH, JB, CM, MK, DC 23 mhrs 501 mhrs  
Top coat far side. Undercoat near side. Remove damaged running boards. Complete  
rail panel.

25/4/07 JB, BH, MK 14 mhrs 515 mhrs  
Top coat side. Fit internal door. Prepare running boards. Scrape sole plates.

27/4/07 JB, MK, BH 7 mhrs 520 mhrs  
Prime running boards. Complete door fitting.

28/4/07 JB, BH, MK 9 mhrs 529 mhrs  
Undercoat running boards and sole plates. Top coat internal door. Fit new running  
boards near side.

29/4/07 BH, MK 4 mhrs 533 mhrs  
Paint footboards and door surrounds.

9/5/07 JB, MK, JF, MD, IP 31 mhrs 564 mhrs  
Moved the GUV from Echt to the Milton. Ground off two surplus rails. Move took  
2.5 hours.

11/5/07 MK, JB, JF, IP 24 mhrs 588 mhrs  
Electrics being fitted.

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14/5/07	MK	5.5 mhrs	594 mhrs
Workshop partition completed.			
18/5/07	BH, CM	10.5 mhrs	604 mhrs
Scrape and prepare workshop area / apply primer.			
19/5/07	BH, JB, MK	8 mhrs	612 mhrs
Water tank fitted.			
22/5/07	BH, MK, CM, JB, IP	24 mhrs	636 mhrs
Prepare, prime and undercoat roof and walls. Complete electrical installation.			
23/5/07	JB, BH	10 mhrs	645 mhrs
Interior preparation and undercoating.			
25/5/07	JB, CM, BH, IP	22 mhrs	667 mhrs
Top coating. Completion of internal electrics.			
26/5/07	BH, CM, JB	16 mhrs	683 mhrs
Top coating workshop end and luggage racks.			
29/5/07	JB, BH, CM, TG, JF	25 mhrs	708 mhrs
Complete top coating, remove light guards for cleaning. Repair generator. Remove light fitting grills.			
31/5/07	BH	4.5 mhrs	813
Scrape and prepare light fittings. Prime and undercoat.			
1/6/07	JB, CM, BH, JF, IP	27 mhrs	840 mhrs
Complete painting and electrical works. Load GUV with track tools.			
2/6/07	JB, BH	4 mhrs	844 mhrs
Final finishes to painting.			
TOTAL MANHOURS FOR GUV REFURBISHMENT WAS 844			
VALUE OF WORK @ £20/hr = £ 16,880			
6/7/07	MK, JB, BH, DM	21 mhrs	21 mhrs
Patching / welding Dogfish, scarping buffer beams. Undercoat with red oxide.			
10/7/07	MK, JB, BH, JF	10 mhrs	31 mhrs
Wire brush dogfish side panel and buffer beams etc. Apply red oxide.			
11/7/07	John Blackmore, John Wedderburn	9 mhrs	40 mhrs
Wire brush second side. Apply red oxide.			

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MK = Martin Knowles; BH = Bill Halliday ; JT = Jon Tyler ; EP = Eric Pashley ; PC = Peter Cromack; CM = Chris Milburn ; JF = John Foulkes ; IR = Ian Ross ; AB = Alan Brown ; KR = Keith Robertson ; DM = Dave Musgrave ; DC = Dave Cowie; EG=Ted Gardner ; IP-Ian Pepper ; PA=Phil Atkins ; JH=John Hopkins ; GI=Graham Ironside : BK-Bob Kelley ; RR ; Roy Relf

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13/7/07	TG	3 mhrs	43 mhrs
Brush and clean controls. Treat with red oxide.			
14/7/07	TG	1.5 mhrs	45 mhrs
Undercoat controls / sole plate.			
17/7/07	John Blackmore, John Wedderburn, BH, JB, MK, DC, IP	21 mhrs	65 mhrs
Undercoating / prep and red oxide end panel. Removing redundant oilers.			
19/7/07	BH, JB	10 mhrs	75 mhrs
Sanding preparation, red oxide.			
20/7/07	JB, Graham Ironside, BH	16 mhrs	92 mhrs
Complete sanding / preparation. Red oxide and undercoat. Oil linkages.			
20/7/07	MK, IP	15 mhrs	
BMU electrical system continuity and mega testing			
21/7/07	CM, AB, DM, BH	20 mhrs	112 mhrs
Complete Dogfish undercoating, Top coat grey and black end panels and sole plates.			
21/7/07	MK, JB, IP	21 mhrs	36 mhrs
Connected power jumpers, crane contacts, BMU continuity and mega testing			
24/7/07	Graham Ironside, CM, BH	12 mhrs	124 mhrs
Top coating to ends, hand rails and checkerplate.			
24/7/07	MK, JB, IP	15 mhrs	52 mhrs
BMU continuity and mega testing. Connecting jumpers.			
25/7/07	MK	3 mhrs	53 mhrs
Jumper contacts			
26/7/07	MK, IP	15 mhrs	69 mhrs
BMU circuit tracing			
27/7/07	BH, JB	4 mhrs	128 mhrs
Complete top coating. Stencil arrow / sign.			
27/7/07	MK	5 mhrs	75 mhrs
BMU Traction jumper strip			
28/7/07	BH, JB, TG	4 mhrs	132 mhrs
Finishing touches and signage.			
28/7/07	MK, JB	9 mhrs	84 mhrs
BMU 24 volt system and jumper cables			
31/7/07	MK, IP	7 mhrs	90 mhrs

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BMU Loop testing

TOTAL MANHOURS SPENT ON BMU CIRCUIT TESTING WAS 90

Xmas 2007 – March 2008 Guild street track lifting and the aftermath !

March / April 2008 Started track laying from the culvert. Reached the power lines by July 2008

Tue 12/8/08 MK, BH, EP, JB

12 x 60 ft rails ex Guild street moved from Milton car park to rail head. Still 2/3 panels short to reach Birkenbaud gate crossing. 24 sleepers laid out for next rails. Now up to 45 panels laid of flat bottom rail since June 2007.

Fri 15/8/08 MK, BH, CM, EP, JB

Rails lifted into place panel 46. Continued bolting down – panel 46 completed. Laid sleepers for panel 47.

Sat 16/8/08 MK, PM, IP, BH, JB

Vintage Steam rally in the field. Panel 47 rails laid in and fish plated.

Tue 19/8/08 MK, JW, CM, JB

Items from Echt for layby moved in, very rainy day.

Fri 22/8/08 MK, BH, PH, DP, JB

Panel 47 completed. Started sleepers for panel 48 – rails laid, one fishplated. Second rail badly worn, will require changing.

Sat 23/8/08 MK, CM, DM, JW, JB, Ben, Charlie, KR

Panel 48, worn rail replaced, clipping up. Panel 48 completed – crane moved up. Panel 49 sleepers laid, rail in place.

Mon 25/8/08 MK

Placed panel alignment stakes for panels 50, 51 and 52. Rail heights recorded for sorting.

Fri 29/8/08 MK, BH, DP, JB

Panel 49 continue clipping rails. Guild street rails re-arranged by rail lengths. Panel 49 complete.

Sat 30/8/08 BH, MK, JB, CB, BL, PM, DM

Panel 50 sleepers and rails laid. Panel 50 completed IN ONE DAY !

Tue 2/09/08 BH, MK, CM, JT, JB, BG



Tree felling alongside track from culvert to Birkenbaud and layby. Freeing up BJB bolts. Panel 51 – sleepers laid in and rails in place.

Fri 5/9/08 CM, BH, MK, JB  
Panel 51 completed in 3 hours. Panel 52 started and fishplated.

Sat 6/9/08 BH, MK, AB, DM, BL, CB, JB  
Panel 52 completed.

Tue 9/9/08 MK, BH, CM, JB  
Panel 53 sleepers and rails laid and fishplated. Rails clipped.

12/9/08 BH, CM, MK, JB  
Panel 53 completed

13/9/08 BH, CM, MK, BL, JB  
Rain stopped play. Lots of visitors in the afternoon

Tue 16/9/08 MK, JT, BH, JB  
Changed out pathside rail, panel 7 (condemned) Platform fencing completed.  
Roadside rail also changed out.

Fri 19/9/08 CM, MK, BH, JB  
Completed panel 7. Condemned rails taken down to the railhead. Panel 54 sleepers and rails laid.

Sat 20/9/08 CM, BH, MK, DM, AB, JB, Peter Exel, BL, PM  
Panel 54 rails laid out to length, BJB fixings started. (Panel 54 is ex panel 7)

Tue 22/9/08 EP, CM, MK, BH, JB  
Panel 54 completed – last for this year. Started fencing – replaced double gates by culvert. Repaired top wire east of culvert path side. Bottom wire repaired east of culvert pathside.

Fri 26/9/08 EP, BH, MK, CM, MC, JB, PE  
Kink in line by Kashentrock eased. Gates being fitted at Kashentrock lay-down area. Started on fence west of culvert.

Sat 27/9/08 PE, BH, MK, DM, AB, JB, PM, KR  
Continued with gates at Kashentrock and fence west of culvert – completed.

Tue 30/9/08 PE, BH, MK, EP, JT, JB  
Gates at Kashentrock path side completed. Gates at Kashentrock road side to lay down area completed. Diesel generator removed from 03 for repair.

Fri 3/10/08 PE, BH, MK, EP, JB

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Continued fencing along the pathside, culvert to Birkenbaud. Frequent sleet showers interrupted progress. Completed. Cleared Lomac of unneeded items up to Milton. Sanderson moved to Milton.

Tue 7/10/08 BH, EP, MK, JB, HP

Rained all day. Shunted stock with Dogfish ready for loading ballast. Ballast due to be delivered but did not arrive. Also shunted and split TSO and BSO for carriage inspection Thursday.

Wed 8/10/08 MK

Ballast arrived – Dogfish loaded. BEMU lights powered via 24 volt charger.

Thu 9/10/08 HP ? ?

TSO and BSO inspection carried out.

Fri 10/10/08 MK, EP, JB

Shunt to drop ballast. Crane main hoist brake checked.

Sat 11/10/08 MK, JB, DA, AB, DM

Worked on BMU space heater.

Tue 14/10/08 BH, MK, JB, EP, ST, KR, JT

Started ballasting. 9 lorry loads received on 8/10. 5 drops made and one ready for Friday.

Fri 17/10/08 MK, BH, CM, EP, MC, JB

First Group visit – Moir Lockhead and STV + Press. 3 drops made.

Sat 18/10/08 CM, BH, DM, MC, JB

1 drop made – now up to crane parked at Birkenbaud. Continued levelling by culvert.

Tue 21/10/08 CM, BH, MK, EP, JB

Continued rough levelling.

Fri 24/10/08 EP, MK, BH, JB

Used forklift bucket to clear scarp material off Lomac. Used crane to lift heavy scrap from lineside. Started laying scrap sleepers over culvert. Crane inspection carried out by Gary and Dave Barlow.

Sat 25/10/08 BEMU shunted ready for 4 battery packs today. BEMU heaters being tried.

Tue 28/10/08 MK, BH, JT, JB

Stripped down BEMU heater, found fuel pump worm gear drive pin sheared.

Fri 31/10/08 EP, MK, BH, JB

Heater re-assembled. Started dismantling 2<sup>nd</sup> fresh air heater. Batteries being wired up for 24 volt supply.

Sat 1/11/08 MK, BH, JB

2<sup>nd</sup> heater re-assembled and tried out – failed ! 1<sup>st</sup> heater tried out.

Tue 4/11/08 BH, CM, MK, JB, JT, AB

Still working on heaters. 24 volt supply to BEMU completed.

Fri 7/11/08 BH, CM, MK, EP, JB

Continued with heaters. 1<sup>st</sup> heater installed and working.

Sat 8/11/08 MK, BH, JB, BL

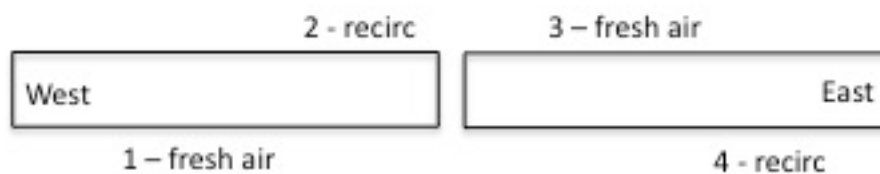
Continued with heaters.

Tue 11/11/08 BH, EP, MK, JB

Continued with heaters. Trailer car recirc (2) working with over-ride switch fitted heater relay.

Wed 12/11/08 BH, MK, JB

Continued with Power car recirc heater (4) – working. With relay override switch fitted. Power car recirc heater (3) refitted – coil on fuel valve defective.



- 1) Fresh air – working OK
- 2) Recirc – working with manual switch on relay
- 3) Fresh air – NOT working
- 4) Recirc – working with manual switch on relay

Sat 15/11/08 MK, BH, JB, JW

Barclay oil change and filters. Fresh air heater No 3 tried out – not working. Found one fuse blown.

Tue 18/11/08 BH, MK, EP, JB

Continued ballasting – almost at the culvert. 2 loads received in the car park (total 11 loads)

Fri 21/11/08 BH, MK, JB

Loaded dogfish 1/3 full for topping up, continued with BMU battery wiring.

Sat 22/11/08 MK, JB, JW

Finished wiring extra two battery packs into the system.

Tue 25/11/08 BH, MK, CM, JB  
Continued ballasting by the culvert. Shunted BSO to TSO.

Fri 28/11/08 EP, JB, MK, BH  
Continued ballasting by culvert taking a lot of ballast to bring up to level.

Sat 29/11/08 MK, BH, JB  
Loaded dogfish, spread ballast.

Tue 2/12/08 MK, BH, PC, JB  
Spread ballast, now up to Kashentroch, panel 36.

Fri 5/12/08 BH, MK, CM, EP, JB  
Levelling panels culvert to Kashentroch

Sat 6/12/08 MK, BH, JB  
Continued levelling ballast between Kashentroch and Birkenbaud. Started completing fence between Kashentroch and the culvert.

Tue 9/12/08 BH, CM, MK, PC, JB  
Received 4 loads ballast (total 15). Continued levelling between culvert and Kashentroch. Panels 28 and 29 taking mega ballasting.

Fri 12/12/08 CM, BH, MK, JB  
Continued levelling.

Sat 13/12/08 BH, MK, AB, JB  
Completed fencing started by the estate (culvert to Kashentroch – road side)

Tue 16/12/08 CM, BH, MK, EP, PC, JB  
Continued levelling. Dogfish drop made – 5 buckets.

Fri 19/12/08 MK, BH, JB, EP  
Continued levelling – rain stopped play lunch time.

Sat 20/12/08 MK, JB  
Santa Special. Measured crippled bullhead rails for changing out. Crane – slackened back hoist brake. Reconnected jib limit switch.

Sat 27/12/08 BH, JB, AB  
GUV access door trimmed. Spread ballast under 3 panels.

Tue 29/12/08 PC, BH, MK, JT, EP, JB  
Levelling west of Kashentroch – up to panel 41 (under power lines). New Hilti received. Dogfish load dropped.

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Fri 2/1/09

BH, MK, JT, EP, JB

Continued levelling – completed panels 40, 41, 42 and 43. Started on panel 44.  
Started using Barclay – 03 short of fuel.

Sat 3/1/09

MK, PM, AB, BH, JB

Fuelled 03 from Barclay – approx 25 gallons. Spread ballast panels 45 – 50.

Tue 6/1/09

CM, BH, MK, JT, EP, PC, JB

Tried levelling and Dogfish drop – found ballast in Dogfish frozen and would not come out. Decided to level out some dips by the culvert.

Fri 9/1/09

CM, BH, MK, JT, EP, JB

5° blue skies, no wind

Continued levelling – started panel 44, 45 done twice ! Started panel 46.

Sat 10/1/09

CM, BH, MK, DM, JB, BL

5° overcast, windy, day ended with rain.

Continued levelling panels 46, 47. Dogfish loaded (7 buckets) and dropped panels 46, 47 completed.

Tue 13/1/09

CM, BH, MK, EP, PC, JB

7° blue skies, no wind, almost mild !

Dogfish loaded (5 buckets) and dropped panels 47-53. Started levelling, requires more ballast panels 49, 50. Dogfish loaded (5 buckets) and dropped panels 47-53.

Fri 16/1/09

BH, MK, JT, EP, JB

7° overcast, breezy, rain at times

Dogfish loaded (4 buckets) and dropped panels 43, 44. Levelling panels 43, 44.  
Shunted Class 14 adjacent to Mk2 coaches.

Sat 17/1/09

CM, BH, MK, DM, AB, JB

7° blue skies with some cloud, breezy.

Levelling panels 50, 51, pathside 52. Shunted works train to get Dogfish adjacent 03, needed to get a drop up to the crane. Dogfish loaded (6 buckets) dropped by crane.  
Dogfish loaded (5 buckets) ready for drop. Works train made up again.

Tue 20/1/09

CM, BH, MK, JB

2° blue sky in morning, overcast afternoon

Levelling panels 50, 51, 52 (path side). Broken fishplate 49/50 roadside.

Fri 23/1/09

BH, MK, EP, JB – TG

5° some sunshine through overcast clouds

Completed levelling up to panel 53, as far as we can go for the time being. Cracked fishplate 49/50 changed out.

Sat 24/1/09

BH, CM, MK, JW, JB

5° sunny with blue skies

Shunted stock to get crane up to platform east end.

Tue 27/1/09 DC, BH, EP, PC, MK, JB

5° overcast, no rain, no wind.

2 Loads ballast received. (Total 17). Started laying sleepers and track on running line at east end. Found about 8 rotten sleepers in 20ft panels required changing – changed. Received 1000 litres of fuel – 03, forklift, 3 jerrycans.

Fri 30/1/09 MK, DC, BH, JB

5° raining non stop!

Crane engine injector – new copper washer fitted. Continued track laying on running line – panel 3 BH clipped up, panel 2 BH clipped.

Sat 31/1/09 DC, JW, EP, BH, DM, MK, JB

5° overcast with some blue sky, cold wind.

Two rails moved from car park to running line, this will be panel 1BH, then buffer stop. Additional sleepers chaired for panel 1. Rails lifted in and pathside rail clipped. Sanderson moved to layby ready for Tuesday and Bert's big digger.

Tue 3/2/09 DC, BH, EP, PC, JT, MK, JB

5° rained all day !

Arrived on site 0900 for Bert's big digger. Recovered from Echt Burn of Bennie bridge and blue container. Lifted down two panels for Birkenbaud level crossing. Lowered flat bottom panels to 4 high ready for dismantling. On lower level, lowered level of panels to four high. Got digger to level off east end of lay-by, boggy area. At Milton, completed clipping panel 1BH, lifted buffer stop into place.

Fri 6/2/09 DC, EP, BH, MK, JB

2° overcast with some blue sky. No wind, dry.

Dropped ballast roadside of loop. Snow on ground after heavy snowfalls Wed/Thurs. Sanderson steering defective, tried bleeding system. Moved 2 signal posts from car park onto flatbed. Lifted rails from 4ft on loop line onto flatbed.

Sat 7/2/09 JW, DC, BH, DM, MK, JB

Two rail slew jacks received. Loaded flatbed taken to Kashentroch and unloaded.

Crane brake on R end seized. Adjusting nut found slackened back. Also need to look at electrics.

Tue 10/2/09 BH, EP, CM, EP, MK, JB

1° overcast with some blue sky. No wind, dry.

Crane traction brake electrics checked. Brake actuator slip ring found not touching. Adjusted and now OK. Ballast dropped on Friday levelled out. Sanderson – steering ram removed to identify spares.

Fri 13/2/09 BH, CM, EP, TG, MK, JB

1° overcast and bright, dry, no wind.

Crossing pints on flatbed off loaded at Kashetroch. Rotten sleepers by first gate lifted to be used at Kashetroch crossing – dropped off in place. Crane slip rings cleaned and reset.

Sat 14/2/09                   BH, MK, DM, JW, AB, PM, JB

3° overcast with some sun, no wind, dry.

Kashetroch crossing timbers being fitted – completed ! Second steering ram removed from Sanderson for repair. Received last 2 rail slewing jacks – now we have 4.

Tue 17/2/09   BH, EP, PC, JT, CM, MK, JB, DA

12° blue skies with sunshine, overcast late afternoon.

Running line by platform straightened. Used toe jacks against platform wall and crane weight to hold in place ! Crippled rails by first field gate straightened using new slew jacks. Unable to straighten next crippled rail east – cut out and insert new section of rail ?

Fri 20/2/09                   BH, JT, EP, JB

5° dry in morning, drizzle after lunch.

Made a start on replacing rotten sleeper just west of points, one under panel 1 and one under panel 4, numbered west of points – completed.

Sat 21/2/09                   BH, AB, PM, JB, JR

12° blue skies with cloud, breeze, dry.

Used rail slew jacks to straighten rail between west end of platform and the points. Started slewing line towards road – used toe jacks against running line with crane as weight.

Tue 23/2/09   DC, BH, EP, PC, CM, MK, JB

Slewed loop line at east end. Levelled main line between platform west end and points, path side only.

Fri 27/2/09                   CM, BH, MK, EP, JB

12° overcast in morning, cleared to sunny, dry, no wind.

Moved 2 x 60ft rails from layby to west of points ready to change out 2 crippled rails. Completed repair to Sanderson steering, fitted bucket and laid ballast over rails at east end of platform and buffers.

Sat 28/2/09                   GI, BH, DM, MK, JB

14° Cloudy but bright, no wind, dry.

Leveling main line between platform west end and points. Completed up to and including the points.

Tue 3/3/09                   EP, CM, BH, PC, JT, MK, JB

6° overcast but bright in morning, rain showers in afternoon.

Two crippled rails changed out, panels 2 and 3 west of points, roadside. Crippled rails moved to Birkenbaud. Stock shunted onto the loop line, leaving running line clear for levelling.

Fri 6/3/09                    GI, JW, BH, EP, DC, MK, JB, TG

12° blue sky with some cloud, cold breeze.

Slewing, jacking and packing from points west – bullhead section. Dogfish filled with 6 buckets, dropped by platform, refilled 6 buckets. 4 loads of ballast received (total 21).

Sat 7/3/09                    BH, JR, DC, DM, MK, JB, BL

6° overcast, cold breeze.

Levelling between points and gate. Full Dogfish dropped from gate east.

Tue 10/3/09    DC, CM, MK, GI, PC, JR, JB

11° blue sky with patchy cloud, calm and dry.

Started levelling 3 panels east of the gate, i.e. last 3 before FB rail starts. This has been the worst section to level, being a dip over 3 panels long and up to 6" below raised sleepers (panels 6 & 7). The full dogfish load has all disappeared under a section of the rail panel. Points lever frame lifted into place using the crane, work being carried out by Harvey Pole and a friend.

Fri 13/3/09                    BH, EP, CM, MK, JB

12° blue skies, warm !

Completed levelling bullhead rail, panel 7 from points. Started levelling platform section. Dogfish loaded.

Sat 14/3/09                    BH, JT, KR, DM, MK, JB

14° blue skies with clouds, strong wind.

Dropped loaded Dogfish on curved section outside of curve. Dogfish loaded again and dropped by culvert. Dogfish loaded a second time and dropped west of culvert.

Tue 17/3/09    CM, BH, MK, PC, EP, JT, JB

12° blue sky, clouded over in the afternoon.

4 loads of ballast received (total 25). Dogfish loaded and dropped by culvert.

Levelled out ballast. Dogfish loaded and dropped west of Kashentroch. Dogfish loaded third time and dropped west of Kashentroch.

Wed 18/3/09    BH, CM, MK, JB

12° blue sky, warm.

Dogfish part loaded four times and dropped west of Kashentroch. Various sections levelled.

Fri 20/3/09                    BH, EP, CM, JT, JB

15° blue skies, warm, no wind.

Dogfish part loaded and dropped west of Kashentroch. Continued levelling dropped ballast. Sanderson – removed defective hose reel swivel, seals leaking. Taking



opportunity to renew worn hoses. Alastair Connell arrived (2.30pm !) to carry out track inspection.

Sat 21/3/09           BH, MK, PM, JB, KR

Sanderson – hose reel swivel replaced with new seals, openings blanked until hoses renewed. Main line by platform being levelled following Alastair's visit yesterday. Completed levelling up transition at gate i.e. removing twist.

Tue 24/3/09   BH, PC, EP, JT, CM, JB, IM

7 ° overcast and cold breeze.

Part filled Dogfish dropped in various locations between points and just west of Milton Wood gate. Drops levelled out !

Fri 27/3/09           CM, BH, MK, EP, JB

10° overcast with sunny spells, showers in pm.

Continued with twists identified by Alastair, completed.

Sat 28/3/09           BH, MK, DM, PM, JB

11° sleet showers in morning, cleared to sunshine in afternoon.

Fishplate bolts replaced immediately east of pints, roadside. More minor spreading carried out. 4 gate stop posts fitted – to stop gates opening onto rails.

\* Running line STOP sign moved to Birkenbaud.

Tue 31/3/09   AB, BH, CM, JT, EP, JB (+ visit to Brechin)

16° overcast warm and dry.

Loop line moved over to create correct spacing. Buffer stop moved to end of loop line.

Wed 1/4/09           MK, JB

14° overcast and dry.

Sanderson hoses replaced and set up. Refuelled crane and refilled 3 Jerrycans.

Fri 3/4/09           MK, BH, EP, JT, PE, JB

13° blue skies, warm and dry.

Stripping panels at layby – 2 short panels of bullhead wooden sleepers and 2 x 60ft rails to replace lipped rails near Birkenbaud, panel number 52. Crippled rails moved to layby, 2 x 60ft moved to railhead.

Sat 4/4/09           DM, BH, PE, MK, JB

10° overcast, cool, dry.

2 lipped rails, panel 52, unclipped ready to change. Spare double chairs removed from Birkenbaud buffer stops.

Tue 7/4/09           EP, KR, JT, BH, DM, PC, MK, JB

12° overcast with some sunshine, dry, cool breeze.

Jacking and packing along loop line. Fuel received for 03, Barclay and forklift.

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Fri 10/4/09 BH, EP, DC, JW, DM, CM, MK, JB

10° overcast, light rail all day ! no wind.

Short section running line by platform jacked and packed. Completing loop line jacking and packing east end.

Sat 11/4/09 BH, DC, AB, DM, MK, JB

Foundation made for water tank west of platform. First day of new season running. Layby remaining unclipped rails, damaged Sanderson lift ram hose.

Tue 14/4/09 CM, BH, MK, EP, JT, PC, JB

8° overcast drizzle at times.

Damaged Sanderson hose replaced with new one. Crippled rails on panel 52 being changed out – path side. Cut, fishplated and in place. Roadside lifted into place.

Fri 17/4/09 CM, BH, MK, EP, JB

8° overcast, cool, dry.

Completed panel 52 roadside rail. Started laying sleepers for panel 55.

Sat 18/4/09 BH, MK, DM, PM, JB

8° overcast cool dry.

Loaded Lomac with low Heras fencing, offloaded at Kashentroch. Preparing panel 55 bolts. More sleepers taken from layby to Birkenbaud.

Tue 21/4/09 PC, TG, CM, MK, JB

13° overcast, warm, brief shower.

Barclay loco derailed at points on Sunday 19/4/09. Back end re-railed by Sunday 5.30pm. Front end re-railed today approx 2 ½ hours completed 1400 hrs. Donated ATK tank received from Swires, transported by Palmaris.

Fri 24/4/09 JW, MK, TG, JB

15° overcast, cool breeze, dry.

Following the derailment, 7 chairs found broken. Replacement chairs taken from spare points. Today 3 chairs replaced on running line. 4 remaining chairs ready to fit Sat.

Sat 25/4/09 BH, DM, AB, JB

18° overcast, dry, calm.

Completed changeout of regaining 4 broken chairs. Measured up crossing timbers for engine shed turn out from loop line. Eyeballed chairs required for turnout.

Tue 28/4/09 BH, CM, JW, MK, JT, PC, JB

9° overcast, cool to begin with.

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Moved crane from loop line to Birkenbaud, started again on panel 55 by laying rails in. Holes drilled and rails fishplated. West end of rails cut to length. Two 1 in 8 switch blades moved from layby to railhead.

Fri 1/5/09 CM, BH, MK, EP, JB

10° overcast, mild, drizzle in afternoon.

Panel 55 completed, started laying sleepers for panel 56, plus rails laid in place.

Sat 2/5/09 DM, AB, BH, PM, MK, JB

13° blue skies with some cloud.

Borrowed farmer's trailer (Martin's friend) and carried two loads of rubbish away from the Milton area. Also used trailer to take scaffold from layby to the Greens. Continued clipping panel 56. Official opening of line extension to Birkenbaud by Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire, Mrs Carol Kingham.

Tue 5/5/09 CM, BH, MK, PC, JW, JB

13° overcast in morning, rain stopped play in afternoon.

Barclay reported to be making a clanking noise, jacked up and checked axle boxes and springs. All lubricated, oil feed to rear roadside axle box cleared. Box running hot. Continued with panel 56. Cleaning switch blades from next panel required at layby.

Fri 8/5/09 CM, BH, MK, DC, JB

13° very windy and cold.

Spent day moving switch blades and crossing from railhead to storage area by the caravan, ready for engine shed turnout.

Sat 9/5/09 MK, JW, AB, DM, BH, DC, JB

10° overcast till rain mid afternoon.

Crossing timbers looked out and stacked. Area behind office tidied up. Fence by turnout removed.

Tue 12/5/09 MK, PC, CM, JT

Lifted loop line rails and sleepers. Started rubbing down water tank.

Fri 15/5/09 MK, CM

Started red oxide painting of rubbed down areas of tank.

Sat 16/5/09 BH, MK, JB

9° overcast and drizzle most of the day.

Offloading loop line sleepers from Lomac. X timbers laid in stacks ready to lay.

Tue 19/5/09 BH, JM, EP, MK, CM, JB

11° rain showers on and off all day.

Cleared brash from engine shed area. Retrieved 4 rails from car aprk storage, moved to engine shed area.

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Wed 20/5/09 BH, MK, JB

17° blue skies with some cloud, couple of showers.

Bill Glennie on site, small trees cut down in engine shed area. Water tank – red oxide applied to rubbed-down areas. Tank washed down with Flash + water. Started cutting-in with undercoat.

Thu 21/5/09 MK

Blue skies with some showers.

Bill Glennie on site with his small digger, area cleared on loop line by shed turnout. Continued painting tank.

Fri 22/5/09 BH, MK, JB

19° sunshine with some clouds, brief shower.

Started laying sleepers for engine shed turnout. Completed and crossing + one switch blade laid in place.

Sat 23/5/09 AB, DM, CM, DC, JW, BH, MK, PM, JB

11° overcast, dry.

Continued laying engine layout. Crossing laid in, switch blades laid in, pathside started screwing down.

Tue 26/5/09 CM, BH, MK, JM, JB

14° blue skies with high clouds, dry.

Bert McIntosh on site clearing engine shed area and laying hard core. Continued laying switch inside rail cut to length and fishplate holes drilled- completed.

Wed 27/5/09 BH, JB

14° overcast and dry, breezy ! Heavy rain stopped play at about 1400 hrs.

Continued painting tank – undercoat.

Thu 28/5/09 MK

Sunny with clouds.

Completed painting tank with undercoat, took 5 litres satin.

Fri 29/5/09 BH, EP, MK, JB

20° blue skies, no clouds !

Continued with switch laying, east fill in rail cut to length, drilled and clipped.

BEMU trip given to Beechwood handicapped children. Received pallet of fishplates via Dave Cowie.

Sat 30/5/09 CM, BH, MK, AB, DM, JB

20° blue skies, slight breeze.

Continued with switch laying. BMU trip given to Gaelic speaking parents.

Tue 2/6/09 BH, CM, JT, EP, TG

13° overcast, warm

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Moved buffer stop from east end to west end of platform, to new engine shed location. Completed fishplating new switch, still to drill chair bolt holes and screw down. Started on fence around engine shed location.

Fri 5/6/09                   BH, MK, EP, DC, JB  
13° overcast, couple of light rain showers.  
Completed fence around engine shed location.

Sat 6/6/09                   BH, DC, AB, PM, MK, JB  
9° overcast, occasional short showers  
Continued screwing down chairs for engine turnout. Switch blade bars fitted, packing of sleepers completed and crane ran over loop line !

Tue 9/6/09                   BH, JT, EP, DC, PC, CM, MK, JB  
13° dry, overcast, mild.  
Switch lever fitted to points. Outside switch rail fitted cut to length and drilled.

Fri 12/6/09                  BH, EP, MK, JB  
18° dry, overcast at times  
Inside switch blade fitted, cut to length, drilled and fitted. Turnout to engine shed completed.

Sat 13/6/09                  BH, MK, PC, JM, JB  
16° dry, overcast  
Levelling loop line between points.

Tue 18/6/09   BH, MK, PC, JM, JB (JR, JL)  
16° blue skies with high patchy clouds.  
Continued levelling loop line between west points and engine shed turnout. Moved four rails from car park to engine shed area, ready for siding.

Fri 19/6/09                  MK, CM, JM, JB  
17° cloudy, showers.  
No progress on track laying or engine shed siding due to planning permission being deferred to 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. One set of platform steps modified to be used for bridal trip on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

Sat 20/6/09                  MK, AB, JB  
16° overcast, heavy showers stopped play.  
Painting water tank with top coat.

Tue 23/6/09   CM, PC, JB, MK  
23° ! blue skies, very warm.  
Engine shed base frame delivered to the Milton on Monday. Frames lifted from field into area by tank. Trench dug to bury feed pipe to water tank.

Fri 26/6/09                  BH, JW, JB

21° blue skies with some clouds, very warm.

Checked out fishplates by line under power line, west side. Found rails to be 98lb and 100 lb with normal fishplates. Unable to find staggered fishplates at the Milton, visited Ferryhill but none there either.

Sat 27/6/09 BH, JW, AB, DM, PM, JB

23° blue skies with patchy cloud.

Platform and steps for the 4<sup>th</sup> July wedding moved to Birkenbaud and set up. BMU positioned alongside and gap adjusted. Continued painting tank.

Fri 3/7/09 BH, EP, JB

19° overcast and dry.

Hole drilled from west manhole to platform path side for power supply to water pump. Drain holes drilled in bottom of all 3 manholes. Continued painting water tank, almost completed.

Sat 4/7/09 BH, PM, AB, CM, DM, JB

23° blue skies, very warm.

Worked on level crossing timbers for Birkenbaud, timbers laid out and all screw bolts removed, these are longer than normal wooden sleeper chair bolts. Watched wedding party board train at Birkenbaud, all appeared to go well. Temporary access to be removed. Fuel received for 03 and Barclay.

Tue 7/7/09 EP, PC, BH, CM, MK, JB, JT

Overcast.

Stripped panel at layby for Birkenbaud crossing, found sleepers to be of poor quality !! Picnic coach arrived from Ferryhill, lots of shunting to get it loaded onto the flatbed.

Fri 10/7/09 BH, MK, EP, JB

15° overcast and dry.

Removed steps and platform from Birkenbaud, used for wedding party on Sat 4/7/09. Items stored at Layby. Drilled hole in platform opposite shop manhole, still did not drain water out. Layby – collected concrete bullhead sleepers from upper level, to be used by engine shed siding.

Sat 11/7/09 MK, BH, TG, JB

Spent day at the Greens working on engine shed. Painted doors with red oxide on outside, then painted two with green undercoat. Also painted one side sheet with green undercoat. Water pump fitted to base plate, surrounding box cut and fitted for pump protection.

Tue 14/7/09 MK, BH, CM, PC, EP, JB

(JT, JF, JB Greens – last coach body lifted onto Freeland's lorry using ROTTECH crane)

Two lots of sleepers removed and stacked, i.e. two panels already unclipped.

Fri 17/7/09 BH, MK, JB

13° overcast with frequent showers.

Despite rain showers, walked complete line and checked all fishplates and BJB fittings for tightness. One fishplate bolt replaced, 33 BJB fittings tightened/repaired.

Sat 18/7/09 JF, MK, JB

At the Greens working on engine shed. Apex roof supports completed. Lifting holes drilled in all roof boards. End doors lifted down. Steel cut for door bolts.

Tue 21/7/09 BH, EP, PC, JT, MK, CM, JB

19° overcast, warm, dry.

Day spent cleaning car park – all palletted chairs moved to Lomac for storage at Kashentroch. Palletted fish plates moved to area behind platform ramp. Short rails moved to position alongside trees either to scrap or keep in car park. Wooden platforms and steps moved into closed area.

Fri 24/7/09 EP, BH, MK, JB

13° overcast, ended in torrential rain.

Loaded Grays forklift lowloader with scrap short rails. Stillage with scrap metal, home made post chapper and used oil drums – (1 x 45 + 4 x 25 drums) Keith said about 5 tons in all (approx £500 raised ?) Moved Lomac to Kashentroch and off-loaded palletted chairs.

Sat 25/7/09 MK, BH, JB, KR

16° cloudy and sunny day.

Water tank stencilled with Tare weight etc. Completed painting green top coat where missed! Then to the Greens – pressure washed all shed side panels, hand washed same where pressure wash missed. Keith checked out forklift, various defects to sort out but still operational.

Tue 28/7/09 BH, EP, PC, JT, MK, CM, IR, JB

14° dry till lunch time then heavy rain which cleared about 1.15. Remained dry till 4.00 when all completed. All 60ft rails removed from car park, all good rails stacked alongside loop line on roadside. Scrap rails pulled into enclosed area ready for cutting up.

Fri 31/7/09 BH, EP, IR, JB

19° high patchy cloud, warm.

Hired strimmer from Roy Cowie, strimmed bracken, brambles etc from Woodbine wood gate down towards the culvert. Cleared Lowmac of scrap wood, put in pile ready to dispose of. Checked out crane bearings, 03 fuel pump and forklift load chain.

Sat 1/8/09 BH, JB

18° overcast, rain showers, cleared in afternoon.

Greens – painted 6 engine shed side sheets green undercoat. Milton – continued strimming rail verge.

Tue 4/8/09                    BH, CM, EP, PC, IR, JB

16° dry in morning, started raining mid afternoon.

Continued strimming rail verge. Also strimmed Kashentroch to allow for storage. All chestnut fencing moved down to Kashentroch. Scrap rails measured and marked for cutting up. Wickham weed sprayer + spare frame lifted out ready to remove to Kashentroch Friday.

Fri 7/8/09                    BH, EP, DC, AB, JB

23° blue skies, very warm.

Continued strimming culvert to Kashentroch. Moved Wickham weedkiller to Kashentroch. Moved platform, steps and crossing gate posts to layby. Moved concrete bullhead sleepers from layby to Milton.

Sat 8/8/09                    BH, AB, JB

Strimming along path at Milton – repaired JT's strimmer. Cleared area at entrance – compressor and motors, fence posts, scrap wood, pallets.

Tue 11/8/09    PC, JT, JB

19° dry in morning, rain early afternoon, then cleared.

Two panels on upper level unclipped – layby. Water pump box and pump fitted to water tank. Replacement turboblower fitted to Barclay by HP, JL, JR)

Fri 14/8/09                    DC, JB

(Wed 12<sup>th</sup> – KR cut scarp rails in half)

Crane wheel bearings – new 3/8” BSP elbows and nipples fitted to make oil filling easier !    BJB fittings – freed up selection ready for next section.

Sat 15/8/09                    DC, JB

19° rain in am, cleared afternoon.

Crane bearings filled. Water tank pump suction and discharge pipe – holes drilled in frame webs for flexi pipes. Forklift – tried replacing broken lift chain pin, found replacement too big (6 mm) – should be 3/16” ?

Tue 18/8/09    EP, PC, MK, DC, JT, CM, IR, JB

16° dry and overcast, light shower about midday.

Two 60ft rails lifted down, sleepers removed and stacked at lower level – layby. Birkenbaud crossing – one rail unclipped and removed. Started on second rail bit sleepers very slippery.

Fri 21/8/09                    EP, IR, BH, CM, DC, JB

18° dry and overcast until finishing time, then light shower.

Layby – Birkenbaud crossing panel – remaining rail and sleepers lifted down and taken to lower level, rail unclipped. Second rail lifted back on ready for cutting both



to length. Unclipped and removed two 60ft panel rails and sleepers top lower level. Remaining panel rails unclipped ready to remove to lower level. This will leave 8 panels at the upper level ready to dismantle.

Sat 22/8/09           BH, JB

19° dry and overcast at times.

Above unclipped rails removed, sleepers collected and stacked, removed to lower level. Two 60ft rails on top of remaining 8 panels pulled off and ready to remove to lower level.

Tue 25/8/09   BH, PC, EP, IR, CM, MK, JB, DC

18° dry and overcast at times.

Spent day shifting material ready for engine shed siding. Wooden sleepers with chairs fitted lifted onto Lomac. Concrete sleepers with chairs moved from car park and loaded onto Lomac. 4 x 14ft crossing sleepers moved from layby and loaded onto Lomac.

Thu 27/8/09   Vince Cable et al visited the railway.

Fri 28/8/09           IR, EP, BH, MK, JB

14° overcast, cool one shower of rain.

BMU heaters 1, 2 and 4 run up and tested. No.2 cut out after short period of time (as before) Mega clear up between water tank and caravan. Also moved pile of fence posts to make area for landing engine shed parts. Fish and Chip night for Strutt and Parker employees.

Sat 29/8/09           MK, AB, JB

16° overcast with sunny spells.

Water tank – lid refitted complete with ball cock. Inlet pipes fitted and filled with water up to suction outlet. Crane – all contacts cleaned and greased. Engine shed siding – pit layout marked. Grass verges around Milton trimmed.

Tue 1/9/09           BH, EP, CM, PC, JB

17° overcast with some sun, breezy.

Two closing rails from railhead to Birkenbaud crossing cut to length at Layby – ready to move. Two 60ft rails unclipped at lower level – ready to lift off. Started removing sleepers from upper level panels, rapidly running out of wood for stacking.

Fri 4/9/09           EP, JB

15° overcast but dry, despite 24 hours heavy rain over Thursday, 1 month's rain in one day !

Completed removal of sleepers from upper level panels.

Sat 5/9/09           JB, AB, DM

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15° overcast and raining at Milton.

Connected hose to water tank pump and recirculated water through access hole – good flow. Met up with Martin at Greens and tried out 72 volt 80 A charger.

Tue 8/9/09 EP, IR, CM, BH, JT, JB

21° overcast with sunny spells.

Report that rail joint west of culvert badly out of line. Took works train down and re-aligned and levelled rail joint at 27. Then realigned joint at 31 ? Received news that engine shed had been approved at Mar meeting today – subject to hedge !

Fri 11/9/09 EP, IR, BH, DC, JB, MK

20° sunny in morning, overcast afternoon, warm.

Closing rails taken from layby to Birkenbaud. Sleepers for Birkenbaud crossing lifted down as a panel and stripped. Sleepers collected. 60ft sleepers from upper level moved down to lower level lay down area. Crossing rails for Birkenbaud lifted down from stack and taken to lower level. Martin – sorting out BMU batteries.

Sat 12/9/09 DC, BH, AB, DM, PM, MM, JB, MK

21° blue skies and very warm.

Two 60ft panels on lower level completely dismantled – i.e. rails pulled off and sleepers stacked. Pallet of Birkenbaud crossing chairs moved from Milton to Layby, Sanderson and sideloader refuelled – 25 litres each. Martin – arranging BMU batteries into 24 volt packs.

Tue 15/9/09 BH, CM, EP, MK, DC, JB

16° blue skies, clouded over later.

Last flat bottom rail panel on lower level cleared. Started laying out Birkenbaud crossing sleepers and wood infill between rails. Securing screw holes not lining up as expected.

Fri 18/9/09 MK (BH, JB- Torridon weekend)

New breaker fitted to crane electrics. Worked on control box for BMU battery charging.

Tue 22/9/09 CM, BH, MK, PC, JB

16° overcast with blue patches of sky.

Birkenbaud crossing – continued working on preparing the road crossing. Rails lifted into place, chairs drilled and secured to the sleepers and then clipped.

Fri 25/9/09 MK, EP, JB

18° sunny and warm.

Lifted crossing timbers into place, chain saw required to cut out chair access.

Sat 26/9/09 MK, BH, AB, DM, JB

21° sunny and warm, no wind.

Used chain saw to fit crossing timbers into place. One side piece still to fit, chain saw getting hot and motor starting to smoke !

Mon 28/9/09 MK, BH, TG, JB

21° overcast, warm, no wind.

Early call from Keith, lorry available all day due to Monday being a holiday.

Complete shed parts loaded on and then offloaded at the Milton in the field adjacent to the water tank. Lorry backloaded with scrap 30ft rails. (8 off ?)

Tue 29/9/09 EP, CM, MK, BH, JB

11° overcast and drizzle nearly all day.

Engine shed parts transferred from field into laydown area by water tank. Engine shed siding sleepers off loaded from Lomac onto ground by buffer stop – waiting on permission to lay the line ! Scrap rails removed on Monday raised £340 !

Thu 1/10/09 RC, JF, TG, JB

9° cloudy cold breeze but remained dry.

Remaining 6 battery packs moved outside from the Greens shed, uplifted and delivered to the Milton by Grays FLS. Also removed 3 scarp machines (Archdale mill, Ward capstan lathe, and Cincinatti tool grinder) for scrap. Raised £440 !

Fri 2/10/09 MK, BH, EP, JB

10° overcast but remained dry despite rain forecast.

6 battery packs replaced in compartment of west coach (trailer), 2 still to replace in power car.

Sat 3/10/09 BH, MK, JB

10° overcast and high winds. Broken branches on line.

Started checking out crane for its annual examination. Hoist brake not holding the load, found brake solenoid not operating correctly. Brake actuator to be checked out. RDRPS AGM held at Crathes village hall at 1.00 pm. Followed by train rides, tea and goodies !

Tue 6/10/09 BH, MK, PC, IR, CM, JB

14° overcast and cool in morning, sunny and warm pm.

Hoist brake now OK, solenoid operating OK, found adjusting nut had slackened back ! Crane alarms tested OK, crane ropes greased, various grease points greased. Railway line to Birkenbaud walked and broken trees removed following high winds on Saturday. Front fence repaired and notice board relocated beside office entrance.

Fri 9/10/09 BH, EP, JB, MK

8° overcast with rain most of the time.

Cleared area around green container i.e. bird boxes and stillage of bolts and clips. Green container turned 90° using rail crane so that new additional 8 x 10 ft container

can be placed alongside. 2 off Rowan berry trees planted behind engine shed buffer beam. Fence behind buffer beam – diagonal fitted to rail side strainer. Post and fence wires re-tensioned. Packing pieces for Birkenbaud crossing timbers painted with preservative.

Sat 10/10/09 BH, MK, DM

4 off fishplate pairs replaced with staggered fishplates, 1 x 1/4" and 3 x 1/8", along running line. Scrap wood and pallets collected ready for disposal.

Tue 13/10/09 BH, EP, IR, MK, JB

12° overcast and drizzle all day !

Remaining 2 batteries fitted into BMU. Last lot of Birkenbaud packing pieces painted with Preservative. Collected more scrap wood for disposal.

Fri 16/10/09 MK, EP, JB

13° sunny and warm

Rail crane annual inspection carried out by DNV Inspection engineer Dave Barlow – all in order. Damaged fence east of culvert re-tensioned after tree damage. Trued out new diesel transfer pump for 03, pump unable to gain suction through filling cap. Crane refuelled via run down from under tank.

Sat 17/10/09 AB, DM, JB, (JW, JL, HP, PM)

14° blue skies warm

RE-stacked short pointed posts by entrance gate, sorted out old tool box – tools to GUV, some scrap, wooden box scrapped. 14 ft farm gate positioned to replace lift out fence gate, new strainer to be fitted to have an opening gate. Corner of green container jacked up and supporting stones repositioned, still sinking in soft ground ! Worked with JW to adjust Barclay brake blocks, then did braking distance test. With all batteries now fitted, stopping distance from 15 mph varied from 90 ft to 114 ft using all emergency stopping positions, i.e. Barclay + BMU coaches.

Tue 20/10/09 BH, CM, EP, PC, IR, MK, JB

10° overcast, breezy, dry.

14 ft farm gate fitted to car park entrance, moveable steel post re-positioned. Two new containers (8' x 10' Swires) received, transport by Freelands – all arranged by John Lucas. One container for coach restoration squad, one container for Bon-Accord. Repaired fence beyond (west) of Woodbine forest old entrance gate, damaged by car accident on Sun 18<sup>th</sup> ? Gorse overgrown on Deeside Way beside platform cut back.

Fri 23/10/09 IR, BH, JB

11° overcast with rain showers.

Raining on and off all day, ended up planting out 2 bags of bulbs and calling it a day. \*\* Ted Gardner received email from Aberdeenshire Council saying that we can start building the engine shed for Bon-Accord.

Sat 24/10/09 AB, DM, JB

11° overcast, heavy rain after lunch stopped play.

Fitted electric fuelling pump to 03 diesel tank. Looked out 14 chairs for siding pit area. Completed securing fence by new front gate. Cleared out lengths of flexible conduit from behind compound.

Tue 27/10/09 BH, EP, PC, IR, MK, CM, JB

11° overcast, heavy rain almost stopped play by 1145.

Heavy rain almost stopped play. Reduced to drizzle by 11.45 so decided to get going. Started on engine shed siding by laying out sleepers, just six to go.

Thu 29/10/09 BH, GI, JF, TG, IR, PC, MK, RC, JB

15° blue skies in morning, changed to overcast by lunchtime but remained dry. High temperatures for this time of year !

Engine shed siding – 2 x 60 ft rails lifted into position, fishplated and clipped into chairs. Chairs on longitudinal sleepers by pit drilled and bolted down.

Fri 30/10/09 BH, EP, TG, MK, KR, JB

11° overcast but remained dry.

Remaining concrete sleepers lifted into position. Closing rail between buffer and last rail lifted into position and cut to length, and fishplate holes drilled. Buffer stop to be moved to correct alignment. (Roadside rail)

Wickham trolley and rails dislodged by crane moving past, suspect Wickham had been moved recently. Trolley and rails lifted and placed to clear line.

Keith replaced forklift lifting chains, adjusted foot brake and removed rear light fittings. Remaining three sleepers fitted to buffer stop and secured.

Sat 31/10/09 IR, BH, MK, JB, KR, JF, DM

14° sunny with some cloud, warm.

Buffer stop moved to correct rail alignment, closing rail cut to length and secured in position (path side). Shed base frame aligned and fixing bolts holes marked ready for digging out. Two bags aggregate moved from car park to shed area along with cement mixer.

Tue 3/11/09 BH, EP, JF, IR, MK, JB

9° drizzle in morning till about midday, then dry with a hint of sunshine at times, otherwise overcast.

Base frame foundation bolt holes dug out, made a bit easier by use of petrol driven road breaker loaned by John Foulkes from Nicol of Skene contactors.

Base frame in position and levelled, complete with holding down bolts, ready to cement in position. Crane starter motor removed for repair.

Thu 5/11/09 IR, PC, JF, BH, MK, JB, TG

9° blue skies with some cloud.

Checked base frame alignment and found rail panel required adjusting. Base frame realigned. Concrete mixed and poured into the four corner holes. Request from Estate to move buffer stops from Birkenbaud laydown area so that they can clear ditch – road flooding !

Fri 6/11/09 BH, CM, EP, MK, JB

8° overcast, dry in morning, rained afternoon.

Met with Palmaris HIAB at 9.30. Moved 7 buffer stops from Birkenbaud to layby area. Moved 1 buffer stop to end of Milton loop line east end, i.e. 8 buffer stops moved. Also moved crossing and rails from N side to S side of track bed, area now clear for estate to clear ditches. Two more engine shed base frame holes filled with concrete.

Sat 7/11/09 BH, GI, AB, MK, JB

9° sunshine all day without a cloud in the sky !

Completed filling the last four foundation holes for engine shed base frame. BMU – removed No.3 heater and started modifications to control system as per MK's new control system. 3 wooden sleepers between inspection pit and shed concrete sleepers – chairs unbolted from wooden sleepers and rails aligned to remove kink. New holes drilled and chairs re-secured.

Tue 10/11/09 BH, IR, EP, JF, PC, MK, CM, JB

7° overcast, remained dry.

Shunted running line clear and used crane to move crippled and scrap rails to compound ready for cutting up and removal. Shunted stock, ending up with 03 + Dogfish ready for ballasting siding on Thursday.

Wed 11/11/09 BH, JF, JB

7° overcast, rain at times.

Collected trailer from Ferryhill, moved shelves, aluminium box bolts etc from the Greens to Milton and put in Bon-Accord's container. Moved above scrap from compound into car park ready to gas axe !

Thu 12/11/09 BH, IR, JF, MK, TG, JB

9° rain in morning cleared to cloudy blue sky and dry.

Dogfish loaded with three bucket loads of ballast 3 or 4 times and laid out over engine shed siding. Ballast spread out and ready for levelling tomorrow. Load of road scrapings delivered by Bert McIntosh ready to spread over car park flooded area.

Fri 13/11/09 JF, EP, BH, DA, MK, JB

9° sunny with some cloud.

Siding ballast and rails levelled and packed. Ready to erect shed. Buffer stop at east end of loop line lifted out, ballast levelled, re-positioned and fishplated. Above car

park scrapings levelled and rolled flat by Palmaris. Dogfish loaded with ballast leftovers.

Sat 14/11/09 GI, BH, IR, DM, AB, CM, MK, PM, DA, JW, JB

10° overcast with rain showers, cleared later, mild.

Engine shed framework moved to shed location. Scaffolding moved to Lomac, Wickham trolley car moved away from main line rails, spare lever frame moved to beside caravan. Transferred fuel from 03 to Barclay. Started erecting engine shed framework, despite rain showers. Kept going and completed basic framework with middle wooden batten to secure frames 2, 3, 4 between 1 and 5. Noted new car park covering has made water flooding worse!

Tue 17/11/09 BH, EP, TG, JP, CM, MK, PC, RS, JF, JB

10° overcast which cleared to blue sky with cloud.

Continued engine shed construction – remaining side battens fitted, apex battens fitted and started fitting ridge piece cover. Path side roof sheets being completed with the fitting of overlap pieces. Decided Bon Accord would not make it by deadline 28<sup>th</sup> November – boiler inspection due before 6/1/10, craneage and transport.

Fri 20/11/09 BH, EP, RS, TG, IR, JB, JF

11° almost blue skies and very pleasant.

Roof ridge piece taking longer to install than expected ! Started fitting path side roof sheets. Found overlapping pieces secured with wood screws inadequate. Resorted to roof bolts. Sheets DD, EE and FF secured. Crane traction failed.

Sat 21/11/09 BH, CM, IR, TS, MK, JB, DM, AB, DA

11° overcast and bright in morning, very heavy rain by 2 pm stopped play.

Completed fitting path side roof sheets. Fitted two side panels path side. Had a look at crane traction failure. Contactors in traction panel sparking badly, two ceramic arc shutes found broken. Then found slip ring brushes had dropped and shorting across slip rings. Also slip ring cage had twisted.

Tue 24/11/09 BH, MK, CM, IR, PC, JB

6° overcast and dark all day, rain and drizzle all day.

Stayed in office till 11.00, still raining so decided to call it a day. BH + CM + JB went to Ferryhill and emptied the second 40ft container. First container cleared out by JF and JB Thu 19/11/09.

Thu 26/11/09 BH, PC, IR, MK, JB, JF

7° blue skies with cloud, cold breeze, dry.

Moved scaffolding from path side to road side of shed, four sheets secured leaving four to go.

Fri 27/11/09 BH, IR, EP, MK, RS, JB, AB

6° dry and overcast, occasional rain.

Completed last four sheets in roof. Crane slip ring stripped down, 3 bent rods removed and will be replaced with stud bar. Some flash burns on rings and brushes to be cleaned. New arc shutes made by Bob Scales out of Paxolin fitted and contacts cleaned.

Sat 28/11/09 BH, MK, JB, AB, DM, PM

6° overcast, remained dry.

Crane slip rings and brushes cleaned and re-assembled using new stud bar. Traction tried and worked OK. Slewing tried and found bottom plate still trying to twist. Decided additional tie-back strap required, similar to tie back angle on top plate. Panels by Birkenbaud being stripped.

Tue 1/12/09 JT, BH, IR, PC, CM, MK, JF, RS, JB

3° overcast, cold breeze, remained dry.

Additional tie back strip fitted to crane bottom slew ring plate and slewing found OK. Four shed doors lifted and fitted in place. Roadside sheet panels fitted.

Thu 3/12/09 JF, IR, JB

6° started raining about midday, lasted all day.

Ferryhill – tried to empty out half height, but after getting both forklifts stuck, decided to call it a day. Forklifts eventually freed ! Then went to the Greens and lifted lifting gear for Bon-Accord into the shed. Rain stopped play.

Fri 4/12/09 BH, IR, JW, CM, MK, EP, JB

6° sunny and bright all day, no wind, no rain !

Rolling stock shunted and loaded Dogfish taken to railhead and unloaded. Dogfish taken back and 03 left free to be rescue locomotive for Santa Specials. Completed engine shed sheeting on path side.

Sat 5/12/09 BH, MK, JB

8° raining all day !

First day of Santa Specials. Replaced crane slip ring cover and cable trunkings. Drove in 3 spikes alongside inspection pit area.

Tue 8/12/09 BH, IR, EP, DC, AB, CM, MK, JB, JT, PC

6° clear sky most of the day, then clouded over.

Two sleepers positioned ready for half height from Ferryhill. 4 sheets plywood covers moved from car park to engine shed. Track – visual inspection carried out with various repairs being done panels 17-26 and 42-52. (Rail clips P17, 20, 24. Biscuit P5). JT, JB to Ferryhill – half height emptied out ready for transport to Milton by Palmaris HIAB. Expected 9.30 – arrived 1345 !



Fri 11/12/09 BH, CM, IR, MK, JF, JW, JB

0° clear blue sky all day.

Continued checking main line for loose BJB clips, now at Kashentroch. Mega shunting to enable 03 to be refuelled at east end on loop line, and half height to be moved from east end by crane to position by engine shed. 1000 litres received.

Greens – JB, JF, TG Bon-Accord boiler inspected by Joe Guthrie.

Sat 12/12/09 BH, MK, JB

0° clear and then overcast, remained cold.

Completed checking rail panels between Kashentroch and railhead, all BJB fittings now checked for tightness. Engine shed west end doors secured with additional clip fitted to top of doors. Scaffolding erected on roadside ready to fit roof 2"x2" angle along bottom edge. Santa Specials in BMU stopped due to problem with triple valve.

Tue 15/12/09 BH, EP, DC, IR, TG, PC, CM, MK, JB, JF

5° overcast and dry all day until late afternoon when it started to drizzle.

Moved 10 big ½ ton bags of coal from the Greens to the Milton plus pallets of tools etc. courtesy of Charlie Brown and Seletar Transport (7.5 ton truck). Coal moved from car park to half height container, only managed 9 bags tipped into the container. Tools etc moved into the BA container. HP and JP removed triple valve again ! Bert McIntosh dropped a load of road topping, spread out and rolled.

Fri 18/12/09 MK, BH, CM, PC, DC, EP, TG, IR, JB

0° overcast, light snow showers, snow on ground, very cold !

Mid Week Gang Xmas lunch at the Scott Skinners, Banchory.

Sat 19/12/09 MK, JB

0° snow showers on and off, no wind but cold.

With snow on ground, scaffolding and engine shed roof, decided it was not a day for anything. Left at 1300 hrs along with triple valve, and went home to take the valve apart. JW came along. Drilled out big diaphragm plate screw and checked internals, nothing untoward found. Made new screw and valve reassembled.

Tue 22/12/09 MK

Heavy snow last night, started again over Aberdeen early morning. Decided against going to the Milton. Martin turned up for 10 minutes but no one else arrived !

Thu 24/12/09 MK

Received a phone call from Martin that a car had crashed onto the line at the original gate west of Woodbine forest. No news yet on car removal in time for Sunday's service.

Sat 26/12/09 IR, CM, JL, FG, MK

Rail crane used to remove car from track. Tractor had been used to pull car to entrance, crane used to move it further away from line.

- Captain's Log -

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Tue 29/12/09 MK, JB

Due to hard frost and lying snow, decided no progress could be made. BMU heaters refuelled by Martin.

Sat 2/1/10 JB

Clearing path in snow on platform for running day, about 4" deep. Started fitting east end door upper locking bolts.

Tue 5/1/10 JB

No one ! Deep snow and ground frozen.

Fri 8/1/10 MK, BH, JF, JB

No work due to snow and frozen ground.

Sat 9/1/10 No one ! Snow stopped play.

Tue 12/1/10 BH, PC, IR, CM, MK, JB

4° still snow on the ground, overcast and cold wind. Rain stopped play after lunch. Cutting back trees and bushes along path between Milton and Kashentoch, up to mile post 15.

Fri 15/1/10 EP, IR, BH, MK, JB, CM

5° overcast and raining.

Rain all day stopped play ! Ended up newsing, early lunch and going home.

Sat 16/1/10 BH, IR, MK, JB

5° overcast and rain most of the time.

Rained up to about 1.30, went out and measured platform length and lengths of rolling stock. Discussed at length the proposed turnout at the platform east end.

Mon 18/1/10 BH, IR, MK, JB

5° sunny and felt warm, no wind.

Engine shed – continued work on roof on roadside, 2" x 2" angle fitted under lower roof panel edge and profile sheets added. Road side completed.

Tue 19/1/10 MK, BH, IR, EP, PC, JB

5° overcast with some sunshine in morning, overcast rain in afternoon.

Engine shed – moved scaffold tower to path side and fitted 2" x 2" angle as above. After munch, open meeting with RDRPS and DRC committee members to discuss work load for 2010, in particular east end turn outs.

Fri 22/1/10 BH, EP, MK, JB

5° overcast in morning, wintry sun and warm afternoon.

Demonstration by Hilti rep (David ?) went to railhead at Birkenbaud where the two pack epoxy resin kit was used – one on a hole leaving the wooden plug intact

(roadside), and one by cleaning out all the wood plug on the pathside. Engine shed – remaining four side sheets cut to length for roof sheets, all sheets for roof path side primed with grey primer.

Sat 23/1/10                   BH, MK, AB, DM, JB, PM

5° overcast and drizzle all day.

Staked out position of new crossover for running line to loop line. Engine shed – path side roof sheets painted with top gloss paint – Crown Granite colour – 2.5 litres exact !

Mon 25/1/10   BH, IR, MK, JB

3° overcast but dry !

Engine shed – roof path side covered with profile sheeting – sheeting now complete. Top guide for locking bar fitted to east doors.

Tue 26/1/10   BH, EP, PC, CM, MK, JB

5° overcast but dry.

Compound area cleared of bucket, plants and other bits ready for Bon-accord arrival Saturday. Two stacks of sleepers sorted out with respect to rail crossing at east end. Approximately 36 good and 15 rotten sleepers.

Thu 28/1/10   MK, BH, RS, JF, TG, IR, JB

2° overcast, cold with some sleet showers.

Greens – BA pulled out of the shed onto panel and filled with water ready for steam up tomorrow (Friday 30<sup>th</sup>). Lifting beams put in place under engine, spreader beams and slings assembled.

Fri 29/1/10                   JW, JF, TG, RS, BH, CM, JB

0° overcast and frequent snow showers, cold wind.

Boiler fire lit at 0900 hrs and up to pressure by 11.30. Due to frequent snow showers, boiler inspector unable to come further than Laurencekirk. 12 mile tailbacks prevented him attending the pressure test. Courtesy of Bill Halliday, cooked beef burgers on the shovel and had them in buns !! Very good.

Sat 30/1/10                   JW, MK, CM, BH, JF, GS, JB, KR (Greens)

0° Blue sky, sunny, cold !

Arrived Greens 0830, heavy snow overnight made access difficult. Crane arrived but did not come down avenue to the shed. Eventually decided against loco move due to road conditions.

JW, MK, CM, BH, DM, IR, TG, JB

Engine shed – cut up sleepers to fill in gap beneath the doors. Sank two posts to prevent doors opening too wide. Keith arrived with burning gear, rails in car park cut in half ready for scrap.

Tue 2/2/10                   CM, BH, EP, PC, MK, JB

1° cloudy, blue sky, ended in heavy snow shower.

At layby and retrieved 1 crossing, 2 switch blades and two catch rails. All taken down to Birkenbaud. Birkenbaud – removed two rails from top of four high stack, sleepers still to do !

CM had an accident – switch blade tipped off sideloader and wood dunnage flipped up and caught his finger, RHS.

Fri 5/2/10                   BH, EP, IR, MK, JB

6° overcast and damp. Started raining after lunch.

Continued searching for turnout pieces at Milton, Kashentroch and the layby.

Shunted stock to have crane and 03 + Lowmac ready for moving equipment from Kashentroch and railhead.

Sat 6/2/10               BH, MK, DM, AB, PM, JB

5° overcast and very damp.

Used trailer and moved shelf units and other bits from the Greens to the Milton, Bon Accord container. Layby – extracted crossings and check rails from undergrowth ready for moving to the Milton for crossover. Birkenbaud – removed and stacked top level sleepers from stack of panels.

Tue 9/2/10               BH, IR, PC, EP, CM, MK, JB

4° overcast with occasional sunshine and light shower.

Moved 03 + Lowmac and crane down to railhead at Birkenbaud and loaded on above bits for turnout crossing. At Kashentroch and loaded on lattice signal post and one switch blade.

Wed 10/2/10   JB

5° sunny but still cold.

Bon Accord container – unpacked boxes of parts from the Greens – oil, ‘o’ ring kits, circlip kits etc.

Thu 11/2/10   RC, JB

6° overcast and sunny at times.

Loaded trailer at Greens with Bon Accord skirts and scrap fluorescent fittings, dropped skirts at the Milton, loaded scrap wood etc and took to Banchory skip. Back to Greens and cut up scrap pallets and wood from Milton.

Fri 12/2/10               BH, EP, IR, MK, JB

6° overcast and sunny at times.

Offloaded switch blades, crossings etc from Lowmac. Collected various pallets of chairs and offloaded at platform east end.

Sat 13/2/10               BH, CM, AB, DM, MK, JB

8° sunny at times in morning, clouded over after lunch.

Layby – dismantled and retrieved check rail chairs from three sets of check rails.

Road crossing – removed crossing timbers and started fitting packing pieces. Found middle pieces too long !

Tue 16/2/10 EP, IR, CM, MK, JB

1° rain and sleet all the time, packed up about 1345.

Ferryhill – looking out and sorting rail crossing timbers, about half way (19 out of 36 required !) Found more S1 chairs (square) and check rail chairs.

Fri 19/2/10 BH, IR, CM, MK, JB

1° heavy snow falling, decided to stop after lunch.

Had planned to raise steam in Bon Accord prior to move Sat. Bad weather, snow stopped play. Shunted GUV and Lowmac down loop line to east crossover area.

Removed broken chair piece from switch blade.

Sat 20/2/10 BH, MK, KR, JB

Sunny and blue skies, cold with snow on the ground.

Layby – removed two switch blade chairs. Then to Milton and fitted them to switch blade for crossover.

Tue 23/2/10 BH, EP, IR, CM, MK, JB

-3° sunny and blue skies, snow on ground.

Birkenbaud – forklift difficult to start due to extreme cold, -9° overnight. Removed top rails and started on removing sleepers, running out of stacking batons. Milton - contractors continue to dig trenches for new power supply, Bert's men start on platform frost damage.

Fri 26/2/10 BH, JB

Overcast.

Deep slushy snow, decided to call it a day before we started !

Sat 27/2/10 BH, PM, KR, JB

4° 3" slushy snow to wade through !

Birkenbaud – continued dismantling panels, down to one remaining.

Tue 2/3/10 MK, IR, CM, EP, JB

5° sunny but cold !

Ferryhill – looked out remaining 19 crossing timbers required, then stacked them ready for transport. Dismantled two check rails to get 10 check rail chairs.

Fri 5/3/10 CM, TC, IR, TG, JB, BH, MK

7° overcast with sunny spells.

Greens – with Bon-Accord pulled out of shed on Thursday, steam raised and boiler pressure tested, witnessed by Joe Guthrie. Loco then pushed back into the shed.

Sat 6/3/10 BH, CM, MK, AB, PM, BG, MC, JB, C

8° overcast but bright

Used crane to separate out five bullhead rails for crossing from stack by platform, loop line road side. Birkenbaud – remaining sleepers and two rails cleared away.

Layby – top level flat bottom rail panel clips slackened off and rails ready to pull off.

Bon-Accord container – two vent holes cut out.

Tue 9/3/10 BH, CM, EP, MK, JB, PC

9° sunny and felt warm.

Layby upper level – removed two layers of rails, switch blades and a crossing and finally got to a left hand switch blade required for the Milton east crossover. Fitted a missing chair and a bracket bolt, then transferred it to Birkenbaud.

Thu 11/3/10 RC, JB

9° overcast with some sun, one brief shower.

Greens – cut four strips of plywood for engine shed fascia boards. Milton – used two toe jacks and forced Bon-Accord's container roof up to try and correct deep overall dip which was holding water. Managed to get it to an acceptable condition. Fitted vice to bench.

Fri 12/3/10 EP, CM, IR, MK, JB

9° overcast, couple of brief showers.

Kashentroch – dug in two fence strainers and laid bottom wire between Kashentroch and old fence towards Birkenbaud. Used forklift and moved remaining crossover fittings from layby to Milton.

Sat 13/3/10 BH, JW, MK, AB, PM, KR, JB

9° overcast with sunny spells.

Trenches in car parks have been filled in. Used Sanderson to level out infill by railhead and sank in to axles, behind office cabin. Used 03 to pull out ! Sorted out pile of sleepers from crossover and rotten ones for elsewhere ! Road crossing for Birkenbaud – fitted packing pieces. Fence posts hammered in along wire line above.

Tue 16/3/10 BH, CM, EP, JT, MK, JF, PC, JB

10° overcast with sunny spells

Ferryhill – loaded Palmaris HIAB with crossing timbers stacked previously, plus pallet of chairs. Milton – offloaded crossing timbers. Water tank – fitted T piece in pump suction with drain valve. Fencing – continued with fencing between Kashentroch and wall by Birkenbaud.

Fri 19/3/10 BH, CM, IR, MK, JB

13° sunny and windy !

Completed fencing between Kashentroch and Birkenbaud wall. Hawthorn bushes (15) planted between engine shed and main road, as requested by ACC.

Sat 20/3/10 BH, CM, C, MC, AB, DM, MK, JB

13° sunny and a bit cloudy, very pleasant !

Milton – moved three rails from compound up to railhead at Milton for crossover. Moved crossover timbers up to railhead ready to sort out into lengths. Birkenbaud –

put in fence strainers for last section of fence between wall and Birkenbaud entrance, approx 50 metres.

Tue 23/3/10 BH, CM, EP, PC, MK, JT, JB

9° overcast with a chilly breeze.

Crossover timbers sorted out into piles of same length. Birkenbaud – fence posts put in and started wiring up.

Fri 26/3/10 BH, CM, IR, MK, TG, JF, JB

9° overcast with a chilly breeze.

Greens – Bon-Accord moved out of the shed for move to Milton tomorrow – (for the last time?). Milton – piles of crossover timbers collected together to leave clearance tomorrow for Bon-Accord's arrival. Birkenbaud – completed fence wire.

Sat 27/3/10 BH, CM, CD, MK, IR, TG, KR, JB (MD)

12° sunny, blue skies with little cloud.

Greens – JK crane arrived 0800 and ready for Gray Forklift Services lowloader. Bon-Accord lifted onto lowloader by 0900 and departed approx 0930. Weight recorded on crane 19 tonne.

Milton – same crew as above offloading BA onto rails at east end of platform.

Approx 3 hours intotal, complete move achieved by lunchtime, including moving BA into the shed. Afternoon spent levelling dropped ballast on rails by Birkenbaud.

Also on site for shunting JL, JW, FG, JT, DA, MC, DM, AB, JP

Bottle of champagne kindly donated by Ian Ross, splashed over BA RH cylinder by Alan Grieg.

Tue 29/3/10 BH, EP, PC, IR, MK, JF, JB

3° rain, sleet, windy, overcast !!

Bon-Accord pulled out of shed and pushed in with new shunting bar. Requires slight modification. Broken timber sleeper by caravan replaced.

Bert's men back on platform repairs. Power supply to socket at west end pulled out, made temporary repair.

Fri 2/4/10 BH, EP, IR, TG, MK, JB

7° sunny and warm, blue sky.

Bert's med complete repairs to platform. Shunting carried out to get lowmac up to GUV and coaches alongside platform for running on Sunday. Bon-Accord pulled out of shed and brake gear installed.

Sat 3/4/10 BH, MK, AB, JB

8° overcast but dry.

Front car park rolled with vibrating roller left by builders. Platform items replaced following repairs – flower pots and bench seats. Completed above broken sleeper replacement 29/3/10.

Started on east end crossover by removing 2 x 30 ft and 2 x 60 ft rails.

Tue 6/4/10                   BH, EP, PC, AB, CM, JT, MK, JB

9° light drizzle all day.

Damaged sleepers replaced (5) and 2 x 30 ft heavy weight rails replaced. Running line buffer stop lifted and placed on 30 ft rails. All 8 ft sleepers removed at east end running line and stacked. Bucket fitted to Sanderson and started removing / levelling ballast ready to lay crossover.

Thu 8/4/10                   JF, IR, JB, MK

11° warm and sunny.

Palmaris HIAB used to collect steel plates and BA lift gear from Milton, 2 off 6' x 6' containers + pallet truck from Greens and deliver to Ferryhill.

Milton – checked out BA handbrake.

Fri 9/4/10                   BH, EP, IR, CM, MK, JB

14° lightly clouded sky with sunshine.

Crossover area at east end levelled, surplus ballast collected into pile ready for re-use. Progress delayed awaiting a decision whether to lay crossover as a RH or LH switch ! Bon-Accord pulled out of the shed, checked over and taken down to Birkenbaud. On return, found feed pump eccentric running hot and front LH main axle box warm. To be investigated.

Sat 10/4/10                   BH, MK, AB, PM, DM, TG, JB

17° hazy sunshine.

Still waiting a layout decision, but started by laying 13 sleepers and positioning the crossover.

Bon-Accord – feed pump eccentric strap removed and being inspected.

Tue 13/4/10   BH, EP, PC, CM, JT, MK, JB, TG

14° hazy sunshine.

Decision made to go for LH switch, continued laying out all turnout sleepers and first switch blade.

BA – clearance measured on feed pump eccentric, Ted to get suitable shim material.

Wed (pm) 14/4/10   JF, TG, KR, JB

Ferryhill – 2 x 40 ft containers moved to position in corner of the yard, to be used for storage of Bon-Accord pallets of material.

Fri 16/4/10                   BH, EP, IR, MK, JB, TG

20° cloudy and sunny



Continued working on crossover – crossover bolted down and switch blade bolted down. Switch lever fitted into two 13' long sleepers.

Sat 17/4/10                   BH, IR, CM, AB, MK, JB, DM

18° sunny with a few clouds.

Second switch blade bolted down. Two connecting rails lifted into position ready for cutting to length.

Tue 20/4/10   BH, EP, IR, CM, MK, JB

8° sunny but couple of heavy hailstone showers, cold wind.

First connecting rail between xover and switchblade cut to length, fitted with fishplates and screwed down. Second connecting rail cut to length and fitted into position.

Thu 22/4/10   CM, IR, TG, MK, JB

9° overcast and showers in afternoon.

Bon-Accord pulled out of shed and taken down line to Birkenbaud, this time with boiler up to working level and saddle tank full.

Fri 23/4/10                   BH, EP, IR, MK, JB

6° overcast with light drizzle all day.

Completed fitted second connecting rail. Lifted third connecting rail into position.

Sat 24/4/10                   BH, MC, DM, IR, MK, JB

13° light rain to begin with, cleared.

Above rail cut to length, holes drilled and rail screwed down. Switch lever connecting rods being worked on.

Event in field included two steam rollers and car boot sale.

Tue 26/4/10   BH, EP, IR, PC, CM, MK, JB

15° overcast in morning, light drizzle in afternoon.

15 sleepers stacked ready for ramp at Birkenbaud for arrival of new 03. Bucket fitted to Sanderson and sufficient ballast laid under new turnout section. Shunted all afternoon to get crane on running line at east end, along with lowmac, BSO and GUV.

Thu 29/4/10   JF, CM, TG, JB

17° sunny and warm with some clouds.

Started moving out pallets of Bon-Accord's gear from the Greens, hired transport from Seletec. First load consisted of 11 pallets, second load 1 pallet, 8 lockers, boiler frame support and other small items, approx 3 hours. All pallets loaded into container by fence.

Fri 30/4/10                   EP, IR, MK, JB, TG

15° sunny and cloudy in morning, heavy rain showers in afternoon.

Palmaris arrived to transport 15 sleepers along to the lay-by, for use as packing ramp for new 03 arrival about 10/11 May.

2 panels of rail on loop line unclipped and lifted clear of sleepers, 32 sleepers lifted into Lowmac to make way for loop line crossover. Excess ballast to be removed by Bill Glennie and his mini-digger – hopefully ! Continued with switch lever connecting rods.

Sat 1/5/10 IR, CM, DM, MK, JB, KR

10° overcast

Sleepers on Lowmac stacked alongside platform ramp. Crossing switch lever complete connection and working. Small pile of ballast at end of line spread between sleepers.

Tue 4/5/10 EP, PC, IR, MK, JB

15° overcast

Birkenbaud – ramp for new 03 arrival built and ready. Another go at switch lever for east end running line crossing. New bolts taken from bars at lay-by still to be fitted.

Thu 6/5/10 CM, TG, MK, JB, JF, NF

Continued with moving out.

Fri 7/5/10 BH, EP, IR, CM, MK, JB

13° sunny and warm

Loop line at east end aligned with newly installed running line switch. Preparations made for Bill Glennie and his mini digger to move loop line ballast. Bert on site to work on footpath between culvert, Birkenbaud and lay-by.

Sat 8/5/10 BH, MK, AB, DM, JB, BG

11° cloudy and sunny

Bill Glennie on site with his mini digger, all ballast removed from loop line where crossover is to be installed. Main line switch lever installation completed. Platform for coaling Bon-Accord erected by half height loaded with coal, next to engine shed. Two switch levers taken from layby to Milton by Sanderson.

THAT WAS JIM'S FINAL ENTRY

Continued from Jim's hard copy by MK .....

Tues 3/8/10 MK, CM, JT, BH, PC, DM, IR, EP

18° - warm, scattered clouds, short rain shower

Laid passing-loop buffer stop and head shunt sleepers into place. Placed both rails in chairs, cut one to length. Other rail length was OK.

Fri 6/8/10 MK, CM, BH, IR, EP, Peter friend of BH, DM, JF

16° - scattered clouds, rain showers

Drilled fishplate holes to Loop head shunt rails, made up fishplates. Minor ballasting of the buffer stop and track panel. Initial slewing of the panel to match the running line shunt and then clipped up. Carried out first test run over the crossover using the crane and Lomac, all satisfactory. Loaded level crossing gates onto the Lomac ready for transfer to the railhead.

Sat 7/8/10 MK, KR,

20° Started wet, cleared up to good sunny day.

Fitted charged battery to Lomac generator, test ran OK. Used scrap sleepers to drill test holes for crossing timber bolts, 11mm tapping, 19mm clearance, 51 mm Forstner bit for rebate, all OK. Cleared out items from GUV prior to works train relocation to the railhead.

Drained west transmission gearbox in crane to remove emulsion and refilled with fresh oil. Drained water from crane axleboxes and topped-up with fresh oil as needed.

Sanderson training in progress for JT, IR and HP.

Tues 10/8/10 MK, PC, JT, AB, Peter friend of BH, BH, IR, JF

18° Started dry, heavy shower and then sunny.

Recovered Dogfish from railhead to station section. Then mobilised crane, Lomac and GUV to the railhead. Looked for red oxide primer for buffer stop (Grey Container), 'purple lake' believed to be in the GUV. John Foulkes to look for red.

Fri 13/8/10 MK, BH, IR (shunt only), EP, AB

18° dry, scattered clouds

Pulled Bon-Accord out of its house with the 03. Shunted the BMU into platform. Removed the loading ramp at the crossing railhead and returned the sleepers to the lay-by. Cleared the overgrown area around the works train.

Sat 14/8/10 MK, BH

20° warm and sunny

Used the crane and works train to push dead 03 out of the way for Bon-Accord to emerge. Also shunted the coaches into position for BA, then back to the railhead. Wire brushed the running line buffer stop and gave it a part coat red oxide primer.

Tues 17/8/10 MK, BH, JT, EP, PC, JF, CM

18° Showers but warm

Laid the final track panel before the Birkenbaud crossing. Unable to fishplate up as the rail drill failed due to a broken feed clutch disengagement rod. Ordered 2.5 ltr Red Oxide primer from the 'Paint Shop' Banchory. JF brought some 'signal red', some black and some 'Purple Lake'ish paint for use on the buffer stops. Remaining red to be returned as it is for Bon-Accord.

- Captain's Log -

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Wed 18/8/10 MK

18° scattered clouds

Stripped fuel tank, recoil starter mechanism, spark plug and fuel tank fitting from the broken rail drill and fitted to spare drill in the grey container. Tested A-OK. Old guard removed and unit greased up.

Fri 20/8/10 MK, BH

20° warm, showers

Tried Cembre rail drill on loan from A-Plant. Small and light, but no cutters included. Tried cannibalised old rail drill, works OK but frame is bent and the carriages jam. Drilled 6 fishplate holes with it for the last panel before the crossing.

Tues 24/8/10 MK, BH, CM, IR, EP, DC

18° Very wet start, weather improved to sunny spells.

Cut to length and drilled fishplate holes on the final panel before the crossing. BJBs made up. All cut-outs to the crossing panel timbers completed at the lay-by.

Fri 27/8/10 MK, BH, IR, CM, EP, AB, TG

20° scattered clouds, few spots of rain.

Finished BJB work on the last panel before the crossing. Moved to lay-by and made up BJB ties on the crossing panel. Then laid in the crossing sleepers to check for fit. Some timbers on the short side.

Sat 28/08/10 MK, PM, AB, DM, BH

Wet start cleared pm to allow some progress.

Removed FB rails and commenced clearing sleepers from dismantled panel in layby.

Tues 31/8/10 BH, JT, DC, PC, CM, EP, AB

20° Scattered clouds, sunny, warm

Crossing panel transferred from the lay-by to Birkenbaud by Palmaris HIAB. Test lay carried out OK, rail ends cut and fishplate holes drilled. Crossing panel laid on top of last laid panel ready for laying in place once the civil work is done.

Fri 03/09/10 IR, PC, BH

Warm and Sunny

Completed dismantling of FB panel at layby then moved to Milton for pm. Prepared and undercoated fencing stanchions for pedestrian ramp. Tidied up scrap wood ready for transport to Bon Accord shed area.

Tues 07/09/10 DC, IR, PC, EP, BH

Dull and damp deteriorating to monsoon

Removed field gates and dismantled part of fencing to allow for realignment of access from level crossing. Erected temporary gates. Cut and drilled west end of crossing panel rail (drill failure precluded both rails being completed). Commenced final adjustments to crossing timbers. Site abandoned at lunchtime.

Thurs 09/09/10 DC, PC, IR, BH

Warm and sunny

Cut and jointed replacement central timber and fitted infill fillets to crossing timbers. Carried out final test to ensure all timbers seating. Relocated concrete sleepers and bolted up. Held outdoor reading from "The Methodology" in preparation for the big day.

Fri 10/9/10 MK, BH, CM, EP, PC, DC, IR

18° Shower in the morning, cleared up to sunny day.

\*\*\*\*Crossing panel laid in place by MWG, approach ramps built by Bert's men.

Heras fencing erected as a temporary measure until the crossing posts and gates are installed, to be followed by permanent fencing.

Sat 11/9/10 MK, BH, IR, CM, AB, DM, Peter Exell

18° Rain first thing, cleared up, then a late shower

Tested new rail drill by drilling two fishplate holes, all successful. Installed new gate posts and fence posts to field, hung gates, re-attached fence wire road side. Short section remains to be completed.

Tue 14/9/10 MK, BH, CM, DC, EP, PC, JT, IR, Peter Excell

16° Unsettled, rain and sun

Completed farmers field fencing. Brought gate posts from Lay-by to site, primed. Moved gates onto rails for priming one side.

Fri 17/9/10 MK, BH (late due to funeral), CM, DC, IR, EP, JF and EG visited

14° rain and sun, changeable

Second coat of primer to gate posts. Turned gates to prime other side. Primed the steel mesh strips. Fitted the cable stays to the gates. Initial prep of the wire mesh cut from some damaged Heras fencing. Started fitting timber extension to crossing.

Sat 18/9/10 MK, BH, CM, AB, DM, Peter Exell, KR visited

13° Drizzle all day, miserable.

Cut final Heras panel for gate mesh. Sorted edge strips to secure mesh. Broke down scrap Heras panels. Continued to repair BJB bolts.

Tue 21/9/10 MK (late arrival), BH, CM, JT, DC, IR, PC, EP, AB

16° Overcast, dry.

Used the loan cherrypicker to trim trees between the crossing and lay-by.

Concentrated on cuts requiring the chain saw while DC was on site. Brought rubber rail pads to site for first two panels. Checked ground level with laser, sub-base OK, loose material needs removing.

Fri 24/9/10 MK, BH, CM, EP, IR, EG and JF visited

9° sun and showers, winter on its way...

Used the loan cherrypicker to trim remaining small branches, made ready for return to load company. Then pm laid sleepers and rails for the first panel on the 'other side'. Drilled 2 fishplate holes and fishplated one joint. Other rail required cutting for weld.

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Sat 25/9/10 MK, BH, PM, AB, DM, EG, John Williamson visited  
9° dry but cloudy  
Cut rails and drilled fishplate holes. Water bottle pump failed, PM bought a replacement. Commenced making up BJBs. Brought up more sleepers and removed 98lb rail to lay-by.

Mon 27/9/10 MK  
8° cloudy  
Cherry picker taken away by contractor. Fitted hose connection to rail drill. Marked out for next track panel. Used surveyors wheel to measure 225 m to the white posts and 400 m to the lay-by west fence from the crossing gates.

Tue 28/9/10 MK, BH, CM, JT, IR, EP, PC, C?  
13° Rain / drizzle just about all day  
Completed making up BJBs and packing sleepers in the first panel past the crossing. Marked out 'edge of sleeper' line down to lay-by using IR theodolite and marked with white paint. Couple of posts also put in with 1 m offset. Moved crane over crossing onto new panel. Laid sleepers for next panel, laid rails and drilled fishplate holes. Fishplated up to previous panel.

Fri 1/10/10 MK, BH, CM, AB, IR visited  
13° Started dry, but deteriorated into a full scale storm after lunch with torrential rain and wind.  
Started refurbishing BJB fixings during the morning. Lunchtime McCombies arrived to start gate post installation. Rain started during lunch, spent the afternoon in the GUV refurbishing bolts. McC concreted-in gate posts.

Mon 4/10/10 MK, EG visited  
14° dry and sunny  
End gate timbers installed and gates hung by McCombies. Total time for the post and gate installation by McCombies was one day. Wire mesh fitted to the first gate.

Tue 5/10/10 MK, BH, CM, JT, PC, IR, DC, JF visited  
14° Sunny with a sharp shower midday  
Fitted wire mesh to second gate. White undercoated one gate. Screwed down the crossing extension timber and fitted screwbolts to the short support sleepers in the crossing. Completed fitting BJBs to the second track panel.

Wed 6/10/10 MK  
14° Wet start, cleared up.  
Fitted the plywood gate stops to the gate posts.

Thu 7/10/10 MK (half day), BH  
13° Dull but dry  
Primer and undercoat applied to gates and posts.

Fri 8/10/10 MK, BH, CM, IR, DC

13° Clagged in all day

Ballast packed track panel and test ran OK. Tested Wylie overload on crane by lifting one end of the Lomac – yellow warning, red alarm and bell worked OK. Loaded Lomac with all gash materials from the east of the crossing. Moved works train across to the west side. Laid sleepers and rails for next panel, cut and drilled rails. Changed the Rotabroach cutter for the TCT version – 4 TCT holes drilled.

Sat 9/10/10 MK, BH, CM, DC, DM, PM

13° Clagged in again, damp.

Moved surplus material from Lomac to lay-by. Dragged 2 rails into position for laying. Brought more sleepers down from lay-by. Checked track profile east of the crossing, pathside needs excavating. Test fitted gate bolts, need additional holes drilling. Completed third panel from crossing BJB bolting. Laid out sleepers for fourth panel west of crossing.

Tue 12/10/10 MK, BH, CM, DC, EP, PC, JT, AB, DM, IR, Cameron DoE, JF visited  
9° Clagged in again

Laid rails on sleepers, cut and drilled both ends, made up BJBs. Marked out and scraped ballast level with sleeper for next panel. Greased crane nipples. TCT cutter showing minor signs of distress after 12 holes, maybe need a lighter touch on the handle or lubricant. JF took away metal strip for chopping to length for securing cross-pieces on the gates.

Fri 15/10/10 MK, BH, DC, IR, EP

12° Reluctant sun and couple of showers

Packed sleepers, ran crane to panel end OK. Laid out sleepers for next panel and set the rails. Cut and drilled the rail ends, fishplated up. TCT cutter has done 12 + 8 = 20 holes. Greased the crane ropes. Moved the fork lift to the lay-by ready for the hose reel repair by KR.

Sat 16/10/10 BH

11° A mixture of sunshine and showers improving as the day progressed

Refurbished existing collection of BJB bolts. Extracted further 25 seized bolts from latest panel and refurbished. Checked in at Milton to confirm fork lift repair effected by KR & IR (Hydraulic oil topped up to cope with loss which will be experienced during use of bucket for ballast loading – KR to remove ram for repair when ballast loading complete)

Mon 18/10/10 MK

11° showers and sunny spells

Removed the red circles and wire mesh on the east crossing gate. Painted panel numbers on all panels laid.

Tue 19/10/10 MK, BH, IR, EP, PC, DC

7° Cold and dull, the odd rain shower

Shunted rolling stock to allow old 03 and dogfish to head shunt. Ballasted running line head shunt and full crossover. Spread ballast as required. Ordered one more load from Bert via FG for 2 panels east and 2 panels west of the crossing, plus repairs at the culvert.

Wed 20/10/10 MK

8° Sunny afternoon

Undercoated the east face of the east gate, wooden crosspieces and steel strips.

Fri 22/10/10 MK, BH, DC, EP, CM, IR, JF and EG visited

4° cold and drizzle

Levelled the running line with the loop at the east end of the platform. Then levelled the running line east into the middle of the turnout. Ballast packed with the Hilti packers.

Sat 23/10/10 MK, BH, DC, CM, AB, DM

5° Sunny and cool

Levelled running line head shunt up to buffer stop. Red Oxide primed the check rail ends.

Mon 25/10/10 MK

5° Sunny

First topcoat to the east crossing gate.

Tue 26/10/10 MK, BH, CM, JT, IR, EP, PC, EG visited

14° Damp morning, cleared up to warmer

Levelled the crossover and loop turnout. All low on the road side.

Wed 27/10/10 MK

12° Sunny

Painted ends of check rails on crossover with white undercoat.

Thu 28/10/10 MK, EG, CM, IR, MW, BH

9° Overcast, then some sun.

Bon-Accord steam training day. BH topcoated the level crossing east gate, and also both sets of posts.

Fri 29/10/10 MK, BH, EP

14° Some sun, then wet and windy

Stripped pickets from old fencing panels and moved to the caravan to dry out.

Screwed down the switch lever for the loop turnout, still requires adjustment. Crane test carried out by BV, passed OK but traction conduit and jib paintwork will need attention. Wire mesh and red circles fitted to east gate at the crossing, EG brought gate furniture for installation.

Sat 30/10/10 MK, BH

13° Sunny



Fitted gate catches to both crossing gates. Painted black topcoat to suitable areas on the east gate posts. Adjusted the hang of the east gate. Top-coated the backing strips. Further painting to both buffer stops. White top-coated crossover rail ends.

Mon 1/11/10 MK

8° overcast

Fitted locking bolts to gates, drilled bolt holes in posts and primed. Painted black trim to base of west gate posts.

Tue 2/11/10 MK, BH, DC, JF

8° Sunny with chill wind

'No-nailed' the cross-pieces in the west gate. Fitted backing strips to the east gate. Painted MoC buffer stops black. Took 03 down to the gates and reduced the hump just before the crossing. Left the crane parked on the hump to help level it.

Wed 3/11/10 MK

9° Sunny

Dropped 6 buckets of ballast into the Dogfish.

Thu 4/11/10 MK, EG, IR

11° Wet

Bon-Accord steam training day. Problems with the injector picking up due to warm water in the tank following clack problems.

Fri 5/11/10 MK, BH, DC

5° Drizzle in the am, cleared up pm.

Dropped ballast at panels east of the crossing gates and at various crib locations. Moved the GUV west to sight the running line levels at platform east end. Ballast not required, minor dip to be removed. Brought the Lomac up to the Milton to load up with fencing and tracklaying materials.

Sat 6/11/10 MK, DC, CM

5° Sunny

Moved running line stock into position. Loaded Lomac with materials to go down to Birkenbaud. Long term planning meeting in the pm.

Tue 9/11/10 MK, BH, DC, CM, EP, JF and EG visited

4° Wet then drier

Levelled running line at east end of the platform. Filled Jerrycans and the Sanderson from the Barclay. Moved the Lomac and GUV to the STOP sign. Viewed the footpath and steps location at the lay-by. Spread ballast by the crossing gates. Class 03 parked at the running line buffer stop ready for repair.

Fri 12/11/10 MK, BH, CM, AB

8° Sunny

Track levelling towards the gates starting at the STOP sign. Bill undercoated the west gate cross pieces. Gaffer tape applied to faulty traction motor conduit under the crane.

Sat 13/11/10 MK, BH, CM

6° Sunny then overcast

Track levelling towards the gates. Bill first topcoated the west gate and mosskilled the Milton buffer stops. Moved tree brash from white post trackside to path side ready for chipping.

Tue 16/11/10 MK, BH, CM, EP, PC, DC

6° Overcast

Barrowed ballast into low points, then carried on track levelling. Fitted mesh and roundals to the west gate. Bert appeared to take some video for his company history.

Fri 19/11 and Sat 20/11 cancelled due to absences.

Tue 23/11/10 MK, BH, CM, DC, EP, PC, AB, JF visited

4° Overcast, showers

Completed track levelling up to the crossing gates.

Fri 26/11/10 MK, BH, CM

1° Heavy snow fall all morning

Started old 03 to shunt loop stock down to the crossing to allow BA out on Saturday for Jim's memorial service, but lost traction in any other gear but first. Abandoned after an early lunch.

Tue 30/11/10

0°

No work due to snow

Fri 3/12/10 MK, BH, CM, PC

0° Heavy snow

Cleared platform of snow and laid down grit

Sat 4/12/10 MK, BH, CM, TG

0° Snow showers

More snow clearing from platform and track. Filled generator with diesel.

Tue 7/12/10

-3° Clear blue sky

No work due to lying snow

Fri 10/12/10 MK, BH, CM, IR, EP

7° Cloudy with a thaw

Snow clearing and battery cable repair to Sanderson.

- Captain's Log -

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Sat 11/12/10 MK, BH  
Snow clearing on platform

Tue 14/12/10 MK, BH, JT, PC, DC, TG, JF, IR, CM, EP  
MWG Christmas party at Scott Skinners

Fri 17/12/10 MK, BH, CM  
-4° Snow showers  
Snow clearing from platform

Sat 18/12/10 MK, IR  
-5° Snow clearing from platform, defrosting new 03

Several weeks outage due to weather.....

Tues 1/2/11 MK, BH, EP, PC  
6° bright  
Started moving rails at lay-by but stopped due to sideloader brake failure. Started palletising chairs at the Milton. Sorted sleepers in stack ready for move to lay-by.

Wed 2/2/11 MK, CM, IR, TG, JF  
7° cloudy and breezy  
Checked air-compressor drive belt on sideloader, requires replacement. Cold inspection of BA completed OK, started re-fitting parts.

Fri 4/2/11 MK, IR, BH, CM, AB  
6° Bright  
Pulled BA out of shed for re-fitting parts. Brought crane, Lomac and GUV up to the Milton, loaded scrap rail and pallets of chairs onto Lomac.

Sat 5/2/11 MK, BH, CM, IR, JW  
5° Dull  
Pulled BA out of shed for re-fitting of parts including ash-pan. Shunted rolling stock out of loop and took crane and Lomac to headshunt to offload materials. Returned to running line.

Tues 8/2/11 MK, BH, CM, EP, PC, DC, IR  
3° Dull  
Continued moving pallets, sleepers and gash materials from the caravan to the compound (2 trips).

Sat 12/2/11 MK, BH, CM, IR, TG, JW, JF  
4° Cloudy  
Steam-up of Bon-Accord to test all A-OK for the boiler inspection

Mon 14/2/11 MK, BH, CM, IR, JW, TG, JF,  
3° Wet

Bon-Accord boiler inspection (hot).

Tues 15/2/11 MK, BH, CM, IR, DC, PC, EP

3° cloudy

Moved the caravan to the car park. Bill unwell.

Wed 16/2/11 MK, JW

5° wet

Tube wagon delivered and placed on tracks by Ian/Gray forklift.

Tues 22/2/11 MK, CM, IR, EP, PC, JT part time

6° started dull improved to weak sun

Cleared out the grey container ready for the move. Alastair Connell visited to carry out the full track survey.

Thurs 24/2/11 MK, John Hopkins

8° Dry

Crane pallet forks arrived for offload

Fri 25/2/11 MK, CM, IR, PC, EP, AB, FG & TG visit

10° sunny

Moved containers to the trackside using the Palmaris HIAB, then moved the C&W and small grey container to final site locations. Moved the water tank and gash rails to temporary locations to allow site prep for the picnic saloon and water tank. Moved the cement mixer to west of the gardening container.

Sat 26/2/11 MK, IR, CM, KR, PM, AB, DM

9° Sunny

Moved the 20 ft container into final position. Moved 2 oil drums up to containers using the new crane forks. Serviced the crane traction contactors. KR started clearing the site around the office.

Tues 1/3/11 MK, CM, IR, BH, PC, EP, JF & JT visited

12° sunny

Finished clearing the pallet storage area at the lay-by. Selected one set of wooden platforms to be brought back to MoC. Started preps for the repair of BA front bearings.

Fri 4/3/11 MK, IR, CM, PC, TG, JF & BH visit

12° sunny

Removed the front bearings from Bon-Accord for rectification.

Sat 5/3/11 MK, IR, BH, AB, JW, DA, TG

12° sunny

Shunted Lomac to the west of the GUV ready for track works. Painted cant markings on sleepers in the curve and reviewed track levels requiring action. Removed remaining picket fencing ready for trenching and office move.

- Captain's Log -

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Tues 8/3/11 MK, CM, BH, PC, EP, IR, JF visit

8° cloudy, drizzle

Waited all morning for the HIAB, arrived 1.45. Moved the pallets to the lay-by and brought back a wooden platform for the 'drive for a fiver' access and a scrap rail. New pallet forks worked fine.

Fri 11/3/11 MK, CM, BH, EP, IR

4° Drizzle

Unloaded coal from artic ready to lift into the tube wagon. Re-fitted the front bearings back into Bon Accord.

Sat 12/3/11 MK, CM, IR, TG, BH

3° snow

Test runs of Bon-Accord showed bearings getting hot. Loco failed.

Tues 15/3/11 MK, BH, CM, IR, EP, PC, JT, AB, JF visit

5° Rain

Loaded coal bags into tube wagon using the crane. Viewed site of trench in preparation for Bill Glennie's visit on Saturday. Finished after lunch due to heavy rain.

Sat 19/3/11 CM, IR, AB, BG

14° sunny

Bill Glennie brought his mini-digger to create the trenches for power and water.

Tues 22/3/11 MK, CM, BH, EP, JT

13° sunny

Carried out track repairs west of the Milton west turnout following survey. Prepared the foundations for the water tank and the picnic saloon.

Fri 25/3/11 MK, BH, CM

10°

Moved all materials to front of office to allow Bert to grade the site. Prepared foundations for the water tank and picnic saloon.

Tues 29/3/11 MK, BH, CM, IR, JT, PC, EP, AB

8° cloudy

Loaded rails and points onto the empty chassis, plus the galvanised platform. Offloaded heavy items from the Lomac. Repaired crane fuel leak – copper pipe from fuel filter to tank cracked at the union. Moved materials from in front of the office back to the rear. Fuel leak started from the Sanderson, requires new fuel pipe.

Fri 1/4/11 MK, BH, CM, IR, TG

11° cloudy and drizzle

Took additional sleepers down to the BA shed from the yard for jacking. Pulled BA out and drained the water. Filled the crane fuel tank. Connected the BA water tank supply.

Sat 2/4/11 MK, JW, BH, IR, TG, DA

11° drizzle

Removed BA connecting and coupling rods. Jacked up the loco and removed the two front axle boxes. Front left to go for re-machining.

Tues 5/4/11 MK, IR, BH, JH, TG

11° Dry

Site visit to Old Meldrum station to view the building.

Tues 12/4/11 MK, CM, JT, BH, IR, PC

8° dry

Big shunt to bring out the half height container to the yard, for subsequent move to OM.

Fri 15/4/11 MK, IR

10° cloudy

Took various measurements on BA axle boxes and journals. All appears OK. Took delivery of the 8ft container for OM and put the quickfit scaffold inside.

Tue 19/4/11 MK, BH, PC, JT, CM pm

10° dry

Repairs to the railhead track panel.

Wed 20/4/11 MK, BH, PC, Davey Mearns

18° Dry

Site visit to OM to view slating needs.

Fri 22/4/11 MK, BH, CM, IR part

18° sunny and warm

Installed fence posts to picket fence at Birkenbaud, followed by the rails and some of the pickets.

Sat 23/4/11 MK

14° cloudy

Installed rail extension to the Birkenbaud picket fence.

Fri 29/4/11 MK, BH

15° sunny

Picket fencing works at Birkenbaud

Sat 30/4/11 MK, BH

16° sunny

Picket fencing works at Birkenbaud

Tue 3/5/11 MK, BH, PC, JT

14° Sunny but cold wind

Picket fencing works at Birkenbaud. Started greasing fishplates on the running line.

Fri 6/5/11 MK, BH, IR

12° cool

Removed LHS front front axle box guide for machining. Completed 99% of the picket fencing at Birkenbaud.

Tue 10/5/11 MK, BH, CM, JT, PC, AB

14° showers

Continued greasing fishplates panels 40 – 27.

Thurs 12/5/11 MK, BH, JH part time

12° showers

Visit to OM to start demolition. Cleared ground, removed non-original finishings.

Fri 13/5/11 MK, BH, TG & IR part time

11° cloudy

Fitted machined axle box guide to Bon-Accord and measured the cross frame distortion. Found to be unsatisfactory and removed for re-machining.

Sat 14/5/11 MK, BH, TG

12° cloudy

Guide re-machined by Ted a.m. Re-fitted the guide and re-measured, all measurements found to be correct.

Tue 17/5/11 MK, BH, CM, JW, AB

12° cloudy

Fishplate greasing panel 27 up to panel 11

Fri 20/5/11 MK, BH, CM, JH, PA, GI, DC

14° sunny with showers

Cleared out the internal rooms at OM, investigated the incoming electrical power supply, removed electrical fittings such as power sockets and light switches.

Removed the entrance porch. Erected Heras fencing to the east side of the building.

Tue 24/5/11 MK, BH, CM, JW, TG

14° sunny but very windy

MK to Oldmeldrum in the morning to hand hold the photographer from the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Scotland, who was to take photos before the building was demolished.

The rest of the guys were re-assembling axle boxes to Bon-Accord, followed by the rest of the running gear. Methodology for brake linkage as follows : Lift the U shaped assembly of rods to the rear of the loco and feed in underneath. Fit both front drop

links and brake blocks. Fit one rear drop link and brake block. Feed the end of the brake linkage cross shaft into the bottom of the rear drop link at least an inch more than normally required. Fit the last drop link and brake block. Knock the cross shaft back until it enters the last drop link and secure all with split pins.

Fit brake linkage to front drop links. To fit the rear linkage, it is necessary to unwind the hand brake mechanism as far as it will go, and then lever the steam brake down to get the 'clevis' to mate with the actuating lever.

Wed 25/5/11 MK, BH, JW, TG

12° Mixed

Continued fitting BA brake gear, coupling and connecting rods etc. The water pump eccentric strap was NOT connected. Rest run with D2094 showed front bearings A-OK, rear bearings so-so, but the loose eccentric strap was smashed. Loco was then steamed for further tests and result for rear bearings was inconclusive. Loco to be operated on a normal train day and situation to be re-assessed.

Fri 27/5/11 MK, BH, PA, HP, GI, TG

11° dull and chilly

OM - Internal partitions removed, good wood recovered. Phone and other extraneous wiring removed. Commenced removal of west end room internal wall claddings.

Sat 28/5/11 MK, BH, KR part time

12° bright

Soil supplied by the Estate spread around the base of the picket fencing at Birkenbaud. Rails for 7 panels brought up the line from the lay-by, now reached the white posts. Assisted KR to install picket fencing at the MoC railhead, alongside the headshunt.

Tue 31/5/11 MK, BH, PC, CM part time

15° sunny

Hill of Banchory Primary school visit for train rides and flower tub works. Installed picket fencing to the east end of the MoC headshunts. Fishplate greasing on Bullhead in the station section.

Fri 4/6/11 MK, BH, JH, GI, JL, PA, TG, PC

25° Hot and sunny

OM - Built wooden frame over the pipe basket to carry tarps. Started demolition of the west end room. Recovery of usable timber.

Tue 7/6/11 MK, BH, CM, JT, PC

10° started dry, then steady drizzle

Started greasing fishplates in the curve but rained off after an hour.

Fri 10/6/11 MK, BH, JL, JP, PA, PC, AB, JH

12° overcast then sunny.



OM - Completed the demolition of the west end room. Started removing ceiling mouldings in the main room. Re-useable wood moved to the pipebasket.  
Oldmeldrum Academy arrived to start removing their belongings – at last !

Tue 14/6/11 MK, BH, PC, CM, JT

20° sunny and warm

Completed greasing of all fishplates between the STOP sign at Birkenbaud and the Milton Platform. Also ran a single run charter service for the Cults Nursery, BMU trailer car plus Barclay diesel.

Fri 17/6/11 BH, JH, JL, PC, PA, ? (MK ill)

OM - Relocation of stored materials and started disassembly of the east end room.

Sat 18/6/11

11° rained all day !

Bon-Accord steam day and dedication of Jim's plaque on the locomotive in the presence of Margaret and members of the family.

Fri 24/6/11 MK, BH, JH, IR, PC, GI

12° scattered clouds and occasional showers.

OM station – disassembly continued of the east end room. External shiplap and internal cladding removed as far as possible. Windows removed c/w glass.

Numerous structural posts completely rotten in lower third, not connected to the ground ! All re-usable timber moved to the pipe basket.

Friday 8/07/11 PC GI PA BH (10am -15.30pm)

17° A superb day dry and sunny.

OM - In the morning cleared out residual timbers and drama equipment to enable completion of the down taking of the remaining cornice mouldings. Erected scaffolding to facilitate dismantling of guttering. Spent remainder of day removing guttering from front of building marking up and storing.

Friday 15/07/11 GI PA BH (10am – 14.45)

18° Yet again another fine day (before the storms).

OM - AM erected part herras fencing at front of building, relocated balance and cleared rear of building to enable scaffolding to be put up for removal of guttering. Completed downtaking of rear and west end guttering, cleaned marked up and stored. PM commenced removing internal panelling at corner junctions to establish visual access to construction framework.

Fri 22/07/11 MK, PA, BH, JH, IR

OM - Removed the ceiling cladding from the west end room.

Tue 27/07/11 MK, GI, BH, IR

12° cloudy

OM - Removed ceiling cladding from the main and east end rooms.

Fri 5/8/11 MK, BH, GI, PC, IR, AB, EP, TG

14° cloudy

OM - Removed east end gutters, mouldings and remaining soffits. Took measurements for lifting attachments.

Tue 9/8/11 MK, BH, PC, JT, IR

13° sunny at last !

Railhead – laid sleepers out for the next panel and dropped the rails into place. Laid about 12 sleepers for the next panel. Lowered the crane jib over the Lowmac supported by a wooden sleeper on end to assess the extent of jib paint repairs needed.

Fri 12/8/11 MK, PC, IR, GI, EP, PA

14° scattered clouds and sun

OM – Removed and de-nailed barge boards. Sorted wood into a pile for DC to cut up and bag. Moved timber to west of site to make space for scaffolding.

Tue 16/8/11 MK, BH, CM

16° Dry and sunny, showers later.

Railhead – cut rails to length and started drilling fishplate holes. Few problems getting Rotabroach started after a year out of use, seems to be fuel – too much oil ? Also started cutting back corrosion on the crane jib and applying red oxide base paint.

Fri 19/8/11 MK, BH, CM

16° cloudy but sunny spells

Railhead – started fishplating the panel, problems connecting rails due to crane sitting over the joint. Continued cutting back corrosion on the crane jib and red oxidizing.

Tue 23/8/11 MK, BH, CM, JT, PC, AB

14° Cloudy then drizzle

Railhead – finished BJBs on one panel, then laid sleepers and dropped rail into place on the next one. Finished grinding and priming crane jib.

Fri 26/8/11 MK, BH, PC, EP

15° Scattered clouds

Railhead – cut, drilled and fishplated up next panel. Various problems with the Rotabroach recoil starter but resolved. New fishplate greasing kit arrived.

Sat 27/8/11 MK, BH, AB

14° Scattered clouds

Railhead – made up BJB fittings on the railhead panel. AB strimmed trackside grass.

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Mon 29/8/11 MK

11° cold and grey

Applied maroon top coat to the crane jib repairs.

Tue 30/8/11 MK, BH, EP, CM, JT

13° cloudy, showers in afternoon

Finished previous track panel BJBS. Laid out sleepers and rails for next track panel.

Fri 2/9/11 MK, BH, EP, CM, Peter Bill's friend

16° sunny spells, dry.

Cut and drilled both ends of the next panel. Maximed the BJBS leaving half a dozen to be re-worked.

Tue 6/9/11 MK, BH, Peter Bill's chum, PC, AB, JT, EP, CM

15° sunny with strong wind

Completed BJBS on the last panel, then laid out sleepers for the next panel. Laid in rails and fishplated up. Lifted out the crossing for the next turnout together with two pieces of rail. Measured the two FB switch blades rail heights and the matching BH rail so Bill can order the FB to BH conversion fishplates. Three panels to go to the white posts.

Fri 9/9/11 MK, BH, CM, PC, EP, AB

16° rained all day !

Made up BJBS on railhead panel. Rotabroach TCT cutter gave out after 25 holes, grub screw stuck in place, needed allen key to release.

Tue 14/9/11 MK, BH, CM, PC, JT, IR

13° Dry, just a few spots.

Fixed Rotabroach cutter. Laid out sleepers and rails for the next panel, only 2 more to the white posts.

Wed 14/9/11 MK, BH, TG

13° dry

OM – cut up the pile of scrap timber ready for bagging. TG test fitted the wall lifting clamp and found it needs some modification. CB will source more 1 ton bags.

Fri 16/9/11 MK, BH, PC

11° started dry but went downhill to heavy rain.

Started BJBSing railhead panel but eventually rained off.

Sat 17/9/11

13° scattered cloud

Meeting at the lay-by to discuss tracklaying plans.

Tue 20/9/11 MK, BH, CM, PC, JT, PE

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13° sun and showers

Railhead - laid second last panel prior to the white posts. Sleepers laid out, rails laid on, fishplated up, all holes broached, started BJBing.

Fri 23/9/11 MK, CM, BH, PC, PE

14° sunny

Repaired BJB fixings, then moved up works train.

Sat 24/9/11 MK, BH, PM, AB, DM, PE

15° sunny

Repaired BJBS on sleepers ready for final panel before the white posts. Cleared the lay-by area of lay down timbers. Lifted down the first wooden track panel and removed rails.

Tue 27/9/11 MK, BH, PC, EP, JT

16° scattered cloud, dry

Laid out sleepers for last full panel before the white posts. Laid in rails and BJB'd up. At least 3 metres short of the white posts so no further tracklaying action until plans for the next section are finalised.

Fri 30/9/11 MK, BH, PC, EP

21° warm sunny day at last !

Layby – Started lifting down track panels for stripping. Completed 1 off three quarter panel, 2 off half panels and one full panel. Built sleeper stack 5 high x 9 across = 53 sleepers.

Sat 1/10/11 MK, BH, DM

15° wet and much cooler.

Birkenbaud – strainer for the fence installed and ground cleared ready to take the fencing. All 3 strainers now in place.

Lay-by – removed the rails from the track panel on the ground ready for sleeper pick-up.

Tue 4/10/11 MK, BH, IR, EP

13° cloudy but dry

Lay-by : Track panel stripping at the lay-by – in a sea of mud. Managed to get the Mitsubishi bogged down – and freed again. Completed the stripping of three panels, good progress with the first stack removed. Awaiting a decision from committee as to track laying plans which will affect where the sleeper stacks will be stored.

Fri 7/10/11 BH, EP, IR

12° sunny but cold wind

Lay-by : Stripping panels and general tidy up.

Sat 8/10/11 MK, BH, AB, DM, KR (pm)

11° dry at first and then drizzle

Lay-by : KR worked on the sideloader assessing brake master cylinder options.  
Carried on stripping wooden track panels. A few panels with nearly half the sleepers scrap.

Tue 11/10/11 MK, BH, CM, PC, DM, IR, JT (part time)

11° Dry at first then light sharp showers

Lay-by : Continued panel stripping. Lifted down a set of switch blades on sleepers + crossing – managed to get stuck in soft ground and had to drop it at an awkward angle for manual stripping. Lifted down a panel of 18 concrete + 1 wood after discussion with KR – no problems.

Fri 14/10/11 MK, BH, CM, IR, PC, DM, AB

12° Dry day with scattered clouds

Lay-by : Continued panel stripping. Turnout on sleepers disassembled and stored. 1 ton bags arrived from CB and stored in the blue container prior to taking to OM for BA firewood.

Tue 18/10/11 MK, BH, CM, IR, PC, EP

8° Cold wind, short shower late afternoon

Lay-by : Completed stripping track panel and then concentrated upon clearing the site to allow Bert's men to lay ballast in the coming week.

Fri 21/10/11 MK, BH, CM, IR, PC, EP

10° cold wind, dry

White – posts : Crane failed to start due to low battery. The second 24v charger from the Milton eventually worked and after an hours charge the crane diesel started without problems. Moved up to rail head. Cut last panel to length taking the minimum off the rails, removed last three concrete sleepers and replaced with timber and Pandrol fixings. Now waiting for Bert to lay ballast.

Mon 24/10/11 MK, Ken Smith

11° windy but dry

Birkenbaud – installed path fence posts.

Tue 25/10/11

11° Monsoon conditions – all work cancelled

Wed 26/10/11 MK, BH, CM

12° Fine day

Birkenbaud – Removed Heras fencing to the lay-by and wired up the post and wire fence east section.

Fri 28/10/11 MK, BH, CM, IR

9° fine day

Birkenbaud – Completed wiring of the fence. Installed gates to fork lift access point. Refuelled the Sanderson from D2134, also filled the two jerrycans. 175 gallons remaining in the loco. Packed the 3 sleepers at the end of the last panel. Greased the crane ropes, brothers and general oil lube.

Tue 1/11/11 MK, BH, CM, PC, IR

12° fine day

Birkenbaud – annual crane inspection carried out by BV (Bureau Veritas) Certifying Authority, all satisfactory. Removed all remaining gash materials from trackside to the lay-by, but picked up a puncture in the Sanderson front left tyre.

Lay-by – Bert on site laying the base ballast from white posts to the lay-by, 3 truck loads. Also cleaned up the worksite and prepped the west exit.

Fri 4/11/11 MK, BH, CM, IR, PC, EP, AB

11° damp but improved during the day

Lay-by – sorted out BH rail and laid 4 panels worth trackside. Then used the Mitsubishi to lay out one panel of BH sleepers. Laid in the rails and brought down temporary transition fishplates.

Tue 8/11/11 MK, BH, CM, IR, PC

11° dreich !

Railhead – completed make-up of first BH panel at the white posts, the transition fishplates were perfect fit. Levelled base ballast for the next panel and laid out sleepers. Came to move up the works train but the crane battery failed again – second time in two weeks. Clearly U/S so removed to the Milton office for disposal. KR is provisioning replacements (BOSCH – 625 012 072 12V 125AH 720A 0 180 682 50C)

Lay-by – moved chaired sleeper stacks so the Sanderson can access from both sides to make track laying with the Sanderson easier.

Fri 11/11/11 MK, BH, CM, EP, PC

9° Dreich – again !

OM – filled a skip with rubbish, and filled the 1 ton bags with firewood for BA. Set up Heras fencing and put a padlock on the entrance door.

Sat 12/11/11 MK, BH, IR, AB

10° - better day at last

Railhead – clipped up track panel, ballasted sleepers and moved up the works train. Levelled ballast ready for next set of sleepers. Removed 4 off 95 lb FB rails to upper level.

Tue 15/11/11 MK, BH, CM, IR, PC

10° dry but cloudy

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Milton – carried out a track inspection (Bullhead clips) from the platform west ramp down to the start of the FB rail. Any clips either loose, corroded or cracked were changed out, all others left in place.

Railhead – laid another complete BH track panel in 3 hours, a record !

Fri 18/11/11 MK, BH, CM, IR, PC, EP

10° scattered cloud

Railhead – laid another 2 track panels, just reaching the east end of the lay-by.

Sat 19/11/11 MK, BH, CM, PM, AB, DM

10° scattered cloud

Railhead – sorted out various gash sleepers. Packed last panel laid and moved up works train. Levelled ballast for next panel and laid out sleepers.

Tue 22/11/11 MK, BH, CM, IR, PC

8° drizzle in the am, improved to sunny spells in the pm.

Dropped rails into the penultimate panel and made up. Laid out sleepers for the LAST track panel, laid in rails and clipped up. Just needs ballasting.

Fri 25/11/11 MK, BH, IR

9° Dry, scattered cloud

Finished LAST track panel at lay-by. Moved Sanderson to the Milton and fitted the bucket. Dropped some planings in entrance pot holes. Moved Sanderson back to the lay-by, early finish as boys had to go.

Tue 29/11/11 MK, BH, CM, JT, PC

10° dry

Carried out track inspection and effected BJB repairs as needed.

Fri 2/12/11 MK, BH, CM PC

7° dry

Completed track inspection and repairs. Took Sanderson to the Milton for some planings to be moved to mobile toilet block. Started dropping ballast into the trackbed drains.

Sat 3/12/11 KR

Keith checked antifreeze protection, Sanderson and sideloader were at -5 deg C, needed top up. Crane OK at -20 deg C.

Tue 6/12/11 MK, CM, BH, PC, EP

2° Dry

Completed dropping ballast into the trackbed drains. Topped up Sanderson with 2 litres of neat antifreeze, and the sideloader with 1 litre.

Fri 9/12/11 MK, BH, PC, EP

2° dry

Completed backfilling of the trackbed drain trench west of the lay-by. Started sorting the concrete sleepers at the lay-by into 5x5 stacks ready for moving west.

Tue 13/12/11 MK, JT, EP, IR, CM, PC, TG, BH

3° dry then heavy rain and wind.

MWG Annual Christmas party at Scott Skinners.

Fri 16/12/11 MK, PC, CM, BH

2° Dry

Sanderson failed to start due sub-zero weather. Moved some of the brash from the temporary platform location into the field.

Fri 6/1/12 CM, BH, PC

5° Dry

Assisted in removing brash from the tree fallen across the line east of the culvert.

Tue 10/1/12 MK, BH, CM, JT

5° dry

Morning spent at the funeral of Brian Slade. Afternoon spent assembling concrete sleepers into 5x5 stacks at the lay-by.

Fri 13/1/12 MK, BH, CM

4° Dry and sunny

Lay-by – moving sleeper stacks to the west of the lay-by.

Tue 17/1/12 MK, BH, CM, PC, EP

1° Dry and sunny

Lay-by – cleared the site of sleepers to the west entrance and lifted down another track panel to start stripping.

Fri 20/1/12 MK, BH, CM, PC, AB

3° dry

Lay-by – continued panel stripping, completed 3 ½ panels with one in 45 mins – a record ! Found Sanderson steering a problem – needs ATF fluid.

Sat 21/1/12 MK, BH, CM, PC, JW, DA, JH, MC, AB, JT, Shaun, MD

3° fine at first then went downhill to rain and wind later

Lay-by – continued panel stripping, all low level panels completed, sleepers moved out to storage. Top two panels lowered and stripped, including the 24 sleeper concrete, reduced to 16 sleepers. Started to move east side concrete sleepers but Mitsubishi became bogged down in the deep gloop.

Tue 24/1/12 MK, BH, CM, PC, JT, BG

3° started fine, went downhill to rain

Lay-by – moving out sleeper stacks west of the lay-by to temporary storage area. Site ready for Bert to arrive and start back-filling the hole, and moving sleeper stacks.

Thu 26/1/12 MK, IR, BH



3° fine day

Lay-by – had to move a stack of sleepers to give Bert space to manoeuvre his dumper trucks. Bert filling in the big hole using material from the bank.

Fri 27/1/12 MK, IR, BH, CM, PC, EP

2° Fine day, sunny but cold

Lay-by – viewed progress Bert was making at the lay-by, no work possible due to vehicle movements. Searched high and low for the big orange slings in preparation for relocation of the shop, not yet found. Transferred the brash following tree felling at the temporary platform location into the field. Logs already removed by the Estate Rangers.

Sat 28/1/12 MK

1° dry

New orange strops located in the grey container. 12 ton SWL, 18 M circ (30 ft).

Fri 3/2/12 MK, BH, CM, EP, PC, IR

-2° cold but bright

MoC – relocation of the shop. Barclay diesel failed to start, put on charge for an hour. Started eventually and shunt carried out to allow the crane access to the shop area. Lifting string assembled and shop lift carried to new location. Slippage of the crane hoist brake noticeable, managed by use of the foot brake but will need major work at some point.

Tue 7/2/12 MK, BH, CM, IR, PC, JT

0° cold and bright

Lay-by – assisting Bert's boys to re-locate the two stacks of track panels in front of the entrance. The old ramp was dug out and the material used to build the new ramp at the A93 entrance.

Fri 10/2/12 MK, BH, CM, PC, IR

3° cloudy

MoC – brought up Sanderson to MoC and loaded the Lomac with timbers and sleepers in the yard ready to be moved to the Lay-by.

Sat 11/2/12 MK, CM, EP, PC, JW

8° Spring-like day

MoC – Lomac moved down to the lay-by ready to be unloaded when the Mitsubishi is working again and the ground is frozen up. All the scrap wood was loaded into the tube wagon.

Tue 14/2/12 MK, BH, EP, PC, JT

8° cloudy drizzle

Lay-by – re-commenced panel stripping following Bert's work creating the ramp.

Fri 17/2/12 MK, BH, CM, PC

8° clear

Lay-by – more panel stripping, 4 completed.

Sat 18/2/12 MK, BH, CM, PC, AB, DM, JT

7° fine day, turned to snow shower.

Lay-by – stripped 4 more panels, one concrete left to do.

Tue 21/2/12 MK, BH, CM, PC, JT

12° warm Spring day

Lay-by – stripped the final track panel. Commenced building steps for the west footpath access using old sleepers.

Fri 24/2/12 MK, BH, CM, PC

8° bright but chill wind

Lay-by – completed building the steps to the west of the lay-by, including signage.

Sat 25/2/12 MK, BH, AB

6° cool at first, turned to light drizzle mid afternoon.

Moved the spiked track panels off the running to one side. Moved some pallets up to the top storage area. Moved up the Lomac by Barclay ready to offload.

Tue 28/2/12 MK, BH, CM, PC

15° warm but overcast

Lay-by – unloaded the Lomac. Moved all the gash rail on the bank by the lay-by entrance up by the caravan to make space for the Heras fencing to be fitted.

Sideloader gave trouble with loss of drive, reported to KR.

Fri 2/3/12 MK, BH, CM, IR

8° dull and turned to drizzle later.

Lay-by – Lifted the last track panel onto the stack ready for the ramp to be built to offload the visiting steam loco. Rolled the general area following the lay-down of road planings. Installed Heras fencing around the perimeter of the lay-by.

Mon 5/3/12 MK, BH, CM, PC, JH, JL, JP, CB, GI

5° sunny day

Old Meldrum – Contractor erected scaffolding and removed slates and sarking down the south side of the roof, with mob-handed assistance from RDRPS volunteers.

Scaffolding moved to the north side ready for work to begin on that side.

Tue 6/3/12 MK, BH, CM, JH, JL, CB, GI, PC, EP

4° bright but cold wind

Old Meldrum – removed slates and sarking from north side. Removed slates from west end. Erected scaffolding to east ready for slate removal.

Wed 7/3/12 MK, BH, GI, PC, IR, EP

5° bright but cold wind

Old Meldrum – East end slates had been removed by slater on arrival. Slater left site. Team continued removing window glass, about half completed.

Tue 13/3/12 MK, CM, EP, PC, IR, JL, CB, GI, JH, TG

10° bright and dry

Old Meldrum – Completed window glass removal. Hip trusses freed off ready for lift. Various hip lift prep completed.

Fri 16/3/12 MK (part time), BH, CM, GI

9° bit damp, grey.

Lay-by – sleepers prepared to go to OM.

Milton – sarking unloaded from the cargo basket.

Tue 20/3/12 MK, BH, CM, IR, JT, GI

14° bright and sunny

MoC – carried out full track inspection up to STOP sign. Various BJB repairs completed. 2 SHC biscuits to be replaced, twist check on one panel and loop fishplates remaining.

Thu 22/3/12 MK, BH, IR

14° sunny

Completed BJB repairs. Slate boxes and green half height delivered from OM. Old bothy location graded by Bert's boys.

Fri 23/3/12 MK, BH, DC

15° sunny

Lay-by - Cleared away damaged sleepers to make access for the low loader to offload.

Tues 27/3/12 MK, BH, CM, JT, PC, EP, IR

24° HOT

Lay-by – Built the offloading ramp at the end of the running line in the lay-by.

Moved chestnut fencing from Kashentroch to MoC, and fitted to the face of the Heras fencing.

Wed 28/3/12 MK, CM, DC, JW, JT, KR

MoC bothy – Training courses : Induction / PTS /

Fri 30/3/12 MK, BH, CM, EP, PC, IR, DC

15° sunny and warm

The new steam loco arrived at 0915 at the lay-by and was offloaded over the rear of the trailer (ht= 1 metre) using D2094 and the brake van and dogfish as buffer wagons. Crane moved to end of running line, all unused stock also moved west of the level crossing.

The new loco was steamed and prepared for service the following day.

The Barclay diesel starter relay failed and was temporarily fixed using an automotive 24v 40A relay. KR to source correct replacement.

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Fri 6/4/12 MK, BH, CM, IR, PC  
5° grey and drizzle  
MoC – Fired up 1931 ready for service the following day.

Tue 10/4/12 MK, BH, CM, IR, PC, EP  
5° rain  
OM – Some initial prep completed for lifting the hip roof, but steel strongbacks had not been delivered. IR to chase. Test fitted one wall bracket but problems with nails in drilled holes. New HSS 20mm drill to be sourced.

Fri 13/4/12 BH, PC, DC  
5° Clear  
MoC – cutting up pallets and bagging for Steam loco

Sat 14/4/12 MK, BH, DC, DM part  
5° clear, odd wintry shower  
Lay-by – cutting up pallets and bagging for steamer. 4 bags completed another 2 to do. Keith's van + trailer loaded with pallets make about 6 bags.

Fri 20/4/12 MK, BH, CM, IR, PC  
5° drizzle  
OM – set up steel beams into position ready for the lift.

Fri 27/4/12 MK, BH, CM, IR, PC, JH, CB  
4° showers  
OM - loaded the east half of the roof onto the ATR artic and offloaded at the Milton. All went well, no hitches.

Tue 1/5/12 BH, JH, IR, PC  
15° sunny  
OM - fitted wall brackets to the east room walls. ATR arranged for Monday 7th May.

Mon 7/5/12 MK, BH, IR, PC, JH, GI, CB  
8° mostly cloudy  
OM - Lifted out the first three walls using the beam and fittings. All went smoothly and the sections were transferred to MoC by ATR and Davey, via Aberdeen (police routing given the 11ft width.) Offloaded using the Mitsy with 3.5 M fork extensions.

Wed 9/5/12 MK, BH, IR, JH, GI, EP  
8° Some sun, mainly dry.  
OM - fitted all 10 wall brackets to the next 5 wall sections. Briefed JK cranes on the work to be done when they visit.

Mon 14/5/12 MK, BH, IR, CB, PC, EP  
8° sunny

OM - Removed 5 wall sections with Davie and ATR, moved to the MoC and offloaded. Also fitted 4 of the remaining 8 wall brackets.

Fri 18/5/12 MK, BH, IR, CM, PC, EP, GI, HP

6° drizzle

OM - fitted wall brackets to all walls. Lifted secret beams into position. Prepared the cargo basket for the move to MoC.

MoC - Laid out lay-down sleepers and moved slate baskets out the way of the cargo basket location.

Mon 21/5/12 MK, BH, IR, PC, EP, GI

15° sunny

OM - removed the west hip roof and loaded the big cargo basket using JK Cranes 50 ton crane. Completed after 2.5 hours. Davie/ATR took the hip and basket to MoC while the boys carried on taking down the remaining wall sections. A second trip with Davie brought back all remaining tools and equipment, container, scaffolding, ladders etc to Moc / lay-by. All transfer of building sections and demobilisation is now complete.

Wed 30/5/12 MK, BH, IR, EP, PC

8° cloudy and cold

MoC - sorted out the OM container, organised the site, began paint stripping of the first panel.

Fri 1/6/12 MK, BH, EP, PC

12° Scattered cloud

MoC - Fitted longer forks to the Sanderson and test lifted a panel OK. Began paint stripping and applying aluminium primer to the first wall panel.

Sat 2/6/12 MK, BH, PC, DM

12° scattered cloud

MoC - completed scraping paint off the top half of the first wall panel, moved it to storage and laid out the second panel ready for scraping.

Tue 5/6/12 MK, BH, CM, CB, JH

12° showers

OM - final clear-up, rubbish into a skip, agreed fencing etc with Dougie Bain.

MoC - began paint stripping on the 2nd wall panel.

Fri 8/6/12 MK, EP, IR

14° cloudy

MoC - carried on paint stripping of second panel. No sander available so moved this panel to temporary storage and brought out the next one from the stack to start stripping.

Tue 3/7/12 MK, IR, FG, CM, GI - JH, TG part time

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15° sunny

MoC - Carried out the first wall panel framing repair, took about 2 hours. Meeting to discuss the dwarf wall and other prep work needed prior to the erection of the building.

Fri 6/7/12 MK, BH, CM, IR, GI

13°

MoC - Completed framing repairs to 2 more wall panels, 3 now completed. Carried out warm up for the steamer prior to services on the following day.

Tues 10/7/12 MK, BH, CM, IR, PC

12° showers

MoC - Moved wall panels around to get into order. Commenced repairs to the two internal panels. Finally rained off.

Fri 13/7/12 MK, BH, CM, IR, EP, GI

12° Dry !

MoC - Completed repairs to the internal panels. Moved panels around to create the first stack. Commenced repairs to the two front centre panels, both in poor condition.

Sat 14/7/12 MK, BH

12° dry again

MoC - Completed the left hand front centre panel, needed a lot of work. Started the other half, again in poor shape.

Tue 17/7/12 MK, BH, CM, IR, GI

15° dry

MoC - Completed the RD centre front panel. Moved three finished panels to the completed stack. Refuelled the Sanderson and the 3 locos to 95%. Failed the Sanderson due to leaking water pump, notified KR who will inspect tomorrow.

Fri 20/7/12 MK, BH, PC, GI, CM (part time)

16° dry and some sun

MoC - Framing repairs and paint stripping to the RH rear centre panel. Then laid the warming fire in the steam loco in readiness for the following day.

Sat 21/7/12 MK, BH

16° sunny with showers

MoC - paint scraping on panel 8. Applied primer to the window frames.

Tue 24/7/12 MK, BH, CM, PC, GI, DC

18° dry

MoC - Applied primer to the 8th panel and then moved to storage. Brought out panels 9 and 10 to the work stations and started removing the old bottom rails.

Fri 27/7/12 MK, BH, PR, GI, BK

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18° dry

MoC - Completed the repairs to the two panels J & H, 10 out of 12 panels completed. Now awaiting lift facility to turn over the last two panels which are upside down.

Tue 7/8/12 MK, BH, DC, CM

17° dry

MoC - installing new timber in the centre roof truss assembly.

Fri 10/8/12 MK, BH, DC,

18° dry

MoC - Buffing gutters and red oxide painting.

Tue 14/8/12 MK, BH

18° dry after rain

MoC - Completed repairs to the two hip roofs. Continued gutter repairs.

Tue 21/8/12 MK, BH, CM

18° dry with showers

MoC - continued to OM station wall panel repairs

Fri 24/8/12 MK, BH, CM, Bob

17° dry

MoC - completed the joinery repairs to the last panel. Continued paint stripping.

Tue 28/8/12 MK, BH, CM

16° dry

MoC - Continued paint scraping on station wall panel. Visit by the builder to look at building the dwarf wall, awaiting his quote.

Fri 31/8/12 MK, BH, CM

16° dry

MoC - continued paint scraping station wall panels.

Tue 4/9/12 MK, BH

18° - dry windy

MoC - Completed paint scraping on the last wall panel. Moved bricks for the dwarf wall up to the platform. Meeting with JH to discuss progress and actions.

Fri 7/9/12 MK, BH, PE

14° dry

MoC - gutter repairs

Lay-by - crane axle box service

Sat 8/9/12 MK, BH, PE

Lay-by - cutting up and bagging barn wood

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Tue 11/9/12 MK, BH, CM, DC, GI, PE

15° - dry

MoC - crane service and driver familiarisation. Gutter repairs.

Wed 12/9/12 MK, BH, CM, DC

14° - mainly dry - the odd shower

MoC - Crane driver and banksman refresher course. Brickie started to lay station building dwarf wall. Larry (Rooftek) came to view the slating job. OIteac came to inspect the wall panel lifting beam.

Fri 14/9/12 MK, BH, CM, GI, BK

15° dry

Lay-by - cutting up and bagging barn wood.

MoC - paint scraping station gutters. Measuring up for station building holding down bolts. Commenced drilling bolt holes but drill not up to the job. Better kit requested from Palmaris via Frank.

Sat 15/9/12 MK, BH, DC

18° dry

Lay-by - completed cutting up gash wood by chain saw.

MoC - Used Palmaris drill to make holding down bolt holes, fitted the bolts and DPC for the east room.

Tue 18/9/12 MK, BH, CM, IR, GI, JH

12° dry, showers

MoC - Started the erection of the station building, first three panels in place for the east end room.

Wed 19/9/12 MK, BH, CM, JL, PA, DA, JP, HP

15° dry sunny

MoC - installed 2 more wall panels - making 5 in total. Fitted the bolts for the centre room and laid out the DPC.

Fri 21/9/12 MK, BH, CM, IR, GI, BK, JH

11° sunny, showers

MoC - installed panels 6 to 9 inc., 3 to go. Cleared panel site to make space for arrival of wood bags from the lay-by.

Sat 22/9/12 MK, BH, BK

10° dry, sunny

MoC - fitted holding down bolts to west room dwarf wall. Painted NE corner of west room. Continued gutter repairs.

Tue 25/9/12 MK, BH, CM, RR, GI, IR, CB

9°

Installed west room wall panels.

Wed 26/9/12 MK, BH, CM, RR, GI, IR



10°

Installed the two hip ends and the centre trusses.

Sat 29/9/12 MK, BH

11°

Sorted the yard

Wed 3/10/12 MK, BH, CM, IR

9°

Cleared the platform ready for scaffolding. Sorted sarking edge pieces.

Thu 4/10/12 MK

13°

Ran the magnet over the yard.

Fri 5/10/12 MK, BH, CM, IR, RR

14° - dry

Installed all the remaining roof trusses.

Sat 6/10/12 MK, BH, CB

Installed east end OSB sheeting.

Tue 9/10/12 MK, BH, CM, IR, EP

8°

Fitted west end OSB sheeting. Started to empty the cargo basket and sort out.

Fri 19/10/12 MK, BH, IR

7° drizzle

Erected scaffold tower at west end of station.

Mon 22/10/12 MK, BH, JL, JH, GI, CB

4° clear

Started to install the edge sarking to the station roof, and also the first few rows of sarking on the north side.

Tue 23/10/12 MK, BH, IR, JH

7° drizzle

Installed sarking as far as possible to the north side, then started to install sarking to the south side. Frank brought over his scaffold tower to assist with the works.

Fri 26/10/12 MK, BH, IR, EP, GI, BK

2° snow showers

Installed more sarking to the south side, work halted by heavy snow shower.

Removed surplus material from the platform and cleared the yard to make space for the Halloween services and events.

Tue 30/10/12 MK, BH, CM, IR, EP, GI

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5° grey, damp

Installed the last sarking to the south roof, and also 3 more rows to the north roof.  
Prepared the fascias boards, and fitted the east board.

Fri 2/11/12 MK, BH, CM, IR, GI

3° cold

Installed fascia boards to station front.

Sat 3/11/12 MK, BH, IR, GI

2° cold but dry

Installed last sarking to the north side. Started priming the new shiplap.

Tue 6/11/12 MK, BH, CM, IR, EP, PC, GI

6° dry

Installed fascia board to the rear of the station. Discussed slating works with Brian Ewing (slater). Primed all the skirts.

Wed 7/11/12 MK, BH, DM

8° sunny

Davie and Bill started sorting slates. MK ripped the edge timber required by the slater, and primed the west end fascia boards.

Fri 9/11/12 MK, BH, IR, PC, EP, GI

9° clear

Sorted container. Primed window sills. Fitted west end fascia board. Replaced internal cladding in cargo basket.

Tue 13/11/12 MK, BH, IR, EP, PC, GI, DM

9° grey & windy

Davey finished sorting the slates ready for fitting. Fitted the edge strip to the roof and also the last sections of sarking.

Fri 16/11/12 MK, BH, IR, EP, PC, JH, CM, GI, BK

8° dry, cloudy

Scaffolding erected around the building day before by Kudos Scaffolding. Fitted mop rolls to the station roof hips. Palletised No.1 slates and lifted to eaves height by forklift. Palletsied ridge tiles.

Bruce McCombie visited to view the chimney construction, said he'd quote by email. MK rang Dave Cow (joiner 07779912848) to ask him to quote for window sills and doorsets. To visit the site to view job.

Tue 20/11 MK, BH, IR, CM, GI

10° wet !

Lifted boxes of slates to roof height for the slater. Slater finished early afternoon due weather. Continued to clean up the fireplace. Abandoned due to weather.

Fri 23/11/12 MK, BH, CM, EP

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10° dry and sunny

Carried on red leading gutters and priming shiplap. Cleaned up the fireplace and Zebo'd it (black grate polish). Slater fitted the ridge tiles and hip leading to the station roof.

Tue 27/11/12 MK, BH, DMearns, EP, GI, JH

5° showers, cold

Fitted gutters to most of rear of the station. Continued painting (priming) of shiplap.

Fri 30/11/12 MK, BH, CM, EP, IR, GI

3° dry bright

Prepared the platform and station for Santa Specials. All scaffolding had gone, towers were lowered to avoid lead theft. Building swept out. Small size gutter to rear of station removed. Yard tidied.

Tue 4/12/12 MK, BH, CM, GI, EP

4° snowy

Fitted poly sheeting to all the south side door and window openings. Met with Ted to discuss the spec for the two new build end rooms.

Fri 7/12/12 MK, BH, EP, CM, GI

2° snow and ice

Cleared the platform of snow and ice for the Santa Specials. Moved window sills up to the station. Met with Jim Thomson of Deeside Construction to discuss the chimney. They quoted and we accepted.

Mon - Thu 10 - 13/11/12 MK, BH, IR, RR

1° showers, cold

Started to install the window sills at the station, found to be wrong size. All sills and base skirts installed and most of the cladding by close of business. Most window frames dry fitted.

Deeside Construction came on site and built the chimney up to ceiling height. No further work due to low temperatures (-6°C).

Fri 14/11/12 MK, BH, CM, IR, GI, TG, PC, BH, EP

Christmas party at Scott Skinners.

Tue 18/12/12 MK, BH, CM, IR, GI, PC

3° dry

Fitted the window frames to the north side of the two end rooms. Moved doors to the inside of the station from the yard. Fitted most of the remaining cladding to the south side centre.

Fri 4/1/13 MK, BH, EP, PC

10° dry

Continued priming shiplap. Fitted the east side front centre window frames.

Sat 5/1/13 MK, BH

5° dry

Fitted the west side centre front window frames. Completed filling rear walls and some sanding.

Tue 8/1/13 MK, BH, CM, IR, DC, PC

8° sunny, dry

Fitted 4 of the station window frames to the east / centre. Fitted more guttering to east / west ends. Continued priming shiplap.

Fri 11/1/13 MK, BH, CM, IR, PC, EP, FG, GI

4° drizzle

Fitted more gutter sections. Fitted last 2 window frames. Started to fit front door frame.

Fri 1/2/13 MK, BH, IR, CM, EP PC

2° cold

Fitted gutters. Fitted shiplap to front of station.

Sun 3/2/13 MK, FG

2° sunny, cold

Fitted ingoes to front window frames.

Tue 5/2/13 MK, CM, FG, EP, PC

3° dry but cold

Commenced sanding the soffits. Fitted the north side door frame and double doors. Applied sealer to the vertical window ingoes.

Fri 8/2/13 MK, CM, BH, IR, EP, FG

3° sunny

Priming soffits. Fitting shiplap to windows. Prepping aluminium gutters.

Tue 12/2/13 MK, BH, IR, EP, PC, GI

3° light snow showers

Sorted internal linings in the yard for the waiting room walls. Started fitting linings to walls. Started fitting soffits to the north side.

Sat 16/2/13 MK, BH, CM

5° dry

Fitting cast aluminium guttering to north side. Applying sealant and primer to window ingoes.

Tue 19/2/13 MK, BH, CM, IR, GI, PC, FG

8° Spring day !

Down to the lay-by with the Sanderson to load the dogfish with ballast and make a drop in locations needing repair.

Fitted surrounds to the station front door, fitted some internal linings, started painting the front of the building with first undercoat.

Fri 22/2/13 MK, BH, IR, CM, PC, GI, BK

3° cold and grey

Work progressed on installing the new guttering to the front of the station. Internal wall cladding fitted to the waiting room, and wall insulation fitted where space permitted.

Tue 26/2/13 MK, BH, IR, CM, GI, PC

6° fine sunny day

Repairs to gutter leaks – again. Down to the lay-by to spread ballast. Applying undercoat to rear of station. Cutting new hinge locations to the rear doors and frame.

Fri 1/3/13 MK, BH, IR, PC

6° dry

Fitted remaining gutter corners. Effected gutter joint repairs – again. Continued to fit soffits to front of station. New hinge locations fitted to rear double door frame.

Sat 2/3/13 MK

6° dry

Fitted filler pieces to old hinge locations on rear doors. Fitted supports to the doorway being removed waiting room/ east end room.

Tue 5/3/13 MK, BH, FG, CM, PC, IR

4° sunny

Fitted door frame to rear of station, loose fitted doors. Primed the frame. Meeting with the planner about station progress, no big issues raised.

Fri 8/3/13 MK, BH, CM, PC

2° drizzle

Paint stripping walls of the station waiting room. Blocked off the waiting room / east end room south door.

Sat 9/3/13 MK, BH, DM

2° dry

Paint stripping of waiting room walls. Machined the window architrave and started to fit.

Tue 12/3/13 MK, BH, CM, FG, IR

3° dry, snowy

Moved waiting room ceiling linings to the station, moved unused shiplap from yard to the cargo basket. Fitted rear double doors to station. Progressed waiting room window architrave.

Continued paint scraping in waiting room.

Fri 15/3/13 MK, BH, CM, BK, GI

3° cold and wet

Paint scraping of waiting room walls. Sanding of East front windows, ingos to rear waiting room window.

Tue 19/3/13 MK, BH, CM, IR

3° snow showers

Fitted crash bars to emergency door. Paint scraping to waiting room walls. Sorted ceiling linings.

Fri 22/3/13 MK, BH, CM, PC, GI, BK, FG (IR, DC part time)

2° snow showers

Scraping and sanding of wall linings in waiting room. Fixed final sections to the emergency exit doors. Started the architraving to the west side waiting room windows.

Sat 23/3/13 MK, BH, DC, PC, DM

1° snow showers again

Scraping and sanding of waiting room wall and ceiling linings. Continued waiting room window architraves.

Tue 26/3/13 MK, BH, CM, GI, DC, IR (part time)

2° snow showers

Continued scraping waiting room walls and fitting window architrave. Sanding of ceiling linings ongoing.

Fri 29/3/13 MK, BH, CM, IR, PC, DC

2° cold but sunny with the odd short snow shower.

Continued scraping waiting room walls. Continued fitting window architraves. Front soffits just about completed.

Sat 30/3/13 MK, BH, DC, IR

2° cold, dry

Continued scraping waiting room walls. Completed window architraves and applied primer. Commenced scraping soffit mouldings and applied primer.

Tue 2/3/13 MK, BH, IR, DC, PC, EP

2° cloudy, light showers

Completed the architraves around front windows and door. Fitted linings to corners on the waiting room. Soffit mouldings fitted to front, soffits to east end.

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Fri 5/4/13 MK, BH, IR, DC, PC, EP

4° grey

Fitted corner linings to the waiting room plus corner mouldings. East end soffit moulding and south side ply soffits fitted. Window frame undercoating started to front windows.

Tue 9/4/13 MK, BH, CM, IR, PC, EP, GI

3° grey

Fitted linings to the corners of the waiting room and beading. Began clearing the yard of pallets and moving to load onto the CCT chassis.

Fri 12/4/13 MK, BH, CM, IR, GI, PC, EP

5° dry

Fitted architraves to front window in the east end room. Deeside Construction (chimney contractor came and went !) Continued moving the pallets and bags of wood from the yard onto the tube wagon. Made clear access for Deeside Construction to bring in a telehandler to lift chimney blocks to eaves height.

Mon 15 & Tue 16/4/13 Zoltan

Bill's builder on site to complete the installation of the surface drains to the west and north of the building.

Tue 16/4/13 MK, BH, CM, IR, GI, PC, EP, DC

8° dry

Contractor completed the surface drains and dwarf wall batter. More sorting of the yard materials. Continued west room wall linings around the front window, blocked up the old front door space.

Wed 17/4/13 Deeside Construction

6° wet

Deeside Construction back on site to install the fireplace and chimney.

Fri 19/4/13 MK, BH, IR, EP, PC, GI, BK, AB

8° dry and sunny

Deeside Construction completed the chimney stack above the roof line. They are to return next week to finish the fireplace. Brian Ewing Slater completed the chimney flashing and will return in a week to fit the replacement hip coping and finials.

Sat 20/4/13 MK, BH, DM

9° dry

Continued waiting room wall paint scraping, with the first white primer applied to the south wall. Completed fitting window architraves.

Tue 23/4/13 MK, BH, CM, DC, GI, PC

9° dry, sunny

Painted the east end external wall, fitted gutter moulding and down pipe. Deeside Construction completed the fireplace tiling, awaiting grouting.

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Fri 26/4/13                   MK, BH, CM, EP, PC, GI, DC, IR, FG  
8° showers  
Painting of window frames and shiplap, prep of west downpipe. Construction of ramp at the lay-by to receive the steam loco.

Sat 27/4/13                   MK, BH  
9°  
Painting in the waiting room

Tue 30/4/13   MK, BH, CM, PC, EP, FG  
11° sunny, cold wind  
Continued painting the waiting room walls, external base rail, and west end external wall. PWay team repaired the broken chairs in the engine shed turn-out.

Fri 4/5/13                   MK, BH, EP, GI, BK  
6° cold and wet all day  
Station - Continued internal scraping and painting, sorting out the end room.

Tue 7/5/13                   MK, BH, GI  
20° hot and sunny  
The Sir Thomas Royden steam loco arrived at the lay-by without problems. Then continued to fit ceiling linings to the station waiting room.

Fri 17/5/13                   MK, DC, GI, EP  
8° grey  
Painting waiting room walls, priming soffits.

Sat 18/5/13                   MK, DC, DM  
7° torrential rain  
Painting waiting room walls.

Tue 21/5/13   MK, BH, CM, GI, PC, EP  
16° warmish  
Preparing waiting room mouldings and linings. Took delivery of the chimney breast timber. Crane chain inspection – window broken by stone thrown from trackbed.

Fri 24/5/13                   MK, BH, CM, DC, PC, EP  
16° sunny  
Applied primer to new chimney wall linings. Fitted soffits and downpipe to the west end wall. Glossed some internal window frames.

Sat 25/5/13                   MK, BH  
16° sunny  
Applied white undercoat to the ceiling linings. Various minor scraping and painting jobs on ceiling mouldings, window frames etc.

Tue 28/5/13   MK, BH, GI, RR



16° fine

Roy on site to build the framing and fit linings around the fireplace. Prepping of ceiling mouldings and painting bobs and bobs.

Wed 29/5/13 MK, BH, RR

12° unsettled

Completed fitting chimney breast linings. Fitted long ceiling coving in the waiting room.

Fri 31/5/13 MK, BH, CM, DC, IR, GI, EP

15° sunny then cloudy

Fitted corner Scotias to the chimney breast and filled the nail holes. First coat of varnish to the mantelpiece. Scraping and priming of ceiling linings for the waiting room.

Tue 18/6/13 MK, BH, CM, PC, FG

17° sunny and warm

Started fitting ceiling linings to the east end room. Sorted flower baskets. Scraping and painting of ceiling linings.

Fri 21/6/13 MK, BH, IR, PC, EP

18° warm and dry

Cut water supply slot in station base slab for toilet. Moved bricks to the slab ready for dwarf wall. Started ceiling mods to take the loft ladder.

Sat 22/6/13 MK

15° drizzle

Applied Butterscotch primer to doorway and waiting room west front window architraves.

Tue 25/6/13 MK, BH, IR, PC, EP, RR

16° warm

Built the dwarf wall for the new build east end room. Continued fitting waiting room coving. Finished the loft ladder access mods.

Wed 26/6/13 MK, BH, IR, RR

16° warm

Continued and completed the fitting of the waiting room coving. Repaired the east end room loft ladder access and chimney truss missing timber.

Fri 28/6/13 MK, BH, PC, EP

18° warm but showers

Filling and caulking of waiting room coving and ceiling linings. Moved scrap wood bags to tube wagon and half height to top of yard.

Sat 29/6/13 MK

18° warm and sunny

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Filling and caulking of the waiting room coving and wall linings.

Mon 1/7/13                   MK, IR, IP

18° warm

Started electrical first fix on the three main rooms in the station.

Tue 2/7/13                   MK, IP, IR

18° warm

Completed the first fix of the electrical system to the main rooms.

Wed 3/7/13                   MK, FG, IR

18° warm

First visit by a judge from the National Railway Heritage Awards – Oliver Doyle. A second judge to be expected shortly.

Fri 5/7/13                   MK, PC, GI, IR, PE

23° hot !

Continued scraping and painting linings. Painted and caulked east end external coving.

Tue 16/7/13   MK, BH

25° even more hot

Painting of waiting room ceiling in gloss, cutting-in of wall/coving. Waiting room lamps delivered but one to be returned due to faulty finishing.

Wed 17/7/13   MK

Fitted one waiting room pendant lamp, looks OK. Ordered 2 x 25W spiral bulbs (=125W).

Fri 19/7/13                   MK, IR, BH, EP

25° sunny and hot

Applied top coat to waiting room walls and half the window architraves. Minor works to the east end wall prior to work starting on the toilet block.

Sat 20/7/13                   MK, BH

25° sunny

Continued applying top to coat to various waiting room walls and the window architraves.

Tue 23/7/13                   MK, BH, IR, PC, EP

20° warm but showers

Stripping of the wall in the ticket office/shop ready for the consumer unit board. Painting of opening window edges. Prep of ceiling trim board.

Fri 26/7/13                   MK, BH, IR, EP, PC, Nick

21° warm

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Stripping of wall linings and covings. Painted waiting room window frames and cleaned windows. Top coated the rear door and frame. Applied undercoat to the front side soffits.

Mon 29/7/13 MK, BH, IR, RR, Scott

22° sun and showers

Commenced construction of the east end room. Fitted the waiting room ceiling strip.

Tue 30/7/13 MK, BH, IR, RR, Scott, PC

22° sun and showers

Continued construction of the east end room.

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Wed 31/7/13 MK, BH, IR, RR, Scott

23° sunny and warm

Continued construction of the east end room.

Fri 2/8/13 MK, BH, DC, GI, PC, Nick

21° shower and sunny

Fitted shiplap 2x2s, and various wall parts. Paint stripping inside.

Sat 3/8/13 MK, BH, Nick

22° sunny

Various end room bits and pieces. Started excavating for the additional dwarf wall.

Tue 6/8/13 MK, BH, GI, PC; FG & IR part time

20° sunny / windy

Started laying the floor joists and insulation in the waiting room. Also continued paint scraping in the east end room.

Fri 9/8/13 MK, BH

Laying waiting room DPC, floor joists and insulation

Tue 13/8/13 MK, BH, FG, EP

Laying T&G flooring.

Fri 16/8/13 MK, BH, EP, PC

Staining waiting room flooring. Preparing guttering for the new end room.

Mon 19/8/13 MK, BH, RR

20° sunny and warm

Fitted roofing sheets and membrane to the east end room.

Tue 20/8/13 MK, BH, RR, PC

20° warm

Fitted the top and bottom rails to the east end room. New window frames, door/frame, sills were delivered. PC painted the bench.

Wed 21/8/13 MK, BH, RR

20° warm

Fitted tarp to end room roof to prevent water ingress. Fitted skirting to the waiting room. Fitted stays to various windows. Started fitting shiplap to east end room north side.

Fri 23/8/13 MK, BH, FG, GI, EP

20°

Continued to fit shiplap top end room. Painted window frames. Gave waiting room floor a second coat of stain.

Tue 27/8/13 MK, BH, GI, FG, PC

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20° warm with showers

More fitting shiplap, paint stripping in east end room and painting of soffits.

Fri 30/8/13 MK, BH, GI, PC, EP

20° warm

Fitting and painting shiplap

Tue 3/9/13 MK, BH, PC, GI

18°

Continued fitting and painting shiplap to the toilet extension.

Fri 6/9/13 MK, BH, CM, GI, FG, PC, EP, RK

13° cold and damp

Laying out fencing and general preparations for the 160<sup>th</sup> weekend.

Tue 10/9/13 MK, BH, PC

14°

Painting of south side of east end room. Installation of 2 of the 3 window frames.

Fri 13/9/13 MK, BH, PC, GI, Nick, Peter Thorne (Bill's friend)

14° dry

Top coating of south and north sides of end room. Window and door frames fitted.

Tue 17/9/13 MK, BH, PT

12° dry

Internal partition studs to the end room. Paint scraping in the east room.

Fri 20/9/13 MK, BH, CM, GI, EP

14° dry

Gloss painting to east wall, undercoat to emergency exit door. Started on partition wall. Fitting of ceiling linings in east room.

Tue 1/10/13 MK, BH, GI, PC

12° dry

Scraping of east room walls. Prep work on the window ingos for toilet block.

Fri 4/10/13 MK, BH, EP, PC, GI

16° dry

Built doorway studs into corridor. Scraping of wall linings in east room. Painting of window ingos.

Fri 11/10/13 MK, BH, PC, Nick

11° dry

Fitted wall linings in east room, test fitted door frame to corridor.

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Sat 12/10/13 BH JW, KR

Fitted rail clips to bullhead panel at the lay-by and laid out another panel of sleepers.

Mon 21/10/13 MK, BH, IR, RR

Installed insulation and profile sheeting to the east extension roof.

Tue 22/10/13 MK, BH, RR

Installed internal doors and gutter fascia.

Wed 23/10/13 MK, IR, RR

Installed east extension top rail and built west extension dwarf wall.

Fri 25/10/13 MK, BH, EP

Fitted ceiling insulation to east extension and scraping of west room walls.

Tue 29/10/13 MK, BH, CM, PC, IR

10° dry

Fitted flashing to east extension roof. First part of front door step fitted (base). More lining scraping in west room.

Fri 2/11/13 MK, BH, IR, CM, Nick, DC

8° dry

Fitted shiplap to the east extension roof area. Started fitting gutter to east extension. Step at the main entry door was completed.

Tue 5/11/13 MK, BH, CM, PC, FG

Fitted glazing to east extension window frames. Started fitting battens to toilet area. Paint scraping in the west room.

Fri 8/11/13 MK, BH, PC, CM

Fitting battens to toilet, paint scraping. Building ramp at the lay-by.

Tue 12/11/13 MK, BH, PC, FG

6° dry

Installing lighting electrics to east extension. Paint scraping in west room.

Fri 15/11/13 MK, BH, CM, PC, EP

Sorting timber delivery ready for west extension construction. Repairs to west lodge ramp ready for coach transfers.

Mon 18/11/13 MK, CH, IR, RR

0° cold sunny

Started building the west extension. Removed cladding, built the north and south walls.

Tue 19/11/13 MK, BH, IR, RR, PC, CM

0° cold sunny

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Erected the three walls to the west end extension and fitted the rafters.

Wed 20/11/13 MK, BH, IR, RR

3° showery morning, non-stop rain in the pm !

Completed the installation of the chipboard roofing sheets, breathable membrane, 3" Kingspan thermal insulation and profiled tin sheets. All done in near continuous rain....

Fri 22/11/13 MK, BH, PC, Nick, IR & FG part time

4° dry

Started fitting external battens to west extension walls. Moved insulation to west extension to create space to store presents.

Sat 23/11/13 MK, BH

4° dry

Fitting shiplap battens top west extension.

Fri 29/11/13 MK, BH, IR, PC, EP, NS, FG, BK

4° dry

Preparation for the Santa Specials.

Tue 3/12/13 MK, BH, IR, PC, FG, CM

6° dry at first then wet

Refuelled the 2 generators and BMU heaters, chained the trackside genie to the rails. Fitted the flashing to the west extension roof. Continued fitting east extension wall insulation and paint stripping in the west extension.

Fri 6/12/13 MK, BH, CM, FG, IR, NL, PC, EP

4° dry

Preparations for Santa services.

Tue 10/11/13 MK, BH, CM, DC IR, FG, PC, EP

Christmas lunch at Scott Skinnars

Fri 13/12/13 MK, BH, EP, IR

12° warm !

Prepared the consumer unit wall in the station west extension.

Tue 17/12/13 MK, BH, IR

4° cold wind

Fitted consumer unit. Continued installing wall insulation to extensions.

Sat 4/1/13 MK, BH, IR, KR, DA

Commenced clearing Kashentroch on to Lomac and tube wagon.

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Tue 7/1/13 MK, BH, IR, PC, FG, EP

4°

Fitted loft ladder to station. Scraping in west extension.

Fri 10/1/13 MK, BH, IR, FG

4°

Odd jobs

Sat 11/1/13 MK, BH, IR, CM

3° bright

Finished clearing Kashentroch, continued offloading at the lay-by.

Tue 14/1/13 MK, BH, CM, IR, PC, EP

1° wet, cold

Sorted scrap wood from station, painted kicking boards, scraping of linings.

Fri 17/1/13 MK, BH, CM, FG, EP, IR

2° cold damp, grey...

Reviewed station electrical scope 2. Shunted bucket to the lay-by and brought back the ironmen and 4 strainers for the yard fencing.

Tue 20/1/14 MK, DC, BH, CM, IR

3° grey

Moved trackwork from Kashentroch to MoC with crane and CCT chassis. Left one long blade in the cess awaiting arrival of the bogie bolster.

Fri 24/1/14 MK, BH, IR, Nick, PC

3° grey

Sorted scrap wood from behind the station building.

Sat 25/1/14 MK, BH, CM, IR, KR, JW, DM

3° showers

Moved tube wagon to platform end ready to load pallets. Brought up rails from the lay-by to the field gate as replacements for crippled rails.

Tue 28/1/14 MK, BH, IR, FG

3° RAIN !

Installed the station electrical incomer between the 3 phase fused isolator and the 100A station consumer unit, using Andrew Jarvie, electrician.

Sat 1/2/14 MK, BH, CM, Nick, JW, IT, JT, DA, Dan

3° grey

Moved a single rail from the lay-by to the field gate ready for changeout. Carried out a shunt to bring the GUV and Lomac up to the worksite.



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Tue 4/2/14 MK, BH, IR, CM, FG, PC

3° dry

Loaded all the pallets in the yard onto the tube wagon.

Fri 7/2/14 MK, BH, IR, EP FG

6° Spring day !

Cut up and bagged all the waste timber in the yard. Sanderson hydraulic hose failed.

Thu 13/2/14 MK, BH, Andrew Jarvie

Installed waiting room and east room ring main, also cabled the toilet ring.

Fri 14/2/14 MK, BH, CM, IR, FG, NL, EP

3° dry

Started sanding east room walls, various minor electrical jobs including pulling in the platform light cable.

Fri 28/2/14 MK, BH, CM, PC, NL

Fitting wall linings to the toilet. Priming of wall linings.

Sat 1/3/14 MK, BH

Fitting wall linings to the toilet.

Mon 3/3/14 MK, BH, RR, FG, AJ

5° showers

Commenced fitting the top/bottom rails, window sills to the west extension. Sparkie continued fitting electrics to station toilet etc.

Tue 4/3/14 MK, BH, FG, IR, RR

5° dry cold wind

Continued to fit top/bottom rails, fitted shiplap to north side west end extension.

Commenced to hang the west door.

Wed 5/3/14 MK, BH, RR

6° dry, cold wind

Fitted door to west end, continued fitting shiplap to west end. Fitted capping rail to east end.

Fri 7/3/14 MK, BH, FG, PC, NL

6° dry, very windy

Fitted remaining shiplap to west end of west extension.

Fri 14/3/14 BH, FG, EP, RK, MK part time

11° windy, dry

Fitting shiplap to south side of west extension. Fitted window frames to North and west sides. Shiplap undercoated North and west sides.

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Sat 15/3/14 BH, CM, MK

14° warm and dry

Fitting wall linings to the toilet area. Fitted window frame to the west extension south side and nail gunned the shiplap.

Tue 25/3/14 MK, BH, FG, PC

6° dry

Fitting ceiling linings and window facings to toilet and corridor. Scraping of architrave.

Wed 26/3/14 MK

Fitting window facings to toilet.

Tue 1/4/14 MK, BH, FG, PC

6° dry

Fitting linings to toilet, painting shiplap west end, routing window ingoes, fitting toilet window architrave.

Fri 4/4/14 MK part time, BH, IR, FG, PC, EP

Fitting floor frame and insulation to the toilet area.

Tue 8/4/14 MK, BH, IR, FG, GI, PC

14° warm and sunny

Fitting flooring to the toilet. Fitted west end room fascia board. Continued scraping architraving in west room.

Fri 11/4/14 MK, BH, FG, GI, PC

12° windy

Fitting skirting and last window architrave to toilet. Scraping wall linings in the west room, and undercoating in the east room. GI bust a cathedral glass window !!!!!

Sat 12/4/14 MK, BH

13°

Fitting ingoes to windows in the west extension. Undercoating walls in the corridor.

Fri 18/4/14 MK, BH, PC, GI, AB

12° sunny

Prepared the skirting for the toilet. Painting of skirting and various toilet walls.

Sat 19/4/14 MK

Cut the toilet ceiling coving to length ready for painting.

Tue 22/4/14 MK, BH, CM, GI, PC, FG

10° rain most of the day

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Painting of walls in the station corridor and east room. Fitted door ingoes to west entry door. Applied caulking and hole filler to the east room walls.

Fri 25/4/14                   MK, BH, FG, PC, EP

9° wet

Painting of east room walls, architrave to loft access.

Sat 26/4/14                   MK, BH

12°

Painting of east room, various joinery jobs in the toilet.

Tue 6/5/14                   MK, BH

Painting east room, coving to corridor

Tue 13/5/14   MK, BH, PC, FG

11° showers

Painting to east room coving and windows.

Tue 20/5/14   MK, BH, CM, FG

12° dry

Laying DPC and floor frame to corridor and east room.

Fri 23/5/14                   MK, BH, GI

11° dry

Laid the underfloor in the east room.