



## **PRESS RELEASE: National Transport Trust Awards 2024**

### **James Loader wins National Transport Trust Restoration Award for his Taskers timber carriage**

The restoration and preservation of a 1932 timber carriage by Taskers of Andover has led to James Loader of Ringwood in Hampshire being announced as a winner of a Restoration Award at the National Transport Trust's (NTT) annual awards.



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James is rightfully proud to be the owner of this fine timber carriage, as anyone who knows anything of timber work will be amazed that such an item survives – such were the conditions and harsh working environment where mistreatment and poor conditions during their working life in woodlands and muddy conditions, means that only a tiny handful survived. This particular example is the telescopic example of which even fewer have made it into the present day.

The project is an example of a fairly simple but now very rare trailer used for bringing felled trees out from their original site. It is telescopic, the chassis being capable of being extended in order to permit the carrying of longer trunks. The front axle and drawbar slews on a circular base without the use of bearings. It is a niche agricultural/forestry product which might easily be overlooked but which had extensive use in rural parts of the country. Trunks to be loaded onto the trailer have to be rolled using a crane device up onto the chassis, utilising timber sections, butting onto channelled sockets above each axle, as rails.

NTT Awards Director Paul Brook comments: "As ever with something like this the original "things to do" list was lengthy. Chassis framework, axles, brakes, leaf springs and even nuts bolts and fasteners have all required considerable attention. But clearly James is a bit of a stickler for detail; new old-stock British standard nuts and bolts have been sourced and used in the restoration throughout, an increasingly difficult and expensive task This has enabled small details such as the direction of bolts to be refitted in the same orientation. All parts have been cleaned and painted in the original colour scheme of Deep Bronze green.

"While this is a relatively simple and utilitarian piece of equipment, the care which has gone into preparing this relic of a now lost rural heritage for public viewing is very deserving of a NTT restoration award."

### **Photographs**

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### **The National Transport Trust**

Founded in 1965, (as the Transport Trust), the National Transport Trust is the UK's only national charity established to promote and encourage the preservation and restoration of Britain's unique transport heritage in all its forms – by air, land (road and rail) and water (sea and inland). The Trust is managed within a very streamlined structure, with the Board of Trustees representing the wider interests of the nation, for whose benefit the Trust exists.

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