



PULLMAN CAR SERVICES-ARCHIVE

The Quality of Service is Remembered Long after the Price is Forgotten

SPECIAL EDITION No. 32.

BELMOND BRITISH PULLMAN CAR "CELIA".



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April 22nd, 2026 - CELIA.

Arrival at Belmond's British Pullman Depot at Stewarts Lane, London
from at Arlington Fleet Group Works at Eastleigh.

Pullman Car Services-Archive - Belmond British Pullman Car "CELIA" - Issue 1 - June 2026

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Page 1 of 21



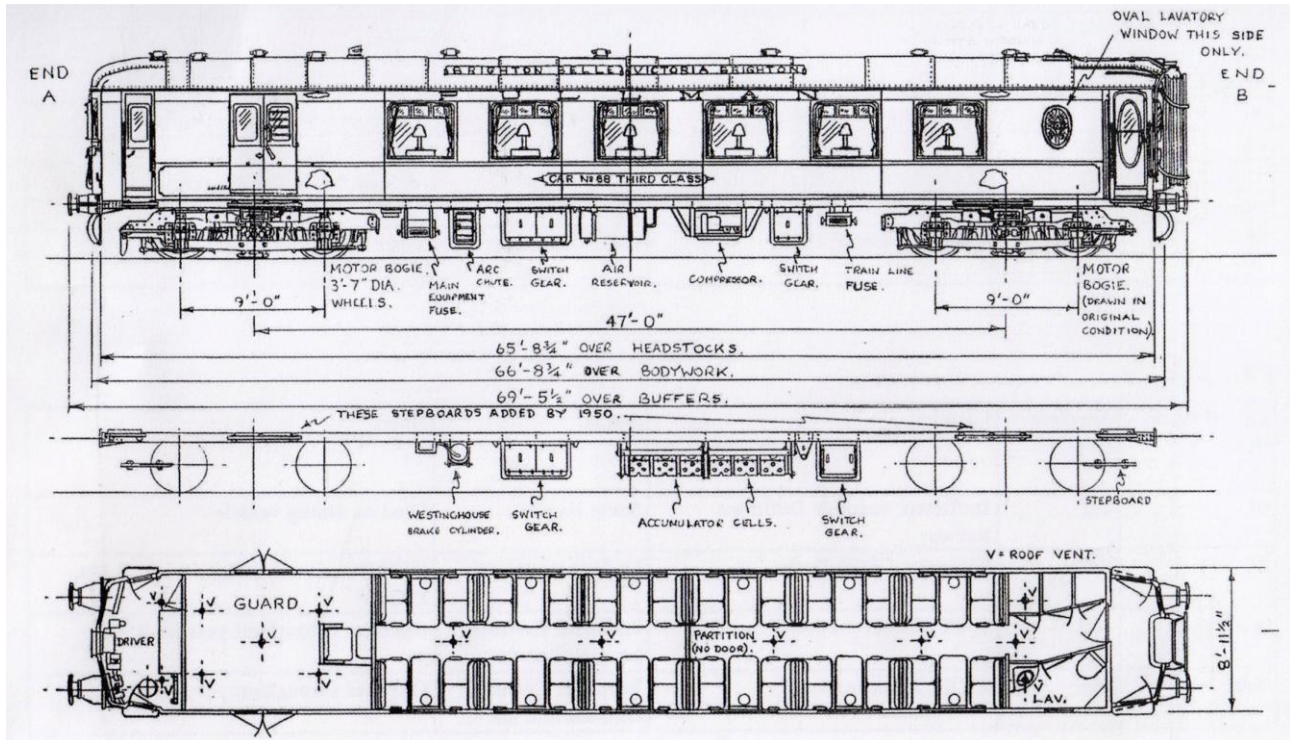
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April 22nd, 2026 - CELIA.

Following arrival from at Arlington Fleet Group Works at Eastleigh
CELIA was moved into covered storage at Belmond's British Pullman Depot at Stewarts Lane.

Brief History of CAR No. 93 / S293S / CELIA.

1933 to 1937 5BEL Unit No. 2053 & 1937 & 1969 No. 3053.
 5BEL Set No. 2053/3053 - CAR No. 92, GWEN, MONA, CAR No. 85, CAR No. 93.
 1969 to 1972 S292S, S281S, S283S, S285S, S293S.



© Mike King.

On January 1st, 1933, the all-new 3 x 5BEL electric multiple units commenced operation of the Southern Belle operation.

On June 29th, 1934, the Southern Belle was renamed the Brighton Belle at Brighton station by the then Lady Mayor of Brighton, Miss M. Hardy.

The final Brighton Belle service being on April 30th, 1972, and all fifteen cars were made available for sale.

The disposal of cars Nos. 285, 286 and 287 (Car Nos. 85, 86 and 87) and Nos. 291, 292 and 293 (Car Nos. 91, 92 and 93). All six vehicles were purchased by 'Allied Breweries' for a total sum of £36,000 and left Brighton by rail to their maltings at Mistley, Essex on 29 June 1972.

Three of the motor cars were bought with the intention of mounting them on sections of railway track outside three public houses - in the North, under Tetley Ltd, the Midlands (Ansell's Ltd), and the South (Ind Coope Ltd).

A proposal to use them as steak bars was considered. A company representative once remarked: 'They are a good business proposition. Four years ago, we bought two of the 'Bournemouth Belle' cars, and they have been a great success. These are mounted outside the Spot Gate Inn, Hilderstone, Staffordshire.

Guests are treated to steak dishes and pre-recorded station sound effects - shunting, whistles, sirens, and the noise of engines at full steam...' Sadly, for an inordinate period of time, the six cars were berthed at Manningtree Station in Essex, and prolonged exposure to the weather took its toll. Apparently, 'Allied Breweries' blamed the economic state of the country for their failure to fulfil plans, which might have turned their financial investment into a profitable venture.

After a spell stored at Manningtree, Car No. 92 & 93 were acquired by the 'Brighton Belle Society' and relocated to the old Pullman Car Company Preston Park Works at Brighton. Lack of funding prevented both cars from being fully restored. Heavily vandalised and notable deterioration in the interim.

With a potential view of using both cars as converted driving trailer cars or barrier vehicle, the then VSOE Ltd purchased both derelict cars moving both to the safety of the VSOE Stewarts Lane depot. On April 20th, 2005, both cars were sent to the former Wagons-Lits workshops at Ostend, Belgium for body restoration, but following certain difficulties the two body shells were returned to Stewarts Lane depot and await restoration.

The shell of CAR No. 93 departed Belmond's Stewarts Lane Depot to Arlington Fleet Services Ltd at Eastleigh. The movement was initially by road transport to Eastleigh yard and following unloading for forward movement by rail from Eastleigh Yard to Arlington Fleet Services Ltd. The short rail movement from the yard through Eastleigh station was undertaken by GB Railfreight Class 66/3 No.66310.

On April 22nd, 2026, following completion of the cars internal and external restoration with a new identification as CELIA. Movement by rail with Pullman Liveried Class 67 No. 67024 departed Arlington Fleet Group Works at Eastleigh for Belmond's British Pullman Depot at Stewarts Lane.

On April 24th, 2026, CELIA attached to the British Pullman formation undertook its first test run. Over the following couple of weeks CELIA undertook several trips without passengers attached to the British Pullman formation.



© Chris Baker / CB004-26.

April 24th, 2026, CELIA attached to the Belmond British Pullman formation at Stewarts Lane.



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April 22nd, 2026, Pullman Liveried Class 67 No. 67024 and CELIA arrive at Belmond British Pullman formation at Stewarts Lane.

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CELIA
external bodyside

Central door locking lights

Both windows
Overpainted umber

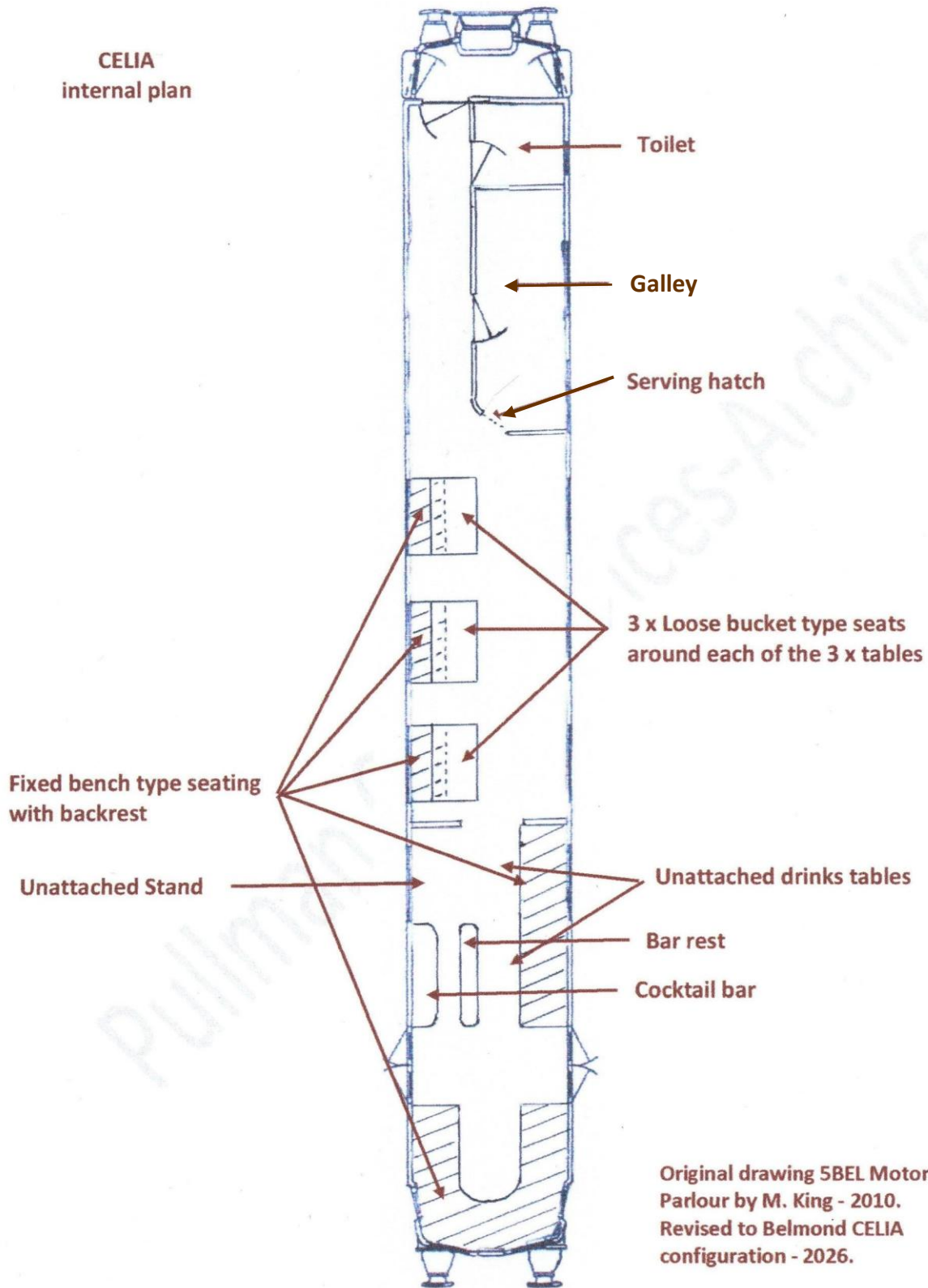
Access doors

Sealed door &
window over
painted umber

Original drawing 5BEL Motor Brake
Parlour by M. King - 2010.
Revised to Belmond CELIA
configuration - 2026.

CELIA INTERIOR.

CELIA
internal plan



Original drawing 5BEL Motor Brake Parlour by M. King - 2010.
Revised to Belmond CELIA configuration - 2026.



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Page 9 of 21



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Page 11 of 21



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Page 12 of 21



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Page 14 of 21



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Page 15 of 21



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Page 16 of 21



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Page 18 of 21

CELIA - PRIVATE DINING IN MOTION.

THE EXCLUSIVE CAR FOR LIFE'S CELEBRATION.

CELIA is an extraordinary new dining and events car imagined and designed by global visionary filmmaker Baz Luhrmann, together with Oscar-winning costume and production designer, Catherine Martin.

Set within an original 1932 Pullman car, CELIA features a personal cocktail bar, lounge, dining and entertainment area, offering up to 12 guests the most intimate and cinematic way to experience one of Britain's most storied trains, and the chance to create bespoke events and private dining moments.

From £15,000 (2026) for exclusive use of the CELIA car for up to 12 guests. CELIA will be available on all journeys from May xx 2026 onwards.

A DEDICATED GUEST EXPERIENCE CURATOR.

Upon reservation, the Guest Experience Curator will plan every detail of your journey with you.

PRIVATE LUXURY TRANSFERS.

Private luxury transfers within Greater London to and from London Victoria

PRIVATE CHEF, BUTLER AND STEWARD.

Exclusive use of Celia, with your own personal chef, butler and steward.

CELIA - EXCLUSIVE MENUS.

Curate your own brunch, lunch and dinner menus from a selection of exquisite dishes, showcasing the finest British provenance.

WELCOME DRINKS AND EXPERT WINE PAIRINGS.

Begin your journey with a seasonal cocktail or champagne reception in your private onboard lounge, followed by expertly selected wine pairings to complement each lunch and dinner course.

EXCLUSIVE BESPOKE ACTIVITIES.

Enhanced excursion itineraries, including private transfers and a personal host.

Once your booking is confirmed, your personal Guest Experience Curator will introduce themselves and begin thoughtfully planning your journey with you.

What is included in the car booking?

The entire CELIA carriage is exclusively yours for up to 12 guests.

Ahead of your celebration, your personal Guest Experience Curator will work with you to tailor every detail of the experience.

On the day itself, a private transfer will collect you from the London hotel or accommodation of your choice and take you to London Victoria Station. You will be greeted by your butler and will access the train directly with priority boarding.

Throughout your journey, indulge in fine dining and expertly paired wines, prepared in your private onboard kitchen by your dedicated Chef.

On journeys that include an excursion, you will also enjoy bespoke itineraries planned with your Guest Experience Curator.

Can I book Celia for less than 12 people?

You can. Celia can be booked for any group size from 1 to 12 guests. Please note that the price remains the same regardless of party size, as the carriage is offered on an exclusive-use basis.

Can I book individual seats or share the Celia carriage?

Please note that Celia is available exclusively for private hire and cannot be shared – it's not possible to book individual tables within the carriage. For those who still want to book individual seats or tables onboard the British Pullman, please browse and book our signature itineraries.

Internet Links.

<https://www.instagram.com/reels/DUnya9EDEQQ/>

Reservations.

Belmond Reservations: 0800 058 1237.

Belmond Phone: +44 (0) 204 525 1139.

Information.

https://www.belmond.com/trains/europe/uk/belmond-british-pullman/celia?srsId=AfmBOor7jQ0aATDF1_zx2w5ODILBtNq6BrrNiFC4ukJo93edTAtIjItO

Information Sources.

This document would have not been possible without both the help and assistance of both the following individuals and publications to which I am indebted.

Individuals.

F. Pragnell. M. King. C. Baker.

Publications.

THE BRIGHTON BELLE - THE STORY OF A FAMOUS AND MUCH-LOVED TRAIN.
Stephen Grant & Simon Jeffs - 2011 - Capital Transport Publishing - ISBN 978-185414-346-4.

Pullman Profile No. 4 - THE BRIGHTON BELLE & SOUTHERN ELECTRIC PULLMANS.
Antony M Ford - 2012 - Noodle Books - ISBN 978-1-909328-05-1.

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