

Toyota BJ40 Land Cruiser

Howard Threadgill was a civil engineer. He spent a significant part of his career in the Middle East, in countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Libya and Qatar. The work often involved travelling into the less developed parts of the countries. The company vehicles he generally used were Toyota Land Cruisers. They were in his words “totally reliable, durable and virtually bulletproof” in all sorts of challenging conditions.



On his return to the UK, he started a small collection of Land Cruisers. The challenge was to find a 40 series model of the type he first used that was in original condition. Utilitarian vehicles, by their very nature, tend to be hard used, with modifications undertaken from a practical usage perspective.

Unable to find a machine that met his requirements, he started to look across Europe. The nearest to stock model he could locate, after a long search, was found in Madeira, the autonomous region of Portugal. It was owned by a Mini Moke restorer!

A deal was struck and the J40 was shipped to England and has pride of place in Howard's collection. He says they are easy to work on and spares are available from Japan, Australia, Holland, Portugal and the UK.

Howard's aim is to keep it in original condition, not 'concours' but as close to leaving the factory as possible. The paint is original and while his more modern daily driver Land Cruiser is left outside the J40 is kept securely in a garage. Every time he drives it, the Land Cruiser brings a smile to his face, he says "it's like travelling with a reliable friend" which has many great memories.



pics K Gibbins