



HERITAGE TRUST

## 1985 Jaguar XJ6 2.9 Silverstone Fire Car Pre-production XJ6 used as high speed fire tender

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The all-new Jaguar XJ40 range was launched to great acclaim at the Motor Show held at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham in October 1986. The car was the outcome of many years' design and development work, often delayed by corporate problems for the Jaguar Company. However, with John Egan becoming Jaguar's Managing Director in 1980 and the company gaining independence in 1984, at last the lights were set on green for the new car.

It was an ambitious project for the still small company. The body shell was all-new, suspension was redesigned compared to previous saloon models, and all XJ40 cars initially featured versions of the AJ6 engine which had so far seen only limited production in the XJ-S range since 1983. A new feature was the J gate selector pattern for the automatic gearbox, while the manual 'box now had five speeds. The XJ40 brought a more contemporary look to the Jaguar range, while still retaining the cherished marque characteristics.

There were originally 2.9 litre and 3.6 litre versions of the Jaguar XJ6, then the more luxurious Sovereign versions, and at the top of the range, a single Daimler model with the 3.6 litre engine. Prices at launch ranged from £16,495 to £28,495. With the new car on the market, six cylinder versions of the Series 3 range were soon discontinued, although the V12 engined Series 3 remained in production until 1992. Total XJ40 production until 1994 was over 208,000 cars, making this the most popular range of Jaguar until then.

This particular car was a pre-production model built in June 1985, fitted with the 2.9 litre engine and automatic gearbox. It was built to German specification and had left-hand drive. It was originally allocated to Jaguar's Engineering Department. However, it was subsequently lent to the Silverstone Racing Circuit for use as a high-speed fire tender. Among other changes the car was fitted with a 4.0 litre AJ6 engine and 5 speed manual gearbox and the rear seat was removed to accommodate fire-fighting equipment

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<b>Registration mark:</b>	Not road registered	<b>Engine:</b>	2,919 cc, 6 cyl
<b>Chassis number:</b>	SAJFALG4AC500177	<b>Inventory no:</b>	183/J.122
<b>Owner:</b>	The Jaguar Daimler Heritage Trust		