ROVER SD1 (2600 / 3500 / V8-S / VITESSE)

Engine: **2350cc/2597cc OHC Straight-6 / 3528cc Rover V8**
Transmission: **Rover LT77 5-Speed Manual / Borg-Warner Auto**

PRE-PURCHASE BUYER'S FIELD INSPECTION SHEET (1976–1986)

VEHICLE REGISTRATION	CHASSIS / VIN NUMBER	RECORDED MILEAGE	ASKING PRICE
.....	.....	.....	£ .....

1. CRITICAL STRUCTURAL ROT TRAPS

FASTBACK 5-DOOR MONOCOQUE INTEGRITY

PASS	INSPECTION POINT	SPECIFIC WEAR INDICATOR & DEFECT SIGN
☐	**Front MacPherson Strut Turrets**	Examine inner wing flitch plates and front strut top mounting cups. Road spray rots the inner wing seams where they meet the bulkhead and front chassis legs.
☐	**Door Bottoms & Outer Sills**	CRITICAL: SD1 doors are notorious for rotting out along lower folded seams. Inspect full boxed length of outer sills, center jacking points, and floorpan outriggers.
☐	**Rear Trailing Link Floor Mounts**	Live rear axle located by trailing links and Watts linkage. Inspect forward mounting pockets in the rear floorpan; rust tears these mountings out under V8 torque.
☐	**Tailgate Lower Lip & Spare Well**	Large rear hatchback tailgate. Water leaking past perished tailgate rubber seals pools in lower tailgate drainage lip, rear lamp wells, and spare wheel well.

2. MECHANICAL TRIAGE & RUNNING GEAR

COLD START TO OPERATING TEMP

PASS	SYSTEM / COMPONENT	TARGET TOLERANCES & OPERATIONAL CHECKS
☐	**Rover 3.5L V8 vs OHC 6-Cylinder** **Spec: 35–45 Cold | 20+ Hot**	On V8: listen for worn camshaft lobe clatter and dry hydraulic lifters. On 2300/2600 straight-6: check toothed rubber timing belt condition and camshaft bearings.
☐	**Boge Nivomat Self-Leveling Struts**	Rear suspension uses self-contained Boge Nivomat hydraulic dampers. If rear sags low or bounces uncontrollably, dampers have leaked out (costly to source).
☐	**Rover LT77 5-Speed Gearbox**	Check 1st and 2nd gear synchros on downshifts. Listen for mainshaft bearing rumble in neutral that stops when clutch is depressed; check reverse selection.
☐	**Lucas EFI Wiring & Electricals**	If Vitesse or EFi: Lucas 4CU / 13CU electronic injection. Check for erratic hot idle, faulty airflow meter flapper, and check dashboard printed circuit board functions.

HIGH VITESSE REPLICA RISK: Many 3500 SE models have been badged as Vitesses. Genuine Vitesse chassis number prefix begins with CA (from 1982 onwards). Check factory 190bhp Lucas EFI engine, lowered suspension, four-pot front brakes, and rear spoiler.

3. DEFECT LEDGER & NEGOTIATION DEDUCTIONS

UK MARKET BENCHMARKS

OBSERVED DEFECT / REQUIRED WORK	ESTIMATED UK REMEDY	DEDUCTION APPLIED
Rotted Door Bottoms (Set of 4 Doors Repair / Replacement)	£1,200 – £2,000 (Door skin repairs & paint blend)	£
Perforated Outer Sills & Trailing Link Floor Mounts	£950 – £1,600 (Structural sill & floor fabrication)	£
Failed Rear Boge Nivomat Self-Leveling Dampers	£450 – £750 (Replacement dampers / spring conversion)	£
Rover V8 Camshaft, Hydraulic Lifters & Timing Kit	£750 – £1,200 (Engine front teardown & parts)	£
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS FROM ASKING PRICE	MAX REVISED OFFER:	£