TALBOT SUNBEAM LOTUS

Engine: **2174cc Lotus 911 16V Slant-Four DOHC**
Transmission: **ZF S5-18/3 5-Speed Manual (Dogleg 1st)**

PRE-PURCHASE BUYER'S FIELD INSPECTION SHEET (1979–1981)

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

1. CRITICAL STRUCTURAL ROT TRAPS

RALLY HOMOLOGATION MONOCOQUE INTEGRITY

PASS	INSPECTION POINT	SPECIFIC WEAR INDICATOR & DEFECT SIGN
☐	**Front Strut Towers & Chassis Legs**	MacPherson strut front suspension. High competition stress and 2.2L torque cause inner flitch cracking and structural separation where towers weld to bulkhead.
☐	**Outer Sills & Jacking Brackets**	Check length of boxed outer sills and jacking brackets. Thin-gauge Linwood steel rots out along lower floor-to-sill seams; check for cheap welded cover sills.
☐	**Rear 4-Link Trailing Arm Mounts**	Coil-sprung live rear axle located by 4 trailing links and Panhard rod. Inspect floorpan attachment boxes; rust tears mounting boxes out under heavy acceleration.
☐	**Rear Hatch Frame & Boot Well**	All-glass rear hatch tailgate. Check lower hinge mounting frame, spare wheel drop-well, and rear light panel seams for water pooling through perished seals.

2. MECHANICAL TRIAGE & RUNNING GEAR

COLD START TO OPERATING TEMP

PASS	SYSTEM / COMPONENT	TARGET TOLERANCES & OPERATIONAL CHECKS
☐	**Lotus 911 16V Engine Health** **Spec: 40–55 Cold | 20+ Hot**	All-alloy dry-sump/wet-sump twin-cam. Hot idle (900 RPM) must hold 25 PSI minimum. Check toothed cam belt condition, water pump weep hole, and twin Dell'Orto 45 carbs.
☐	**ZF S5-18/3 Dogleg 5-Speed**	Homologated dogleg-1st ZF manual gearbox. Check 2nd and 3rd synchros on rapid downshifts; baulking or gear crunching indicates worn synchros (expensive rebuild).
☐	**Salisbury 4HA Heavy-Duty Axle**	Heavy-duty Salisbury rear axle with limited-slip differential. Listen for differential gear whine at 55 MPH cruise and check trailing arm bushes for clunking play.
☐	**Exhaust Manifold & Cooling**	Tubular stainless steel rally-spec exhaust manifold runs tight to bulkhead. Check for manifold stress cracks and inspect alloy radiator expansion tank.

HIGH "SUNBEAM TI" REPLICA RISK: Only 2,308 genuine Sunbeam Lotus homologation cars built. VIN plate on front slam panel (Prefix: R4XC...). Verify factory Lotus 911 engine stamping, ZF gearbox tunnel mounts, and black/silver or blue/silver striping.

3. DEFECT LEDGER & NEGOTIATION DEDUCTIONS

UK MARKET BENCHMARKS

OBSERVED DEFECT / REQUIRED WORK	ESTIMATED UK REMEDY	DEDUCTION APPLIED
Lotus 911 16V Engine Rebuild / Head Machining & Belt	£2,500 – £4,500 (Engine teardown, valves, guides & seals)	£
ZF S5-18/3 Dogleg Gearbox Teardown & Synchro Kit	£1,200 – £2,000 (Unit overhaul & synchro rings)	£
Perforated Outer Sills & 4-Link Rear Mount Welding	£950 – £1,600 (Structural sill & floor fabrication)	£
Front Strut Towers & Inner Wing Flitch Repairs	£750 – £1,200 (Sheet metal reconstruction & paint)	£
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS FROM ASKING PRICE	MAX REVISED OFFER:	£