



# 1948 Healey Duncan Drone

## POA

### Overview

Mileage 123 miles

Fuel Type Petrol

Engine Size 2.4 l

Bodystyle Roadster

Transmission Manual

Exterior Colour Green

Previous Owners 4

Registration AJV473



### Description

The 1948 Healey Duncan Drone is a rare and fascinating vehicle with an intriguing history, blending British engineering with post-war ingenuity.

#### Origins of the Healey Duncan Drone

The story begins with Donald Healey, a renowned British car designer and rally driver. Healey's company, the Donald Healey Motor Company, was established in 1945 in Warwick, England. The firm specialized in producing high-performance sports cars, utilizing powerful engines from Riley and later Nash and Austin.

Following World War II, the British automotive industry faced material shortages, and aluminum—commonly used in aircraft—was more available than steel. This led to innovative car designs that were lightweight and simple in construction.

#### Why "Drone"?

The "Drone" name is believed to come from the aircraft industry, where "drone" referred to an unmanned aircraft. The car was designed as a stripped-down, no-frills competition vehicle, much like a drone was a functional, cost-effective tool in aviation.

#### Design & Features

The Healey Drone was an ultra-lightweight, open-top sports car with minimal bodywork, making it a perfect option for competition use. Unlike Healey's more luxurious models, the Drone was extremely simple in its construction, featuring:

An open two-seater body

A lightweight aluminum shell

No doors, windshield, or unnecessary accessories

A Riley 2.4L engine, capable of good performance for its time

The bodywork was produced by Duncan Industries, a coachbuilder known for working with Healey on several projects. Duncan crafted a number of special-bodied Healeys, including streamlined saloons and drophead coupés.

## Purpose & Production

The Healey Duncan Drone was built primarily for racing and competition. It was aimed at privateer racers who wanted an affordable, lightweight sports car that could perform well in motorsports. The minimalistic design kept costs and weight low, maximizing speed and handling.

Only a very limited number were produced, making it an exceedingly rare vehicle today. Estimates suggest that fewer than 20 may have been built.

## Legacy

While the Healey Duncan Drone was not a mainstream success, it contributed to the development of British sports cars in the post-war era. Donald Healey continued his work, leading to the famous Austin-Healey partnership in the 1950s, which resulted in iconic models like the Healey 100 and the Healey Sprite.

The Drone remains a highly collectible and sought-after vehicle among vintage car enthusiasts. It represents an era of innovation, where British engineers made the most of limited resources to create remarkable machines.

## Location

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