



See email distribution list

19 October 2022

Engineering Access Planning
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Dear Colleague

2024 Version 1 Engineering Access Statement

Version 1.0 of the 2024 Engineering Access Statement (EAS) will be published on the Network Rail website on Friday 21st October 2022. It should be available for you to download - just type "EAS" in the search field and look for the link "Operational rules". An updated copy of the 2023 EAS (Version 4.1) is also included in the download.

If you have any difficulties downloading the EAS please contact your Access Planning Manager who will arrange to have the main files emailed to you.

The changes to 2024 Sections 4 and 5 between the Draft EAS and Version 1 have been highlighted with the traditional red type and thick black line. The changes to Section 7 between the Draft EAS and Version 1 have been highlighted using the traditional orange (amended field), green (new field) and blue (cancelled field) colour coding.

Some routes will **NOT** have a Section 7 comparison against EAS 2024 V0.

Annex 7 will **NOT** be published on October 21st 2022, but will be published at a later date on the Network Rail website. You will be advised when you can access Annex 7 on the website.



The timeline for the formal development of the 2024 EAS is:

Principle Timetable Period

By close of business on Friday 21st October 2022

Publication of Version 1 of the EAS - Proposal Document

By close of business on Friday 25th November 2022

Operators to respond to Version 1 of the EAS proposals.

Failure to respond with objections may jeopardise your right to appeal against Network Rail's decision documents.

By close of business on Friday 3rd February 2023

Publication of Version 2 of the EAS - Decision Document.

No later than the publication date for Version 2, Network Rail will provide each operator with an individual response to their comments made in response to Version 1.

Within 15 working days, and no later than close of business on **Friday 24th February 2023**, operators must refer any aspect of the access decisions made by Network Rail in Version 2 of the EAS which they are unable to support to the ADC.

Subsidiary Timetable Period

By close of business on Friday 31st March 2023

Publication of Version 3 of the EAS - Proposal Document

By close of business on Friday 5th May 2023

Operators to respond to Version 3 of the EAS proposals.

Failure to respond with objections may jeopardise your right to appeal against Network Rail's decision documents.

By close of business on Friday 14th July 2023

Publication of Version 4 of the EAS - Decision Document.

No later than the publication date for Version 4, Network Rail will provide each operator with an individual response to their comments made in response to Version 3.

Within 15 working days, and no later than close of business on **Friday 4th August 2023**, operators must refer any aspect of the access decisions made

by Network Rail in Version 4 of the EAS which they are unable to support to the ADC.

The EAS will be downloadable from the Network Rail website from Version 1 onwards. Just prior to the availability of the downloadable file I will email a covering letter confirming that the new documents are available on the website.

****PLEASE NOTE THESE TIMESCALES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE IN LINE WITH BTPF****

Planning of Section 4 ‘disruptive’ period blocks:

It is our intention to continue to package work into engineering periods and the message that my National Access Planning Team has provided to work delivery teams is that they need to continue to develop work packages and sequence access on consecutive weeks and in periods.

We will keep the annual timetable split into broadly 6 week periods and where possible plan possessions sequentially within these periods. Instead of including this access as disruptive Section 4 Period Blocks for Version 0 without your input, our proposal is that we would document all possessions in Section 7 and through consultation with all impacted Operators only then transfer the disruption from Section 7 to Section 4 of the EAS and subsequently the Working Timetable.

This proposal, which alters the way that Section 4 restrictions are negotiated, excludes established two-track railway and reduced timetable capacity planning rules. Changes to these established access patterns can have a material impact on the way maintenance and renewals are delivered. If you have an aspiration to change an established two-track railway or reduced timetable capacity planning rule please can I ask you to identify these in advance of the EAS process so the lengthy process of dialog with work delivery and timetable planning teams can get underway.

Key steps in the process for negotiation of period block restrictions:

- Continue to guide work delivery teams to package works into sequential blocks of access and thus into timetable engineering periods.
- During the informal dialog my Access Planning Team and Operators include in their discussions a view around the preferred timetabling strategy to apply for the access (LTP or STP).
- In Version 0 of the EAS all possessions to be included in Section 7 (on some routes currently if a possession is included in a period block a corresponding possession is not included in Section 7). This may exclude established two-track railway and reduced timetable capacity planning rules which, where appropriate, will remain in Section 4.
- With the publication of Version 0 of the EAS a summary of the Section 7 possessions included in Version 0 which Network Rail believes could be timetabled as a period block will be provided.
- At the Version 0 consultation meetings the Access Planning Managers will facilitate a discussion with all impacted operators focused on which repeating possessions should be included in Section 4 Version 1 of the EAS and influence the new working timetable.

Public Holidays and Key Dates:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Bank holiday</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Day</u>
December 25th, 2023	<u>Christmas Day</u>	Nationwide	Monday
December 26th, 2023	<u>Boxing Day</u>	Nationwide	Tuesday
January 1st, 2024	<u>New Year's Day</u>	Nationwide	Monday
January 3rd, 2024	<u>Bank Holiday</u>	Scotland	Wednesday
January 2nd, 2024	<u>Substitute day (for New Year's Day)</u>	Nationwide	Tuesday
March 17th, 2024	<u>St Patrick's Day</u>	Northern Ireland	Sunday
March 29 th 2024	<u>Good Friday</u>	Nationwide	Friday
April 1 st 2024	<u>Easter Monday</u>	England Wales Northern Ireland	Monday
May 6th 2024	<u>Early May Bank Holiday</u>	Nationwide	Monday
May 27th, 2024	<u>Spring Bank Holiday</u>	Nationwide	Monday
August 5th, 2023	<u>August Bank Holiday (Scotland)</u>	Scotland	Monday
August 26th, 2024	<u>August Bank Holiday</u>	England Wales Northern Ireland	Monday
November 30th, 2024	<u>St Andrew's Day</u>	Scotland	Thursday
	BRITISH SUMMER TIME DATES		
March 31st, 2024	British Summer Time Starts (clocks go forward)	Nationwide	Sunday
October 27th, 2024	British Summer Time Ends (clocks go back)	Nationwide	Sunday

If you require further information or if I can help further, please give me a call.

Yours sincerely

Maria Lee

Maria Lee
Head of National Access Planning
Network Rail