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19 October 2022

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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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

Publication of Version 1 of the EAS - Proposal Document

By close of business on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Publication of Version 3 of the EAS - Proposal Document

By close of business on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

If agreement cannot be reached with all impacted parties as to whether or not a series of work should be included in Section 4, Network Rail will need to reach a conclusion in accordance with Decision Criteria principles, in particular considering the:

- Split of Operator and Network Rail train planning workload between LTP and STP.
- Confidence in the package of work that is proposed.
- Complexity of the plan.
- Timescales.
- How will the plan be communicated to passenger and freight customers; will the plan be consistent for front line staff to execute?
- The likelihood of possessions which could in isolation be planned under Section 4 being subject to fundamental recast on a weekly basis due to other adjacent Section 7 blocks which vary week-by-week.

Any decision by Network Rail to either include or exclude a disruptive engineering period from EAS Version 1 will be supported with a clear summary and reasoning behind the decision. If discussions between Versions 1 and 2 fail to reach a suitable outcome for all impacted parties, opportunity would then therefore exist for the decision to be registered and heard at ADC by a displeased party.

The Timetable Engineering Periods for 2024 are:

TIMETABLE PERIODS 2024																																						
	Period A				Period B				Period C				Period D				Period E				Period F																	
	DECEMBER				JANUARY				FEBRUARY				MARCH				APRIL				MAY				JUNE				JUL									
Wk	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14							
Sat	02	09	16	23	30	06	13	20	27	03	10	17	24	02	09	16	23	30	06	13	20	27	04	11	18	25	01	08	15	22	29							
Sun	03	10	17	24	31	07	14	21	28	04	11	18	25	03	10	17	24	31	07	14	21	28	05	12	19	26	02	09	16	23	30							
Mon	04	11	18	25	01	08	15	22	29	05	12	19	26	04	11	18	25	01	08	15	22	29	06	13	20	27	03	10	17	24	01							
Tue	05	12	19	26	02	09	16	23	30	06	13	20	27	05	12	19	26	02	09	16	23	30	07	14	21	28	04	11	18	25	02							
Wed	06	13	20	27	03	10	17	24	31	07	14	21	28	06	13	20	27	03	10	17	24	01	08	15	22	29	05	12	19	26	03							
Thu	07	14	21	28	04	11	18	25	01	08	15	22	29	07	14	21	28	04	11	18	25	02	09	16	23	30	06	13	20	27	04							
Fri	08	15	22	29	05	12	19	26	02	09	16	23	01	08	15	22	29	05	12	19	26	03	10	17	24	31	07	14	21	28	05							
	Period F				Period G				Period H				Period J																									
	JULY				AUGUST				SEPTEMBER				OCTOBER				NOVEMBER				DECEMBER																	
Wk	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39													
Sat	06	13	20	27	03	10	17	24	31	07	14	21	28	05	12	19	26	02	09	16	23	30	07	14	21													
Sun	07	14	21	28	04	11	18	25	01	08	15	22	29	06	13	20	27	03	10	17	24	01	08	15	22													
Mon	08	15	22	29	05	12	19	26	02	09	16	23	30	07	14	21	28	04	11	18	25	02	09	16	23													
Tue	09	16	23	30	06	13	20	27	03	10	17	24	01	08	15	22	29	05	12	19	26	03	10	17	24													
Wed	10	17	24	31	07	14	21	28	04	11	18	25	02	09	16	23	30	06	13	20	27	04	11	18	25													
Thu	11	18	25	01	08	15	22	29	05	12	19	26	03	10	17	24	31	07	14	21	28	05	12	19	26													
Fri	12	19	26	02	09	16	23	30	06	13	20	27	04	11	18	25	01	08	15	22	29	06	13	20	27													

  

BANK HOLIDAYS AND KEY DATES		PERIOD BLOCK DATES	
Sun 10th Dec 2023 - start of Dec 2024	<a href="#">timetable (Timetable Year 2024)</a>	Period A -	0001 Sun 10/12/2023 to 2359 Sun 31/12/2023 (4 Sundays)
Mon 25th Dec 2023 - Christmas Day		Period B -	0001 Mon 01/01/2024 to 2359 Sun 11/02/2024 (6 Sundays)
Tue 26th Dec 2023 - Boxing Day		Period C -	0001 Mon 12/02/2024 to 2359 Sun 24/03/2024 (6 Sundays)
Mon 1st Jan 2024 - New Year's Day		Period D -	0001 Mon 25/03/2024 to 2359 Sat 18/05/2024 (7 Sundays)
Fri 29th March 2024 - Good Friday			
Mon 1st Apr 2024 - Easter Monday		Period E -	0001 Sun 19/05/2024 to 2359 Sun 16/06/2024 (5 Sundays)
Mon 6th May 2024 - Early May Bank Holiday Day		Period F -	0001 Mon 17/06/2024 to 2359 Sun 28/07/2024 (6 Sundays)
Sun 19th May 2024 - May 2022 Timetable Change		Period G -	0001 Mon 29/07/2024 to 2359 Sun 08/09/2024 (6 Sundays)
Mon 27th May 2024 - Late Spring Bank Holiday		Period H -	0001 Mon 09/09/2024 to 2359 Sun 20/10/2024 (6 Sundays)
Mon 26th Aug 2024 - Summer Bank Holiday (not Scotland)		Period J -	0001 Mon 21/10/2024 to 2359 Sat 14/12/2024 (7 Sundays)
Sun 15th Dec 2024 - Start of Dec 2024 timetable (Timetable Year 2025)			

  

British Summer Time	
Sun 31st Mar 2024	Clocks go forward
Sun 3rd Nov 2024	Clocks go back

## Public Holidays and Key Dates:

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