



Department
for Transport

The Asset Reuse Programme Newsletter

December 2020

Introduction

Welcome to this second Asset Reuse newsletter. Asset reuse along the railway provides opportunities for a better connected United Kingdom. The Asset Reuse Research programme is a Department for Transport (DfT) initiative which Network Rail is supporting to increase its efficiency (by making the most out of its assets) and being open for business. In this issue we update you on the programme's progress and how it affects you.



The programme's main aim is to help the telecoms industry understand the technical, safety, commercial and regulatory requirements and impacts of using Network Rail's existing railway telecoms equipment to deliver connectivity along the railway. The programme is split into five workstreams:

- **Workstream one:** collate a summary of Network Rail's GSM-R masts asset information and capabilities which can be provided on request for specific location(s) to the telecoms industry for enhancement with passenger connectivity solutions (subject to site specific analysis);
- **Workstream two:** examine the products and services the telecoms industry would like Network Rail to offer, to help them deliver passenger connectivity on the railway;
- **Workstream three:** produce a guidance manual to help the telecoms industry understand the requirements for working on the railway;
- **Workstream four:** collate information about the typical costs associated with delivering masts and fibre on the railway;
- **Workstream five:** examine whether government can permit the use of railway infrastructure by the telecoms industry, including any legal or regulatory impacts of delivering passenger connectivity across the railway.



Programme update

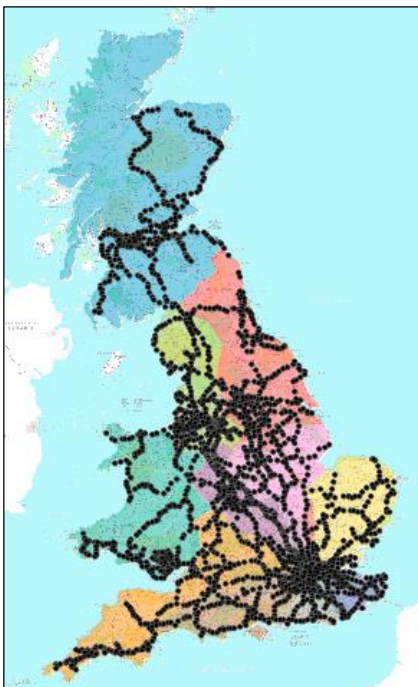
Substantial progress has been made in many areas over the last few months, including the delivery of new load case analysis and on Network Rail's ability to share location data.

Network Rail's national mast network

Network Rail's GSM-R network comprises of over 3,250 sites, covering approximately 15,000km of railway.

Network Rail has been looking at a number of different load cases that can be applied to its masts. Over 2,200 masts have been analysed and these sites are now ready for you to enquire about usage.

The map below highlights Network Rail's mast locations, many of which are in rural areas and key cities.



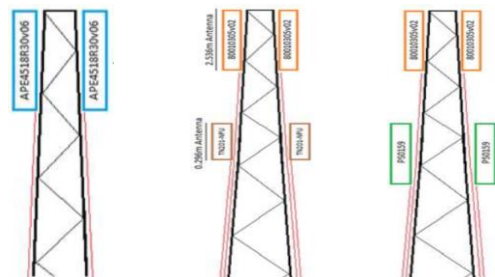
Load Case Analysis

With support from DfT, Network Rail has now extended its load case analysis.

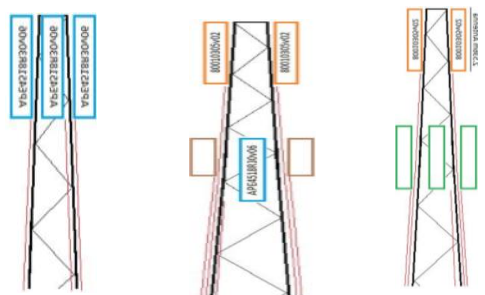
Network Rail is now able to provide load case analysis for almost 90% of its masts. The analysis gives you a clear indication of the masts which will be suitable for your needs.

Analysis has also commenced on new load cases, which include microwave dishes.

2x antennas + microwave dishes on FLI towers



3x antennas + microwave dishes on FLI towers





Products and services

Network Rail is currently completing its mast space service (for additional antennas to be deployed on masts) to complement the existing Network Rail Property services for you to deliver masts, cabinets, power and fibre on the railway.

Network Rail plans to release its full access process in March 2021. This process will show the simple steps from making an initial enquiry to installing on site. Indicative timescales and costs will also be provided.

Guidance manual

A technical guidance manual has been produced to help the telecoms industry understand the Network Rail standards and processes applicable for reusing railway telecoms equipment. The document covers:

- Access, possessions and railway safe systems of work processes;
- Common safety method for risk evaluation and assessment (CSM-RA);
- Construction design and management;
- Engineering assurance requirements.

Accessibility to data

Network Rail is creating a wealth of data as part of this programme. All data gathering and analysis is expected to be completed by April 2021.

In the meantime, subject to non-disclosure agreement, Network Rail can share information on specific sites or load cases.

This information should help you to make an informed decision on which sites could be of interest to you, and therefore start planning with your own teams.

Next steps - to March 2021

- Conduct further structural analysis;
- Carry out sample site surveys to assess the condition of Network Rail masts;
- Develop legal and regulatory guidance;
- Launch the mast space service;
- Update industry during February 2021.

Overhead line gantries

Following publication of the DfT's [report](#) exploring the opportunities for utilising overhead line gantries, Network Rail will have deployed trial equipment at its Rail Innovation and Development Centre in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, by April 2021.

Asset Reuse Programme key contact

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