

ASSESSMENT OF LONG WEEKEND ENGINEERING POSSESSIONS

The costs and benefits of 30-hour weekend single line possessions have been compared with those of the periodic closure strategy for track renewals, which had shown the largest overall gain in previous work. The East Coast Main Line has again been used as an example.

30-hour weekend single line possessions have been shown to offer 60% of the benefits of complete closure at less risk. The value of reducing the effect of temporary speed restrictions has also been demonstrated.

The use of 30-hour weekend possessions, with single line working, should be considered as an alternative to periodic route closure, where the latter would present problems which cannot be overcome in the short term.

Further studies should be initiated on the implications for civil engineering practices of reopening at line speeds of 60mph or more after possession periods of no more than 30 hours under single line conditions.