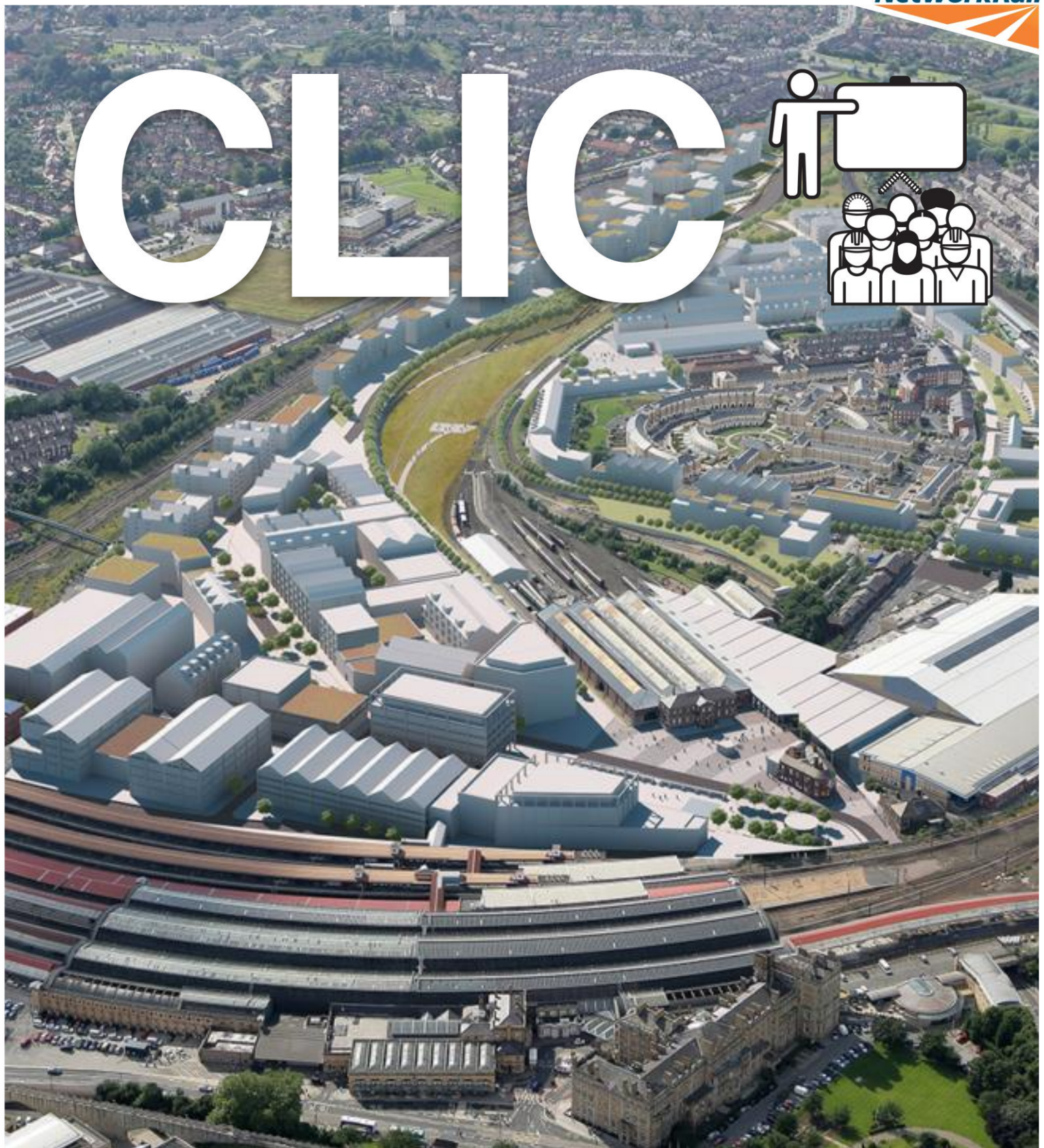


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York Central Development Proposed Design

Issue 138
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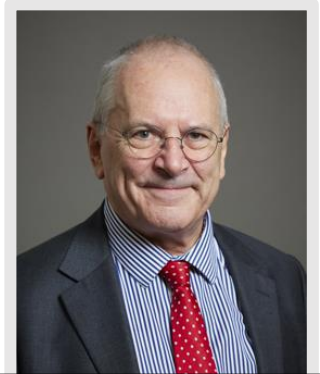
Enhancing Railway Safety: UK Government Updates National Technical Specifications



The UK government is taking significant steps to enhance the safety and reliability of the nation's railway system. Rail Minister Lord Hendy recently announced updates to seven National Technical Specification Notices (NTSNs), which are crucial for maintaining high standards across Great Britain's rail network.

These updates come after a thorough evaluation aimed at improving safety, reliability, technical compatibility, and accessibility, while also addressing environmental concerns

The revised NTSNs replace the European Union's Technical Specifications for Interoperability (TSIs), reflecting the unique technical requirements of the British rail system.



Railway Minister, Lord Hendy

New updates include:

- 1.Higher Accessibility Standards:** Improved requirements for train doors and seating.
- 2.Enhanced Safety Requirements:** Stricter safety measures for a crucial component of train operation.
- 3.Practical Standards for Freight Wagon Brakes:** Updated standards for freight wagon brakes.
- 4.Updated Standards for Electric Train Pantographs:** New requirements for electric train pantographs.
- 5.Operational Procedure Adjustments:** Changes to operational procedures and responsibilities for maintaining the UK mainline railway.
- 6.Environmental Considerations:** New standards to address environmental concerns and improve sustainability.
- 7.Technical Compatibility:** Enhanced requirements to ensure better technical compatibility across the rail network

What Next?

The forthcoming publication of the updated NTSNs marks a significant milestone in enhancing standards within Britain's rail system. However, ongoing consultations have identified additional areas for improvement, such as rail electrification, which could further enhance efficiency and reduce costs.

The government remains committed to exploring these opportunities and anticipates further updates to the NTSNs soon.



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Tideway: Lessons Learned and Industry insights



The incident:

This Tideway incident involving the Husqvarna FS7000DL Floor saw (Floor saw) provides important lessons for the industry. By examining the challenges faced and the solutions implemented, we can gain valuable insights to improve safety and efficiency in similar operations.

The Floor saw was being used to cut a temporary slab when the blade caught on some in-situ slab rebar, resulting in damage to the blade. No one was injured in relation to this incident. The temporary floor slab was to be removed for the near surface structural works and service diversions. The area was barriered off to segregate it from other works and a specialist contractor engaged to carry out the works. The contractor had to make multiple passes at different depths and had to change blades to increase the depths gradually.

The larger 1200mm Diamond Saw Blade was added on to carry out the follow-on cut on the same line, where it hit the rebar. However, the H25 rebar was pointing in the same direction as the blade. The blade stuck at this level and very quickly became damaged and stepped out of the incision.



Husqvarna FS7000DL Floor saw



Rebar in temporary concrete slab

Main Findings

- The control measures put in place to prevent an injury were in place
- The machine was inspected and found to have no faults
- The operative had the relevant training and experience
- The blade was inspected and found to have met quality control requirements
- The fragments from the blade did not land far from the machine

Learnings & Recommendations

- The control measures were in place, which helped ensure a more serious incident did not occur
- Ensure Floor sawing contractors have good space to work, with good segregation from other works, suitable physical barriers should be put in place
- Ensure operatives carry out their pre use set up and checks before operating the Floor saw, including securing the blade and guard
- Ensure good water suppression is continuous to help protect the blades
- Ensure operatives are aware how to switch off machinery in an emergency



Recent Accidents and Incidents

Date of Incident	Portfolio	Project	Location	Type of Incident / Accident	Event Description
19/03/2025 (Late Report 35 Days)	Major Project Portfolio - North	152605 – East Coast Mainline Power Supply Upgrade	Tuxford	Railway Infrastructure Fault	Retrospective Report, the project has been made aware that during a Network Rail routine maintenance activity a live 25kV bare track feeder was disconnected and dangling in the Cess at Tuxford track section. A de-energisation of OHL was taken and the feed wire was then cut down with section then being re-energised. NR maintainer re-instated the cable.
19/05/2025	Major Projects Portfolio - North	152605 – East Coast Mainline Power Supply Upgrade	Washington Compound	Route Crime	Around 500 metres of high voltage cable from 8 cable drums has been stolen. There was evidence of boundary fencing being cut and compound fencing unbolted.
20/05/2025	Civils	172816 - Flitwick access for all	Flitwick Station	Route Crime	Theft of survey equipment from a public car park beside the site compound. Police seized the stolen vehicle and survey equipment for investigation.
20/05/2025	Signalling and Telecoms	174204 - Shildon & Heighington Renewals	Shildon Compound	Route Crime	Padlock lock had been cut off the compound gate and welfare cabin had been broken into. The keys for the equipment storage container had been broken into, whereby plant and tools had been stolen.
21/05/2025	Buildings & Minor Enhancements	130874 Alfreton access for all	Alfreton Station	Personal Accidents or Assault – (Specified RIDDOR)	Person tripped on a pallet and attached shrink wrap, resulting in the person falling to the ground and hurting their right elbow. The person completed their shift before going to hospital and was found to have a fractured elbow.
22/05/2025	Major Projects Portfolio - South	158454 - Cambridge South Infrastructure Enhancements	Cambridge South Station	Environmental Category 4 (Negligible)	An excavator situated on hard standing had a hydraulic burst during operation. Approximately 15 litres of oil has sprayed, covering the excavator, ground and spraying onto an adjacent car.



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- Do you have something to share?
- Can others learn from your work?



SCAN ME

Whether it be linked Health, Safety, Environment or Social Value
Please get in touch and email: clik@networkrail.co.uk



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