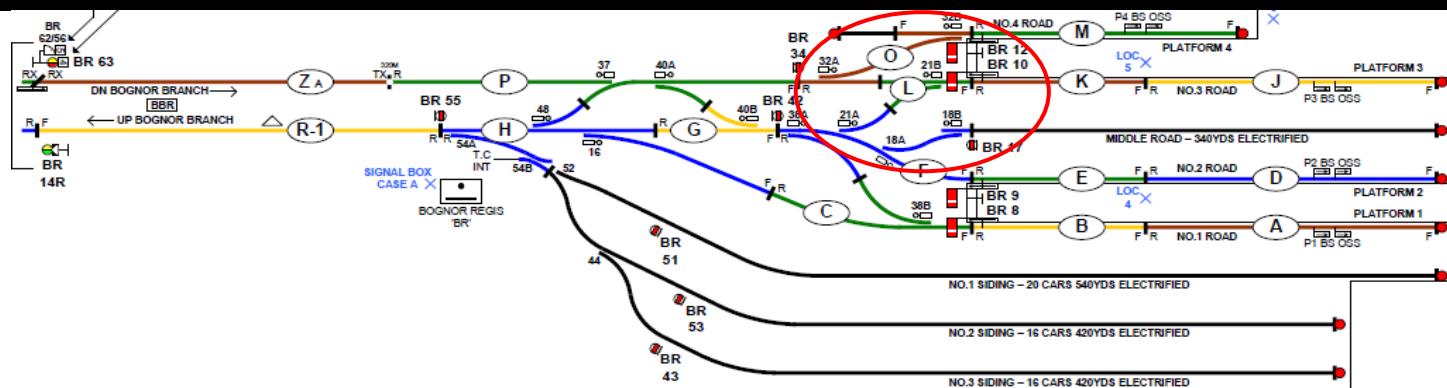


TRANSFERRABLE LESSONS FROM SERIOUS OPERATIONAL INCIDENTS / INVESTIGATIONS

Issue:	1	Ref:	NR/OPS/97	Date:	28 October 2020
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Derailment – Bognor Regis – Sussex

Summary of Incident:

At 0430 on Thursday 22nd October the signaller at Bognor Regis took duty (the box had been closed after the last train of the night). During the night an earth leakage fault had occurred. The first train was signalled normally from the middle sidings to the Up Bognor branch line at 0456. The next down train was accepted and the signaller tried to set the route from BR63 signal into platform 2 but BR63 failed to clear. The signaller checked the route and then authorised 5P17 to pass BR63 at danger but instead of 5P17 routed into platform 2 it ran into the middle siding.

2P03 was ready to depart from platform 4 and the driver and platform staff were contacting the signaller to establish what was happening. The signaller decided to get 2P03 moving before dealing with 5P17 in the middle siding. The signaller tried to set the route from BR12 home signal to the Up Bognor branch which also would not show a proceed aspect. The signaller checked the route and authorised the driver of 2P03 to pass BR12 at danger. When 2P03 departed it became derailed on 32 points. Both 18 and 32 points were damaged by the trains running through them as they were not set correctly.

Learning Points:

Although the signaller had set the levers into the correct positions, they had not checked the indications provided. They did not notice that point detection had not been obtained due to a fault. The Rule Book, Module S5, "passing a signal at danger" states that **you must check that you have the correct 'normal' or 'reverse' indications, where provided**.

Always allow yourself time to evaluate a situation and double check everything before acting. Don't allow yourself to become rushed due to external pressures. To give yourself time remember to **Always take 5 for safety**.

**Before**

- Think through the steps for what you will be doing
- Identify risks and make sure they are controlled before starting

During

- Ask yourself – do I feel safe doing this?

After

- Reflect on the task – can it be improved?

