

Ensuring minimum disruption to the Olympic and Paralympic Route Networks through the NSG

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is responsible for the delivery of the transport infrastructure for the games, and the designation of the Olympic Route Network (ORN) and Paralympic Route Network (PRN).

These networks are made up of roads and streets that will facilitate the travel of athletes and their coaches, officials, the public and the media, between the competition and training venues during the games.

Under the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act of 2006 any party engaging in any activity which may disrupt the ORN and travel to or from an Olympic event is obliged to contact the ODA to secure approval. The ODA has significant powers to regulate that work to ensure the integrity of the network during key periods. In other words, it sets out to protect all Olympic and Paralympic proceedings from other activity on the transport network.

Because of the spread of venues across London, the Home Counties and parts of the South West where the sailing events will take place, the ORN/PRN will affect 46 different highway authorities including Transport for London and the Highways Agency. It is vital to the success of the games that traffic disruption is kept to a minimum.

By incorporating the ORN into the NSG, highway authorities, utilities and others empowered to work in and dig up the roads will be fully aware of the ORN and the restrictions in place while it

is in operation. The NSG is used by the highways authorities to manage their own works, as well as utility companies and other 'statutory undertakers' (those licensed to carry out works in the highway) to reference the road network when they are notifying their intention to carry out work on the roads, or to apply for permits where such schemes exist.

During the games the advice is pretty clear, 'do not plan works!' There is also a need to ensure that any works are properly coordinated in order not to disrupt the preparation for the games. The venues will all need to be supplied with equipment and consumables and then

extensively trialled, so it is imperative that any network disruption is kept to a minimum.

"The NSG is the ideal way of communicating the Olympic Route Network to those licensed to dig up the roads," said Oscar Akintoye from the ODA. "For these organisations it will be business as usual. However, if their work poses a risk to the integrity of the ORN during the key periods they will be alerted immediately. The NSG will provide appropriate information and advice to ensure that work is either coordinated or re-scheduled to a more appropriate time."



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