



Marianne Birkby

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30 March 2022

Dear Marianne Birkby

Information request
Reference number: FOI2022/00276

Thank you for your email of 1 March 2022 in which you requested the following information:

'What is the load bearing capacity of the Arnside Viaduct in Cumbria?'

I have processed your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I have consulted with my colleagues and can confirm that we hold the information you have requested. However, under section 21(1) of the FOIA, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is reasonably accessible to an applicant by other means.

This information is published online on our webpage via the The National Sectional Appendix using the following weblink: [London North Western \(North\) Sectional Appendix 2022](#)

According to the sectional appendix the viaduct can accommodate RA8 vehicles at line speed of 60mph. RA9/10 vehicles have a restriction in place of 20mph over the viaduct. Please find the extract from the sectional appendix for the Arnside viaduct and the D5A Route Clearance table listed below:

LOR	Seq.	Line of Route Description	ELR	Route	Last Updated
NW4033	004	Carnforth North Jn to Carlisle South Jn (via Barrow)	CBC1	LNW North	28/09/2019
Location	Mileage M Ch	Running lines & speed restrictions		Signalling & Remarks	
ARNSIDE	6 10 *			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> AB Arnside SB (AE) </div>	
	6 21			Platform lengths: Arnside. Up platform: 120 metres (131 yards). Down platform: 118 metres (129 yards).	
	6 29			Arnside SB	
	6 46 * 6 48 *			Arnside Viaduct (481 metres / 526 yards)	
6 72	6 72	Arnside Viaduct (Br.15): maximum speed of 20mph applies to RA9/10 vehicles over this bridge on both lines - see Route Clearance table D5A.		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> Grange-over-Sands SB (GS) </div>	
8 67	8 67	Holme Island LC (UWC)			
9 28	9 28	(Crossover)			
9 31	9 31	Grange-over-Sands SB			
GRANGE-OVER-SANDS	9 37 *				
	9 40 *				
	9 43			Platform lengths: Grange-over-Sands. Platform 1: 120 metres (131 yards). Platform 2: 96 metres (105 yards).	

Table D5A - Route clearance of Freight Vehicles**Last Updated: 06/02/2021**

To be read in conjunction with General Notes.

This table consists of the list of lines as shown in Table A, the RA index of each route, any general authorities for heavy axle weight vehicles, the gauge of the route and other route restrictions. (Temporary or vehicle specific heavy axle weight authorities are not shown.)

The gauge of the route is shown as one of the following:

- standard locomotive gauge indicated by a forward-slash symbol, (i.e. /),
- W6A (W6) – meaning clear to W6A Gauge,
- W7 – meaning clear to W6A Exception Gauge for 8ft. containers,
- W8 – meaning clear to W6A Exception Gauge for 8ft 6in containers,
- W9 – meaning clear to SB1C gauge.
- W10 – meaning clear for 9ft. 6in. high x2.5m. wide containers on selected wagons
- W12 – meaning clear to W12 composite swept envelope

Additional restrictions or clearances may also be shown as notes in the Notes & Restrictions column.

The 'Heavy Axle Weight Vehicles' column indicates whether a vehicle which exceeds the RA index of the route may be conveyed, and if so under what conditions:

Authority Code	Meaning
Y	There are no particular restrictions for vehicles that exceed the RA of the route, and form RT3973HAW can be produced on this basis. 25.5 tonne axle weight vehicles in use on the network as of April 1998 are not restricted. (Note that this information does not include vehicles which may have individual restrictions placed upon them.)
N	Vehicles that exceed the RA of the route must not run without the authority of the Territory Structures Assessment Engineer. If authority is given a vehicle specific form RT3973HAW can be produced.
R1, R2, etc.	Vehicles which exceed the RA of the route can run subject to the particular restriction(s) identified, and form RT3973HAW can be produced on this basis. 25.5 tonne axle weight vehicles in use on the network as of April 1998 are not restricted. (Note that this information does not include vehicles which may have individual restrictions placed upon them.)
--	No request to run vehicles that exceed the RA of the route has previously been made and any request to do so must be referred to the Territory Structures Assessment Engineer. 25.5 tonne axle weight vehicles may be able to run following assessment.

Restricted Vehicles

Vehicles identified below can not run without reference to the Territory Structures Assessment Engineer, who will identify any restrictions that apply to that particular vehicle over a specified route in accordance with the Route Availability Group Standard:

- Coil Strip Wagon BN001A

You can also find further information about the route availability (RA) system at the following link: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Route_availability

I hope this is helpful. If you have any enquiries about this response, please contact me in the first instance at FOI@networkrail.co.uk. Details of your appeal rights are below.

Please remember to quote the reference number at the top of this letter in all future communications.

Yours sincerely

Elliot Palk
Information Officer

You are encouraged to use and re-use the information made available in this response freely and flexibly, with only a few conditions. These are set out in the [Open Government Licence](#) for public sector information. For further information please visit our [website](#)

Appeal rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, please write to the Head of Freedom of Information at Network Rail, Freedom of Information, The Quadrant, Elder Gate, Milton Keynes, MK9 1EN, or by email at ComplianceandAppealsFOI@networkrail.co.uk. Your request must be submitted within 40 working days of receipt of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner (ICO) can be contacted at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or you can contact the ICO through the 'Make a Complaint' section of their website on this link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

The relevant section to select will be "Official or Public Information".