



Incorrect Access Used (Down)

What happened?

Attendance to an emergency reactive fault at Shoreham FTN building was required to repair an access door. The work location was to be accessed by the COSS and an Operative via a c100m walk in the cess off the London end of platform 1 with no requirement to enter the 4ft. A simple line blockage was planned on the immediately adjacent line (the Up Maidstone) as a safety precaution, with a protecting signal being keyed to danger remotely at Otford Station by a Competent Person.

The COSS set up the line blockage with the Signaller and along with one operative accessed the cess from the Country End of platform 2 adjacent to the open Down Maidstone Line, wrongly believing this to be the blocked London End of Platform 1. After walking around 60m in the cess the COSS realised they had walked in the wrong direction and two trains passed them on the adjacent open line. They returned to the station, crossed over the footbridge, accessed the Up Cess correctly via the London End of Platform 1 (Up Maidstone) and completed the job without further incident and the COSS gave up the line blockage. The incident was not reported at the time, but was reported the following morning.

Immediate actions

1. Red Flag Review held and Network Rail Programme Manager Informed.
2. COSS stood down from duties and 'for cause' D&A tested.
3. Detailed investigation commenced.
4. Staff and suppliers undertaking COSS duties in line blockages have been reminded that they must comply with Octavius and Network Rail procedures to ensure they have sufficient local knowledge before accessing the track.

Understanding Location and Orientation:

'Station platform numbers'

Never assume that platform numbers are a true indicator of your location or the direction of traffic.

'Railway Structures, Signals, Mile posts and Track Furniture'

Always use these and their I.D. plates to familiarise yourself with the track layout and your orientation relative to track. Never assume without making these physical, visual checks.

