

Operational Order - Leeds Festival 2025

Date: Wednesday 20th - Monday 25th August 2025
Location: Bramham Park, Wetherby, West Yorkshire

Version 1.1 – For issue

19th August 2025

Background

Leeds Festival is an annual music festival that takes place at Bramham Park, Leeds, and is located close to the A1(M) which is the key route for the Leeds Festival traffic plan.

The event attracts an audience of up to 89,999, including guests. This year the festival will take place on Friday 22nd, Saturday 23rd, and Sunday 24th August 2025.

Weekend festival goers will start to arrive from Wednesday 20th August and will continue through Thursday 21st August and Friday 22nd August.

Day ticket holders will arrive each day and leave each evening from Friday 22nd August to Sunday 24th August inclusive.

Roadworks are currently being undertaken on the A1M between J43-J44 to replace the central reservation. These works and the traffic management mean that there is a reduced lane capacity in some areas. The combination of the works, the festival and bank holiday traffic, could lead to long delays on the A1(M) and M1 at peak times. Saturday is expected to be particularly busy day for day ticket arrivals and egress.

Egress is expected to be busy from 9pm onwards on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th August. There is a specific egress operation, led by National Highways and supported by WYP, directing traffic by hand at J44 roundabout.



Name	Organisation	Position	Phone Number
	National Highways	Operations Manager – Silver Commander	
	National Highways	On-road Bronze (Sat & Sun Egress)	
	National Highways	On-Road Bronze Mon DAYS (0600-1430)	
	Festival Republic	Off-site Traffic Management Coordinator	
	AA Signs	Contracts Manager	
	National Highways	Regional Operations Centre Team Manager	
	National Highways	Operations Manager	
	National Highways	Team Manager	
	National Highways	Senior Network Planner - Resilience	
	West Yorkshire Police	Traffic Bronze – DAYS (0700-1900)	
	West Yorkshire Police	Traffic Bronze – NIGHT (1900-0700)	
	Yorkshire Rescue	Light Recovery Sat/Sun/Mon egress	
		Traffic Safety Control Officer	
		CCTV Monitoring	

Traffic Management Plan

The intention of the Traffic Management Plan is to:

- Reduce, as far as reasonably practicable, the risk to people attending the festival or other members of public using the roads in the vicinity.
- Minimise, as far as reasonably practicable, the risk of congestion, on the A1(M) which runs adjacent to the festival site and which is the main feeder route to the festival.
- Respond quickly to any issues that arise.
- Reduce, as far as reasonably practicable, the inconvenience or nuisance caused to residents or other users of the roads in the area and who are not connected to the festival.
- Continuous improvement, getting better every year.

The traffic management plan changed significantly from 2022 onwards, with the closure of the A64 to through traffic (between red bus layby and J44) for the entirety of the festival period. Pick-up and drop-off traffic will be routed via A1(M) J44 throughout.

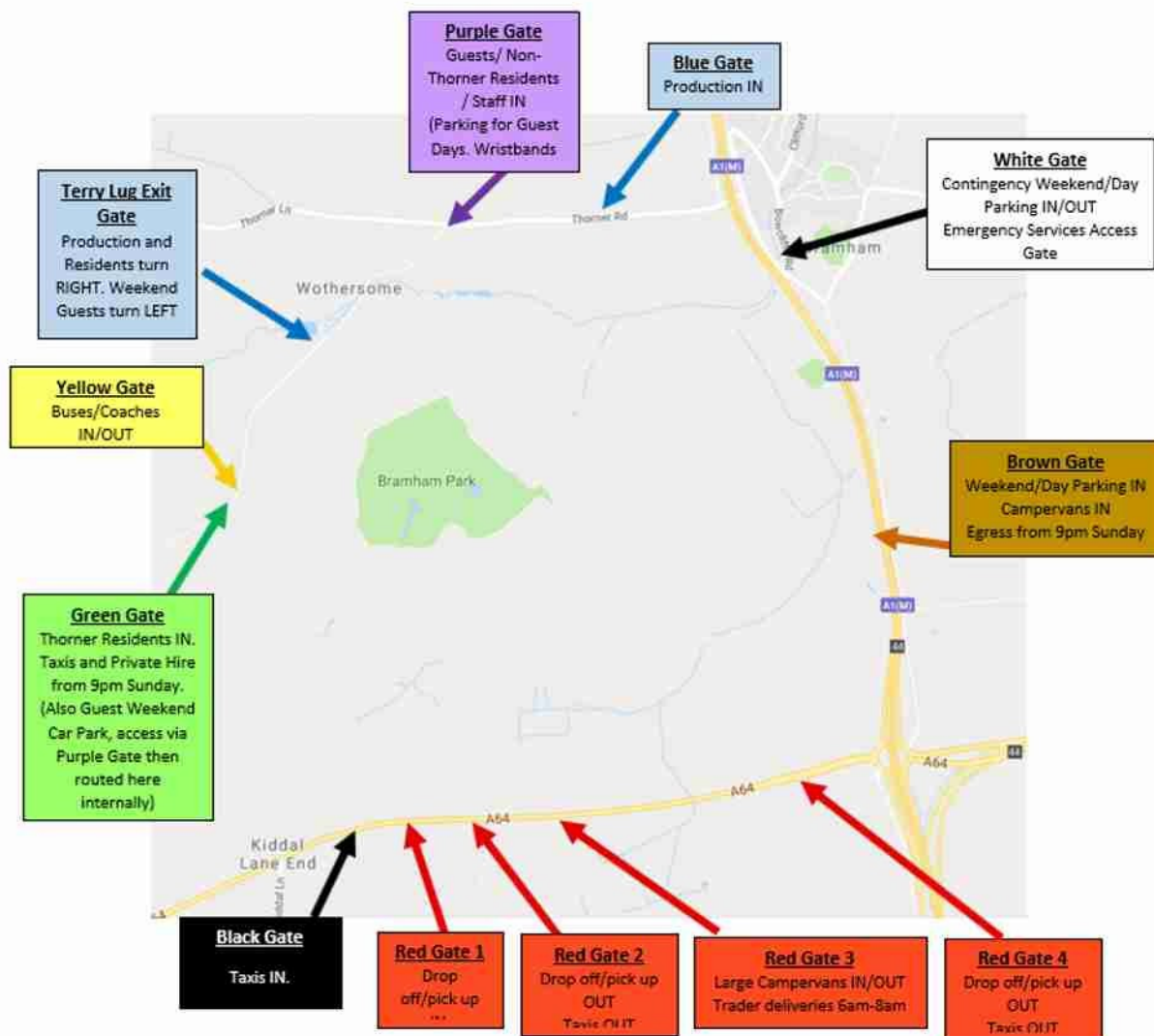
In previous years, pick-up and drop-off traffic was able to use the hard shoulder of the A1M J43-J44 in Aberford Dip. For 2025, traffic is already using the hard shoulder due to the roadworks. Hard shoulder running for festival PUDO traffic will be reduced to the J44 exit.

In the event of issues with the TM equipment, such as a cone strike, NH traffic officers should respond in the first instance.

If the traffic management is within the roadworks, the TSCO should be contacted. If the TM is specifically for the festival, AA Signs should be contacted. The respective organisations will arrange for any damaged cones and signs to be replaced.

Gate Plan –

N.B. Whilst the gate positions remain correct on the below map, some descriptions are out of date. See the off-site TM plan for full details.



VMS

The VMS plans are repeated from previous years, with some minor changes for 2025. VMS plans have been developed in conjunction with stakeholders and the VSS policy team. These plans are detailed, giving specific info on which junctions to use for pick-up & drop-off, or parking. The plans have been created in the NTIS system and will activate at the times given in the VMS plan. (See Annex).

Contingency plans are included and can be activated by NTOC if there are any issues with festival routes. These contingencies direct all traffic either to J44 or J45 A1M. They should only be activated under instruction from the NH Silver commander or duty OM, after consultation between NH, WYP and Festival Republic.

Operations

West Yorkshire Police will be responsible for patrolling and monitoring traffic flows on the local access roads, Wattle Syke roundabout, Grange Moor roundabout, West Woods Road, Tenter Hill, Thorner/Bramham Road, Paradise Way, Spen Common Lane, A64 and A58 etc. As part of the TMP they will take any necessary action to reduce congestion on the local access roads.

There are numerous restrictions and closures on local roads around the festival site. These include reduced speed limits, no waiting and no u-turns. WYP will be carrying out enforcement of these restrictions, including with camera vans.

National Highways will lead on the strategic management of traffic on the motorways, A64 and J44 interchange and deal with any incidents under standard operating procedures and powers.

For 2025, the roadworks on the A1M J43-44 are expected to alter the traffic flows at Hook Moor, with delays potentially being seen further south prior to the M1/A1M merge. The prompt clearance of any incidents will be critical to maintaining traffic flows.

Dedicated Traffic Officer patrols and core patrols covering routes around the festival (e.g. route 33) will be tasked with proactive patrolling of the A1M J42-46 and A64 Tadcaster to Bramham.

Saturday & Sunday (evening) – Traffic Officers will be present at J44 throughout the peak egress to manage traffic.

Monday (morning)– Traffic Officers will be present at J44 throughout the peak egress to manage traffic.

The YNE ROC will ensure an event log is created on 20/08/25 and ensure proactive monitoring of CCTV at J44 & J45 A1M.

Recovery of vehicles

Vehicles broken down or collision damaged within the roadworks will be recovered by the scheme free recovery.

Dedicated pre-positioned recovery will be available during the peak egress periods, as set out below. This will be provided by Yorkshire Rescue, via the NH National Vehicle Recovery Manager. The recovery vehicles will be based at J44 A1M. Outside of these periods, and outside of the roadworks extents, recovery of vehicles will be under normal TOS powers and through NVRM.

Reference	RCC Ref	Scheduled Date From	Scheduled Start Time	Scheduled Date To	Scheduled End Time	Exact Location	Light / Heavy	Attending VRO
43232025-08-23	Leeds Fest	23/08/2025	21:00:00	24/08/2025	03:00:00	A1M J44	Light	Yorkshire Rescue
43242025-08-24	Leeds Fest	24/08/2025	21:00:00	25/08/2025	03:00:00	A1M J44	Light	Yorkshire Rescue
43252025-08-25	Leeds Fest	25/08/2025	08:00:00	25/08/2025	12:00:00	A1M J44	Light	Yorkshire Rescue

Traffic Officers working off the SRN

Additional authority has been sought and granted from Leeds City Council for the National Highways Traffic Officers to exercise their powers on the Local Highways network, as specified below:

1. The A58 and A659 that comprises the circulatory roundabout at the A1(M) Junction 45
2. The A659 from the roundabout at A1(M) Junction 45 up to and including the circulatory roundabout known as 'Wattle Syke Roundabout'.
3. Junction 46 A1(M) northbound via B1224 Racecourse Approach and A168 Hudson Way & Privas Way
(See Annex)

Powers/Procedures

Traffic Officers are to work to existing work procedures.

Within any area of the hard shoulder running, the hard shoulder is to be considered a live lane and any broken down/damaged/abandoned vehicles must be removed.

Balfour Beatty (Connect) will need support from Traffic Officers for all incidents in the area where hard shoulder running is in place.

In the event of significant congestion, there may be a need to escort maintenance service providers through traffic to get to depots or from the depot to incidents. Consideration should be given to requesting assistance from WYP who have motorbike patrols, trained in escorting vehicles.

Command and Control

The point of contact for any issues relating to impacts from Leeds Festival traffic on the strategic road network will be through the YNE ROC.

For 2025, there will be a dedicated silver commander Weds to Sunday. For Monday 25th there will be a separate on-road bronze and the Duty OM will act as Silver Commander, escalating through the CMM if required.

	Weds 20 th	Thurs 21 st	Fri 22 nd	Sat 23 rd	Sun 24 th	Mon 25 th
Dedicated Silver Command						
Early OM						
Late OM						

Communications





Due to the expanse of the festival site, WYP request what 3 words is utilised when they are being requested to attend locations off the motorway, to ensure a prompt attendance.

For 2025 there is a reduction in dedicated TO resource, with the A1M being in roadworks with free recovery and IPV response.

The NH Forward Command Vehicle will be deployed at J44 for use by those supporting the festival traffic operation.

[illegible]

Monday 25 th August 2025					
Role	Callsign	Person	Radio	Start	Finish
Ground Bronze				06:00	14:24

ROC

The dedicated ROC resources for this year, as set out below.

Saturday 23 rd August 2025					
Role	Person			Start	Finish
ROC TM				14:00	02:25
ROC Op				19:00	03:25

Sunday 25 th August 2024					
Role	Person			Start	Finish
ROC TM				14:00	02:25
ROC Op				22:00	06:25

Monday 26 th August 2024					
Role	Person			Start	Finish
ROC TM				06:00	14:24

Egress

In previous years the main traffic congestion was during egress, particularly at J44 on Sunday night and Monday morning. Again in 2025, National Highways will lead the operation at J44 roundabout to proactively manage the traffic by hand. NH on-road bronze will coordinate the operation, overseen by the NH Silver Commander. WYP will support, both with directing traffic and any enforcement issues that arise. NH will dynamically decide the points at which to run the different phases of the egress plan, based on observed traffic flows and priorities. There will be an on-site briefing with WYP at J44 at 20:30 at the Forward Command Vehicle, which will be positioned on the junction within the lane closure on the south side of the roundabout.

The priority will be:

- To avoid queuing traffic extending from the J44L slip back onto lane 1 of the main carriageway.
- To keep the interchange moving.
- To keep a good flow of traffic out of the car parks.

Contingencies

Contingency plans are available to send all festival traffic to J44 or to J45. These plans must be jointly discussed between NH/WYP and Festival Republic prior to being enacted. They are resource intensive to implement due to the changes required to hard signs and internal traffic management on site.

The reduced capacity on the A1M J43-J44 may present challenges during peak periods, with the potential for long delays on the A1M and M1. These will be monitored throughout and communicated to customers.

Briefings

This Operational Order will be used as a briefing for all operational staff, via daily shift briefings.

Briefing slides are available and a briefing will be held with all operations managers.

Media

A press release has been issued and proactive messages issued on social media.

The NH Silver commander will be able to respond directly to specific customer tweets regarding the festival and these can be assigned to them by NILO.

Annex

Festival Republic Traffic Management Plan
National Highways Event VMS Plan
National Highways Event Signal Plan – Not applicable in 2025 due to roadworks
LCC Letter of Authority – Traffic Officers
AA Signs – Full schedule
Traffic Regulation Order – Hard shoulder running
Traffic Regulation Order – J45 north exit closure
J44 Egress plans
Operational Briefing slides

Feedback

Please ensure feedback is captured and sent to [REDACTED]@nationalhighways.co.uk