**MIDEAST COAST Version 1 – for OPENRAILS, November 2021**

**Introduction**

MidEast Coast (MEC) is an upgrade to MidEast Plus (MEP) which was only available on DVD from UKTS. MEC is available as a download only and currently has no limited stock and no activities. ***It is suitable for use in Open Rails only (not in MSTS).***

MEC goes back in time a couple of decades, so we are firmly in the 1950’s Steam Era. The Route is largely very similar to MEP in its layout and scenery and will be totally recognisable to anyone who has MEP. However, many scenic items have been improved and the track layout changed quite a bit. Thus, most paths that were provided with MEP will not work. A set of introductory paths is provided to enable easy exploration of the route. ***Activities and a sample Timetable will be added in due course when the stock is complete.*** *It is possible to use the TSRE5 activity editor, but currently using the MSTS Activity Editor is problematic and may not resolve.*

Steam facilities have been added throughout the route, there being water towers at most locations, multiple coaling facilities, water troughs on the main line and several working turntables at key locations.

A short extension to the original layout has been added from Firsby to Spilsby. The line also extends a couple of miles north from Burgh-Le Marsh to Willoughby, the latter area currently having no scenery or signals. The long-term plan is to reinstate the Lost Lines of Lincolnshire. The next versions will extend further north to Louth, Mablethorpe, Grimsby and Cleethorpes.

**Installation**

Installation is very easy. The route comes with four main folders, Global, Sound, Routes and Trains, contained within a single <Open Rails -MidEast Coast> Zip File. It is recommended that you unzip the route files to a stand-alone location on your main drive. However, the route can be installed anywhere you like as long as the four main folders and their contents are included. Once installed, you will need to point Open Rails to the installation location by clicking on the Options/Content Tab on the Open Rails Menu Screen and adding the route to the Installation Profiles.

Documentation can be found in a folder within the Routes/MidEastCoast folder.

**Stock**

Initially there will be a limited number of BR Standard steam locos and Mk1 Coaches in crimson and cream livery and maroon livery. Appropriate Consists are provided to enable instant running in Explore Mode, or Explore in Activity Mode, using the sample Paths included. The loco file graphics are by **David Robinson** and the Coaches are updates to some original MEP stock by **Martin Bracegirdle**. They include OpenRails .eng and .wag files developed by myself. These make use of OR physics capabilities to give realistic running and performance. No activities are included at this point. These will follow as the stock is rolled out. ***It is recommended train running is carried out with Curve Dependent Resistance, Tunnel Dependent Resistance and Wind Dependent Resistance set in the OR Options/Simulation Tab.***

**Steam Facilities**

***Water Troughs*** are available on the **ECML at Langley** (Stevenage South), **Werrington** (Peterborough North), **Muskham** (Newark North), and **Scrooby Top** (Doncaster South). This enables non-stop steam loco running from KX to North of York.

***WorkingTurntables and associated sheds are available at***

Kings Cross Station (90ft)

Broad Street Station (90ft)

Finsbury Roundhouse (90ft)

Hertford Shed (65ft)

Hitchin Shed (68ft)

Letchworth Shed (68ft)

Royston Shed (90ft)

Cambridge Shed ( 90ft)

Kings Lynn Station (90ft)

New England Roundhouse (90ft)

Wansford Shed (90ft)

Grantham Shed (90ft)

Newark Station (68ft)

Retford Shed (65ft)

Doncaster Shed (90ft)

York Roundhouse (90ft)

Spalding Station (68ft)

Boston Shed (90ft)

Skegness Station (90ft)

Lincoln Shed (90ft)

Wisbech North Shed (68ft)

Wisbech Tramway (42ft)

Upwell Tramway (42ft)

**Signalling**

The signalling system contains a lot of the original traffic light style signals which are not prototypical for the 1950s. I considered it too much of a task and somewhat risky to try and replace everything with semaphores. Fortunately, there is a lot of semaphore signalling in place from the original route.

Where Semaphore Signals exist in the route additional special dummy distant signals have been added where necessary to allow the correct aspect of Distant Signals to show in Activities.

TRAINHASCALLON has been enabled in the signal scripts for all Semaphore Home and Ground Dolly Signals plus all 3 and 4 Light UK signals and Ground Signals. TrainHasCallon enables AI trains to run round and recouple in Timetable Mode.

**Vehicle Traffic**

The special feature available in Open Rails to enable roads to have different traffic content (Carspawner Lists contained in the main route OpenRails Folder) has been utilised. This is only partially implemented at the moment.

**Route Maps**

The original MEP Schematic Route Maps are included for reference as they are still relevant and useful to obtain general familiarity with the route layout. They will be updated to include Water Trough, Shed and Turntable locations as further updates appear.

**Credits and Permissions**

All credits and permissions from MEP still stand. The files used in MEC are the same as for MEP. The only addition being some Period Vehicles by Martin Phillips (DocMartin). Martin has approved use of these vehicles in the route. They have been resized in some cases to better fit existing vehicle sizes and scenery. (***See the MEC Scenery Credits file***).

Thanks to everyone who has allowed use of their material in the route.

***MidEast Coast is the copyright of Mick Clarke.***

Mick Clarke 3/12/21