

Securing materials for the passage of trains

Issued to: All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and RISQS registered contractors

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Location: Multiple locations

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Overview

There have been several recent occurrences where materials or components have been displaced or struck by the passage of trains and have either caused or had the potential to cause damage.

These include an incident at Barton & Broughton in Lancashire where an AWS unit lid that had been removed for maintenance work had not been safely secured and was dislodged by a passing train, and earlier incidents involving [plant and equipment stored in tunnels](#).

More recently, on 18 August 2018 a report was received from a driver that their train had jumped slightly when it came into contact with an obstruction and sustained minor damage near Tir-Phil station in Wales.

Subsequently a pallet of loose troughing bases and lids were discovered track side. The troughing bases used, potentially by a trespasser in this incident, would most likely have been taken from the pallet.

The pallet of troughing bases have now been banded and arrangements have been made to remove the material from site.

Discussion Points

While we are investigating the incident please discuss the following with your team:

- How do you make sure that your site is tidy on completion of works and that all equipment and materials have been removed or secured?
- How could you plan for more of your equipment and materials to be removed from site?
- If equipment, materials or components need to be stored or left lineside, what precautions could you take to make them secure?
- When temporarily ceasing work for the passage of trains what could you do to ensure materials, tools or components are secured?
- How do you recognise and challenge suspicious behaviour on and around the infrastructure?
- If you do see any redundant lineside material what can you do to make it safe and arrange for its removal?

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