

No: NRS 273

Network Rail Safety Bulletin

Embankment Stability: Action to be taken at times of Adverse Weather/Flooding

This bulletin is for the attention of:

All Track Maintenance, Operations and Asset Management Staff.

Background

A freight train derailed on the 27th December 2012 at Barrow-Upon-Soar in East Midlands. Whilst the matter remains subject to formal investigation, initial reports indicate that the derailment has been caused by a short length of embankment failing and the cess rail subsiding.

This year has been exceptionally wet and much of the infrastructure has remained saturated for a long period of time.

The embankment is adjacent to the River Soar and both sides had been retaining standing water in recent days.



Action Required

Staff are asked to notify the Route Civils/Geotechnical Teams to request a special examination of the embankment if:

The land at the bottom of embankment is flooded or has been recently flooded

and any of the following have occurred:

1. A rough ride is reported on the embankment
2. Reactive track maintenance works, related to geometry, top or alignment faults, have been recently undertaken or are planned on the embankment
3. Loss of ballast in the shoulder, cess or between sleepers is observed