

Lineside materials - vandalism

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

Ref: NRB 18/20

Date of issue: 21/12/2018

Location: Gilberdyke, LNE

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Overview

On the 18th December 2018 at 14:00, a passenger train struck an object positioned on the rail head in the vicinity of Gilberdyke (Hull Station to Selby line).

Initial investigation found the train had struck a c20kg metal signal wedge that had been left trackside awaiting recovery after recent signalling project works.

It seems likely that the signal wedge may have been placed on the rail head intentionally. British Transport Police are investigating. This could have derailed the train as similar incidents of vandalism have demonstrated.

While the investigation takes place, it is important to remember the requirements for lineside materials.

Keep your work area tidy at all times and never leave the following and similar items unattended trackside:

- Cable drums.
- Rail lengths of less than 6m.
- Wooden sleepers unless banded in groups of six and secured by a ground anchor a safe distance from the running line.
- Troughing unless stacked and banded in groups weighing not less than 800kg.
- Remove large equipment / trolleys from site or secure to a ground anchor or other fixed object.
- Remove scrap immediately from site wherever possible.

Discussion Points

While we are investigating the incident please discuss the following with your teams.

- How do you check that plant and equipment has been effectively removed from site at the end of a shift, or is secured adequately?
- How do you plan to secure your worksite equipment and materials when unattended?
- What actions could you carry out to prevent potential acts of vandalism on your sites?
- What action would you take if you find materials or equipment unsecured on the infrastructure?

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