

Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place



Malicious Act — items placed on the line

Issued to: Wessex Route

Ref: WEX120519

Date of Issue: 23/05/2019

Location: Yeovil Pen Mill Station



Overview

On Sunday 12th May 2019 at approx. 08:31 the BTP received a report from the local police that there were obstructions on the Single line between Yeovil Pen Mill Station and Castle Cary ((WEY) at 141m00ch. The first train through this location was cautioned, but struck the mile post sign that was laid across the line and came across some grease buckets and sand bags placed on the rails. It was discovered that the perpetrators gained access to the line by cutting the chain link fence at approx. 141m05ch.

Fortunately on this occasion no one was harmed. However, the obstructions were intended to disrupt rail operations and this incident may have had very different outcome. Placing objects on the line has clear safety consequences for rail passengers, train crews, our colleagues attending such incidents and to the individuals committing the criminal and malicious act.

Discussion Points

- We are all responsible for maintaining the safety and security of the railway. Access points, equipment and materials must be properly secured during works with lineside scrap and unused materials removed on completion. Guidance can be found in Task Risk Control sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/GA25.
- Malicious obstructions, unusual objects or obvious signs of trespass (damaged fences well-trodden paths, criminal damage etc.) must be reported. Colleagues should be alert and look for unusual activity or behaviour.
- Challenge anyone on or around the railway who you believe should not be there and report such incidents to BTP and route control. If you believe you may be in danger maintain a safe distance or leave the area and call the Police.
- Apply the HOT and WHAT protocols.