

Southern Significant Event Fast Facts - Kent

Note: This document contains information understood to date (72hrs post incident) and information may change following investigation

Event details:

At approx. 10:30am 23/05/2026, near West Malling Station, on the SBJ, a machine controller (M.C) was undertaking works that involved the unloading of sleepers from a trailer with a road rail vehicle (RRV). The M.C communicated to the RRV operator that they had been asked to unload the sleepers from the trailers and place them up the bank.

The machine controller walked around the off side of the machine to get to the cess but in this moment the machine swung around and hit the machine controller in the side of the head (wearing safety helmet), knocking the IP to the floor. An ambulance was called and the IP was assessed and told to go home to rest.

Initial causes identified:

- Communication between machine controller and machine operator during machine movements.

Key issues for investigation to consider:

- Onsite communication
- Why IP decided to walk where they did
- Onsite supervision
- Heat exhaustion/ dehydration factors
- Exclusion zone awareness
- Experience level of machine controller and machine operator

Immediate actions taken:

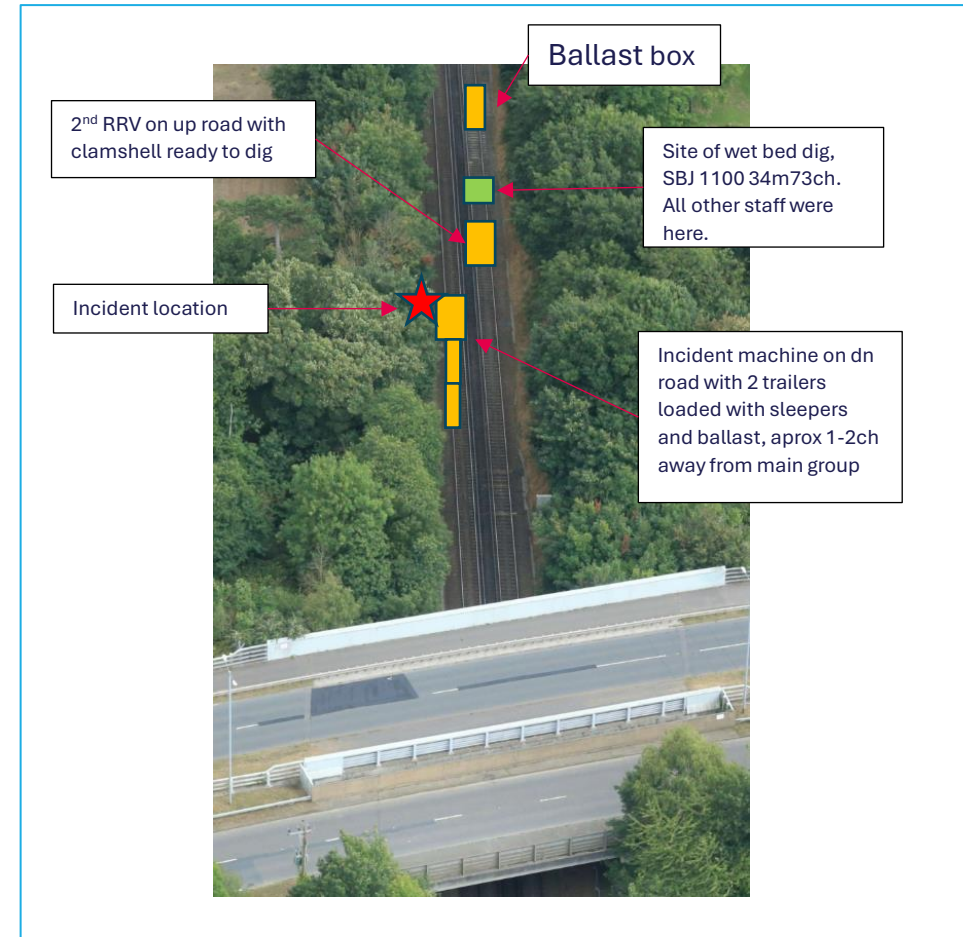
- Assessed by ambulance
- Taken home by another colleague due to concussion.

Could this happen in other locations: Yes

DCP: Chris Bell

Level of investigation: 2

Safety Events reference:
SE-00047190



Listen, learn, improve