

Event details

Date of incident: 11/05/2026

Time of incident: 04:30

Location of incident: Brighton 1844 points

Route: Sussex

Discipline: Works Delivery Track

Event description:

Following planned possession works at Brighton 1844 points (S&C Medium, Item 168), a section of conductor rail (con-rail) on the approach was left incorrectly configured (ungauged).

The con-rail was left positioned proud, sitting incorrectly on the ramp end pot ears. As a result, the first passenger service operating over the section struck the ungauged con-rail. This caused damage whereby the train lost its shoe gear.

This resulted in a SAF (Service Affecting Failure) and subsequent delay minutes.

Any injuries and updates on persons involved: No injuries sustained

Don't Wait – Act Now!

Whilst the investigation is ongoing, we do not need to wait to act.

Some simple reminders:

- Ensure that all due checks are completed on all areas that are potentially affected by the works undertaken.
- Consider extremities of the work location and any affected assets.



Initial causes identified:

- Final hand back check of the con-rail floater rail did not identify that the con-rail was not correctly gauged inside and just outside of work extremities.

Key issues for the investigation to consider:

- Robustness of hand back process to ensure checks cover the full extremities of areas that are affected by works.
- Site process for gauging requirements post installation
- Impact of late starting resources on site for delivery

Immediate actions taken

- Competencies requested from specialist supplier to review.
- Hand back staff on the last shift have been stood down from their hand back duties effective immediately until investigation completed and findings / corrective measures have been taken.

Could this happen in another location: Yes

DCP: Aaron Scudder

Level of investigation: Level 1