



High Winds Fact Sheet

We know that being on time is important to you, so we're working hard to keep you moving.

Did you know?
Teams inspect the track on foot, cutting back overhanging trees, removing dead and diseased trees and any vegetation from the railway that is at risk of coming into contact with the overhead power lines or tracks during high winds.

With millions of trees lining the railway, high winds can cause branches and trees to fall onto the track, damaging overhead wires and blocking the railway. High winds also mean that objects from further away can be blown onto the tracks.

High winds can also cause overhead power lines to sway and can get tangled around a train's pantograph (which allows it to draw power from the overhead lines) and severing the connection. High winds can also cause masts to be knocked down completely.

Sometimes trains need to slow down to keep you safe

Our priorities for how we run the railway change depending on the severity of the wind. During adverse wind we do our best to run a full, normal service, but some train times may be affected. We classify wind as adverse when it is forecasted to reach speeds of 60mph.

During extremely windy conditions, we prioritise getting passengers home safely over running the normal timetable. We also prioritise vital rail freight to ensure the supply of essential goods across the country and fuel to power stations. We classify extreme wind when it is forecasted to reach or exceed speeds of 70mph.

After high winds this might mean we start services later in the morning so that our teams can make sure that lines are clear of branches and debris and are safe.