



Heavy Rain Fact Sheet

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

Prolonged heavy rainfall can overwhelm drainage systems, flooding tracks and can even cause landslips which means trains must brake and accelerate more slowly to keep everyone safe, adding time to journeys.

Sometimes trains need to slow down to keep you safe.

During high rain fall water runs off hard ground onto the tracks, while ballast (heavy materials) can wash away, de-stabilising the track. Heavy rainfall can also short-circuit power supplies for trains and cause signalling equipment to fail.

To reduce the effects of flooding, we monitor weather forecasts and prepare flood maintenance teams for action.

How do we reduce the effects of flooding?

We continually monitor the weather – as soon as we receive a flood warning from the Environment Agency and Flood Forecasting Centre, we send people and equipment to at-risk areas so we're in position to act quickly.

We deploy flood defence systems, including barriers with a membrane that seals to prevent water getting through, and inflatable barriers filled with water.

Branches, leaves and debris in ditches and drainage systems prevent water runoff – so we clear these out both on and near the track.

Thanks to our ongoing project to build pumping stations in flood-prone locations, we have the resources in place to enable us to quickly pump flood water away when needed.

As lines are renewed in flood prone areas, we install the tracks and signalling equipment at a higher level so it's less likely they'll be flooded.