Details of Problem / Good Practice

CONTRACT: Depot Incident

Balfour Beatty Rail Renewals Depot at Hoo Junction. During freight movements undertaken by DB Schenker 4 wagons derailed on road 3 causing substantial damage to the tracks and wagons themselves.

OVERVIEW OF THE EVENT

- On 6th November at 01:30hrs during a propelling movement undertaken by a DB Schenker, a loco hauling 18 wagons from the Staff Halt into Hoo yard sidings road No.3 a derailment occurred. The first 8 wagons to enter the sidings entered without any issues. The next 4 wagons derailed causing damage to the infrastructure and incurring substantial costs to the business of approximately £88,000.

UNDERLYING CAUSES

- Lack of maintenance to the sidings has lead to poor track quality and a various track deficiencies.
  - decayed sleepers
  - non conforming joints
  - wide track gauge
  - bad top line
  - poor track formation
- Wagon number 17512 had an unevenly distributed load. This was the first wagon that derailed.

INITIAL ACTION TAKEN

- Full Terms of Reference issued, investigation team appointed and III investigation well under way.
- All joints at the depot being inspected and any identified issues being resolved.
- All decaying sleepers being changed.
- Technical resource reviewing top line throughout the depot, kango packing is ongoing and will improve overall track quality.