



Wales and  
Western

**NetworkRail**

# Weather Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation Plan Control Period 7 2024-2029

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## Document Control

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Submitted as part of Network Rail Wales and Western CP7 Strategic Business Plan.

This plan (contents of this document, including proposed actions) has been updated based on:

- draft (June 2023) and final (November 2023) determinations from ORR;
- the Network Rail Third Adaptation Report (2021);
- the Network Rail Third Adaptation Report: Appendix A Integrated ARP3 Climate Risk Assessment;
- the Network Rail Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2020 – 2050 (2020);
- The Wales and Western Strategic Business Plan (2023)

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### Purpose of this document

This document; defines the W&W Region Weather Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation (WRCCA) Plan for CP7, against the backdrop of the WRCCA Plan published for CP6. This is supported by an evaluation of the resilience of rail infrastructure to historical weather events and an awareness of potential impacts from regional climate change projections. The resilience of the rolling stock and passengers within the Region is not specifically assessed.

## Executive Summary

Climate change poses a significant and escalating threat to the operational integrity of the Wales and Western (W&W) railway network. Severe weather events, such as intense rainfall and strong winds from the Southwest, are increasing in frequency, demanding urgent action. The W&W region is committed to addressing this challenge through a comprehensive plan extending into Control Period 7 (CP7) and beyond, focusing on safeguarding assets, embedding resilience into daily operations, and adapting to climate change impacts.

As climate change continues to present unprecedented risks, this plan focuses on becoming resilient, mitigating vulnerabilities in our network, and ensuring the long-term sustainability and reliability of rail operations and services.

Key components of the CP7 plan include:

1. The plan begins with a thorough assessment of climate-related risks to Wales & Western regions infrastructure, including extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and changing precipitation patterns.
2. Investment in infrastructure with capital investment in pure resilience schemes along with BAU work bank activities with primary resilience to climate impacts. This includes measures such as improving earthworks, improving drainage systems, and making embankments more resilient to withstand extreme weather events and prolonged exposure to changing environmental conditions.
3. Wales and Western is committed in this WRCCA plan to creating an operationally resilient railway which will allow key decision to be made at the right time which will improve the reliability for our passengers.
4. The success of the CP7 plan relies on collaboration with stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, and industry partners. Engaging stakeholders in the planning and implementation process fosters cooperation and ensures that adaptation measures are tailored to local needs and priorities. There will be a focus on working outside of the railway boundary where possible with a focus on Nature based solutions and whole catchment works to be planned.
5. The plan emphasizes the importance of research and innovation in developing cutting-edge solutions to climate-related challenges. Network Rail will invest in research initiatives to advance understanding of climate impacts on rail infrastructure and explore innovative technologies and materials to enhance resilience and sustainability.
6. Remote condition monitoring of at risk assets will be implemented in order to enable better decision making for asset renewals into CP7 and beyond.
7. Adaptation Pathways planning will start in CP7 to ensure that the climate threats that we are facing are being dealt with now and into the future with key thresholds decided for our most vulnerable sections of railway.

Overall, the Wales and Western Weather Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation CP7 plan demonstrates the Wales and Western regions commitment to addressing the urgent challenges posed by climate change. We support the Simpler, Better, Greener initiative that Network Rail are proposing. By implementing proactive adaptation strategies and investing in resilient infrastructure, Network Rail aims to ensure the continued reliability and safety of rail services in the face of a changing climate.

A view of the Conwy Valley with flooding affecting the Llandudno Junction to Blaenau Ffestiniog line in 2020 showing the flooding extents in Llanrwst.

# Chapter 1: Introduction to the Weather Resilience and Climate Change Adaption (WRCCA) Plan

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## 1. Introduction to the WRCCA plan

Climate change presents a substantial and escalating threat to the operational integrity of our railway network. Year after year, the Wales and Western (W&W) region contends with a rising frequency of severe weather events, including high-intensity rainfall leading to flooding, and fierce winds prevailing from the Southwest. Recognising the urgency of this situation, the W&W region is resolute in its commitment to delivering a comprehensive plan that extends into Control Period 7 (CP7) and beyond, with a primary focus on safeguarding assets vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and embedding resilience and climate change adaptation into the day-to-day operations of the region. This initiative builds upon the foundation laid during Control Period 6 (CP6) and is a testament to our dedication to proactive approach to weather and climate resilience.

Our CP6 Weather Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation (WRCCA) plan encompassed both routine operational activities and dedicated resilience workstreams, with a particular emphasis on earthworks, drainage, off-track areas (including vegetation management), and the implementation of remote monitoring at priority locations. We also addressed risks associated with structures, including scour, adverse rainfall, and flooding. However, given the extensive coastal assets within our region, heavy rainfall and high winds continue to pose significant threats and challenges, resulting in operational disruptions that impact all facets of our infrastructure. Recommendations from weather-related incidents such as Carmont and subsequent recommendations from the Lord Mair and Julia Slingo reports are being swiftly implemented to bolster earthworks resilience through a raft of measures including enhanced drainage and water management. These challenges are poised to intensify in CP7 and beyond.

In CP7, our principal focus will be to mitigate the impact of climate change so that we protect our asset base and reduce the operational impact so that the impact on passengers and freight users is reduced. The CP7 plans have been developed to support the delivery of our funder's and our stakeholder's key priorities and, therefore, include interventions that should enable us to minimise and mitigate the impact of extreme weather and climate change on the network and schemes that should improve the environmental sustainability of our business. However, recognising the broader funding context and pressures, we have had to make some tough choices and trade-offs about how we balance our spending in CP7 to provide the most value to our customers and the taxpayer. Whilst we cannot be certain of the future frequency of weather extremes, we know that the physical processes involved are those that will accelerate degradation of our assets. We expect it to become increasingly challenging to keep pace with the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events which will be a significant factor in future control period plan.

Looking ahead into CP7 and beyond, we will actively develop adaptation pathways, considering all areas but with particular focus on low-lying and coastal infrastructure, to create long-term plans that empower decision-makers with trigger points and thresholds for prioritizing future investments. We will also work closely with our partners Transport for Wales (TFW) and National Resources Wales (NRW) to ensure that a combined approach with shared outcomes that benefit the end user are put in place. Our regional Adaptation Pathways work will seek to take a strategic look at assets vulnerable to climate change and put in place plans for them following on from extreme weather events. We are committed to exploring the intricate interdependencies along our railway corridors, building upon the substantial groundwork laid during CP6. Our aim is to identify opportunities and risks collaboratively with our partners to deliver a railway that is both resilient and robust.

A black and white historical photograph showing a steam engine crossing a bridge over a flooded river. The engine is positioned on the bridge, and the water is high, reaching up to the bridge's structure. In the background, there are hills and utility poles. The foreground shows the side of the bridge with its metal structure.

# Chapter 2: Introduction to the Wales & Western Region

A picture showing historic flooding at Chipping Sodbury with a steam engine running through the flood waters.

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## 2. Introduction to the Wales & Western region



Figure 2-1: Map of the Wales and Western Region

The Wales and Western region which is situated in the western and coastal parts of mainland UK, boasts a variety of geographical, topographical, and climatic features. Geographically, this region encompasses the westernmost reaches of the British Isles and is bordered by the expansive waters of the Atlantic Ocean to the west. Its eastern boundary extends into the heart of England, creating a transition zone between the exposed coastal landscapes and the more central, continental-like regions.

Across the region we have a significant stretch of coastal railway that is at the forefront of challenges, particularly concerning overtopping during storms, a problem further intensified by the rise in sea levels induced by climate change. The vulnerability is particularly acute in Wales, where approximately 80 miles of coastal railway could potentially be under threat.

The coastal railway lines linking Aberystwyth with Pwllheli and Holyhead with Chester faces a daunting present-day scenario with over 10 miles of sea walls in place to shield the railway from the relentless assault of waves which will only get worse with future climatic change. The Western section, which spans the Exe and Teign estuaries and includes an open-coast segment, contributes an additional

11 miles of protective infrastructure. Additionally, there is over a mile of exposed coastal railway on the approach to Penzance. Together, these areas underscore the pressing need for strategic interventions and resilient solutions to safeguard vital coastal rail infrastructure.

Topographically, the Wales and Western Region is a land of stark contrast. To the south and southwest, low-lying plains stretch across Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset, offering a gentle and picturesque landscape. Here, the rolling hills and fertile valleys give way to some higher ground around Dartmoor and North Devon, adding undulating relief to the terrain. The key Bristol to Exeter railway route on the low-lying Somerset levels has historically been subject to flooding during wet winters and is a key route for adaptation to climate change.

In striking contrast, Wales is characterised by its impressive mountainous terrain, extending from the south to the northernmost points. These majestic mountain ranges, including the renowned Snowdonia and Brecon Beacons, dominate the Welsh landscape and provide breath-taking scenery. These mountainous regions add its own unique risks to the Wales Routes' railways in terms of its geotechnical vulnerability to assets from climate change to weather induced events caused by its unique topography.

Climatically, our region experiences a unique amalgamation of maritime and continental influences. Situated in close proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, the region benefits from the impact of the Gulf Stream, bringing in mild temperatures and moisture-rich air masses. However, this its geographical location also exposes the area to the unpredictable nature of Atlantic weather systems, contributing to unpredictable and changeable weather patterns.

In the context of coastal railways, this climatic vulnerability heightens the significance of climate change in the region. As previously alluded to the influence of Atlantic weather systems can translate into challenges for coastal rail infrastructure, particularly with the increased risk of overtopping events (where water is above track level on an embankment with a positive head of water on a particular side of the track which then allows water to move from positive head to lower head which can induce washout of the track formation from the flow of water) during storms and the potential exacerbation of these issues due to climate change-induced sea level rise. The frequent occurrence of rainfall, especially in the western portions of England and Wales, adds another layer of concern, as saturated grounds can impact the stability of coastal embankments, cuttings and structures. Additionally, the susceptibility to convective storms, especially in areas like the Thames Valley, raises the potential for intense localized weather events along the railway routes, necessitating robust resilient engineering solutions and proactive maintenance strategies to mitigate the impact of extreme weather and climate change on the rail network.

Following the tragic sequence of events at Carmont on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020 where a train derailed because of a landslip after heavy rainfall, our Weather Risk Task Force (WRTF) was established to address the recommendations from the Lord Robert Mair and Dame Julia Slings reports. For further information on the WRTF's activities in CP7, please see our System Operator's delivery plan.

## 2.1 Past weather impacts in Wales and Western Region

During CP6, our region has contended with a complex array of weather-related challenges that have impacted our asset base. Flooding events, exacerbated by heavy and persistent rainfall, have posed significant threats to the stability of embankments, cuttings and track formation, resulting in service disruptions, costly schedule 8 payments (Figure 2.1-1) and extensive recovery efforts. Gale force winds, characteristic of the regions exposure to Atlantic weather systems, have proven disruptive, leading to fallen trees (exacerbated by dead, diseased, or dying trees (DDDT) across the region), debris on tracks, and structural damage to rail assets. Low temperatures, on the other hand, have triggered concerns related to frost and freezing conditions, impacting the integrity of our rail infrastructure. Conversely, periods of elevated temperatures have raised issues such as track buckling, stressing the need for thermal management measures.

Recurring flooding at Wooten Bassett has significantly impacted the railway infrastructure. The low-lying geography, combined with heavy and sustained rainfall events, has made it prone to flooding, affecting the adjacent railway lines. Floodwaters have submerged tracks, leading to service disruption, and necessitating immediate response measures to assess and mitigate the damage. The flooding at Wootton Bassett has not only posed operational challenges and high schedule 8 costs (Figure 2.1-1) but has also underscored the critical need for resilience in the railway infrastructure, demanding ongoing efforts to enhance drainage systems, reinforce embankments, and implement adaptive strategies to minimize the impact of future flooding events on this segment of the Wales and Western Region's rail network.

High winds, particularly along coastal and exposed areas often associated with Atlantic weather systems, have led to instances of fallen trees and debris on tracks, disrupting rail services. For instance, in the coastal sections connecting Holyhead with Chester, the railway has been extremely susceptible to structural damage and obstructions caused by high winds.

Over the last five years the railway has seen an increase of 50 % in weather-related service affecting failures compared to the previous ten years, as shown in Figure 2. Recognising that climate change

will continue to have an increased impact on the railway, the management of weather resilience will be integral to the running of the railway in the future.

Heat has had less of an impact on our assets in Wales and Western compared to other regions, despite the higher schedule 8 for Western heat related delays. The reason can partly be attributed to the differing overhead line equipment specification and the use of modern automatic tension systems which can manage a higher rate of expansion in the Overhead Line Equipment (OLE). Our highest risk assets susceptible to head stress is limited to the OLE on the 12 miles on the approach to Paddington as this is an older system. This is a short-term risk as it is due for renewal in CP7. The effect of heat on our track assets is minimised because of the realisation of a long-standing replacement programme to eliminate these susceptible assets, such as wooden S&C layouts, jointed, and lightweight continuously welded track.

The traditional controls associated with hot weather management will continue but careful and considered preparation by our track maintenance teams each year helps reduce the impact to the operational railway.

In Wales and Western Region we have experienced several infrastructure failures during the extreme heat of summer 2022. Most of the failures occurred during the periods of July 18 & 19<sup>th</sup> and August 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. The region experienced 2 track buckles, three minor lineside fires, and several power failures. The highest recorded air temperature in the region currently stands at 37.1°C. In contrast, the rail temperature has reached 59°C at Cam and Dursley.

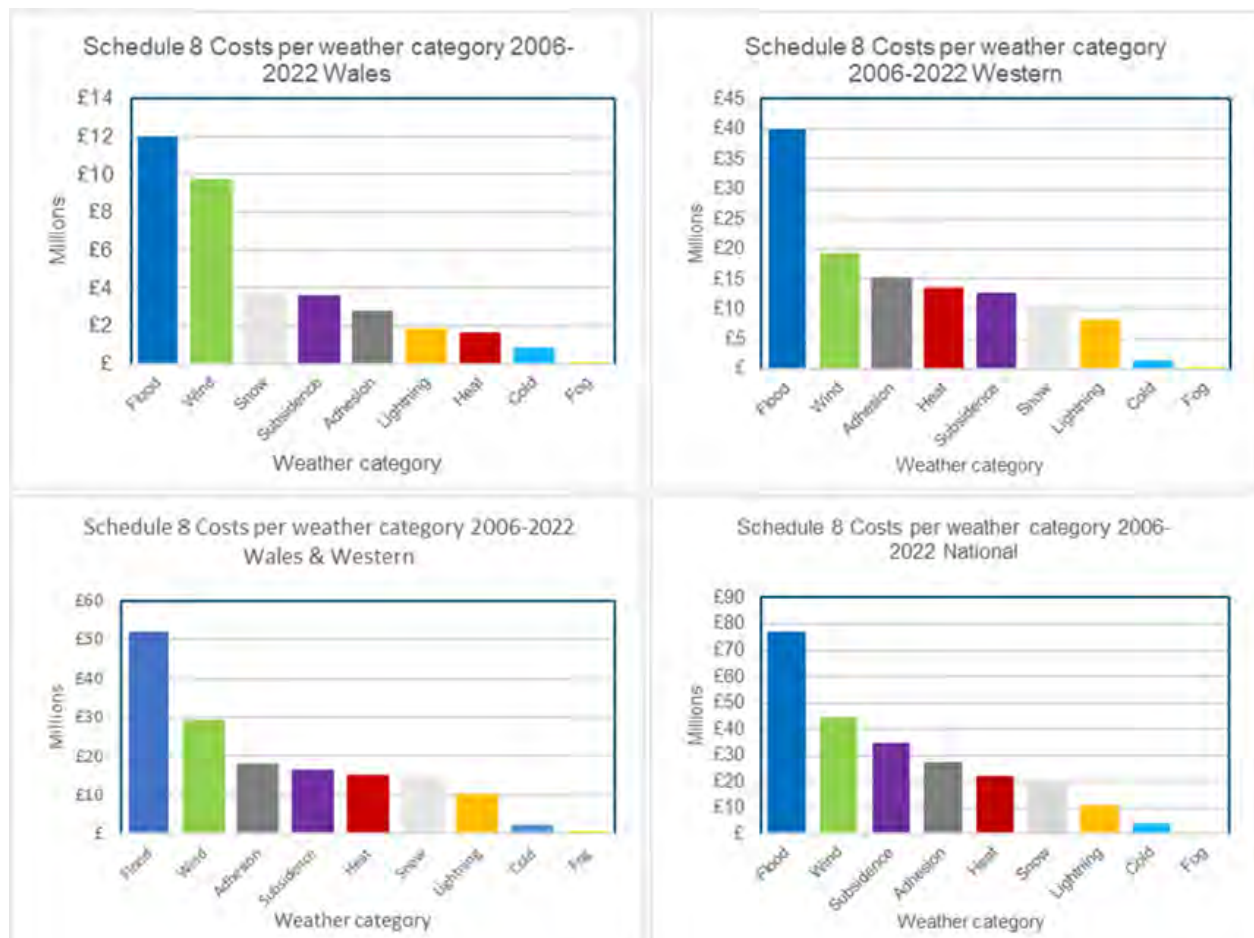


Figure 2.1-1: Schedule 8 costs for the Wales and Western Region due to impacting weather events.

The collective impact of these weather extremes during CP6 highlights the importance of a comprehensive and adaptive approach to weather resilience, infrastructure maintenance, and strategic planning within the Wales and Western Region to ensure the continued reliability of the rail network.

A photograph taken from the Dovey Junction to Pwllheli line looking over towards Fairbourne where the sea level is expected to rise and inundate the land where the railway embankment crosses.

# Chapter 3: Managing WRCCA in the Wales & Western Region

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### 3. Managing WRCCA in the Wales & Western region

Mitigating the impact of extreme weather and climate change in CP7 is a priority. To deliver this, we have established a number of working groups, including the Strategic Weather Group and Seasonal Delivery Group. The following sections will outline the Wales and Western regions approach to managing WRCCA.

#### 3.1 Governance of WRCCA in the Wales & Western region

Mitigating the impact of extreme and adverse weather, and planning for further changes in our climate, cuts across various areas of Wales and Western Region.

Our two routes (Wales and Borders route and Western route) have responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the railway, overseeing the implementation of, and updates to, the Seasonal Delivery Plans. Which support the initiatives in this plan.

Elements of this responsibility are formally covered through the risk management process. Risks associated with the resilience of our operations during extreme or adverse weather, and associated mitigations, are reviewed quarterly as part of this process and is now a key deliverable with the engineering and asset management function.

The engineering and asset management director has overall responsibility for the assets and investment plans. Dedicated asset engineers provide advice and guidance on specific assets where there may be an increased risk of failure associated with impacts of weather. They also develop work banks of planned interventions on the assets, with many of these interventions delivering weather and climate resilience benefits.

The engineering and asset management director (DEAM) provides the overview, and monitoring, of delivery of most Network Rail actions in this plan. A dedicated weather resilience and climate change adaptation strategy lead provides strategic oversight of the activities set out in this plan and provides climate data, information, and insight to support other teams in taking more effective climate action. The role also coordinates regular monitoring and reporting activities and provides updates to the head of sustainability periodic meeting and to the DEAM through periodic leadership meetings.

At national level, our Technical Authority is accountable for developing the environmental sustainability strategy and corporate risk register for managing weather and climate change risk, supporting collaboration with teams across the organisation.

The national weather resilience and climate change adaptation team also defines the company vision, strategy, and policy for the management of weather and climate change resilience within Network Rail.

#### 3.2 Strategic Weather Group

Our Strategic Weather Group (SWG) is a periodic meeting, and plays a vital role in enabling us to coordinate our weather resilience and seasonal readiness and supports frequent engagement with stakeholders. This is achieved by sharing knowledge on current seasonal and weather-related issues and solutions. This has been piloted in Wales and Borders Route throughout CP6 and will be rolled out across the region for CP7.

The meeting is attended by cross regional representatives from all relevant functions.

Each member is responsible to represent their individual area raising concerns in addition to contributing knowledge and skillsets to undertake weather and seasonal project actions arising from SWG meetings.

### 3.3 Weather Risk Task Force

Following the tragic sequence of events at Carmont on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020 where a train derailed because of a landslide after heavy rainfall, four reports were produced containing a series of recommendations:

- The Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) report contains 20 recommendations covering all aspects of the accident from train crashworthiness to how asset data is properly recorded. Each region is responsible for closing out one recommendation related to asset data gap analysis
- Network Rail's own H&S team produced a report following a Level 3 investigation containing 21 recommendations. W&W region have responsibility (with the other regions) for closing out six of these.
- An expert report was commissioned from Lord Robert Mair (focusing on earthworks/geotechnical risks for Network Rail). W&W are working to close out six regional action plans.
- A further expert report focussing on weather information was commissioned from Dame Julia Slingo. The Slingo recommendations are all being led centrally; as a region Wales and Western are contributing as required.

The following forums are attended to ensure a fully integrated approach:

- Lord Mair Recommendations Working Group – a periodic group led by the TA with representation from all Regions and other action plan owners;
- Weather Risk Task Force – Management Steering Group: a periodic group focussing on ensuring progress against the actions are being made – Regional Representation to provide updates;
- Slope Safety Review Group – regular regional meeting set up as part of the recommendations now being used to share best practice, peer review and focus on progress against remaining actions;
- Regionally periodic meeting held with ORR to report progress.

In CP6 as part of the recommendations from the WRTF, we increased our drainage maintenance expenditure by £16m. This has been delivered through existing maintenance teams and contractor resources across Wales and Western. The CP7 business plan has seen an increase in the following areas from CP6 in line with the recommendations:

- Drainage maintenance
- Aerial surveys
- Increased assessments and monitoring

### 3.4 WRCCA within the Wales & Western Sustainability Strategy

Our approach for delivering sustainable transformation is purpose driven and is a key part in delivery our WRCCA plan actions. Sustainability is complex, and trying to establish the actions and benefits without considering the role of the railway in mitigating climate change could lead to unintended consequences.

It is for this reason that the approach has been to cross-reference the role of the railway against the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to establish how we can best have an impact on global sustainability and what actions are required for that transformation. These key targets within the UN SDGs are linked in a spider diagram (below) to establish what direct and indirect areas we should focus on.

The areas of influence identified in the spider diagram are displayed in Figure 4. The WRCCA Plan has a direct influence on Land Use via the Target 13.1 (above), however there are indirect influences on the areas of Infrastructure and Mobility – whether this is designing greener infrastructure for resilience or improving the recovery of adverse weather impacts to get the railway mobile again.

Actions prescribed in this document will link in with the CP7 Wales and Western Sustainability Strategy as initiatives to meet the needs for a railway fit for the future. This will be reviewed upon the release of the national sustainability strategy version 2 later in 2023.

*Link to national WRCCA Strategy which will be agreed in the summer.*

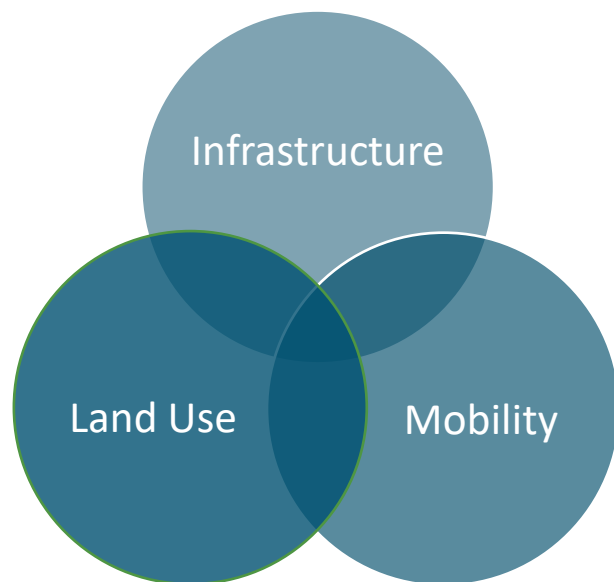


Figure 4.4.1: CP7 Wales and Western Sustainability Strategy.

### 3.5 Operations

The points below detail the operational plans for CP7, some of which continue from CP6. We recognise that this list of initiatives is will evolve over CP7.

1. The rollout of the regional seasonal weather group piloted in Wales and Borders in CP6.
2. The continuation and ongoing development of EWAT (Extreme Weather Action Teleconference) and AWAT (Adverse Weather Action Teleconference) processes to manage adverse and extreme weather events to turn forecasts and alerts into real time actions to mitigate operational risks and protect the infrastructure (ORR lever 4 forecasting – see section 6.3).
3. Collaborative work with the route reliability improvement specialists, intelligent infrastructure technicians, performance teams and asset management and engineering teams to provide a fit-for-purpose infrastructure monitoring system.
4. For ice in tunnels, Wales & Western have incorporated the monitoring system into the control room automating response using real time data. The new ice in tunnels regional project has briefed out to controllers for the last two years of CP6 and will continue to be briefed into CP7



- and beyond. The trial project could be expanded to include shaft locations at risk of ice formation.
5. Roll-out of asset recovery plans to assist control with the recovery of the asset when an event triggers line closure or the implementation of operational restrictions.
  6. Operations Control room monitor all existing weather monitoring systems and respond to alerts and alarms triggered to initiate required response. The systems monitored include:
    - a. Tilt sensors
    - b. Track movement sensors
    - c. CCTV drainage monitoring
    - d. Flood monitoring
    - e. Ice in tunnels system
    - f. CAT/ PAT tool
  7. Introduction of a new 24/7 IC infrastructure desk in CP6 year 5 will support continuous monitoring of the existing remote condition monitoring systems and support the introduction of additional remote condition monitoring systems in line with intelligent infrastructure aspirations.
  8. Training development established for each rail incident commander in order to support the implementation of strategic command where required in response to extreme weather or infrastructure faults relating to extreme/ adverse weather events.
  9. Exercising and testing carried out within control for each season (heat, cold weather and rail adhesion) in order facilitate continued improvements and ensuring all processes, roles and responsibilities are understood ahead of each change in season. This also provides an opportunity to share lessons learnt across the organisation.
  10. Implementation and improve of contingency plans and traffic management plans in the event of degraded working as a result of weather at high risk locations to be developed and embedded during CP7.

A photograph showing a landslide at the Severn Estuary site along the South Wales mainline with a significant amount of material reaching the cess.

# Chapter 4: Wales & Western Region Climate Change Risks

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## 4. Wales & Western Climate Change Risks

This section outlines the specific climate change risks for the Wales and Western Region. Over the last control period the region has experienced a lot of these events first hand. which have led to some large-scale failures which has caused disruption to the network. With the projected increase in the frequency of these events due to climate change, it is essential that we continue to invest in mitigating the impact of extreme weather and climate change on the railway. In addressing the pressing challenges posed by climate change, we have undertaken a comprehensive risk assessment to systematically evaluate and prioritize climate change risks.

This ARP3 Risk Assessment (Appendix A) involves a meticulous examination of vulnerabilities across the region, considering factors such as coastal overtopping leading to embankment failure, flooding in low-lying areas like Wootton Bassett, and the impact of high winds. By engaging with the regional asset teams and stakeholders, we identified key vulnerabilities and assessed their potential consequences on railway operations across the region. This methodical approach enables us to proactively address and mitigate climate change challenges, emphasizing asset resilience and operational resilience, operational recovery post events and the implementation of targeted resilience mitigation measures to ensure the ongoing functionality and reliability of the regions rail network amidst a changing climate landscape.

The remaining section in this chapter will highlight the top climate change risks that have been identified in the ARP3 Risk Assessment (Appendix A) and discuss the key implications of these risks in terms of asset vulnerability across the region.

### 4.1 Sea Level Rise

Wales has the largest amount of coastal rail network across the UK and so sea level rise presents a significant challenge, with discernible impacts on coastal areas and rail infrastructure. Over recent years, the sea level in these regions has been rising at an average rate of approximately 3 millimetres per year. This gradual but persistent increase in sea levels heightens the susceptibility of coastal railways and low-lying regions to the risks of overtopping during storms and tidal events. Areas like Penzance and the Exe and Teign estuaries, along with Wales, with its extensive coastal routes, faces a collective challenge in adapting to this changing coastal dynamic.

In 2014, failures of coastal defences occurred following a storm event resulting in damage to the sea wall at Dawlish. This caused significant disruption to both the railway network and the local economy with an estimated £50 million in economic loss to the surrounding area due to an absence in network connectivity. The south-west of England remained disconnected from the railway network for 2 months.

The National Flood Risk Assessment identified 21 % of railways are at risk (Environment Agency, 2009) with the Government office of Science estimating 4–5 per cent of the UK railway network length and stations are in areas with ‘significant’ or ‘moderate’ annual chance of coastal flooding (Dr Tamsin Edwards, 2017).

	RCP2.6				RCP4.5				RCP8.5			
	2100*	2100†	2200†	2300†	2100*	2100†	2200†	2300†	2100*	2100†	2200†	2300†
<b>London</b>	0.30 -0.71	0.30 -0.72	0.5 -1.5	0.6 -2.2	0.38 -0.84	0.36 -0.84	0.7 -1.8	0.8 -2.6	0.54 -1.16	0.52 -1.13	1.1 -2.8	1.5 -4.3
<b>Cardiff</b>	0.28 -0.70	0.28 -0.71	0.4 -1.5	0.5 -2.2	0.36 -0.83	0.34 -0.82	0.6 -1.8	0.8 -2.6	0.52 -1.14	0.50 -1.11	1.1 -2.8	1.4 -4.2
<b>Edinburgh</b>	0.09 -0.50	0.08 -0.51	0.1 -1.1	0.0 -1.6	0.16 -0.62	0.14 -0.61	0.2 -1.4	0.2 -2.0	0.30 -0.91	0.28 -0.88	0.6 -2.3	0.7 -3.5
<b>Belfast</b>	0.12 -0.53	0.11 -0.54	0.1 -1.2	0.0 -1.7	0.19 -0.66	0.17 -0.65	0.3 -1.5	0.3 -2.1	0.34 -0.95	0.31 -0.92	0.7 -2.4	0.8 -3.6

Figure 4.1-1 Comparison of the UKCP18 21st century mean annual sea-level change (m) at UK capital cities in 2100 relative to 1981-2000 average, for a low (RCP2.6), medium (RCP4.5) and high (RCP8.5) emissions scenario (left most column for each scenario) and the extended projections in 2100, 2200 and 2300. Numbers beyond 2100 are quoted to the nearest 0.1m, given the lower confidence associated with projections on these extended time horizons.

Figure 4.1-1 from the Met Office provides a comprehensive comparison of the UKCP18 (United Kingdom Climate Predictions 2018) 21st-century mean annual sea-level change at major UK capital cities. The data is presented for three emissions scenarios - low (RCP2.6), medium (RCP4.5), and high (RCP8.5) - each depicted in the leftmost column for the year 2100 relative to the 1981-2000 average. The subsequent columns extend projections into the years 2100, 2200, and 2300. Both London (Paddington Station and west) and Cardiff are geographically in the region and the data shows that for all emission scenarios London and Cardiff will see the biggest increase in sea level rise. Figure 4.1-2 illustrates this for the RCP2.6 scenario.

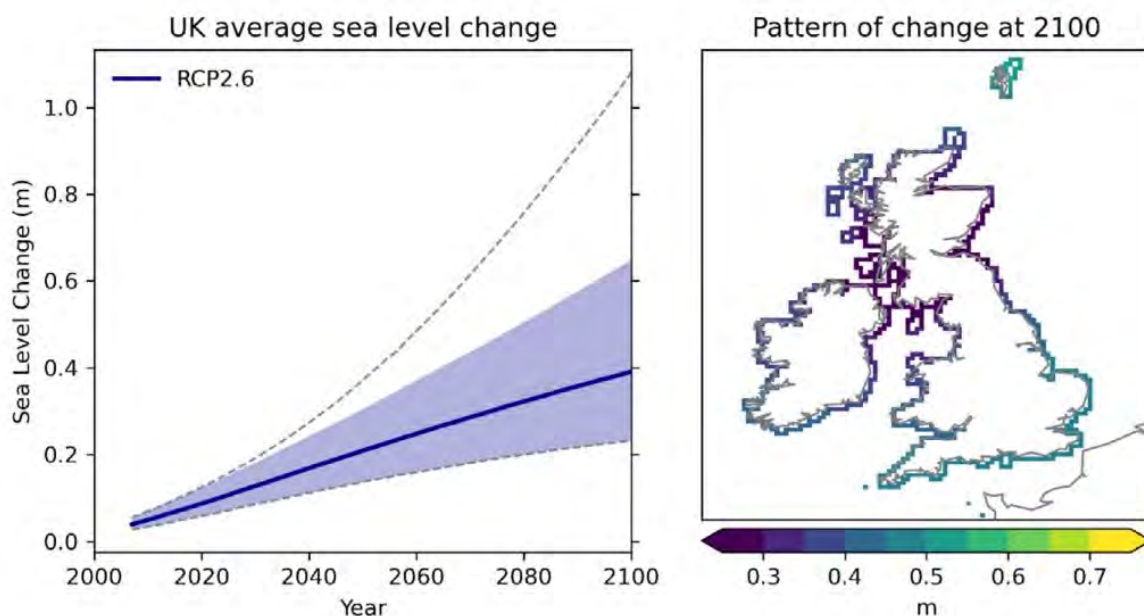


Figure 4.1-2: Graph: Time series of time-mean sea-level change based on the average of the UK ports. Map: The spatial pattern of change at 2100 associated with the central estimate of each RCP scenario

### 4.1.1 Shoreline Management Plans

As a result of the threat of sea level rise, Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) have been produced for the coastlines of England, Scotland and Wales; developed by the relevant Coastal Groups, with members mainly from the local authorities and the Environment Agency and/or Natural Resources

Wales (NRW). These have been completed in line with the guidance from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

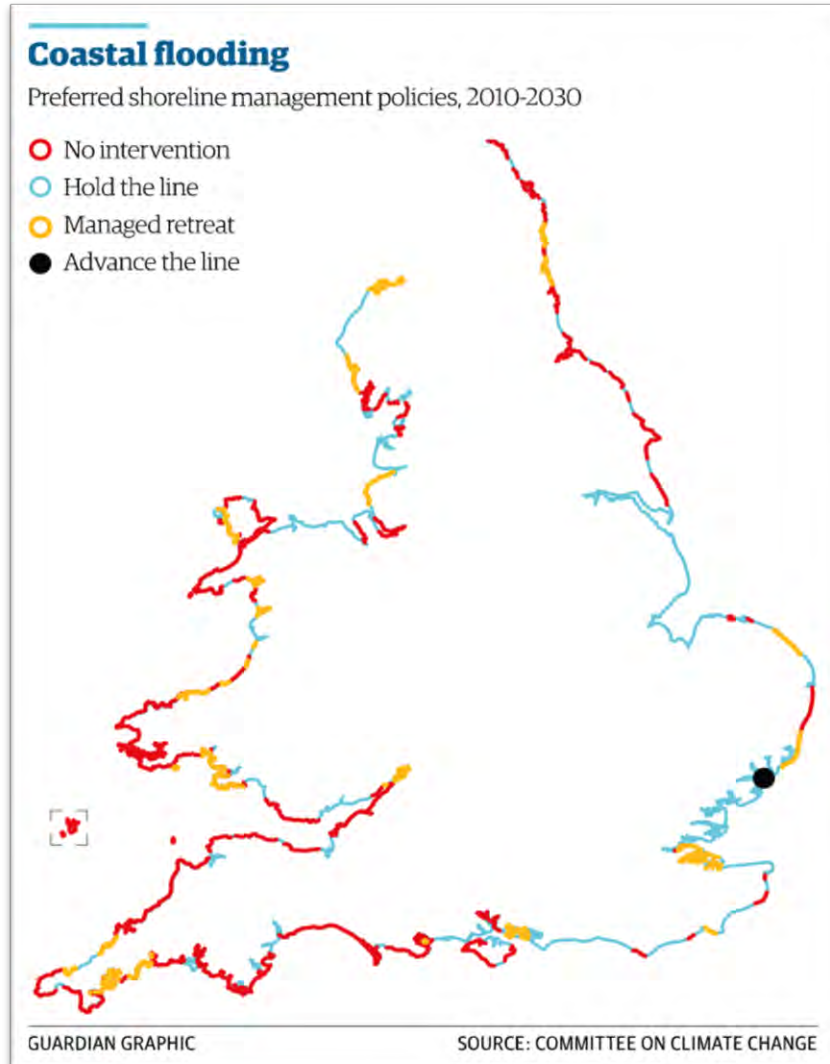


Figure 4.1-3: Map showing coastal flooding areas with preferred shoreline management plans. Note that the majority of the Wales & Western region is no active intervention.

The SMPs identify the most sustainable approach to managing the flood and coastal erosion risks to the coastline and support efforts to prepare for future sea level rises and increased likelihood of flooding caused by severe weather events over a 100-year period. The SMPs are being utilised as the guidance which local authorities and other stakeholders are using for their future plans for communities, infrastructure, and land on the coast.

To better protect the railway against future changes in sea level rise and the impact of coastal changes, Network Rail will continue to be involved in the coordination and alignment of both strategic planning and asset management. Network Rail is not a Coastal Protection Authority but at certain locations it serves as the first line of defence.

### 4.1.2 Wales Specific Coastal Impacts

Wales has the largest coastal railway network in the UK, and rising sea levels prompt a need for a long-term perspective on the potential impacts on railway assets, passengers, and freight users. These coastal lines, mainly serving rural communities, are crucial for social connectivity. Climate change is already significantly affecting the National Rail network, with extreme weather events and rising sea levels negatively impacting infrastructure and performance annually.

Extreme weather affecting the Conwy Valley Line in 2019 and 2020 and emergency works at Afon Wen in 2021 highlight this impact. Each section of the Welsh coastline is categorized under Shoreline Management Plans (SMP) – Hold the Line, Managed Realignment, and No Active Intervention, aligned with specific EPOCH periods (Up to 2025, 2026–2055, and 2056–2105). SMPs forecast likely effects over short, medium, and long terms, each with three assigned policies for implementation during respective epochs.

Shoreline Management Plan epoch periods are as follows:

- Epoch 1 Up to 2025
- Epoch 2 2026 – 2055
- Epoch 3 2056 – 2105

SMP Policy Definition:

- No active intervention (NAI) - A decision not to invest in providing or maintaining coastal defences
- Hold the line (HTL) - Maintain or upgrade the standard of protection offered by existing defences.
- Managed realignment (MR) - Allowing the shoreline to move backwards or forwards, to realign the natural coastline configuration.

Work will be undertaken throughout CP7 to identify the key assets that will be at risk of sea level rise and where they will become the first line of defence if no active intervention is states in the SMP. This work will form part of the Adaptation Pathways (Chapter XX) and will require extensive collaboration between Network Rail, Natural Resources Wales and Transport for Wales.

### 4.1.3 Western Specific Coastal Impacts

Western Route has experienced several high-profile coastal flooding events, however, with sea levels due to rise by the end of century, relative to 1990 levels (based on UKCP18), water inundation will become more prevalent within coastal sections of the Route. Western Route has 245 miles of coastal boundary. With sea level rise, there are numerous branch lines to coastal resorts that are inherently more vulnerable to flooding, coastal erosion, and potential loss of the railway.

Within the Western route, there are multiple high-risk areas from sea level rise, with the Penzance area forecasted to be the most impacted in the UK by 2050 with Weston-Super-Mare a close second. Sea level is expected to rise with increasing storm intensity and frequency along the southwest coast posing significant risk to Network Rail infrastructure.

## 4.2 Changing precipitation patterns & flooding

Climate change is instigating noticeable shifts in precipitation patterns across the Wales and Western Region, bringing with it new climatic challenges. As a consequence, the region is experiencing alterations in its usual rainfall distribution and intensity. These changing precipitation patterns hold profound implications for Network Rail's infrastructure, as increased rainfall heightens the risk of flooding in low-lying areas and coastal regions. Furthermore, these shifts may also influence the stability of embankments and cutting supporting the tracks, requiring a strategic and adaptive approach to railway management in response to the evolving climate dynamics.

Figure 4.2-1 illustrates the anticipated changes in winter precipitation expressed as a percentage for three different future periods: the 2030s, 2050s, and 2070s. These projections are made in comparison to a baseline established during the years 1981-2000. The left-to-right progression shows an increase in winter precipitation for Wales and Western. The most noticeable increase is in the Southwest with the highest increase across the UK.

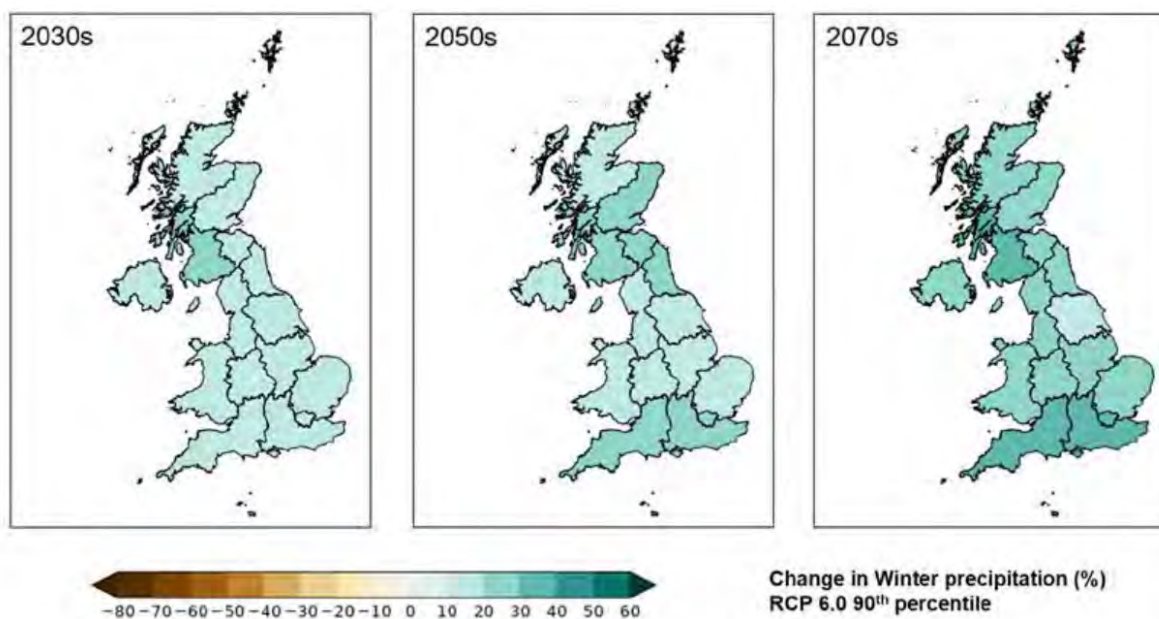


Figure 4.2-1: Change in Winter precipitation (%) (left to right; 2030s, 2050s and 2070s) based on a 1981-2000 baseline.

Flooding (fluvial & Pluvial) continues to be a significant issue in Wales & Western and carries the most significant portion of our weather-related delay minutes, representing £51m in schedule 8 costs and over 1.2 million delay minutes between 2006 to 2022. Our earthwork adverse and extreme weather plan relies on operational restrictions to mitigate risk from earthwork failure. The risk in the Wales and Western Region is greater than the national risk scores due to the influence of the Atlantic Weather systems and gulf stream arriving at our topography before the rest of the country.

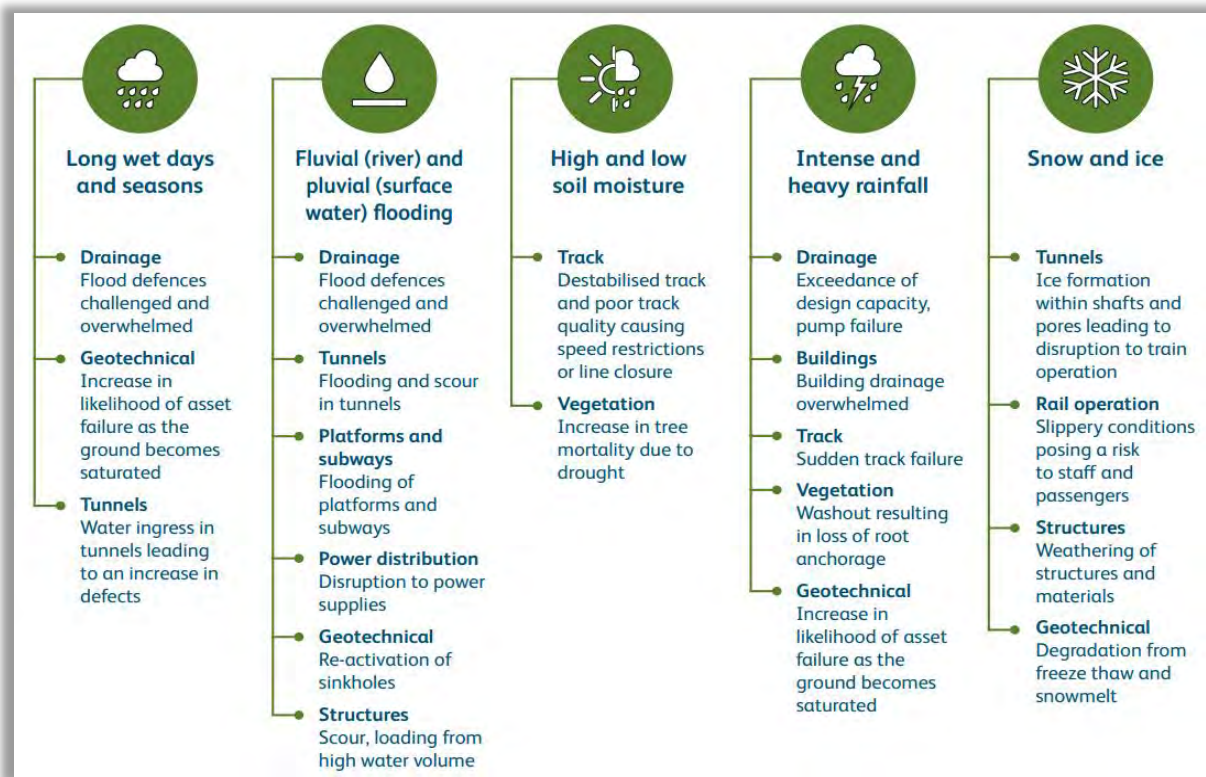


Figure 4.2-2: Key rainfall risk to our network (Network Rail, 2021).

To represent this increased risk Wales and Western have increased the likelihood associated with rainfall on our ARP3 climate risk assessment scores. Figure 4.2-1 highlights our key precipitation risks to our network and the key failure mechanisms to our assets and Table 4.2-1 highlights the key risks and identifies the CP7 plan to address these climate risks.

Table 4.2-1: Table highlighting key precipitation risks to our network from Figure 4.2-1 and the CP7 plan to address.

Asset Type	Climate Implication	Climate Future Risk	CP7 Plan
Drainage	Long wet days and seasons	Flood defences challenged and overwhelmed	As our drainage systems are renewed, they are being designed to manage current and future predicted extreme weather conditions in line with our drainage design standards. Due to underinvestment in the drainage assets over the last 30+ years, many of the systems which reach capacity are also at the end of their serviceable life and are therefore funded from the asset condition driven core business plan. This approach covers off multiple ORR levers (2 – whole systems, 5 – design redundancy, 6 – design reliability and 7 – design resistance) due to the systems approach established in
	Fluvial and Pluvial flooding		



	Intensity in heavy rainfall	Exceedance of design capacity, pump failure	the region to drainage assets complimented by the design standards which ensure all drainage systems are fit for the future climate change projections.
<b>Geotechnical</b>	Long wet days and seasons	Increase in likelihood of asset failure as the ground becomes saturated.	<p>The risk is mitigated through operational restrictions which has a detrimental effect on performance, this is managed through the earthwork adverse weather plan which looks to reduce the consequence and not the likelihood of failure. The CP7 earthworks business plan seeks to manage all sites identified as adverse weather risk locations within the adverse weather plan. This indicated a commitment to remediate the existing known locations identified within the adverse weather plan in CP7.</p> <p>Fluvial flooding has become a major issue for Wales and Borders Route in CP6 with multiple failures of embankments in floodplains. In response to the 5 washouts that occurred between 2019 and 2022 on Wales and Borders at Welshpool (as shown in Figure 18), Llanrwst, and Pandy, a project has been created to determine embankment flood risk. The purpose is to identify embankments at high-risk of washout failure during overtopping events and prioritise future flood resilience works.</p>
	Fluvial and Pluvial flooding	Reactivation of sinkholes and overtopping of embankments,	
	Intense and heavy rainfall	Increase in likelihood of asset failure as the ground becomes saturated.	
	Snow and ice	Degradation due to freeze thaw action.	
<b>Structures</b>	Long wet days and seasons	Water ingress in tunnels leading to an increase in defects	<p>A revised version of NR/L2/CIV/295 (Scour assessment of bridges, culverts and retaining walls) dated December 2022 incorporates the effects of climate change on structures subject to scour with factors added to the design flood waters and velocities.</p> <p>The design flood is the flood that a structure should be capable of withstanding without suffering damage; the probability of this is normally expressed by the return period, the average period between events of a similar magnitude. The design flood would therefore require the following actions:</p> <p>Tunnels deemed at high risk of ice formation are included in the extreme weather plan. The extreme weather plan details a trigger level</p>
	Fluvial and Pluvial flooding	Flooding, scour and loading from high water volume	
	Snow and Ice	Ice formation within tunnels	

		and shafts and weathering of materials.	action plan including the operation response during periods of sustained cold weather, further details can be found in the document 'Plan for managing ice in Tunnels – Regional' held by the senior asset engineer for tunnels.
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### 4.3 Temperature Range

One of its most tangible impacts on railway infrastructure lies in the altering temperature patterns that affect the Wales and Western Region. The pervasive warming of the Earth's climate introduces a suite of challenges and considerations for Network Rail. Rising temperatures can influence the integrity of rail tracks, embankments, and other critical components, potentially leading to issues such as track buckling. Moreover, extreme temperature events, both high and low, can impose stress on railway systems, demanding adaptive strategies to ensure resilience.

The mean daily minimum temperature for Wales and Western Region is also projected to show increases throughout the year with the highest in Summer. The level of increase is expected to become higher across the century. In Wales and Western Region, on our primary routes our asset can withstand a 35°C air temperature, as the air temperature raised above this operational restrictions may be applied. The highest mean minimum temperatures for Summer are expected to be in July, with increases of 4.1°C to 14.7°C by the 2050s and 5.9°C to 16.5°C by the 2080s. The lowest mean minimum temperatures will still occur in February with expected increases being 3.2°C by the 2050s to 3.8°C, and 4.5°C by the 2080s to 5.1°C. The graph demonstrates this in Figure 15

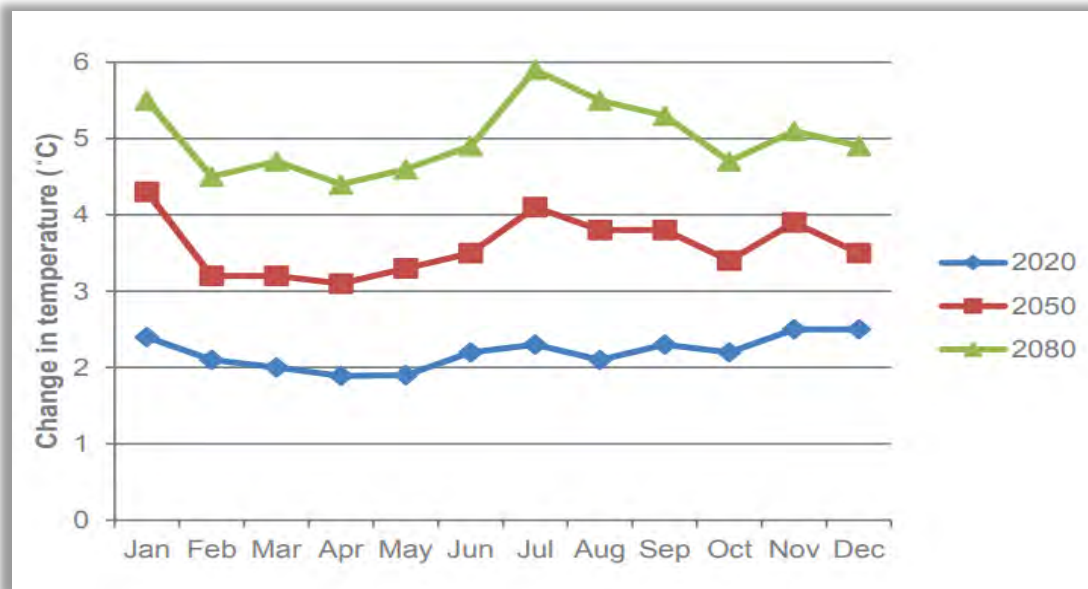


Figure 4.3-1: Wales, mean minimum temperature changes, medium emissions 90th percentile.

The Wales and Western Region faces an escalating level of risk concerning temperature ranges attributed to climate change (Figure 4.3-2), exerting considerable pressure on the railway infrastructure. Figure 4.3-2 illustrates the projected changes in mean daily maximum summer temperatures, expressed in degrees Celsius, for three future periods: the 2030s, 2050s, and 2070s. The data is compared against a baseline established during the years 1981-2000. The left-to-right progression denotes a chronological timeline, with each subsequent column representing a

subsequent decade. The values in degrees Celsius indicate the expected shift in daily maximum summer temperatures during the specified future periods relative to the baseline.

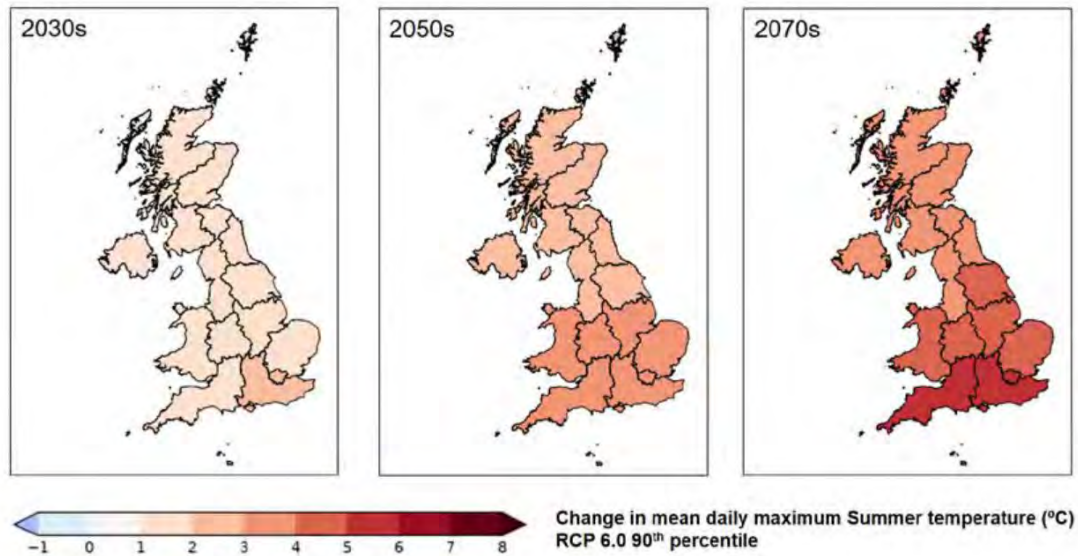


Figure 4.3-2 Change in mean daily maximum Summer temperature (°C) (left to right; 2030s, 2050s and 2070s) based on a 1981-2000 baseline.

Between 2016 and 2022 low and high temperatures have accounted for £17 million in Schedule 8 costs (£2.8 million per year) and just over 300k delay minutes in Wales and Western region. The risks experienced within our region are reflected in Figure 16 and considering climate change projections these are likely to increase in future years.

However, the impacts of both extremes are highly variable within the region. In 2016/17 the Schedule 8 impact of cold temperatures cost £50k whereas 12 months later in 2017/18 the costs were closer to £500k. The impact of high temperatures on the railway have varied from less than £120k in 2012/13 to over £4 million in 2018/19. It should also be noted that extreme temperatures affect a much wider area than other more localised impact types such as flooding.

In recent years, hot summers have put a spotlight on our vulnerabilities to high temperatures particularly around our track, OLE assets and the welfare of lineside personnel and passengers on stranded trains. Additional safety, reputational and performance risks come from the potential for derailments from track buckles in high temperatures. As a result, there is an increased need for incident response which in turn reduces the capacity to undertake tasks.

As climate change progresses, risks associated with the diurnal range are also likely to rise and these can have a considerable impact on our infrastructure.

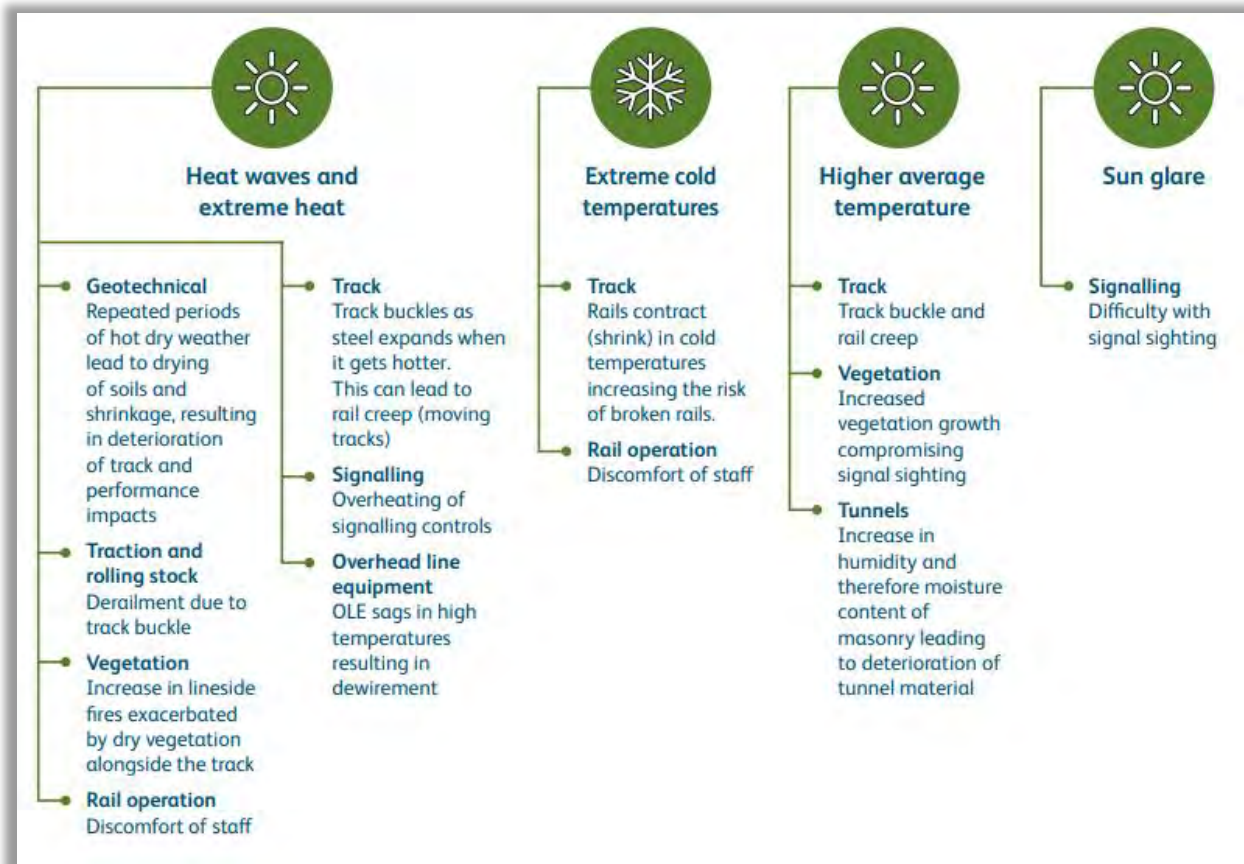


Figure 4.3-3: Key temperature risks to our network (Network Rail, 2021).

### 4.3.1 Heat

Wales and Western Region has both continuously welded rail and jointed track, with Wales route having a higher proportion of jointed track compared with most routes nationally. Steel rails expand or contract depending on their temperature, and in direct sunshine can be up to 20°C hotter than ambient air temperature. If the temperature rises above the critical rail temperature level, this could lead to a track buckle.

The risk of track buckling can be increased by existing deficiencies in track condition (lack of ballast, changing rails and not restoring stress), track support (poor formation conditions e.g., wet beds) and the activities which may disturb the track (manual and mechanical replacement of ballast, On-Track Machine intervention and track replacement). Other engineering work on or around the track bed which may affect the track support zone can also introduce new instabilities whilst the assets settle. Primarily in jointed track, another phenomenon that increases the risk of a track misalignment is rail creep where the rail moves towards a fixed asset. It does take place in continuously welded rail where certain rail fastenings increase this risk. Locations with significant track gradients and repeated braking of trains also contribute to rail creep.



Figure 4.3-2: Track buckle on Western route in summer 2018.

The mitigation measure for track buckles is to slow trains through temporary speed restrictions when high temperatures are experienced, this does not reduce the likelihood of the track misaligning (see figure 4.3.2) but significantly reduces the consequence. The hot summers experienced over the past few years have resulted in a high number of speed restrictions when track temperatures reach up to 50°C. While the network can continue to operate under a reduced capacity it can cause major disruption particularly if restrictions are widespread with cancellations and severe delays to passengers and freight.

Table 4.3-2: Maximum Monthly Summer Temperatures

Calendar year	Maximum monthly temperature (°C)		
	June	July	August
2018	33.0	31.0	27.8
2019	29.9	30.0	28.8
2020	31.3	31.1	33.5
2021	27.4	31.2	24.5
2022	28.4	37.1 (Wales Record)	33.8

With average global temperatures on the rise, instances of extreme heat are becoming more frequent and are projected to become the norm. According to climate data (highlighted in table 4.3=2), the region has experienced a notable increase in the number of days with temperatures exceeding historical averages. Extreme heat events not only contribute to track deformation, leading to the phenomenon known as track buckling, but also compromise the structural integrity of railway



Figure 27 represents the rate of soil moisture deficit change between different calendar years, and highlights the significant challenges faced in 2022 as reflected in section **Error! Reference source not found...** The year 2018 was considered as a very significant year for shrink/swell clay embankments and yet 2022 shows a higher rate of change.

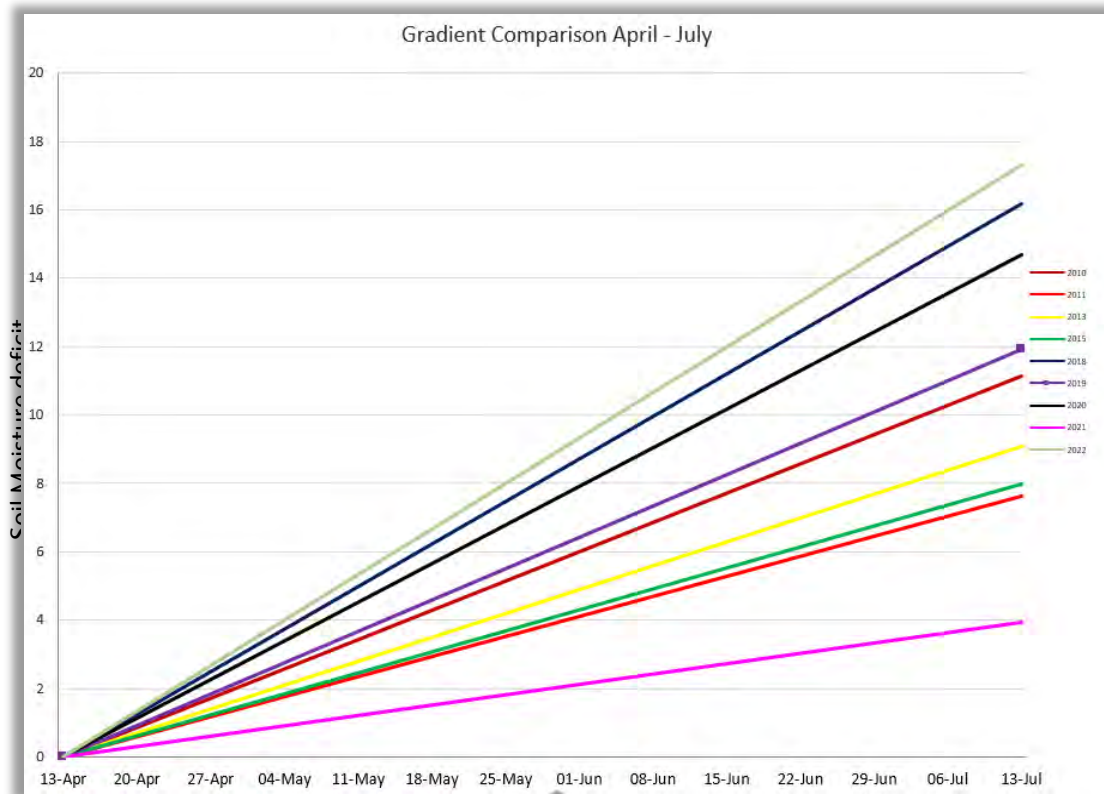


Figure 4.3.4-2: Rate of soil moisture deficit change April to August per year.

### 4.3.4 Temperature impacts on vegetation.

Shorter periods of temperature close to freezing will increase the active growing season for many plant species. This combined with wetter winters will lead to more vigorous growth in the spring, although it is possible that the drier summers will act as a growth limiter. For some species there may also be a later period of growth in the late summer/early autumn. This suggests that current patterns of vegetation management will need to change, potentially starting earlier and continuing longer leading to greater costs and workforce safety issues. While these risks may increase under future climate projections there is still significant uncertainty in this area and further research will be necessary

## 4.4 Storms and high winds

Storms and high winds damage lineside trees and can increase the number of trees and branches reaching the track, OLE and the associated impact on the safe operation of trains. This is a risk which will increase further as the number of storms increase and the extended growing season results in more trees remaining in leaf as the stormy period in autumn begins.

An example of this was storm Arwen at the end of November 2021. Following a temperate Autumn there was an unseasonably high windstorm event resulting in several trees falling onto the line and

subsequent delays. These storms lead to performance impacts including the implementation of blanket speed restrictions and performance delays relating to storm induced asset failures.

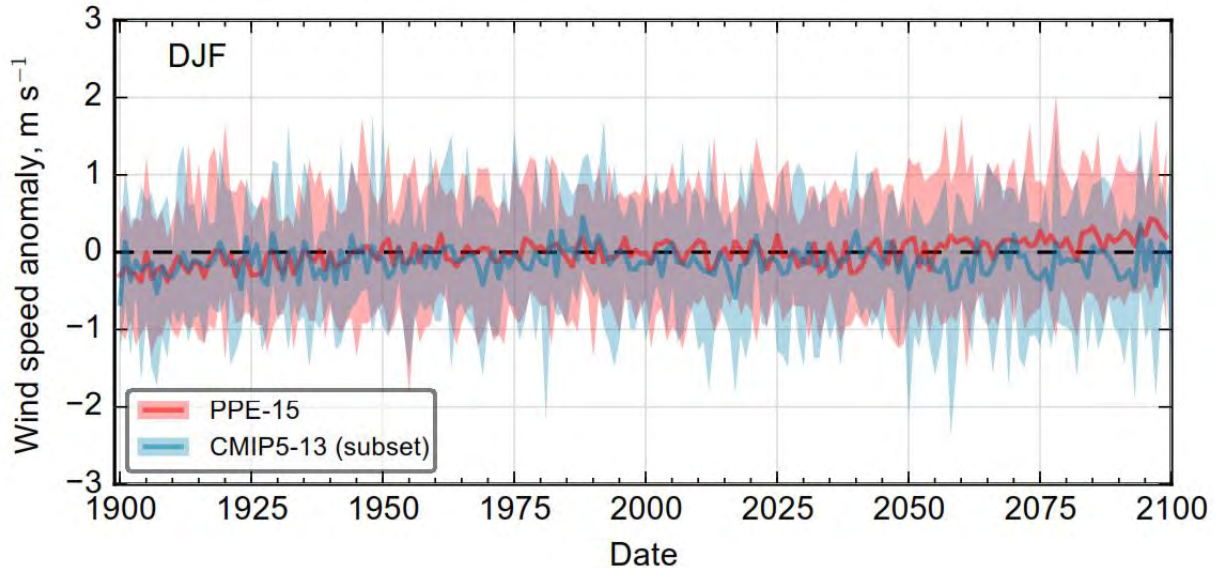


Figure 4.4-1: Global projections for changes in winter (DJF) mean near surface wind speed over the UK for 1900-2100 with respect to 1981-2000.

Figure 4.4-1 provides global projections for changes in winter (DJF) mean near-surface wind speed over the UK spanning the period from 1900 to 2100 in relation to the 1981-2000 baseline. Two main datasets are represented: the red line depicts the mean of the PPE-15, while the blue line represents the mean of the CMIP5-13. The accompanying red and blue shading illustrates the range of values derived from the respective datasets, highlighting the variability in projections. It's important to note that among the CMIP5-13 models, only nine have available wind speed data for the entire 1900-2100 period.

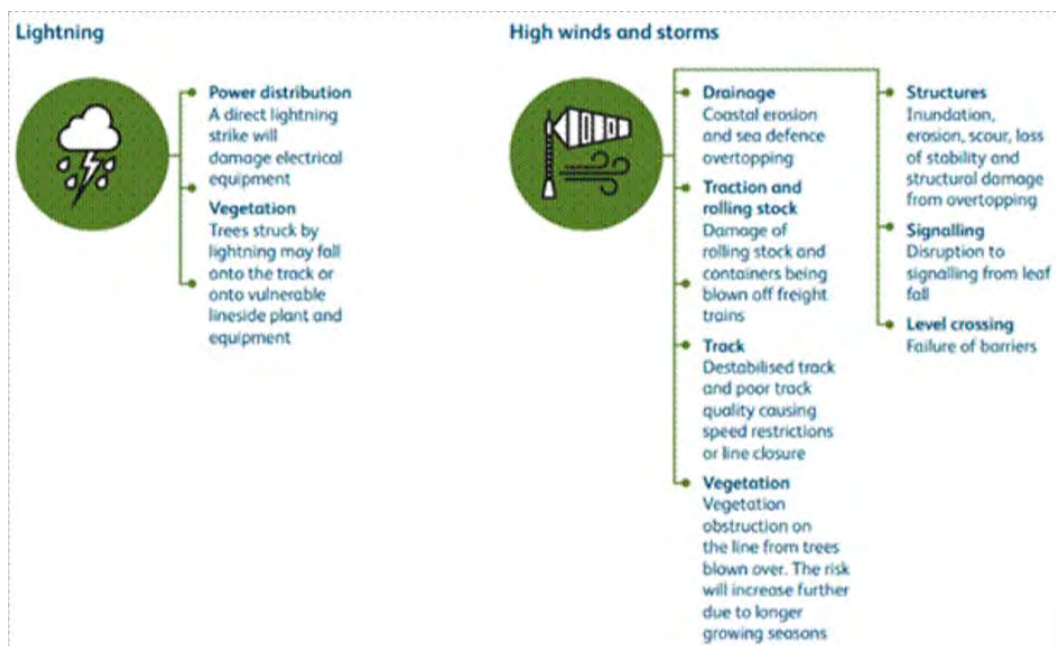


Figure 4.4-2: Key storm and wind risks for the region.



Wind effects performance directly in that blanket speed restrictions are imposed when thresholds of wind speed are reached. This is mainly due to the danger of various debris being blown onto the line from our lineside environment and from neighbouring sites. The region saw these types of incidents during both Storms Barney (November 2015) and Doris (April 2017). Other potential impacts include:

- Containers blown off freight trains
- Damage to track protection assets such as fences
- Station roofs, platform canopies and lineside equipment such as signs and lights getting damaged
- Level crossing barriers failing and blocking the crossing

The high winds in storms drive wave formation in both the sea and other significant waterbodies such as estuaries. Large volumes of spray from breaking waves can lead to speed restrictions and even service cancellation in extreme conditions. It can also wash away ballast destabilising tracks, damage earthworks, overwhelm drainage systems and salt water can accelerate asset corrosion.

Wind is currently the second biggest weather-related cost with lightning occupying the 7th position for the region. Between 2016 and 2022, their combined impacts were £38 million in schedule 8 costs and just over 840k delay minutes. Wind alone represented two thirds of the costs and more than half of the delay minutes.

Whilst the UKCP18 data does not contain projections for this type of weather the evidence suggests that they are likely to show increases as the climate changes, therefore we need to plan accordingly.

## 4.5 Health, Safety Welfare

The health, safety, and welfare of our front-line responders is a critical part of our plan. An example of this is the implementation of blanket speed restrictions for heat in place of watchmen and the application of speed restrictions over the winter period to prevent staff from having to place speed boards during adverse weather.

During extreme high temperature weather events Network Rail staff have increased welfare needs due to an increased risk of fatigue, heatstroke and exhaustion undertaking key trackside duties in hot weather. Sunburn and dehydration may also occur. Passengers may also suffer negative health and safety impacts such as heat exhaustion and dehydration, particularly if cooling systems within trains fail and/or trains are delayed due to other service or asset issues.

Winter weather can cause danger to passenger journeys, as well as the health and well-being of staff. According to our winter safety campaign, the number of major injuries suffered by railway employees peaks every winter. Night-time and other difficult conditions bring hazards of slips, trips, and falls. The proactive plans for the winter adverse weather period and implementation of remote condition monitoring systems reduces the need for staff to drive in poor weather conditions reducing the risk of road traffic accidents.

Climate and weather changes forecasted by climate change modelling infer that there will be future impact on health, safety and welfare with potential increase for the risks described above.

## 4.6 Interdependencies

The Wales and Western Region WRCCA plan will have an impact on various interfaces where interdependencies exist, these are but not limited to:

- Train paths cross from one region to another, this is particularly the case for CrossCountry and freight services as they rely on the smooth transition between regions.
- Public services rely on one another, such as delivering passengers on time to airports, in Wales and Western region this could be the case for Heathrow, Bristol and Cardiff and feed many others such as Gatwick via Reading. We also connect with Transport to London and Transport for Wales services to enable passengers to reach their end destination on time.
- Our passengers and freight operators rely on a reliable service, on Wales and Borders route specifically between Network Rail and Transport for Wales Infrastructure at Cardiff Central. It is important that our response to weather events and plans for a resilient railway network is aligned.
- Freight flows from within Wales and Western are feeding aggregate from the Mendips and Wales to HS2 and London, oil, and fuel to supply much of the south of the UK and container traffic from Felixstowe to the north of England and south Wales. Without resilient infrastructure these night-time flows cannot reach their destination on time, having a significant impact to the wider supply chain.
- Third party assets which are directly impacted by the resilience of the railway infrastructure. For example, the National Blood Bank in Filton was subject to high flood risk due to the condition of a Network Rail culvert which was partially collapsed and not capable of carrying the volumes of water experienced, an emergency culvert repair was undertaken after months of over pumping to protect this asset. Another example is the residents of Parc Y Eryr Estate in Llanrwst where our embankment was holding water causing flood risk, here Network Rail installed 6 culverts to drop the water level behind the embankment as part of the 2019 resilience and repair work.
- Internally, track and earthworks rely heavily on drainage assets and signalling assets rely on the buildings assets to keep their assets dry. Resilience needs to be considered and applied with the railway system in mind to ensure fixing one issue in isolation doesn't create another. This is being mitigated in Wales and Western in line with our regional strategy.
- We have developed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) and joint annual intentions document with Natural Resources Wales (NRW). Through these documents we determine joint programmes and objectives to ensure that both organisations work as one on issues such as coastal squeeze, habitat compensation and licencing. Both parties, under the MoU are responsible to deal with any issues that arise and the formulation of the MoU will enable us to take a collaborative and informed approach to any arising issues in CP7. Any issues associated with habitat compensation or coastal squeeze will be discussed and agreed with NRW through our MoU.
- We will look to increase the use of nature-based solutions when undertaking resilience improvements and will collaborate with third parties to support activities undertaken outside the railway boundary. The region is looking at Nature-based solutions and working with the

EA and NRW to facilitate this. Work is currently being done within the region, working on a pilot within the River Evenlode catchment in the Cotswolds to develop a nature based solution to re-meander the river within the catchment, moving it away from the railway corridor and slowing down the course of the water. Development of new funding mechanisms and procurement mechanisms to enable more cross boundary works to be developed across vital catchments.

Simpler.  
Better.  
Greener.

# Chapter 5: Strategy and investment in Control Period 7 (CP7).

A photograph showing Barmouth Viaduct on the Dovey Junction to Pwllheli line undergoing a large renewal on the metallic spans



## 5. Strategy and Investment in CP7

In CP7, schemes that mitigate the impact of extreme weather and climate change is a key part of our plan. Our approach in CP7 involves proactively undertake the next round of schemes to mitigate disruption to our railway post-weather event and is linked to the 11 levers (Figure 5.2-1).

Our approach is providing solutions to minimise the damage to the railway post-weather event, enabling us to recover service in hours rather than days, weeks, or months. The resilience of the railway is not about protecting the railway at the detriment of other infrastructure and settlement but allowing the railway to withstand weather events and return to normal working quickly and effectively. Wales and Western developed a solution to at-risk embankments in floodplains. A good example is when the railway is closed following alarms from our telemetry on the lineside, inspected and reopened quickly following the passing of the weather event. Allowing operations colleagues to make informed decisions based on real data and pictures from the site without needing to leave the control room is a big part of providing a resilient railway.

Wales and Western has an allocated, standalone budget of £19m to fund pure resilience activities directly addressing weather impacts facing our region along with dedicated project management resource to develop these resilience sites. The funding will be split into a £1m development pot where NRDD (Network Rail Design & Delivery) will develop 14 schemes and take 6 of them to detailed design and delivery. The remaining £18m budget will be used to deliver the schemes. If the value of the schemes should exceed the current budget arrangements, then we will put a proposal to the region to get the schemes funded.

## 5.1 Control Period 7 (CP7) Delivery

The Wales and Western CP7 delivery plan, contains many activities which will make our assets more resilient and allow us to deliver our commitments to weather resilience and climate change adaptation with a continuation of the great work undertaken in CP6.

The CP7 delivery plan includes funding for train accident risk reduction (TARR) activities which are intrinsically linked to WRCCA through the delivery of resilience activities aligned to earthwork washout, drainage asset condition and dead, diseased and dying tree management.

Included in the delivery plan:

- In response to the Lord Robert Mair and Dame Julia Slingso's recommendations, we will implement changes to manage earthwork and drainage assets aligned to the 11 levers to reduce the risk of potentially catastrophic failure.
- We will improve environmental sustainability through significant investment in:
  - Decarbonisation
  - Air quality
  - Weather resilience and climate change adaptation
  - Biodiversity
  - Environmental management.

The table below sets out our CP7 investments in the Wales & Western Region, the full work bank in appended in Appendix B.

Table 5.1: Wales and Western Control Period 7 delivery plan.

No.	Asset Class /Team	Category	Location	Description	Cost (£m)	Benefit
1	Resilience	Development	Regional	NRDD to develop 12 highest priority resilience schemes in CP7 year 1 which will likely result in 6 schemes being developed within the control period. Development will include modelling and risk assessment for each site to determine the priority.	£1.0	Establishes a representative risk for the region which will establish a prioritised list of sites based on modelling and climate change predictions.  Modelling and desk study will have been completed for the majority of sites with potential options available for development at a later date.
2	All Asset Areas	Development	All Region	Adaptation Pathways program to be developed over the whole of CP7 for both the Wales and Western routes to determine the highest risk lines of route along the railway due to climate change.  Adaptation pathways for railways involve dynamic, flexible strategies to respond to climate change and evolving needs. They provide	£4.0	By adopting flexible and dynamic approaches, the region can incrementally adjust its infrastructure and operational strategies, ensuring resilience to future uncertainties.  Adaptation pathways enable efficient resource allocation, facilitating timely



				<p>a structured framework for incremental adjustments in infrastructure and operations. This approach enables timely upgrades, efficient resource allocation, and stakeholder collaboration.</p> <p>Adaptation action plans will be developed based on modelling of climatic risk to the infrastructure and options proposed for the route</p>		<p>upgrades and innovations. Additionally, the adaptive nature of the approach promotes stakeholder engagement, fostering collaboration between communities, authorities, and businesses to collectively address the evolving demands of the rail network.</p>
3	Earthworks	Monitoring	All Region	<p>Enhanced earthworks monitoring of earthwork assets to better understand the risk across a portfolio level. The monitoring will be put in place at the most at risk assets as a result of the increased frequency of increment weather condition that affect the stability of the earthworks as a result of climate change.</p>	£11.0	<p>Earthworks monitoring enhances construction safety, detects potential issues early, and ensures project compliance. It improves efficiency, reduces costs, and aids in optimizing resource allocation.</p>
<p>Based on the outcome of analysis at number 1, six of the following schemes (4-18) will be progressed within the remaining resilience budget:</p>					£18m	
4	Resilience	Renewal	Sonning, Western, MLN1	<p>Adverse weather site east of reading which affects Elizabeth line and GWR. Slope and crest drainage. Resilience not BAU.</p>		<p>Reduced flooding damage to the track, and disruption to the railway network. Reduced delay minutes from extreme weather and repair time. Reduced repair costs. TSR will become redundant. Reduced maintenance time and costs.</p>
5	Resilience	Renewal	St Fagans, Wales, SWM2	<p>Once flowing beneath the bridge at 174.61 M.Chns, the River Ely changes direction 90 degrees northeast 50 metres downstream. At high water levels, this river bend could slow water flow leading to flooding of the land surrounding the railway. A flood level could be reached which means water overtops the railway. In January 2023, high water levels in River Ely led to flooding of the railway and washout events. These events will likely increase in the future with climate change.</p>		<p>Reduce damage to bridge and increase life span. Reduce repair cost and time. Lower disruption time. Reduce flooding in surrounding areas as well.</p>
6	Resilience	Renewal	Clawd-Coch, Wales, SWM2	<p>The highest recorded river level of the river that flows beneath the railway at this site is 1.5m below the height of the embankment. In the future, it is expected with climate change that higher river levels will occur. Flood</p>		<p>Reduce damage to bridge and increase life span. Reduce repair cost and time. Lower disruption time. Reduce flooding in surrounding areas as well.</p>

				levels could reach the height of the embankment and therefore the railway could be overtopped. Tan 15 flood maps show that the railway at this site is in a flood zone.	
7	Resilience	Enhance	Chipping Sodbury, Western, SW	Determine size and capacity requirements of the proposed system which is operating at full capacity to provide resilience in the face of increased extreme weather and Climate Change. This is a repeat failure location with 8 major floods occurred in the last 13 years.	Avoid wet beds and voiding which can lead to damage to rail and trains as well. Eliminate main line closure during extreme weather conditions. Quick recovery from extreme weather. Reduced disruption. Reduced repair costs and time.
8	Resilience	Renewal	Llangaucourt, Wales, HNL1	"At this site, the railway bridge squeezes the channel of the River Monnow. Therefore, at high river levels, it is likely water will build up before the bridge and spill on to the floodplain upstream of the railway. This floodplain has a pinch point due to a road being built close to the railway. As a result, when the flood plain reaches its maximum capacity, water would likely be pushed on to the railway and a washout event could occur. Tan 15 flood maps show that the railway at this site is in a flood zone."	Reduce repair time and costs. Increased protection of railway. Avoid flooding in areas surrounding the railway. Reduced disruption and eliminate TSR.
9	Resilience	Renewal	Nailsea, Western, MLN1	"At this site, the railway bridge squeezes the channel of the River Kenn. Therefore, at high flood levels, it is likely water will build up along the railway at the base of the hills. This floodplain has a pinch point due to hills on both sides of the railway pushing flood water to collect along the railway.  This site is in a known floodplain, and it is expected to get worse due to sea level rise as it is exposed to tidal flooding."	Reduce repair time and costs. Increased protection of railway. Avoid flooding in areas surrounding the railway. Reduced disruption and eliminate TSR. Reduce saltwater deterioration.
10	Resilience	Renewal	Llangyfelach, Wales, SD12	Up size drainage system which is operating at full capacity to provide resilience in the face increasing extreme weather caused by climate change. 500m earthwork renewal ditch/channel and 5 Schl Earthwork Refurb, 1100m track drainage	Reduced flooding damage to the track and disruption to the railway network. Reduced delay minutes from extreme weather and repair time. Reduced repair costs. TSR will become redundant.
11	Resilience	Renewal	Flax Bourton, Western, MLN1	Install infrastructure to protect cutting from flooding in adverse weather.	Avoid flooding damage to the track and disruption to the railway network.



					Reduced delay minutes from extreme weather and repair time. Avoid repair costs. TSR will not be implemented.
12	Resilience	Renewal	Flax Bourton, Western, MLN1	Bringing the existing Rosemount Road SUDS pond back online. Replacing the existing partially blocked culvert. Upsizing approximately 170m of existing track drainage from 450mm diameter to 500mm/525mm	Reduced flooding damage to the track and disruption to the railway network. Reduced delay minutes from extreme weather and repair time. Reduced repair costs. TSR will become redundant.
13	Resilience	Renewal	Wootton Bassett, Western, MLN1	Remove the pinch point where water drains under the railway into a canal on the down side (south). When this floods both routes between Swindon and Bristol are closed. Take cognisance of recent and planned housing developments to north.	Avoid wet beds and voiding which can lead to damage to rail and trains as well. Eliminate main line closure during extreme weather conditions. Quick recovery from extreme weather. Reduced disruption. Reduced repair costs and time. Protect equipment.
14	RAM(DOT)	Renewal	Dauntsey, Western, MLN1	Outside party drainage here has caused flooding several times a year including in Jan 2023 and Jan 2024 when a train ran into floodwater at 125mph. Recent targeted intervention to drainage has helped but not prevented flooding.	Avoid wet beds and voiding which can lead to damage to rail and trains as well. Eliminate main line closure during extreme weather conditions. Quick recovery from extreme weather. Reduced disruption. Reduced repair costs and time. Protect equipment.
15	RAM(DOT)	Renewal	Somerton, Western, CCL	Frequent flood site and closes off fast route from Reading to West Country via Westbury. If coupled with a closure at Flax Bourton means both main routes out of west country are closed.	Avoid wet beds and voiding which can lead to damage to rail and trains as well. Eliminate backup for main line closure during extreme weather conditions. Quick recovery from extreme weather. Reduced disruption. Reduced repair costs and time. Protect equipment.
16	RAM(DOT)	Renewal	AvonMouth, Western, AMB	Flood defence protects railway from sea level rise creating salt water marsh nature area.	Reduce repair time and costs. Increased protection of railway. Avoid flooding in areas surrounding the railway. Reduced disruption and eliminate TSR. Reduce saltwater deterioration.



17	RAM(DOT)	Renewal	Powderham , Western, MLN	Protect main line to Devon and Cornwall from threat from erosion of sand spit at mouth of exe estuary accelerating erosion and frequency of overtopping of powderham banks.	Strengthen track stability and support. Reduce flood risk and avoid voids and wet beds. TSR would become redundant. Performance of railway equipment would improve.
	18	RAM(DOT)	Renewal	Oxford, Western, DCL	
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>£34m</b>

## 5.2 Residual Risks

Across all regions, there will be a lower volume of asset renewals and a greater proportion of refurbishment and maintenance volumes to mitigate decline in asset condition. This could result in more reactive and unplanned interventions on existing assets.

In Wales and Western we have a dedicated resilience budget to develop a number of schemes throughout the beginning of the control period, once the schemes are developed, an assessment on the urgency of the schemes based on likely failure due to extreme weather or changing climate. Off the back of the assessment some schemes will be carried out in the control period and the others pushed into the next control period or form part of the adaptation pathways remit. There is a potential residual risk that some sites may fail sooner than assessed and modelled.

Enabling activities are planned for CP7 that will help us better understand and measure the risks associated with climate change on our infrastructure, for example, improvements to how we undertake climate risk assessments and development of longer-term adaptation pathways for the locations where a more transformational approach to managing climate-related risks will be likely required.

Combined, these approaches will allow us, in time, to better quantify levels of climate-related risk across our railway, and to better articulate the impact of our weather and climate-related resilience interventions on addressing those risks.

## 5.3 Weather Resilience Levers for Earthworks & Drainage



Figure 5.3-1: 11 Weather Resilience Levers for Earthworks & Drainage.

### 5.3.1 Neighbours and Catchment (Lever 1)

A comprehensive program focused on the clearance and maintenance of lineside vegetation has prioritized sites with the highest risk, eliminating dead, diseased, and dying trees (DDDT). Wales Route have the highest amount of DDDT trees across the country, with approximately 25%. This initiative enhances the network's resilience to high winds and minimizes disruptions caused by fallen trees and debris from vegetation on the tracks. Collaborative efforts with third parties, including key stakeholders like the Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Government Transport for Wales, are integral to

developing sustainable and holistic management solutions. A memorandum of understanding has been developed between NRW and Network Rail to best develop solutions. Should there be any issues that arise during the course of CP7, the MOU will enable NR and NRW to work collaboratively to deal with these issues and provide us with guidance on how to do so.

### **5.3.2 Whole Systems (Lever 2)**

When implementing new systems, a holistic approach will be taken looking at the system as whole. In the past the siloed nature of asset refurbishments and renewals meant that a drainage renewal would have been constructed to a capacity and then the outfall into a track drainage system that doesn't match the capacity of the other system. Through the CP7 delivery, Wales and Western will now not allow this kind of activity to happen and will look to engineer solutions taking into account the whole system.

### **5.3.3 Monitoring (Lever 3)**

80 5ch earthwork assets that are deemed at risk of failure and could impact safety of trains are now covered with Earthwork Failure Detection (EFD) equipment in W&W. These numbers are ever changing as more assets have EFD equipment installed and other sites have remedial works undertaken therefore negating the requirement for EFD equipment. The equipment consists of tilt sensors installed at the toe of cuttings, cant and twist sensors on sleeper ends to monitor embankment failures and 2D LiDAR mounted cameras. This equipment reports directly into control (as well as the Route Asset Management Team) when a level of movement indicating a potential failure has occurred with Control following a pre-determined process.

Further to this, another 100 5ch assets have Remote Condition Monitoring equipment installed consisting of Inclinometers, Extensometer, Piezometers, flood monitoring and ground water monitoring allowing long term data trends to be established of any potential earthwork movements.

On 5th February 2021, 2D LiDAR equipment was installed along the Severn Estuary at approximately 129.0340-0460yds and recorded movement earthwork movement greater than the threshold. The movement was recorded at 20:47 and by 20:48 both lines had been closed to traffic. The resulting failure had moved a two tier concrete block wall at the cess impacting gauging.

W&W plan to spend > £11 million earmarked for new monitoring equipment in CP7 and to service existing monitoring.

### **5.3.4 Forecasting (Lever 4)**

Trial of the new ROWS platform. Implementation of CAT and the Proportionate Risk Response to Implementing Mitigating Speeds to Assets (PRIMA) tool, to dynamically manage train speeds against risk. Development of risk-based management of train speeds in relation to earthworks and drainage looking at increasing the trigger levels to decrease the frequency of adverse weather speeds. PRIMA is a tool that ensures the most effective operational response is made for each type of rainfall event in each specific area.

### **5.3.5 Design Redundancy (Lever 5)**

Wales and Western Region will ensure that when implementing and installing new designs that the whole life system is taken into account. As above in Lever 2 the system may be governed by its weakest link. Throughout CP7 delivery, more emphasis will be taken on ensuring that primary and secondary resilience benefits are captured within the designs.

### **5.3.6 Design Reliability (Lever 6)**

Design reliability encompasses strategic considerations and engineering solutions aimed at ensuring the robustness and dependability of rail systems. This involves meticulous planning and adherence to Network Rail standards, incorporating redundancy and fail-safes into the design process. By considering factors such as Drainage layout and the resilience of critical components, design reliability becomes a foundational lever in enhancing the overall resilience, performance and safety of the railway network.

### **5.3.7 Design Resistance (Lever 7)**

As a result of climate change the drainage standards have been updated to include climate change projections. Working into CP7 we will build upon this working directly with the technical authority to develop guidance for all standards around climate change adaption, Wales & Western will be leading the way in developing these standards. We will also be designing more resilient solutions in our renewals, ensuring that the solutions consider the climate change risks.

### **5.3.8 Intervention extents (Lever 8)**

Through efficient planning the renewals conducted will be conducted in a joint way across the disciplines, where possible and practicable. For instance, the Severn Tunnel track renewal and 6ft drain renewal will be combined to maximise efficiency. This model will be adapted through the development of the local railways initiatives being rolled out across Wales.

### **5.3.9 Asset knowledge (Lever 9)**

In CP7, the region has identified a budget for the strategic planning of WRCCA ahead of CP8. It will include Adaptation Pathways to identify our asset management, maintenance and operational requirements and changes in the future.

### **5.3.10 Funding and risks (10)**

The Wales and Western Region approach to climate resilience in CP7 is different to that of CP6. Following experiences throughout the last control period, Wales and Western Region has brought climate resilience into the plan as part of the core submission. In the CP6 plan, climatic resilience was an option to buy, which was not funded as part of the CP6 determination. As a result, the circa £19m resilience budget to fund the reactive schemes was allocated from the risk budget and through overplanning taking advantage of unspent funds in year.

### **5.3.11 Awareness and implementation (11)**

Sufficient capacity for drainage and lineside, and development of a competency framework (Mair and Slingo).

## **5.4 Adaptation Pathways**

In CP7, the region has identified a budget for the strategic planning of WRCCA ahead of CP8. It will include Adaptation Pathways to identify our asset management, maintenance and operational requirements and changes in the future. This funding equates to a total of £4m, which will include elements of Adaptation Pathways work that will inform the wider strategy. Wales and Western Region intend to develop an adaptation pathways workstream in CP7.

Adaptation pathways are a sequence of adaptation investments or policy actions that work coherently to achieve resilience efficiently and affordably over time. The pathways approach supports strategic, flexible and structured decision-making. It allows decision makers to plan for, prioritise and

stagger investment in adaptation options with trigger points and thresholds helping to identify when to revisit decisions or actions.

The methodology for undertaking the adaptation pathways work in Network Rail is in development building on the lessons learned during the pilot project undertaken in Southern in 2023. A multicriteria screening will be undertaken of all operational route sections of the rail network to identify those at highest risk from extreme weather and climate change. The outputs of this prioritisation work will be reviewed by asset managers and combined with their understanding of where the highest risk lies prior to shortlisting locations to go through a rapid adaptation pathways assessment. This will do a high level review of the key risks and adaptation options for a particular location. Those areas deemed to be highest priority from a risk/criticality perspective will be put forward for a detailed adaptation pathways assessment with modelling of adaptation solutions.

The output of the adaptation pathways work will be detailed understanding of where and when investment will be required in the railway setting out the pathways for achieving the strategic objective.

The adaptation pathways approach allows decision-makers to plan for, prioritise and structure investment in adaptation options with trigger points and thresholds. This will help identify when to revisit decisions or actions. This is standard practice in adaptation planning because it supports strategic, flexible, and structured decision-making.

The workstream will involve using climate modelling systems to understand better potential future challenges of managing the railway infrastructure in different climate scenarios. This work stream aims to identify key operational vulnerabilities within our assets. This enables us to conduct vulnerability assessments on all facets of the railway asset management system related to climate change scenarios. The output of this work stream will facilitate the discussion around long-term asset management strategies with climate change in mind. Climate change adaptation pathways will support a more strategic, proactive and collaborative (ORR lever 1, neighbours and catchment) approach to long-term adaptation strategies. This guides decision-making regarding intervention and investment across Opex and Capex activities through CP7, into CP8 and beyond.

## 5.5 Asset Led Activities

The Technical Authority has led a piece of work to better understand the resilience benefit of business as usual investment in asset management. Working with WRCCA Leads across regions, Network Technical Heads of asset engineering teams and the Cost and Volumes team in Finance, a review of the key volume lines (KVL) within the CP7 workbanks was undertaken to determine the resilience benefit of each activity within our workbanks. This analysis includes activities where weather resilience is a primary or secondary benefit of the maintenance or renewals defined as follows:

Table 5.1-1: Difference between Primary and Secondary resilience.

Primary Benefit	Secondary Benefit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pure resilience schemes - these are activities that are being undertaken solely for the purpose of improving our network's resilience to extreme weather.</li> <li>• Business as usual asset schemes with resilience - these are activities which are driven by poor asset condition as well as</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities where there may be a secondary weather resilience benefit, but this has yet to be determined (i.e. design work for this project has not been undertaken but it could be the case that when we undertake further design of the project, we include some changes to the</li> </ul>

weather condition challenges so undertaking this work delivers an improvement in asset condition and a clear improvement in weather resilience (i.e. a primary benefit of the work is improved resilience to extreme weather)	asset which improve its resilience to extreme weather). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities where just by the nature of doing a renewal, makes the asset more resilient (e.g., modern standards are more resilient than asset is designed to).</li> </ul>
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The primary resilience work is comprised of a stand alone pure resilience budget of £19m resilience in addition to the primary benefit associated with the asset core business plan. The elements of the asset business plan which, by design and standard, will provide a secondary benefit have not been included in this plan but will be monitored throughout CP7.

The resilience budget focuses on performance and safety-driven schemes rather than asset condition-driven schemes which is covered in the primary resilience benefit from our asset workbanks. This provides us with a planned and resourced work bank to deal with these proactively. Many schemes will provide secondary resilience benefit delivered through the asset core business plan; this will be tracked throughout the control period through the investment authority process (ref ORR Lever 10 – Funding and Risk).

Table 5.5 outlines the total primary benefit figure and sections 5.5.1 to 5.5.11 will discuss the investments the individual asset areas. The CP7 forecast that is shown in table 5.5 is predominantly condition driven investment and the primary benefit weather resilience has been calculated.

Table 5.5: Summary of CP7 expenditure across the asset areas and work types for the Wales & Western Region.

Asset Area & Work Type	CP7	Weather Resilience Primary Benefit
	£m Forecast	
Earthworks	£308	£271.8
Drainage	£77	£63.7
Electrification & Fixed Plant	£189	£28
Signalling	£422	£13
Structures	£340	£8.7
Track	£681	£2.3
Telecoms	£64	£1.7
Off Track	£96	£1.5
Level Crossings	£110	-
Buildings	£301	-
Other Renewals	£140	£19.00**
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£2726m</b>	<b>£409m</b>

\*\*The £19m accounts for the pure resilience budget that the Wales and Western region have secured for development and delivery of schemes outside of the BAU work bank, these schemes are listed in Table 5.1 of Section 5.

### 5.5.1 Earthworks

Earthworks spend accounts for the most expenditure in the Wales and Western region with most CP7 work items having a primary benefit resilience output at £271.82m. The works across a portfolio level will include refurbishment, renewal and monitoring of soil slopes, rock cutting and embankments. Along with these works, there will be works that form part of the adaptation pathways program, at circa £3m that will look at increased assessment activity that will be looking at mitigating the effects of weather and climate change. Furthermore, we plan to spend £19m on pure resilience schemes in

CP7 which will have a significant proportion allocated to earthworks and long term mitigation and monitoring of earthwork assets as these are the most vulnerable to weather and climate change.

Most modern earthworks interventions provide resilience during high rainfall or flooding events. In addition, it will address the risks of earthwork failures, improving both safety, performance and operation reliability through preventing landslides obstructing the line or leading to loss of support in embankments, and reducing the requirement for increased maintenance and operation speed restrictions. Along some sections of the railway within the Wales & Western region it may be necessary to allow the railway to be inundated with flood waters and then recover the service after, work into determining where this can take place will form part of the adaptation pathways and resilience works.

Overall, the spend is highest on earthworks as these are the most vulnerable to the failure mechanisms associated with increased intensity in weather events induced by climate change.

### 5.5.2 Drainage

The Drainage work bank plays a pivotal role in enhancing Network Rail's climate change resilience. By increasing the capacity of drainage systems, increase the maintenance of drainage assets, it mitigates the impact of extreme weather events associated with climate change, such as heavy rainfall and flooding. An expected £64m of primary benefit is forecast for CP7.

Making drainage systems more resilient to climate change minimizes the risk of service disruptions and infrastructure damage, ensuring the reliability and safety of the rail network. As the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events increase, effective drainage becomes paramount in mitigating flood risks and ensuring the resilience of the rail network. Upgrading drainage infrastructure enhances the capacity to manage heavy rainfall, reducing the likelihood of water-related disruptions and track instability. This not only safeguards the operational efficiency of the railway but also contributes to the overall climate resilience of the transportation system. By investing in robust drainage solutions, the railway sector takes a proactive stance in adapting to the changing climate, promoting reliability and sustainability in the face of environmental challenges.

### 5.5.3 Electrification and Fixed Plant

The majority of the £28m primary benefit costs for E&P budget is for the replacement of OLE for the first 12miles outside of Paddington. This marks a significant stride toward enhancing the resilience of the railway network. The new OLE systems bring modern technology and design, increasing the reliability and efficiency of the electrification infrastructure. This upgrade not only reduces the risk of equipment failures and service disruptions but also ensures better adaptability to the challenges posed by climate change. The improved OLE systems contribute to a more robust and weather-resistant railway, capable of withstanding adverse weather conditions and providing a more reliable service to passengers. Additionally, the replacement aligns with sustainability goals by incorporating energy-efficient technologies, further positioning the railway for long-term resilience and environmental responsibility.

### 5.5.4 Signalling

A forecast £13m in primary benefit is expected across the CP7 signalling work bank. Upgraded signalling infrastructure often includes weather-resistant components, reducing the vulnerability of critical systems to extreme conditions such as heavy rainfall or temperature fluctuations. This not only ensures the reliability of train operations but also contributes to the overall climate resilience of the railway, aligning with sustainable and forward-looking practices in the face of evolving environmental challenges.



### 5.5.5 Structures

Structures as they age become increasingly more vulnerable to the impacts of weather. £9m of the investment is being spent on protecting bridges and retaining structures from scour due to rivers being at higher flows in storm conditions. The rest of the investment is in strengthening structures to be more resilient and reliable.

### 5.5.6 Track, Telecoms & Off Track

Upgrading Track (2.32m), Telecoms (£1.7), and Off-Track (£1.5) infrastructure on the railway is paramount in enhancing its resilience to climate change. By integrating resilient materials, improved systems, and advanced monitoring technologies, the upgraded track infrastructure becomes better equipped to withstand extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall, flooding, and temperature fluctuations.

Enhanced telecoms systems facilitate real-time communication and data exchange, enabling swift responses to weather-related disruptions. Off-track components, including bridges and embankments, benefit from reinforced designs and proactive maintenance, reducing the risk of structural damage during severe weather events. Collectively, these upgrades not only ensure the reliability and safety of train operations but also bolster the railway's overall resilience to the challenges posed by a changing climate, contributing to a more sustainable and future-proof transportation network.

### 5.5.7 Other Renewals

In W&W we have £19m in the resilience budget these schemes are highlighted in table 5.1 and the £19m is highlighted in table 5.5 as 'Other Renewals'. We plan to spend £1m on the development of 14 schemes in the first year of CP7, the region is setting an exemplary standard for proactivity in tackling climate-related challenges. Furthermore, we plan to spend the remaining of the £18m on the implementation of the top 6 schemes underscores the region's commitment to transforming plans into impactful, on-the-ground solutions. Notably, the flexibility to request additional funds should the business case prioritise this, reflects the region's approach and dedication to building a railway network that is not only robust in the face of climate change but also serves as a example of innovation and adaptability within Network Rail.

## 5.6 Adaptation Actions and Progress

During CP6, the region has managed the impact of weather through the implementation of Wales and Western WRCCA plans. The WRCCA plans included specific work items that improve resilience to assets at risk of weather-related failures. The work streams included many different asset types from the different engineering disciplines, and the progress of work items was reported bi-annually. The WRCCA plan included business-as-usual activities and stand-alone resilience work streams to ensure items associated with weather resilience were focused upon. Work items within the plan were predominantly on Geotech, Lineside and Drainage assets, as well as Structures susceptible to flooding, adverse rainfall, scour and coastal erosion. Additional items encompassed within the WRCCA plan included stakeholder engagement, academic engagement, and carbon reduction initiatives. In Wales, particular attention was placed on embankment resilience by delivering three accelerated rock armour resilience schemes. In Western considerable investment was sought to deliver the South West Rail Resilience Programme (SWRRP) scheme (in excess of £170 million) to prevent damage from wave action, storm surge and cliff instability. Interventions with a design life of 120 years and enhanced resilience to climate change have been developed and delivered in a phased approach.

At the time of reporting at the end of CP6, most actions were completed or on track for completion in line with the forecast, with nine actions being completed early due to early opportunity for delivery. Six actions are completed (delivered late), and these items have been completed later than proposed in the action plan, this is due to a range of factors including delivery, access constraints and change in priorities. Eighteen are reported as completed (work not required) due to risk assessment of structures passing over watercourses from pier and abutment scour. The assessments determined that no further interventions were required, closing the actions. The five actions reported as “not started” are scheduled later within the control period. One item categorised as “data unavailable” duplicates another action. In total, seven items are delayed. Four are on track for completion by the end of the control period with delays being related to challenges in programme delivery and obtaining agreement with third party licencing bodies. Two within the Wales Route are delayed due to the issues with delivering coastal defence interventions, and one in Western due to a change in delivery approach using contractors.

## 5.7 CP6 Asset Resilience

Throughout CP6 there have been a number of opportunities following storm events where failure of existing asset has led to a business decision to renew the asset with resilience at the core of the works. A number of schemes were quickly developed between the asset owners, resilience sponsor and NRDD. The schemes utilised emergency access and were turned around in a matter of months, such as the rock armour works along the Conwy Valley and Welshpool. Further opportunities were taken at Vineyards Farm, where there were reoccurring washouts closing one of the most frequently used lines on the Wales Route. Utilizing the same team, the scheme was turned around to be delivered within a few months which has now made the stretch of railway between Newport and Hereford more resilient to future events.

Table 6.1-1: Table showing that CP6 Primary Resilience schemes across the Wales and Western Region

Resilience scheme	Investment	Description
South West Rail Resilience Scheme (SWRRP)	£170m (Across CP6 on first four phases,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase 1: Dawlish sea wall to south west of station (350m total)</li> <li>Phase 2: Dawlish sea wall to north east of station (415m total)</li> </ul>

	remaining phases funded in CP7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase 3: Rockfall shelter and cliff nails and netting to north of Parson's Tunnel</li> <li>Phase 4: works to cliffs between Dawlish and Holcombe</li> </ul>
Severn Estuary Resilience Programme (SERP)	£56m (Across CP6 & CP7)	Passive netting and active netting to cliffs along a 3mile section of vulnerable railway that fails following big storm events.
Welshpool rock armour	£6m	Rock armour scheme installed along an 1 mile long embankment following 27 washouts that occurred in 2021.
Conwy Valley rock armour	£5	Rock armour installed to various section along the Conwy Valley following some severe flooding in the area leading to overtopping of the railway resulting to embankment washouts.
Vineyards Farm	£5.6m	Rock armour installed to 880yards of embankment after the
Chipping Sodbury flood resilience	£5m	New lagoon and pumping system to reduce length of railway closure when in flood
Blackbridge deck raising	£8m	Raising of bridge deck to increase resilience of the railway to high river levels
<b>TOTAL in CP6</b>	<b>£255.6m*</b>	*Some sites are being completed into CP7.

The COVID-19 pandemic also opened up a number of opportunities to deliver some resilience to sections of the railway that were able to be closed due to low passenger numbers traveling due to the pandemic. Access opportunities along the Conwy Valley to install rock armour and at Blackbridge to increase the height of the bridge deck were utilized.

Fluvial flooding has become a major issue for Wales and Borders Route in CP6 with multiple failures of embankments in floodplains caused by increased river levels, in some cases exacerbated by tidal influence and reduced upper catchment capacity. In response to the 5 washouts that occurred between 2019 and 2022 on Wales and Borders at Welshpool (as shown in Figure 18), Llanrwst, and Pandy, a project has been created to determine embankment flood risk. The purpose is to identify embankments at high-risk of washout failure during overtopping events and prioritise future flood resilience works.

The initial stages of the project involved completing a desk study, reviewing each line within the route using Geo-RINM. Sections of railway which had similar topographical features to the past washout sites and located within Natural Resources Wales TAN 15 Flood Zone 2 and 3 were flagged as sites of potential washout risk. There were 173 sites which were identified as at risk of washout.

A review of the 173 sites in Wales and Borders was then carried out to identify structural features of the embankments. The sites that did not have features like those of the past washout locations were disregarded as sites of potential washout risk. On completion of this exercise, 45 sites of potential washout risk remained in the dataset.

The final stage of the desk study section of the project involved determining the degree of washout risk at each of the 45 sites. This led us to identify the sites where further site reconnaissance, and/or modelling should be prioritised. Using the structural and topographical feature data of the past washout locations, 3 high risk thresholds were defined by technical experts. Those of the 45 sites that met more than 2 of the thresholds were confirmed as potentially high-risk. There are 15 potential

high risk washout sites in the Wales and Borders route. Visits to the potentially high-risk washout sites were carried out in Autumn 2022; the result of these field studies was that 13 sites were deemed likely high risk. Currently, a remit is being written to undertake the flood modelling to determine, at a higher degree of confidence, the risk of the 13 sites; the models will show the current and future flood risk (under IPCC's RCP scenarios) of the catchments in which the sites are located.

Further planning around future resilience has been embedded into the asset teams with the tide finally turning on 'like for like' rebuilding following failure but more towards resilience at the forefront when events occur. This has laid the foundations for more pure resilience schemes into CP7 and beyond.

As a region, throughout CP6 we have been reporting progress every quarter to the ORR and the actions from CP6 action plan with key dates and milestones which have been hit and any delay in projects or cancellations. Wales and Western route have achieved the majority of its CP6 targets and also with the addition of the reactive primary resilience works completed in Table 6.1-1, benefited from additional resilience above and beyond the CP6 plan. Some schemes such as the CERDs (Coastal, Estuarine and River Defences) programme have been held up due to the introduction of SMPs (Chapter 4.1-1).

## 5.8 Lessons Learnt from CP6 Delivery

The works completed in CP6 were undertaken in response to weather events occurring within the region and highlighting the assets that were not fit for purpose to deal with these events. In some cases multiple failures led to the implementation of a resilience based intervention in order to future proof the assets against more frequent events.

It is clear from the works completed in CP6 that the standard approach to intervention needed to be reviewed, and making an asset more resilient didn't have to mean that it was completely immune to the threats of weather related events, enhanced by the threats of climate change, but rather take the approach that the railway could withstand the events and once the weather event was over the railway could reopen to traffic safely.

An example of this approach where a lot was learnt was the rock armour resilience scheme at Vineyards Farm. The site was modelled for flooding events with climate change predictions included and a number of options were modelled, however, these options such as raising the height of the railway or installing culverts were not fit for purpose because they were unattainable for the railway. Instead a rock armour scheme was developed in order for the railway to withstand the failure mechanism expected. This approach is fundamental in our approach to making the railway more resilient.

## 5.9 Resources and Implementation

Throughout CP7, there will be a resource to undertake WRCCA reporting and development and to drive the completion of actions. The Engineering and Asset Management Function will provide this resource through the Head of Engineering, Asset Strategy and Planning team. Responsibility for WRCCA is linked to the Head of Engineering, Asset Strategy and Planning job description. Opportunities will be derived from joint business ventures with TFW, Welsh Government, GWR, NRW, NE and EA for additional delivery.

Support and assistance on projects and development of the strategies will be by new entrant programmes such as Graduate Engineers and Placement Students. At the same time, Network Rail Design Delivery will develop schemes with third-party modelling consultants.

NR will require additional resources and expertise to undertake the Adaptation Pathways work. This is likely to be in the form of consultants to help our regional teams produce this output through a workshop.

An appropriately resourced seasonal management team in both route businesses would support the increasing demand due to the developing risk of adverse and extreme weather events and allow the team to develop systems to deliver robust and consistent responses and learn from these events.

Delivery of asset volumes will be tracked through a report of authorised investment of activities providing resilience benefit. Unless identified as a standalone line item in Table XX (the actions table), individual projects will not be reported in favour of an overarching view of activity within different asset functions. This process will also enable us to demonstrate where asset volumes are providing secondary resilience benefit and it is expected that cumulative investment in resilience during CP7 will be higher than what is forecast in this plan.

The Director of Engineering and Asset Management is accountable for delivery of this plan. Progress on delivery will be reported every six months (April - September and October - March each financial year) through the Technical Authority to the Climate Change Adaptation Steering Group and to ORR

A photograph showing the extents of flooding at Hele level crossing in Western region.

# Chapter 6: Control Period 8 (CP8) and beyond

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## 6. Control Period 8 (CP8) & Beyond

Regional business plans have been drafted for CP7, these business plans have been developed in line with existing processes such as asset condition led processes however, the approach to business planning needs some change in order to fully build resilience and climate change adaption into the business plans.

Throughout CP7 and into CP8 there needs to be a mindset shift into thinking 'resilience' and thinking 'climate change adaption'. The railway, in certain areas is almost 200 years old, and although some of the assets are still safe and reliable, much of them are unable to withstand the changes that 200 years of climatic change has thrown at them.

A photograph showing the earthworks assets along the Dovey Junction to Pwllheli line with Fairbourne in the distance.

# Appendices A-F

Appendix A – Climate Change Risk Assessment

Appendix B – Wales and Western Resilience Workbank

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NR Integrated Climate Risk Assessment for CP7 WRCAs Plans

Key  
Risks identified in asset risk register and route risk register  
Risks identified in asset risk register  
Risks identified in route risk register

Table with columns: Ref., Function, Function type, Asset/Activity/Service description, Climate variable, Type of risk, Region, Route/Line, National risk owner, Region risk owner, Decision threshold, process or trigger point for action on the risk, Narrative, Asset 3 risk assessment (2019), National reference, CP7 WRCAs Plan current score (2019), Regional reference, CP7 WRCAs Plan score (2019), CP7 WRCAs Plan score (2022), Narrative, 2025 - National, 2026 - National, National reference, 2025 - Regional, 2026 - Regional, Regional reference, Assumptions (including on data, operational, regulatory changes, etc), Regional narrative for variations from the national risk, Linked CCRA Risks (not within the CP7 WRCAs template but included in the NR RA)

























Asset Information		Action Information			Action Target		Delivery Year					Climate Adaptation / Resilience		Monitoring					
Asset Class / Lead Team	Sub-Asset Class	Category	Name	Location	Description	Cost (£m)	Target	Unit	Monitoring	1	2	3	4	5	Benefit	Risks Addressed	Monitoring Regime	Linked 11 levers	
Resilience	Multiple Assets	Development	Resilience Scheme Development	Regional	NRDD to develop 12 highest priority resilience schemes in CP7 year 1 which will likely result in 6 schemes being developed within the control period. Development will include modelling and risk assessment for each site to determine the priority.	£1.0	6	Schemes		1					Establishes a representative risk for the region which will establish a prioritised list of sites based on modelling and climate change predictions. Modelling and desk study will have been completed for the majority of sites with potential options available for development at a later date.	Weather events occur that induce failure of sites that have been modelled and deemed low risk and pushed into the next control period. More than 6 sites are deemed high risk and more budget is required than is currently allocated to the programme. Legislation restricting necessary works on infrastructure.		All	
Resilience	All Assets	Strategy	Adaptation Pathways	Regional	Adaptation Pathways program to be developed over the whole of CP7 for both the Wales and Western routes to determine the highest risk lines of route along the railway due to climate change. Adaptation pathways for railways involve dynamic, flexible strategies to respond to climate change and evolving needs. They provide a structured framework for incremental adjustments in infrastructure and operations. This approach enables timely upgrades, efficient resource allocation, and stakeholder collaboration. Adaptation action plans will be developed based on modelling of climatic risk to the infrastructure and options proposed for the route	£4.0	Multiple	Schemes		1	1	1	1	1	By adopting flexible and dynamic approaches, the region can incrementally adjust its infrastructure and operational strategies, ensuring resilience to future uncertainties. Adaptation pathways enable efficient resource allocation, facilitating timely upgrades and innovations. Additionally, the adaptive nature of the approach promotes stakeholder engagement, fostering collaboration between communities, authorities, and businesses to collectively address the evolving demands of the rail network.	Uncertainty surrounding future climate scenarios and accurately forecasting the most effective adaptations. The prolonged timeline of adaptation pathways may expose the region to short-term vulnerabilities if immediate action is not taken. Striking the right balance between flexibility and timely decision-making is crucial to mitigate these risks and ensure the long-term success of adaptation strategies.		All	
Geotech	Embankment & Cuttings	Monitoring	Earthworks Monitoring	Regional	Enhanced earthworks monitoring of earthwork assets to better understand the risk across a portfolio level. The monitoring will be put in place at the most at risk assets as a result of the increased frequency of increment weather condition that affect the stability of the earthworks as a result of climate change.	£11.0	Multiple	Schemes		1	1	1	1	1	Earthworks monitoring enhances construction safety, detects potential issues early, and ensures project compliance. It improves efficiency, reduces costs, and aids in optimizing resource allocation.	Challenges in data accuracy and interpretation may pose risks. Overreliance on technology can lead to false positives or neglect of on-site conditions. Regular calibration and skilled interpretation are essential.		All	
Based on the outcome of analysis at number 1, six of the following schemes (4-18) will be progressed within this budget the remaining resilience budget of £18m																			
Resilience	Cutting	Renewal	MLN1	Sonning, Western	Adverse weather site east of reading which affects elizabeth line and GWR. Slope and crest drainage. Resilience not BAU.	£18m	1	Schemes		0	0	1			Reduced flooding damage to the track, and disruption to the railway network. Reduced delay minutes from extreme weather and repair time. Reduced repair costs. TSR will become redundant. Reduced maintenance time and costs.	Flood risk from extreme weather. Contamination of track equipment. Performance of railway. Landsliding. Damage to electrical equipment.		All	
Resilience	Embankment	Renewal	SWM2	St Fagans, Wales	Once flowing beneath the bridge at 174.61 M.Chns, the River Ely changes direction 90 degrees northeast 50 metres downstream. At high water levels, this river bend could slow water flow leading to flooding of the land surrounding the railway. A flood level could be reached which means water overtops the railway. In January 2023, high water levels in River Ely led to flooding of the railway and washout events. These events will likely increase in the future with climate change.		1	Schemes		0	1				Reduce damage to bridge and increase life span. Reduce repair cost and time. Lower disruption time. Reduce flooding in surrounding areas as well.	Flood risk from extreme weather. Contamination of track equipment. Performance of railway. Structure damage. Long term disruption. Structure integrity. Damage to electrical equipment.		All	
Resilience	Embankment	Renewal	SWM2	Clawd-Coch, Wales	The highest recorded river level of the river that flows beneath the railway at this site is 1.5m below the height of the embankment. In the future, it is expected with climate change that higher river levels will occur. Flood levels could reach the height of the embankment and therefore the railway could be overtopped. Tan 15 flood maps show that the railway at this site is in a flood zone.		1	Schemes		0	0	0	1		Reduce damage to bridge and increase life span. Reduce repair cost and time. Lower disruption time. Reduce flooding in surrounding areas as well.	Flood risk from extreme weather. Contamination of track equipment. Performance of railway. Structure damage. Long term disruption. Structure integrity. Damage to electrical equipment.		All	
Resilience	Embankment	Enhance	SWB	Chipping Sodbury, Western	Determine size and capacity requirements of the proposed system which is operating at full capacity to provide resilience in the face of increased extreme weather and Climate Change. This is a repeat failure location with 8 major floods occurred in the last 13 years.		1	Schemes		1					Avoid wet beds and voiding which can lead to damage to rail and trains as well. Eliminate main line closure during extreme weather conditions. Quick recovery from extreme weather. Reduced disruption. Reduced repair costs and time.	Main line disruption between Paddington and Cardiff. Contamination of track equipment. Cyclic top derailment. Performance of railway. Damage to TQ. Damage to electrical equipment.		All	
Resilience	Embankment	Renewal	HNL1	Llangua court, Wales	"At this site, the railway bridge squeezes the channel of the River Monnow. Therefore, at high river levels, it is likely water will build up before the bridge and spill on to the floodplain upstream of the railway. This floodplain has a pinch point due to a road being build close to the railway. As a result, when the flood plain reaches its maximum capacity, water would likely be pushed on to the railway and a washout event could occur. Tan 15 flood maps show that the railway at this site is in a flood zone."		1	Schemes		0	0	1			Reduce repair time and costs. Increased protection of railway. Avoid flooding in areas surrounding the railway. Reduced disruption and eliminate TSR.	Blast washout. Damage to electrical equipment. Structural integrity of track and bridge.		All	
Resilience	Embankment	Renewal	MLN1	Nailsea, Western	"At this site, the railway bridge squeezes the channel of the River Kenn. Therefore, at high flood levels, it is likely water will build up along the railway at the base of the hills. This floodplain has a pinch point due to hills on both sides of the railway pushing flood water to collect along the railway. This site is in a known floodplain, and it is expected to get worse due to sea level rise as it is exposed to tidal flooding." <b>Increase bridge size? Excavate pinch point? Drainage?</b>		1	Schemes		0	0	0	1		Reduce repair time and costs. Increased protection of railway. Avoid flooding in areas surrounding the railway. Reduced disruption and eliminate TSR. Reduce saltwater deterioration.	Blast washout. Damage to electrical equipment. Structural integrity of track and bridge.		All	
Resilience	Cutting	Renewal	SD12	Llangyfelach, Wales	Up size drainage system which is operating at full capacity to provide resilience in the face increasing extreme weather caused by climate change. 500m earthwork renewal ditch/channel and 5 Schi Earthwork Refurb, 1100m track drainage		1	Schemes		0	1					Reduced flooding damage to the track and disruption to the railway network. Reduced delay minutes from extreme weather and repair time. Reduced repair costs. TSR will become redundant.	flood risk due to long spells of rainfall. ballast washout - contamination of track bed. Damage to electrical equipment.		All
Resilience	Cutting	Renewal	MLN1	Flax Bourton, Western	Install infrastructure to protect cutting from flooding in adverse weather. Bringing the existing Rosemount Road SUDS pond back online. Replacing the existing partially blocked culvert. Upsizing approximately 170m of existing track drainage from 450mm diameter to 500mm/525mm		1	Schemes				1				Avoid flooding damage to the track and disruption to the railway network. Reduced delay minutes from extreme weather and repair time. Avoid repair costs. TSR will not be implemented.	flood risk due to long spells of rainfall. ballast washout - contamination of track bed. Damage to electrical equipment.		All
Resilience	Cutting	Renewal	MLN1	Wootton Bassett, Western	Remove the pinch point where water drains under the railway into a canal on the down side (south). When this floods both routes between Swindon and Bristol are closed. Take cognisance of recent and planned housing developments to north.		1	Schemes			1	1				Avoid wet beds and voiding which can lead to damage to rail and trains as well. Eliminate main line closure during extreme weather conditions. Quick recovery from extreme weather. Reduced disruption. Reduced repair costs and time. Protect equipment.	Main line disruption between Paddington and Cardiff. Contamination of track equipment. Cyclic top derailment. Performance of railway. Damage to TQ. Damage to electrical equipment.		All
Resilience	Cutting	Renewal	MLN1	Dauntsey, Western	Outside party drainage here has caused flooding several times a year including in Jan 2023 and Jan 2024 when a train ran into floodwater at 125mph. Recent targeted intervention to drainage has helped but not prevented flooding. Probably would look like some enhanced maintenance needed to address the problem.		1	Schemes			1	1				Avoid wet beds and voiding which can lead to damage to rail and trains as well. Eliminate main line closure during extreme weather conditions. Quick recovery from extreme weather. Reduced disruption. Reduced repair costs and time. Protect equipment.	Main line disruption between Paddington and Cardiff. Contamination of track equipment. Cyclic top derailment. Performance of railway. Damage to TQ. Damage to electrical equipment.		All
Resilience	Cutting	Renewal	CCL	Somerton, Western	Frequent flood site and closes off fast route from Reading to West Country via Westbury. If coupled with a closure at Flax Bourton means both main routes out of west country are closed. Planned for intervention in year 3		1	Schemes					1.00			Avoid wet beds and voiding which can lead to damage to rail and trains as well. Eliminate main line closure during extreme weather conditions. Quick recovery from extreme weather. Reduced disruption. Reduced repair costs and time. Protect equipment.	Main line disruption between Paddington and West Country via Westbury. Contamination of track equipment. Cyclic top derailment. Performance of railway. Damage to TQ. Damage to electrical equipment.		All
Resilience	Sea Defence	Renewal	AMB	AvonMouth, Western	Flood defence protects railway from sea level rise creating salt water marsh nature area.		1	Schemes			1					Reduce repair time and costs. Increased protection of railway. Avoid flooding in areas surrounding the railway. Reduced disruption and eliminate TSR. Reduce saltwater deterioration.	Blast washout. Damage to electrical equipment. Structural integrity of track. Flooding.		All
Resilience	Sea Defence	Renewal	MLN	Powderham, Western	Protect main line to Devon and Cornwall from threat from erosion of sand spit at mouth of estuary accelerating erosion and frequency of overtopping of powderham banks.	1	Schemes			1					Strengthen track stability and support. Reduce flood risk and avoid voids and wetbeds. TSR would become redundant. Performance of railway equipment would improve.	Alignment of track. Flooding in extreme weather. Derailment. Disruption. Performance.		All	
Resilience	Culvert	Renewal	DCL	Oxford, Western	Enlarged culverts under road bridge adjacent to railway to prevent build up of flood water to north impacting railway	1	Schemes					1.00			Reduced flooding damage to the track and disruption to the railway network. Avoid voids and wet beds that may lead to serious failure events. Reduced delay minutes from extreme weather and repair time. Reduced repair costs. TSR will become redundant	flood risk due to long spells of rainfall . Wet beds and voids cause contamination of ballast and track resulting in failure of track support (rounded ballast) - cyclic top risk of derailment (similar to gloucester derailment event). Damage to electrical equipment.		All	