

## ASSESSMENT OF MID-RANGE TAMPERS FOR MAINTENANCE OF S&C COMPARISON WITH OTHER METHODS

A test programme comparing the performance of mid-range tamping machinery for maintenance of switches and crossings to BR's existing tamping fleet has been undertaken. Manual methods have also been compared to tamping.

Tests using the Rolling Load Rig facility at British Rail Research were supported by extensive site measurements. These showed that mid-range tampers achieved similar results to BR's existing tampers, despite a theoretical inferiority.

Of the manual maintenance methods, Kango packing was found to be the most effective. In fact, the quality and durability of the maintained track geometry was, in these tests, comparable to tamping.