ADHESION AND LEAVES: USE OF SANDITE

This report describes two short test series that made use of the tribometer train to determine the effectiveness of Sandite in increasing available wheel/rail adhesion. One at Kegworth was designed to study directly the effect of sandite on leaf affected track; and the second on Hemerdon Bank to study a more general usage, but which included a section of line affected by leaves.

The report found that for a limited number of tests, sandite has been shown to be capable of increasing the coefficient of adhesion on leaf affected track typically by 0.03-0.07. Leaf coverage was only moderate in these tests, though adhesion levels were often extremely low. There was evidence that continuous treatment on a twice daily basis maintained overall higher adhesion levels. However, low adhesion was not fully prevented.

The poor performance of sandite on clan rails in these autumn tests, as compared to all previous results, suggests that the full potential of the treatment was not reached. However, improvements to the technique are suggested in the event of further tests.

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