

A guide to level crossings

Making sure everyone
gets across safely





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About this guide and our safety measures



This booklet has been developed specifically for people who may face additional challenges when using a level crossing. That includes users with visual, hearing or mobility impairment.

We're committed to making level crossings safer and helping people use them correctly

That's why we employ over 100 dedicated level crossing managers across Great Britain to manage the day-to-day safety of our level crossings.

You may also find traffic lights, audible warnings and barriers at some level crossings. Although there may not always be protection measures in place that are suitable for people with visual, hearing or mobility impairment. The next sections will explain these in more detail.

Additionally, our National Helpline can provide more information and assistance.



What's inside the guide

- Information on Network Rail safety measures
- Basic safety advice for level crossing users
- Relevant cues, warnings and adaptations for:
 - People with visual impairment
 - People with hearing impairment
 - People with mobility impairment

We'd like to thank the following organisations for their input – Action on Hearing Loss, Guide Dogs, The Royal Association for Deaf people, Scope and the Built Environment Accessibility Panel.



We're here for you

Call our National Helpline for more information and advice about using level crossings.

03457 11 41 41

Please dial 18001 before the number above to activate TypeTalk.

Email us or talk to us via our live help:
[networkrail.co.uk/contact](https://www.networkrail.co.uk/contact)

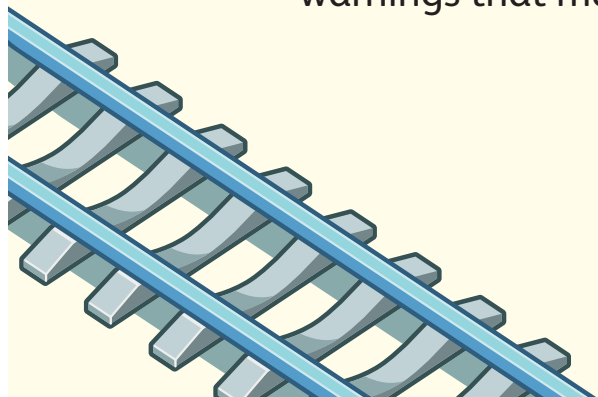


Level crossings – the basics



Approaching a level crossing

- Concentrate and stay alert whenever you are on or near a level crossing
- Always approach the level crossing with caution and be prepared to stop
- Be aware of any audio, visual and tactile cues or warnings that may be in place



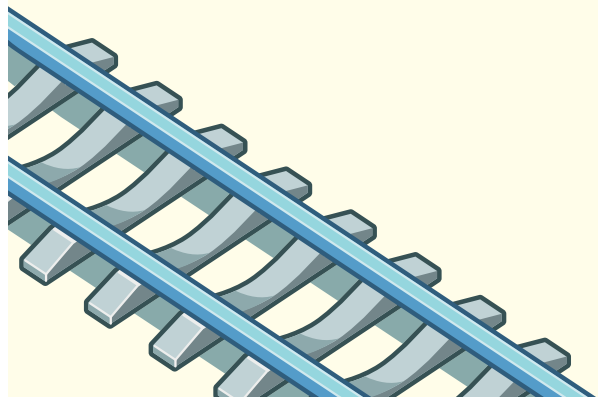
Crossing a level crossing

- If the crossing has warnings that start as you approach it, do not enter
- Please be patient when waiting for a train to pass – there is no set waiting time as train speeds and timetables differ greatly
- If a warning activates while you are on a level crossing, stay calm and cross as quickly as you can



Level crossings – the basics

- Take time to check there isn't a train approaching before crossing. Please be aware that trains can come from either direction and there could be a second train coming
- Cross as quickly as you can once it is safe to do so, keeping children close and dogs on a lead



There are various types of level crossings throughout the rail network in Great Britain. The type of crossing and the protection provided depends on whether the right of way is public or private, the type and number of users, the frequency and speed of trains and the local geography. For example, rural crossings may not have barriers for protection.

The following sections include information on the cues and warnings that may be in place.

You can also contact our National Helpline for advice.

Safety measures for people with **visual impairment**





Safety measures for people with visual impairment

Warnings that a train is approaching



Audible warnings or sirens

- Some level crossings have audible warnings or sirens
- We have a variety of audible alarms that activate when a train is approaching. Some sound like sirens, some like train horns and some are spoken warnings
- The type of alarm differs depending on the type and location of level crossing

- The alarm may be continuous until the train has passed, or stop once barriers are lowered
- **Please do not cross if there is a warning sound or message.** Wait until the train or trains have passed and cross only when it is safe to do so



Safety measures for people with visual impairment



Barriers

- Barriers are mostly found at public road crossings and will be lowered when a train is approaching
- The type of barrier differs depending on the type of level crossing
- Some level crossings have half barriers, where the barrier operates on the left hand side, blocking oncoming traffic
- The audible warnings that accompany the lowering barriers are your cue to stop and not enter the level crossing



Cues on the approach to a level crossing

You may find tactile paving at some level crossings. This textured pavement is typically in line with the road and marks the transition from footpath to level crossing, so please be prepared to stop if you feel it underfoot.



Safety measures for people with **hearing impairment**



Safety measures for people with hearing impairment

Warnings that a train is approaching



Lights

- Lights will usually be accompanied by lowering barriers
- If there are traffic light signals at a level crossing, these will begin to show amber and then flash red when a train is approaching



- If there are miniature stop lights, these will show red when a train is approaching and green when it is safe to cross
- The moment the lights illuminate is your cue to stop. Do not enter the crossing and stay well back from the track, behind barriers or gates if provided

Do not cross until the lights go out and the barriers raise.



Safety measures for people with hearing impairment



Barriers

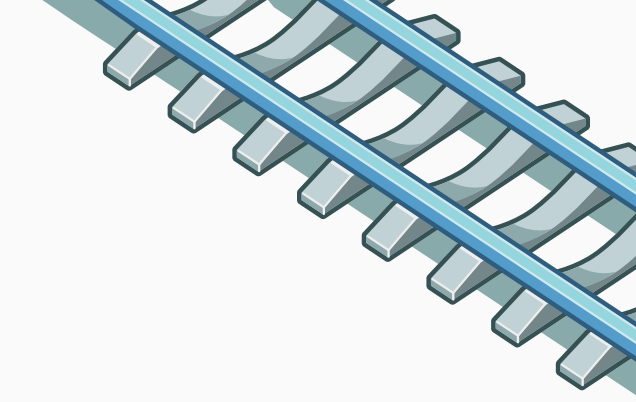
- Barriers are mostly found at public road crossings and will be lowered when a train is approaching
- The type of barrier differs depending on the type of level crossing
- Some level crossings have half barriers, where the barrier operates on the left hand side, blocking oncoming traffic
- The lowering barriers are your cue to stop and not enter the level crossing. These will usually be accompanied by visual warnings



Private level crossings where telephone operation is required to cross

We can provide hearing induction loops at private level crossings. Users need to be authorised by Network Rail; our level crossing managers can implement this safety measure.

Please contact our National Helpline for more information. You'll find details on the last page.





Safety measures for people with **mobility impairment**



Safety measures for people with mobility impairment

Warnings that a train is approaching



Lights

- If there are traffic light signals at a level crossing, these will begin to show amber and then flash red when a train is approaching
- If there are miniature stop lights, these will show red when a train is approaching and green when it is safe to cross



- The moment lights illuminate is your cue to stop. Please stay well back from the track, behind barriers or gates if provided
- Lights are usually accompanied by audible warnings and lowering barriers

Do not cross until the lights go out and the barriers raise.



Safety measures for people with mobility impairment



Audible warnings or sirens

- Some level crossings have audible warnings or sirens
- We have a variety of audible alarms that activate when a train is approaching. Some sound like sirens, some like train horns and some are spoken warnings
- The type of alarm differs depending on the type and location of level crossing
- The alarm may be continuous until the train has passed, or stop once the barriers are lowered
- Please do not cross if there is a warning sound or message. Wait until the train or trains have passed and cross only when it is safe to do so



Barriers

- Barriers are mostly found at public road crossings and will be lowered when a train is approaching
- The type of barrier differs depending on the type of level crossing. Some level crossings have half barriers, where the barrier operates on the left hand side, blocking oncoming traffic
- The lowering barriers are your cue to stop and not enter the level crossing. These will usually be accompanied by audible warnings and lights
- Once the barriers are fully raised and your path ahead is clear, please cross as quickly as you can



Safety measures for people with mobility impairment



Cues on the approach to a level crossing

You may find tactile paving at some level crossings. This textured pavement is typically in line with the road and marks the transition from footpath to crossing surface. Please be prepared to stop when you reach it.



Physical alterations to level crossings

We are improving level crossings wherever possible. This includes straightening footpaths, adding guiding fences and additional lighting.

Alternative routes

It's possible that the level crossing might not be the only option for crossing the railway. There may be times when you find nearby footbridges or underpasses provide the safest access.

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You can also contact our National Helpline to request this guide in a different format.

