

# Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place



## Near Miss Event with Member of the Public at Brunton Footpath Crossing

**Issued to:** All Network Rail line managers and Principal Contractors

**Ref:** NEB 16/05  
**Date of issue:** 09/06/2016

**Location:** Brunton, Northumberland  
**Contact:** [James Perkins, Route Level Crossing Manager](#)  
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## Overview

On the 25 May, around 11:00, the driver of a Cross Country Trains 0703 service from Birmingham New Street to Edinburgh Waverley, reported that the train may have struck a person on the Down Main line at Brunton footpath level crossing.

Network Rail staff attended the crossing and reported that the person had not been struck but it was a very close near miss.

The driver reported the person was either sat down on, or had fallen on the crossing as the train approached. Please see CCTV image above.

The last inspection on 27 January showed the crossing to be in good order. Subsequent inspections following this incident indicated warping of the wooden battens around tarmac in the deck surface whereby a member of public could have tripped and fallen.



The crossing point defect was repaired and further mitigations are now being considered to reduce this potential risk.

## Discussion Points

It is concerning how quickly the crossing went from being in a good condition to a potential trip hazard. With this in mind, please discuss the following points with your teams:

- Can we avoid using materials prone to warping in walkways such as level crossings?
- Do we specify materials of the correct quality to reduce the risk of unwanted consequences?
- How could we help colleagues working on our infrastructure to check level crossings and report issues found?