

EVENT LEARNING

Safety & Sustainable Development

No.021

Incident Date / Time: 16th September 2013

Location: User Worked Crossing (no.275)

Works Taking Place / Incident Type: Line upgrade at Rowston / Operational Close Call

Issued By: Safety and Sustainable Development Team

Project Name / Number: Sleaford to Lincoln (GNGE) Upgrade / 114119

For the attention of: All Scotland and North East

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

Arrangements were made for the gates and posts at a User Worked Crossing (UWC) to be removed to allow clearance for a combine harvester to cross the line. This was done without consulting Network Rail Operations and without a Level Crossing Attendant present. The usual access, the Level Crossing at Rowston, had been closed to vehicle traffic for project works and the diversionary route for traffic was not suitable for the transit of heavy agricultural machinery.

CAUSES

- Agricultural use of the Level Crossing and UWC were not fully considered in planning.
- The proposed method of working was not adequately communicated between Alliance Partners and/or Network Rail Operations.
- There was no written process / instructions to manage the revised method of working.
- The level of supervision at the Level Crossing during works was inadequate.



How will you plan and deliver work safely?

In your role, consider the following to mitigate risk at Level Crossings and prevent recurrence:

- How can local knowledge help deliver project works safely and efficiently? *What is considered when proposing diversionary routes for traffic? Who is consulted and when?*
- How will information derived from consultation be clearly referenced in written procedures? *How will all our delivery partners have access to appropriate information and procedures?*
- Is your process robust? How will you test/review the effectiveness of the current process?
- Are you confident that identified risks are always referenced in Work Package Plans and Task Briefing Sheets?
- How will you know that delivery of work is adequately supervised? *What does competent supervision provide in the delivery of projects?*