

What should I do if I discover a suspicious item on or near the railway?

The BTP issued the following advice April 2019.

Firstly and most importantly, if any rail employee, whether in a customer facing or operational / engineering role discovers a suspicious item on or near the railway that cannot be assessed using the existing [HOT and WHAT protocols](#) , their first consideration must be to protect themselves and those around them. In these cases the default should be to call their Control Room to raise an incident that will be notified to BTP for police attendance.

If an item such as [malicious obstructions on railway](#) are found and the person/s finding the item assess it to be safe to handle and remove it then the following basic forensic management principles should be applied.

- *If possible put on new, clean Nitrile gloves before touching the item. Or ensure some form of glove / hand covering is used.*
- *Make sure the minimum number of people handle the item.*
- *Place the item in a clean bag that ideally can be sealed.*
- *If more than one item is found then place each item in a separate bag.*
- *If the item is too large to pick up or it is not possible or appropriate to move it then consider placing something over it to protect any forensic material.*

Having seized an item please ensure the following is accurately recorded:

- *What has been seized or found. (A description of the item)*
- *Who found it and handled it.*
- *Where it was found.*
- *What date and time it was found.*

Please also consider any CCTV opportunities in and around the location where the item was found. Any item seized should be stored in a secure location until the police arrange to collect it.