

## Insecure access points

Issued to: **Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and RISQS registered contractors**

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Contact: Sarah Winnington, National Crime Manager. National Incident Management and Operational Security Team



## Overview

On the 15<sup>th</sup> September an access gate was left unlocked between Topsham and Exton on the Exmouth branch line following track renewal work in the area. When staff arrived to secure the gate, children were found on the line having accessed the railway via this gate.

This incident follows several recent occurrences where people have accessed the infrastructure via insecure access points.

- On the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019 a man and child were found trackside near Hendon (Eastern). The individuals had accessed the line via a gate which had not been secured by the lock and chain.
- On the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019 a group of trespassers were found lineside near Leagrave (Eastern). An insecure access gate was found at the location.

- On the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019 an inebriated lady used an unsecure gate to access the line along the official signal box walking route to the bottom of the signal box steps at Mickle Trafford (North West & Central).
- On the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 Keymer (Southern) substation compound access gate was left open resulting in access to a high voltage location.

Insecure access points allow trespassers to access the infrastructure. This poses serious safety and security risks and provides an opportunity for crime and malicious acts to occur.

### What you should do

To ensure safe access and egress to the Railway infrastructure apply standard NR/L3/TRK/002/D15, which states that access points should be routinely inspected, checking that they are secured and if not notifying fault control.

Authorised access points should be secured when not in use.

## Discussion Points

- What would prevent you locking the gate/securing the site?
- Do you report close calls/faults when you find issues relating to site security?
- Do you understand the impacts and financial penalties for leaving the railway insecure?
- Remember that security is everyone's business and you are responsible for your own and others' safety.
- Challenge security risks and concerns. Use the close calls system (01908 723500 or via the app), inform a member of staff or report via [AskSecurity@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:AskSecurity@networkrail.co.uk).
- Text BTP on 61016 to report a crime or incident. In an emergency call 999.
- Further information on Railway Security, including the HOT and WHAT protocols are available on Safety Central. This [link](#) will take you to a poster that should be displayed in buildings where staff who access the infrastructure regularly will see them.