<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Your level crossing toolkit</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using the toolkit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Understanding the problem</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSSB report 2018/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>External messaging</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key messages by audience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key national statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Available resources</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downloadable resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editable resources to help you locally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network Rail Brand Hub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage with local audiences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real life outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Videos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printable items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branded merchandise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appendices</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Types of level crossing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rule book information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSSB report 2018/19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Using the toolkit

This toolkit has been created to help you deliver outreach work with members of the public on level crossing safety. There are no right or wrong ways to use the content. It is designed to be flexible to suit your needs.

The content provides a national overview, along with key messages and facts approved for external use. Given the variety of ways in which you and your colleagues interact with the public, we have included a range of standardised resources, as well as links to templates, advice, videos and articles.

This is your toolkit, so use it in the way you feel is most appropriate to deliver local messages about level crossing safety.
RSSB’s Annual Safety Performance Report 2018/19

Headlines

- Two pedestrians died after being struck by trains in accidents at level crossings in 2018/19 – the lowest recorded in any year.
- At nine, the number of train collisions with vehicles at level crossings is the highest since 2013/14.
- The total level of physical harm at level crossings in 2018/19 was the lowest recorded in any year.
- Level crossing incidents in the UK were well below the EU average over the five-year period.
- Although there was a downturn in incorrect usage events for road vehicle users, this wasn’t the case for pedestrians. Combining the two, the overall picture shows an increase in the number of events during 2018/19.
Key messages by audience

Pedestrians
‘Be patient and follow instructions on how to cross safely.’

Parents
‘Help your children grow up to use level crossings safely.’

Cyclists
‘For your own safety, dismount and check both ways.’

Dog walkers
‘Keep your dog on a short lead at level crossings.’

Drivers
‘Every vehicle must stop for red lights at level crossings.’

Young people
‘Being distracted at level crossings can kill.’

Farm workers
‘Never stop on the crossing, even if the track looks clear’

Stop, look and listen
Key national statistics

- 2 accidental fatalities at level crossings in 2018/19
- 105 accidental fatalities in 13 years (81 pedestrians and 24 road vehicle users)
- 1,200 level crossings closed since 2009
- 377 near misses in 2018/19
- 4113 reported incidents of incorrect usage – highest recorded in the last five years

Nine collisions between train and road vehicles in 2018/19 – highest number since 2013/14

20% of the GB population have crossed at a level crossing when the lights are flashing
Stop, look and listen at level crossings

Stay safe at level crossings. Stop, look and listen.

Every level crossing is different, take time to read the signs and follow the instructions on how to cross safely. Ignoring them puts your and others’ lives at risk. You could also be breaking the law.

How to cross safely

- **Stop, look, listen sign**
  - This sign indicates the need to be extra vigilant – the crossing may not have a visual or audible warning.

- **Warning lights**
  - Many crossings have red warning lights, you must stop when these are showing as this means a train is approaching.
  - Remember, there may be more than one train coming.

- **Barriers**
  - Some crossings are ‘open’ and don’t have barriers, some have a ‘full barrier’ which blocks the entire road, whilst others have a ‘half barrier.’
  - Please do not cross unless the barriers are fully raised.

- **Alarms and sirens**
  - Listen out for various types of alarms – some sound like sirens, some sound like train horns.
  - If you hear a warning sound or message, this means a train is approaching. Please take care and make sure any sounds have stopped before crossing.

Follow these important rules to stay safe at a level crossing

- **Dont cross when the lights are flashing.**
- **Don’t jump the barriers or gates.**
- **Only cross when the barriers are up and the lights are not flashing.**

Downloadable resources

- **Poster**
- **Flyer**
- **Easy read leaflet**
- **Pull up banner**

Contact us

@networkrail.co.uk
www.networkrail.co.uk
03457 11 41 41
Available resources

Downloadable resources

Leaflet

Infographic

OIS screen display

Download
Download
Download

Stop, look and listen at level crossings
Stay safe at level crossings.
Stop, look and listen.

Every level crossing is different, take time to read the signs and follow the instructions on how to cross safely.
Ignoring them puts yours and others lives at risk. You could also be breaking the law.

There are countless near-misses and fatalities every single year. You, your friends and family must understand and respect the rules to cross safely.

How do I drive safely over a level crossing?

Concentrate
Always approach a level crossing with caution, particularly in adverse weather conditions. You never know when the lights will start flashing and you’ll need to react accordingly.

Drive slowly
Do not enter the crossing unless your exit is clear. Make sure there is enough space between you and the vehicle in front.

Watch out for lights
If warning lights are flashing:
• Stop and do not cross
• Wait until the lights have stopped flashing

Watch out for barriers
There are different types of barriers.
• Do not race across as the barrier is coming down
• Wait until the barrier has fully lifted
• Do not weave around the barriers

Remember, there may be more than one train coming.

Myth busters

Myth 1: Trains don’t run on a Sunday.
Fact: Trains run all day every day.

Myth 2: Trains can slow down if they see me.
Fact: 400 tonnes of steel travelling at 60mph takes over 320 metres to stop. No one can see you from 320 metres away, let alone stop a train.

Myth 3: In the modern day and with tip-top technology, barriers will automatically detect and alert me if a train is coming.
Fact: Barriers can’t detect people or anything else that passes them. They are there to keep you a safe distance from a passing train.

Myth 4: Only one train passes at one time.
Fact: Trains run on all day every day, often two at a time.

Myth 5: The flashing lights are just a warning and mean I have plenty of time to cross.
Fact: The flashing lights mean a train is approaching, so you need to stop in a safe place behind the line.
Editable resources to help you locally

We've developed editable and printable resources to help you start conversations with the public. Log in to Brand Hub in a browser, then you can click on the images in this toolkit to go directly to the template of your choice and customise them for:

- Parents
- Dog walkers
- Farm workers
- Drivers
- Cyclists
- Young people

Alternatively once logged in to Brand Hub you can locate all items in the templates section.

Please refer to page 11 for further details on how to use Brand Hub.
Stop, look and listen at level crossings

Stay safe at level crossings. Stop, look and listen.

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•  Stop and do no cross
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Myth 4:

Only one train passes at one time.

Fact:

Trains run on all day every day, often two at a time.

Myth 5:

The flashing lights are just a warning and mean I have plenty of time to cross.

Fact:

The flashing lights mean a train is approaching, so you need to stop in a safe place behind the line.

Accidental fatalities at level crossings in 2018/19

- 99 pedestrians
- 105 road vehicle users

Nine collisions between train and road vehicles in 2018/19 – highest number since 2013/14

20% of the GB population have crossed at a level crossing when the lights are flashing
Network Rail Brand Hub

How to use the Brand Hub

1. Open your browser and go to the Brand Hub – www.brand.networkrail.co.uk
2. Log-in using the account you previously created.
3. Go to the Templates section or click on the template you want to use in this toolkit.
4. Select the template you want to edit.
5. Click the Create button in the top-right of the screen.
6. Use the Editable content panel on the left-hand side of the screen to customise the asset. In this edit panel you can:
   • Choose your overall theme from the pre-defined list of audience groups
   • You can mix and match the themes for each of the different sections or edit the text to create your own local message
   • Select an icon or image from those available

   • On some templates you will be able to upload your own image. To do this go to the custom tab under the image option, select 'click here to select an image', then click on the small cross in the bottom left hand corner to upload your own image.
   • You can also add partner logos in the same way by selecting the ‘include partners’ checkbox, selecting the number required (max 3) then uploading your logos.
   • You move between the front and back of an asset by selecting the Front or Back option at the top of the screen.
   • Once you’re happy with the content of your asset, you can preview a proof, by clicking the Preview button.
   • You can download the final artwork by clicking the Save button and then selecting the file format you want to download. If you are sending on to CATS for printing please select pdf.

If you have any questions about how to use the templates, visit the FAQs page on the Brand Hub or contact marketing@networkrail.co.uk
Printable items

To help you start conversations with your audience at events, we’ve provided a range of assets which you can order through our preferred partners.

Any printable items you download from Safety Central or create on the Brand Hub can be ordered through our existing partnership with CATS Solutions.

Costs

For the purposes of the pilot we have allocated each person a print budget of £10. We appreciate this may seem a small budget but this is only for pilot purposes and merchandise available to order may change depending on your feedback.

Please note that your £10 budget does not need to cover delivery, this will be picked up separately.

The price per asset is as follows:

- A3 poster – £1.39 per item
- A6 2 page flyer – £0.03 per item
- DL 6 page leaflet – £0.29 per item
- Easy read leaflet – £0.21 per item
- Pull-up banner – £85 per item.
Printable items

Ordering process

To order printed items, please:

1. Download or create your print artwork on the Brand Hub or Safety Central
2. Send the artwork to Pete.Lacey@cats-solutions.co.uk with the subject title as Safety toolkit pilot printing
3. State the quantity of each item you require up to the total value of £10, plus a contact name and full delivery address
4. Deliveries will be made to the address provided within 72 hours of the receipt of the order.

Please note you will only be able to order printing if you are on the pilot participant list.
## Available resources

### Branded merchandise

A range of branded merchandise can be ordered through our preferred partner, Allwag.

**Costs**

For the purposes of the pilot we have limited the merchandise available for you to order to level crossing safety branded pens. Please note these will not be the same pens used in the final toolkits.

**We have allowed for each person to order 75 pens only.**

For the full project the following items will be available to support the level crossing toolkit:

- Generic safety branded cotton shopper
- Generic safety branded metal water bottle
- Level crossing roll out banner pen
- Level crossing poo mess bag holder
- Level crossing credit card sized car ice scraper.

**Ordering process**

To order merchandise, please:

1. Go to [www.allwag.co.uk](http://www.allwag.co.uk) and log in using your email and password which has been sent to you by Allwag
2. Select the “Network Rail – Safety Toolkit Merchandise” tab at the top of the page
3. Click View all under Safety Toolkit
4. Click on the Safety Toolkit pen
5. The pens come in packs of 75 so please enter 1 in the quantity box
6. Click on order then view basket and checkout
7. Check your delivery address details, and update them if required.
8. Click on proceed to checkout.

Delivery can be expected 2-3 days from placing your order.
Educational resources

Primary school resources
https://www.networkrail.co.uk/communities/safety-in-the-community/safety-education/primary-school-resources/

Secondary school resources

Welsh baccalaureate
Available resources

Bring level crossing incidents to life when engaging local audiences by using your own or one of these real cases.

‘Taxi and passengers escape without injury’
A passenger train travelling at 60mph struck a taxi on the line at Warden level crossing. The vehicle became wedged underneath the train, but the train did not derail. Fortunately, there were no injuries to the train crew and passengers or the taxi driver and his passenger as they had exited the vehicle prior to the collision.

‘Near miss’
A passenger train travelling at 60mph had a near miss with a van parked on the Healing miniature warning lights level crossing. The van moved clear after the driver sounded their horn and applied the emergency brake.

‘Not enough time to cross’
A passenger train travelling at 80mph on the Leeds line had a near miss with a delivery van that cleared the crossing just before the train reached it. The van driver had requested two minutes to cross but had taken longer than expected.

‘Driver ignores warnings’
The driver of a passenger train struck a level crossing barrier at Carleton Crossing on the Fylde line. CCTV footage showed a transit van had driven over the crossing when the barriers were lowered and the road warning lights flashing.

‘Two close calls’
In Wales, a passenger train had a very near miss with a van whilst travelling at 60mph. The driver applied the emergency brake and managed to stop the train within inches of the vehicle. The driver made no request to use the crossing.

Another near miss with a van occurred on the York line. Network Rail staff advised the van driver on how to use level crossings safely.
Real life outcomes

‘Man jailed after horrifying incident at Kildwick level crossing’
https://www.keighleynews.co.uk/news/17235933.man-jailed-after-horrifying-incident-at-
kildwick-level-crossing/

‘A 30-year-old man from Blackpool was later arrested on suspicion of failing
to provide a breath test and is currently in custody’
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-lancashire-45599301/lancashire-car-drives-
through-level-crossing-barriers

‘Within the last 12 months, a total of 128 drivers have been fined and given points
on their license for incidents at both sites’
http://media.btp.police.uk/r/16334/video__drivers_handed_points_and_fines_for_misusi
Case studies

‘Safety failure at Elsenham rail deaths crossing 10 years on’
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-34967459

‘Woman who lost leg at deadly level crossing renews plea to close it’

‘Tommy Ramshaw died after being hit by a train’
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-35797792
Available resources

Approved photos you can download

Download

Download
Available resources

Videos

‘CCTV footage of deliberate misuse’
www.networkrail.co.uk/drivers

‘Officer, rail workers, level crossing managers talking first hand’

Watch now and download
Watch now and download
Types of level crossing

There are nearly 6,000 level crossings on the rail network across England, Wales and Scotland. Each crossing varies in the level of protection it offers.

There are two broad groups

Passive crossings
Where there is no warning of a train’s approach other than by the train driver who may use the train horn. It is the road user or pedestrian’s responsibility to check whether it is safe to cross the line. Appropriate signage and instructions for proper use are provided at each location.

Passive crossings for road vehicles are generally used in rural areas. These crossings tend to be on private roads, for example to provide access to a farm or between a farm and fields.

Active crossings
Where the road vehicle or pedestrian is warned of the approach of a train through closure of gates, barriers, warning lights and/or alarms. The operation of an active crossing can either be automatic (barriers that are raised and lowered automatically) or manual, where a rail operator will work the crossing remotely.

Automatic barrier and manually controlled crossings (including those monitored by CCTV) are usually found on public roads with high levels of traffic.
### Table 8

Level crossing categories by class and type.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crossing type</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Passive</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>UWC-T</td>
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<td>OC</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>FP</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Manual</strong></td>
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<td>MCB</td>
<td>177</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCB-OD</td>
<td>99</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCB-CCTV</td>
<td>428</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Active</strong></td>
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<td>AHB</td>
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<td>ABCL</td>
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<td>AOCL+R</td>
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<td>AOCL/R</td>
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<td>UWC-MSL</td>
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<td>73</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>5768</td>
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Source: Network Rail (ALCRM), April 2019
Rule book information

RSSB Level crossings - drivers’ instructions
https://www.rssb.co.uk/rgs/rulebooks/GERT8000-TW8%20Iss%208.pdf
Rule book information

The Highway Code rules for level crossings and tramways
RSSB’s Annual Safety Performance Report 2018/19

Standout statistics

- Whilst fatalities are at their lowest, every death is one too many.
- At nine, the number of train collisions with vehicles at level crossings is the highest since 2013/14.
- Incorrect usage (deliberate or unintentional incorrect use of level crossings or their equipment) is the highest it’s been for five years. This graph shows any incorrect usage that did not lead to an accident, injury or near miss.
The number of reported near misses with road vehicles in 2018/19 (75) was slightly lower than 2017/18 (80). Though less evident in 2018/19, the chart clarifies that more near misses tend to be reported in the spring and summer months.

There were slightly fewer reported near misses with pedestrians and cyclists in 2018/19 (302), compared to 2017/18 (313).