



How to use a user worked level crossing safely



Operating the crossing safely

STOP, READ THE SIGNS, FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS.

User worked level crossings provide vehicle access to farmland, residential or industrial properties and are operated by you, the user. Always follow the steps below to cross safely.

For drivers and pedestrians

1. Always use the telephone where instructed to do so

- Crossing signs may instruct you to call the signaller for permission to cross. When asked how long you need to cross, you must allow time for opening and closing the gates before and after crossing with your vehicle.
- Listen to the signaller, follow their instructions, **do not cross until you are instructed to.**

2. Stop, look and listen

- Some crossings rely on your ability to see and hear trains. Always check both directions, if a train is approaching do not cross.
- If your view of approaching trains is impaired (including during adverse weather conditions such as fog), or if you are unsure how to cross safely, use the telephone where provided.

- **Be alert** to the sound of train horns at some crossings as train drivers are instructed to sound the train horn to warn you of their approach. If you hear a train horn from an approaching train, **do not cross.**

3. Obey warning lights and alarms

- At crossings with red & green lights, only cross when the green light shows. If the light is red or an audible alarm sounds, **do not cross.**

4. Open the gates or barriers

- Make sure no trains are approaching before opening the gates or barriers.
- Open both gates or barriers fully before crossing with a vehicle or livestock.
- Secure the gates in the open position to avoid them swinging back.

5. Make sure your exit is clear and cross without delay

- Once you have confirmed it is safe to cross, do so quickly, **do not stop on the crossing.**

6. Close the gates or lower the barriers

- Always close and secure all gates, or lower barriers, after every use.
- Leaving gates open or barriers raised puts others at risk and can lead to fines of up to £1,000.
- Always call back when asked to do so by the signaller.

REMEMBER:

NEVER drive onto a level crossing with the exit gate closed as this could lead to a collision with a train! Always open both gates before driving promptly across the crossing.



Key reminders to keep yourself and others safe



Failing to follow the correct procedures at a user worked level crossing can have serious consequences.

1. Always read signs and follow their instructions

- Every crossing is different. Signs will provide specific instructions for the crossing you are using. Make sure you understand how to use the crossing safely before you cross.

2. Confirm that it is safe to cross

- Where instructed to use the telephones, always call the signaller for permission to cross.
- Where there are no telephones provided, always check for trains in both directions, ensuring all tracks are clear before crossing.
- Where red & green lights are provided, remember to check that the green light continues to show each time you cross.

3. Be alert, always assume a train may be approaching

- Never assume it is safe because a train has just passed. Another train could be approaching from either direction and could be hidden from view. Only cross when all tracks are clear, and where provided, lights and audible warnings are not active.
- Avoid becoming distracted, your safety and the safety of others relies on you being alert to approaching trains.

4. Be mindful of your vehicle and equipment

- Large, low and slow moving vehicles can take additional time to cross due to their size and weight or low ground clearance. Fully consider if you and your vehicle need additional time to cross and explain this when speaking to the signaller.
- Overhead lines are electrified at high voltage. Avoid contact at all times. Ensure tall vehicles or equipment have enough clearance to pass safely.

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG:

If there's a problem at the crossing or the equipment isn't working, follow the instructions shown to keep you safe.



REMEMBER:



Call every time you cross!

Where instructed to use a telephone before crossing, you must do so each time you cross.



Always open both gates before driving onto the railway!

Never stop on the railway line with a vehicle. This is extremely dangerous for you, train passengers, and rail staff.



No tailgating!

Never simply follow another vehicle over the level crossing. Make sure that it is safe for you to cross, or, where required, you have obtained permission from the signaller.



Always assume a train may be approaching!

Do not rely on timetables. Trains can run at any time scheduled or not.



Deliberate misuse could cost lives, and lead to prosecution.

Deliberately misusing a user worked level crossing puts you, rail passengers, and staff in danger. It's also a criminal offence with serious consequences.



Know how to use the crossing!

Ask the landowner (or residents) for information on how to use the crossing safely, they have a duty to provide this information to you.



Scan the QR code to find out more about level crossing safety