

How to use a half barrier level crossing safely



**Think first,
cross second**

Be level crossing safe

Using the crossing safely

STAY ALERT, FOLLOW WARNINGS, CROSS SAFELY.

Half barrier level crossings are designed to keep users safe. These crossings are operated automatically by approaching trains and have:

- Amber and red warning lights
- Barriers that lower to block the left-hand lane and pavement
- Alarms and audible warnings

Always follow the steps below to cross safely.

For drivers and motorcyclists

1. Stop when warning lights activate

- When amber lights come on, stop unless you have already crossed the stop line.
- When red lights flash, stop immediately. Passing red lights is illegal, do not proceed until the lights stop flashing and the barriers are fully raised.

2. Check your exit is clear

- Do not enter the crossing unless your exit is clear. Crossings can activate at any time and your vehicle could become trapped on the crossing.

3. Never drive around lowered barriers or reverse over a level crossing

- Never attempt to cross if barriers are lowering or have already lowered. This is dangerous and

can lead to accidents and your vehicle being damaged.

- Never reverse onto or over a level crossing.

4. Stay alert

- Avoid distractions and pay full attention to the warning lights, alarms and barriers.

5. Be mindful of your vehicle and equipment

- Overhead lines are electrified at high voltage and are always live. Observe signs and avoid contact at all times. Ensure tall vehicles or equipment have enough clearance to pass safely.
- Be aware that vehicles with low ground clearance are at risk of becoming stuck on the crossing.
- If your vehicle is long or slow moving, you must stop before the crossing and use the telephone to get permission to cross.

For pedestrians

1. Stop when warnings activate

- Do not cross when amber or red lights are flashing, audible alarms are sounding, or when the barriers are lowering.

2. Cross quickly and carefully

- If no warnings have activated, or if you are already on the crossing when warnings start, cross quickly and do not stop on the crossing. Keep children close and dogs on a lead.

3. Never attempt to cross when barriers are lowered

- Pedestrians who walk around lowered barriers risk serious injury or death. Always wait until the warnings stop and barriers raise before crossing.

4. Be alert

- Avoid distractions, like using phones or headphones near the crossing. Pay full attention to the warning lights, alarms, and barriers.

REMEMBER:

Deliberately misusing a level crossing is illegal, puts lives at risk, and may invalidate your vehicle insurance. Always follow the rules to keep yourself and others safe.



Additional guidance for cyclists and equestrians

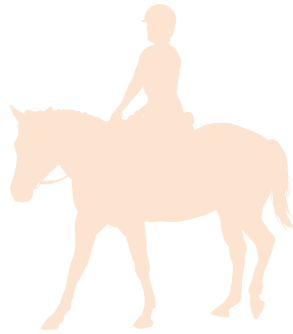


When using a half barrier level crossing with a horse or bicycle, consider dismounting and walking across for safety.



1. Cyclists

- Bicycle wheels can become stuck in the crossing surface, particularly if the crossing is at an angle to the road. Walking your bike across may help you avoid potential hazards.



2. Equestrians

- Be mindful of your horse's temperament and how they may react to flashing lights, alarms, moving barriers, and road traffic noise. Consider your proximity to electrified overhead lines, dismount if necessary and lead your horse across.



WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG:

If you become stuck on the crossing or in any emergency situation, move immediately to a place of safety, and use the emergency telephone (where provided) to contact the signaller. They will guide you on the next steps.

REMEMBER:



Be ready to stop!

Pay attention to warning lights, alarms, and barriers as they signal that a train is approaching.



Check your exit!

Always check that your exit is clear before entering the crossing. Level crossings can activate at any time, and you could become trapped on the crossing.



Trains can arrive at any time!

When warnings have been activated, trains will arrive imminently.



Barriers down? Stay put!

Another train may be approaching.



Breaking the rules could cost you!

Some crossings have enforcement cameras. Deliberately misusing them could lead to prosecution, fines, or points on your driving licence.



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