

# Safety Alert

A serious incident has taken place



## Railway security and safety

Scope: **All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and RISQS registered contractors**

Ref: NRX19-02

Date: 11th April 2019

Location: National

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Use W.H.A.T. to help you evaluate behaviour and determine if it is 'odd' or 'suspicious' and to identify hostile reconnaissance

- W** What - are they doing?
- H** How - are they behaving?
- A** Alone - or acting with others?
- T** Threat – what type do they pose?

## Overview

In recent weeks there have been several security incidents affecting the operational railway. These incidents are deemed hostile and malicious, with intent to cause disruption and affect safety.

### Malicious caller

Possession support staff were contacted by a caller on a withheld number and instructed to lift their possession protection. The caller pretended to be someone involved in the work.

### Malicious obstructions

British Transport Police (BTP) have launched an investigation after "malicious obstructions" were placed on the railway at Yaxley and Netherfield. In both incidents the obstructions were intended to disrupt rail services. Placing objects on the line has clear safety consequences for the individuals placing them, our workforce attending to remove them and potentially to rail passengers.

It is important that colleagues remain vigilant. If you see something that does not look right you should take action if it is safe to do so and always report it.

## Key Messages

We must all play our part in securing the railway.

Access points and gates should be properly secured, lineside scrap removed or secured at the end of a possession and any unusual objects or behaviour should be reported.

Staff working on the infrastructure should:

- Apply the HOT and WHAT protocols.
- Challenge anyone on or around the railway who should not be there and report this to BTP and Route control.

Remain vigilant for any unusual items:

- On finding suspicious objects that have been connected to the track or trackside equipment, always report them to the person in charge.
- Report the incident to BTP and Route control.
- Items should not be moved unless advised to do so by BTP, or they present an immediate safety risk to the railway.

During possessions:

- If you are contacted unexpectedly and instructed to undertake a task by someone you do not recognise, you must check that the instruction is legitimate.
- Always challenge if someone gives an instruction you would expect to come from someone else, such as the Person in Charge of Possession.
- Report the incident to BTP and route control.

Always be alert for any unusual activity or malicious obstructions.

Further information on railway security, including the HOT and WHAT protocols, is available on [Safety Central](#).