

Report 23/2016: Fatal accident at Grimston Lane level crossing

On publication of RAIB's report concerning a fatal accident at Grimston Lane level crossing, Suffolk, Simon French, Chief Inspector of Rail Accidents said:

“Our report into the tragic accident at Grimston Lane level crossing serves as a reminder of some important issues affecting the safety of footpath level crossings. I believe that the railway industry needs to better understand the extent to which skewed crossings affect the safety of users, particularly those classed as vulnerable. Since skewed crossings do not cross the line at 90°, they lengthen the path across the railway and require some users to look over their shoulder to see an oncoming train. There is evidence to suggest that these characteristics may make it more difficult for some elderly people to use such crossings safely.

“The proportion of elderly people in the population is increasing and this is predicted to continue. It is therefore essential that this demographic change is allowed for in the risk management of level crossings over the years to come.”

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