

Trespass causes severe electric shock to member of public

Issued to: All Network Rail line managers and Achilles registered contractors

Ref: NRB 17/04

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Location: Whitelees Road, Lanark

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Overview

On 8 December 2016 a member of the public came into contact with the live overhead line equipment after climbing over the parapet of overbridge 033/006 at Whitelees Road in Lanark.

It is apparent that the male came into contact with the OHLE after slipping from the ledge on the outside of the parapet girder, subsequently causing his leg to make contact.

This resulted in serious injury caused by the severe electric shock.

The circumstances as to why the young male was walking along the outside ledge of the parapet are unknown, however there is evidence of historic vandalism to the structure including graffiti on the external face of the parapet.

Additionally, there was an apparent suicide attempt at this structure in 2012. This was unknown to the structures team

Discussion Points

Please discuss the following with your team:

- If you find evidence of trespass and vandalism within the railway boundary how should you report this?
- What would you do if you saw a trespasser on the railway, or anti-social behaviour, near the boundary?
- When risk assessing lineside security, or when we receive reports of trespass, what do we do to understand the risks at the location?
- How could you help communicate the dangers of the railway to local communities?
- How can you propose improvements to prevent access at a structure?
- How do we consider potential weaknesses in security at bridges?
- What immediate action do you think could be taken to reduce the chances of access over the parapet and furthermore what long term mitigation should be considered (curved/sloped surfaces, spikes, etc)?

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