

Back for a sixth year

Award-Winning
**ANTI-TRESPASSING
COMPETITION**



Winner of best project 'Involving children and young people' at the Community Rail Awards 2021



Why Backtrack?



Trespassing on the railway network is a serious problem. Research indicates that people fail to understand the danger of stepping on the track, and reasons for trespassing include anti-social behaviour, fare-evasion and short cuts.

In 2020/2021 The number of recorded trespass events exceeded 13,000 and sadly 11 people lost their life (RSSB's Annual Health and Safety Report 2020/21).

We need YOU to pledge that you'll never do it and encourage others to stay safe too. The following slides will go through why it is so dangerous and explain how you can enter the competition.

Please don't be scared about taking the train though! Rail is the safest way to travel on land (up to 9 times safer than travelling by car) and is a much more environmentally friendly mode of transport. If you follow the rules, stay alert and keep to the safe areas you'll join millions of people who take safe journeys daily!



Trespassing



Certain parts of the railway, including stations, underpasses and level crossings, are open to the public. But when people go onto the tracks, embankments or other areas, they are **trespassing**.

Certain areas of the railway are extremely dangerous, and you put your life at risk if you trespass. It is also illegal. You could be taken to court and face a **£1000 fine**.

In addition, when people trespass on the railway, staff need to repair any damage and make sure the railway is safe before allowing trains to run again. This causes delays for passengers.

How fast do trains travel?



Trains travel quickly. For most of the UK, the speed limit is **125mph**, but on high-speed lines it's **140mph**. At this speed, a train can take **20 football pitch** lengths to stop. Unlike cars which have rubber tyres to grip to the road when a brake is pressed, trains have metal wheels which glide along a track – creating less friction which means they can travel fast.



Unlike cars, trains do not have wheels, they can't swerve out of your way if you're on the track.

If you trespass on the railway, the train **will not** be able to stop before it gets to you. It will not be able to swerve out of your way. Modern trains are extremely quiet, you will only hear them coming when it's too late.

Electricity – overhead lines



More and more railways are now using electric trains as it means a quieter, reliable service and it's better for the environment! However, electricity can be **extremely dangerous!**

Overhead power lines carry **25,000 volts** – that is **100 times greater** than the power supply in your home. The electricity can even arc (jump) so you don't necessarily have to touch the live wires and rails to be injured. **9/10** people who go too close to the lines will lose their life.



Electricity – third or conductor rail

The third rail is probably one of the most difficult dangers to see. It looks just like an ordinary rail, but it carries **750 volts** – easily enough to kill you. The **DC current** that flows through is three times as powerful as your home electricity.

It's designed to send power to the train, but you are **70 percent water** and the perfect conductor – it will pull you in and not let go until the emergency services are able to switch the power off.

If you trespass on the railway, you could be **electrocuted** and **lose your life** or be left with **life-changing injuries**.

60% of people are not aware that railway tracks carry electricity at all times.



Level Crossings



A level crossing is where people and vehicles can cross the track safely. There are around **6,000** level crossings in Britain. Every day they are used by thousands of people to cross one of the busiest rail networks in the world.

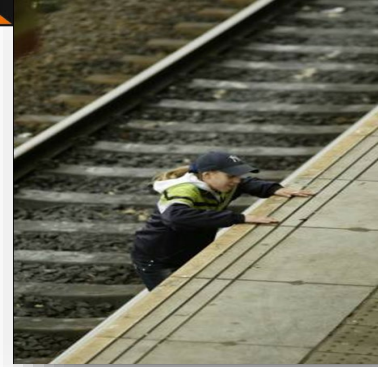
Some have barriers, if they are closed, you hear an **alarm** or see **flashing red lights** this means a train is coming – do not cross! Once the train has passed, you must wait for the barriers to lift and alarm and lights to **stop** before you cross.

Some crossings are just a **footpath** across with a gate – **Stop, look and listen** for trains. Walk, don't run. Get off your bike and stay alert!

Only cross when it is safe to do so and **don't** linger at a level crossing to take photographs. Approaching trains can be quiet and by the time you hear them, **it could be too late!**



At the station



People trespass on the railway at the station for a number of reasons. Some take a **short cut** across the track rather than use the bridge or underpass, others jump down onto the track to retrieve dropped items. Both of these are **extremely dangerous**.

Wait behind the **yellow line** (or tactile flooring) until the train has stopped. Passing trains cause air turbulence which can suck you under them. Using a train is very safe as long as you follow guidance and rules.

Why do people trespass?

Although we have outlined the reasons why the railway can be a **dangerous environment**, if you wander away from safe areas and don't follow the rules, people still take their chances and **put their lives at risk**. Why is this?

Listed below are some of the common reasons

- Criminal Intent (theft, graffiti or vandalism)
- Laziness and impatience (e.g. taking a short cut)
- Ignorance and lack of education (Almost a fifth (17.7%) think it's safe to walk on the railway line as long as they are careful)*
- To take photographs of trains
- To take selfies for social media or advertising



*Research conducted by Network Rail and the British Transport Police in 2018

What would you say to the following trespassers?

Using the information you now know



What would you say to her?



What would you say to them?



| The couple were seen posing on tracks in Whitby in July, accompanied by wedding guests

A couple who posed for wedding photographs on railway tracks in North Yorkshire have been condemned by Network Rail.

They were caught on CCTV standing on a line near Whitby in July.

What would you say to this person?



What would you say to him?



What would you say to this group taking a shortcut across the track?



What would you say to this family taking a walk here?



Can you help?



We need **YOU** to **create** content that we can **share** and **save** lives

There are two ways to enter the competition this year:

- **Create a social media graphic we can share online during Rail Safety Week 2025**
- **Create a media entry to use in a Rail Safety Week broadcast – hosted by LearnLive**

You can upload them on our website (www.backtrackcompetition.co.uk), send them to us on an email (backtrack.competition@gmail.com), share them on social media and tag us in or post them to us: Backtrack Competition, c/o Community Rail Lancashire, Accrington Station, Eagle Street, Accrington, BB5 1LJ

Closing date: **31st March 2025** at 11:59pm

There are some fab prizes up for grabs for the best media and graphics – including rail cards, digital drawing tablets, action cameras, podcast recording equipment and much more!!!



Design a social media graphic

Use the form (available on our website) to create an **eye-catching** graphic that can be used on railway social media channels in Rail Safety Week. (A bit like a poster for socials) You need to remind people why trespassing is **dangerous** and the **consequences** that will happen if they do.

You can use pencils, pens or do it digitally (ensure it's roughly the size of a postcard).

There are two categories of entry:

- Primary – 11 years and under
- Secondary – 11 – 18 years old

The form is titled "BACKTRACK Award-Winning ANTI-TRESPASSING COMPETITION" and "Social Media Graphic Entry Form". It features a large yellow rectangular area for the graphic design. Below this area are fields for "NAME:", "AGE:", "CONTACT EMAIL:", "POSTAL ADDRESS:", and "POSTCODE:". A QR code is located in the bottom left corner. In the bottom right corner, there is a QR code and the following text: "PLEASE UPLOAD TO OUR WEBSITE USING THE QR CODE, POST TO BACKTRACK COMPETITION, C/O COMMUNITY RAIL LANCASHIRE, ACCRINGTON STATION, EAGLE STREET, ACCRINGTON, BB5 1LJ OR EMAIL US backtrack.competition@gmail.com". The Community Rail Education Network logo is also present in the bottom right corner.



Social media graphic examples



Create a media entry

During Rail Safety Week in **June 2025**, a live broadcast will air on Learn Live's channel to thousands of schools across the country and your entry could form part of that!

You could record: a short podcast, an animation, a TV ad or news report.

Each entry needs to be around **2 minutes**

The more creative the better (**Please remember not to put yourself or your friends in any danger by doing so and only film in safe places!**).



There are two categories of entry:

- Primary – 11 years and under
- Secondary – 11 – 18 years old



Film a 20 second pledge video

Why not create a short pledge video and SHARE this with your peers. If you're old enough your social media account or if not, an adult's social media account. These will also be used in school **rail safety** sessions.

You can be as creative as you like! **You can film them on your own, in groups, with your family, friends, classmates or pets!** You can film them yourselves or get someone else to do it for you (make sure you turn your phone around to film in landscape). Videos need to be about **20 seconds long** (It's ok if they're 5 seconds shorter or longer).



Remember to show your pledge card and give the reason why YOU won't trespass. You can **upload** it to our website or **tag us** on social media (links are on the next slide).

DO NOT FILM IN A DANGEROUS LOCATION E.G. LEVEL CROSSINGS, ON THE TRACKS ETC. Safe areas at stations (E.g. the concourse) and on trains are fine.



Find us on social media

Like us, add us, contact us, tag us!



backtrack_competition



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Backtrack-competition



Backtrack Competition

www.backtrackcompetition.co.uk



I AM PLEDGING TO NOT TRESPASS ON THE RAILWAY



BACKTRACK



CREATE IT, SHARE IT, SAVE LIVES



COMMUNITY RAIL
EDUCATION NETWORK



Good luck with your entry

