# Emergency closure of Wilthorpe footpath crossing in Barnsley follows reckless behaviour caught on CCTV



An emergency closure order has been issued for a level crossing in Barnsley, responding to alarming instances of misuse at the Wilthorpe footpath crossing. This decisive action follows the release of unsettling CCTV footage by Network Rail, capturing reckless behaviour that poses serious safety risks. In one particularly stark incident, a group of young men can be seen lying across the railway tracks, with one even striking a pose for a photo taken by a friend, seemingly oblivious to the potential dangers of such actions. Another clip shows an individual sitting cross-legged on the tracks, only to be pulled to safety by a friend moments later.

Citing ongoing safety concerns, Network Rail submitted a formal application to Barnsley Council on 15 May to effectuate an immediate closure of the crossing. This action reflects a broader conversation about safety at railway crossings and the responsibilities of pedestrians. The misuse of this path has created an environment where danger is not only possible but evident; the tracks are not merely a thoroughfare, but inherently dangerous spaces that demand respect and caution.

In tandem with this closure, the local council has been addressing other crossings in the area. For instance, a separate order has been made for Barnsley County Borough Footpath 46, which will temporarily close a section for resurfacing work. This order is scheduled to take effect on 3 February 2025 and is estimated to last for six months. Such maintenance initiatives are critical not only for public safety but also for ensuring that pathways remain accessible and functional.

Moreover, the Secretary of State has authorised an extension for the closure of Barnsley public footpath no. 159, which crosses the River Dearne. This path remains closed due to the ongoing restoration of a damaged footbridge, highlighting the necessity for proper infrastructure maintenance.

These actions underscore the vital need for increased awareness and education regarding railway safety. Pedestrians often underestimate the risks associated with disobeying warning signs and barriers at crossings. With thousands of trains navigating Britain’s network each day, the potential for tragedy looms large in places where safety is not taken seriously.

As communities grapple with these safety challenges, the hope is that these closures will serve not only to protect individuals but also to foster a culture of respect and caution when it comes to railway environments. The assessment of pedestrian behaviours at crossings remains imperative to ensuring the safety of all road and rail users, and this recent enforcement action in Barnsley exemplifies a necessary step towards safeguarding lives.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1
2. Paragraph 2
3. Paragraph 3
4. Paragraph 4
5. Paragraph 5

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/england-trespasser-railway-track-b2753590.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/england-trespasser-railway-track-b2753590.html> - An emergency closure order has been issued for a level crossing in Barnsley following repeated misuse of the path used for crossing by pedestrians. In a CCTV video released by Network Rail, two men are seen lying across tracks on the Wilthorpe footpath crossing in separate incidents, with one even posing for a photo taken by a friend. In a second clip, one man is pulled from the tracks by a friend after sitting down on them cross legged. Network Rail have subsequently moved to shut the crossing immediately, in an application made to Barnsley Council on 15 May.
3. <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/public-notices/barnsley-county-borough-footpath-46/> - An order has been made to close a section of Barnsley County Borough Footpath 46 from Kestral Avenue to Greenfoot Lane, Wilthorpe. This Order shall come into operation on 3 February 2025 for a maximum duration of up to six months. Works estimated to take approximately two weeks. Reason: Resurfacing works. Promoter: BMBC Public Rights of Way - 01226 773555.
4. <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/public-notices/barnsley-footpath-no-159/> - The Secretary of State has authorised an extension of the above named Order to close Barnsley public footpath no. 159 where it crosses the River Dearne for up to a further 12 months until the 3 May 2024. Reason: Damaged footbridge. Promoter: Barnsley Council. Tel. 01226 772696.
5. <https://publicnoticeportal.uk/notice/traffic-and-roads/679ca14f53df048f2a38855c> - An order has been made to close a section of Barnsley County Borough Footpath 46 from Kestral Avenue to Greenfoot Lane, Wilthorpe. This Order shall come into operation on 3 February 2025 for a maximum duration of up to six months. Works estimated to take approximately two weeks. Reason: Resurfacing works. Promoter: BMBC Public Rights of Way - 01226 773555.
6. <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/public-notices/barnsley-footpath-no-159/> - The Secretary of State has authorised an extension of the above named Order to close Barnsley public footpath no. 159 where it crosses the River Dearne for up to a further 12 months until the 3 May 2024. Reason: Damaged footbridge. Promoter: Barnsley Council. Tel. 01226 772696.
7. <https://publicnoticeportal.uk/notice/traffic-and-roads/679ca54cc566f43e1ea9bdb9> - An order has been made to close Manchester Road B6099 for a distance of 20 metres either side of railway crossing, from 11pm on 1 February 2025 until 7am on 2 February 2025. Reason: Level crossing access. An alternative route is available via: Manchester Road B6099/Mitchelson Avenue/Barnsley Road B6449/Whinby Road. Promoter: Centurion Traffic Management, telephone 0113 2775360.