

1. This is from the East Anglian Daily Times, 24 March 2014:

BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE SAY CYCLIST KILLED AT LEVEL CROSSING IN GREAT BARTON
MAY HAVE DIED IN TRAGIC ACCIDENT

PUBLISHED: 24 March 2014 | UPDATED: 18:08 24 March 2014 Jon Vale¹

A male cyclist may have died in a tragic accident at a level crossing in west Suffolk this morning as residents living nearby called for it to be closed.

The cyclist was hit by a westbound train this morning at the Cattishall level crossing, just off Mount Road in Great Barton.

Authorities have said they are not ruling out the possibility the cyclist died in a tragic accident, while neighbours living close to the area called for the crossing to be closed after years of fatalities.

Hugh Howcutt, who has lived in one of the handful of houses either side of the railway line for 37 years, said he knew of five deaths that had happened at the site during his time there.

He was outside his house at around 9am when the accident happened, and recalled hearing the train sound its horn before grinding to a halt just metres past the crossing.

He added: "The sun was very, very bright this morning. That's east (where the train came from), and you can hardly see up that track when the sun is like it was this morning.

"We cross it regularly and you do have to use your common sense, you have to be aware. If there's a train within a couple hundred metres, you can't hear it until it's practically upon you.

"More people are using it now than when we first moved here, people are running, cycling through it all the time. It's either got to have a bridge or be closed."

Another resident, Christopher Maher, added: "I often use it, and experience tells you that if you see a train at a distance, it doesn't take long to reach you - it's very difficult to judge the speed of a train."

Officers from the British Transport Police and Suffolk Constabulary attended the scene, with the transport police now leading the investigation.

Paramedics also attended, but the man was pronounced dead at the scene. Further details about the man are expected to be released tomorrow.

Land close to the level crossing is earmarked for significant housing development under two different parts of St Edmundsbury's Vision 2031, with the North East Bury St Edmunds and Moreton Hall masterplans planned for land close to the small Cattishall community.

The rural track up to the level crossing is part of a National Cycle Route, but the developers behind the north-east scheme, Berkeley, hope to re-open an underpass that runs beneath the track at nearby Moreton Hall.

A spokeswoman for National Rail said it was "committed to reducing level crossing risk as much as possible", adding: "We have invested £131million nationally to upgrade or close more than 700 level crossings nationwide since 2010, with a further 500 planned for the next five years. As part of this, we continue to examine and assess level crossings in the Anglia Route."

Network Rail last year submitted plans to replace a level crossing at East Barton with a footbridge, but the plans have since been withdrawn.

Photograph from this article follows . . .

¹ <http://www.eadt.co.uk/news/update-british-transport-police-say-cyclist-killed-at-level-crossing-in-great-barton-may-have-died-in-tragic-accident-1-3479788>

Photograph from East Anglian Daily Times of 24 March 2014—



2. From BBC local news report, 25 March 2014:

The death of a 41-year-old cyclist on a railway crossing in Suffolk is being treated as 'non-suspicious', British Transport Police said.

The man, from Thurston, was hit by a train just after 09:00 GMT at a footpath that crosses the line at Cattishall near Bury St Edmunds.

It appeared the cyclist had dismounted before the crash and the force was preparing a report for the coroner.

Police said an inquest will decide if it was an accident or a deliberate act. Ambulance crews pronounced the man dead at the scene.

Police said they would not be releasing his name until the inquest.

A Network Rail spokesperson said: "Network Rail remains committed to reducing level crossing risk as much as possible and we have invested £131m to upgrade or close more than 700 level crossings nationwide since 2010, with a further 500 planned in the next five years. "As part of this, we continue to examine and assess level crossings in the Anglia route".



Photograph of Cattishall crossing from BBC news report