

Foxton Level Crossing pedestrian gates:

Probably, you have heard about this problem one way or the other, but in case you are concerned, here is an update.

There are two sets of gates, one on the Foxton station side of the A10, and the other on the Barrington side of the A10. The Foxton station side gates were closed for about a week in late November and caused an extremely dangerous situation, for obvious reasons of pedestrians forced into the highway. The reason for closure, according to Network Rail, was testing of the gates following an incident in which a pedestrian came close to a passing train. What was incredible was that the new dangers presented by the period of testing were allowed by the powers that be.

Meanwhile, on the Barrington side of the A10, the gates have been closed off since August, due apparently to the lack of available parts necessary for repairs. It's complicated because of the electronic communication with the signal box which triggers the automatic locking mechanism as a train approaches. I can only say that together with lots of concerned residents I've been contacting Network Rail on a regular basis to ask when the 12-week wait period is due to bear fruit. Maybe by the time you read this, the problem will be resolved – let's hope so.

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