

Cambridge Rail Disruption After Person Hit by Train

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Train services across Cambridgeshire were disrupted on Monday after a person was hit by a train between Ipswich and Ely, resulting in widespread cancellations and delays in the afternoon and evening.

The incident occurred on Monday afternoon, 18 August, affecting lines between Ipswich and Cambridge / Ely, along with associated routes to Colchester and Peterborough.

According to **National Rail**, all lines were initially closed while emergency services attended the scene.

Passengers were advised to check live schedules, as delays of up to 30 minutes were reported initially, and some services were cancelled, with disruption expected until at least 5 pm.

The affected routes were primarily operated by **Greater Anglia**, one of the main service providers in East Anglia. The company confirmed significant delays and urged passengers to make alternative arrangements where possible.

The **British Transport Police (BTP)** were called to the location alongside **Network Rail** and local emergency services. While authorities have not released further details about the individual involved, it was confirmed that emergency response teams completed their work at the site by the early evening.

Once emergency services had cleared the scene, Greater Anglia announced that lines between Ipswich, Cambridge and Ely had reopened, though delays of up to 50 minutes remained as services resumed.

“The emergency services have completed their work and lines have reopened following a person being hit by a train between Ipswich and Cambridge / Ely. As services return to normal, trains running between these stations may still be cancelled, delayed by up to 50 minutes or revised.”

Greater Anglia warned that disruption was expected until at least 6 pm, with some residual delays continuing into the evening.

The incident highlighted the vulnerability of East Anglia’s transport network to sudden disruptions. With rail lines serving as the primary connection between Cambridge and surrounding towns, any closure quickly impacts commuters, students, and business travellers.

Cancellations on the Ipswich to Cambridge and Ely route also affected connecting services through **Colchester** and into **Peterborough**, leaving many travellers stranded or forced to take slower replacement routes by road.

Some passengers reported difficulties obtaining real-time updates, while others expressed frustration at last-minute cancellations. Despite this, rail staff were praised for assisting passengers at stations and providing guidance where possible.

While the circumstances behind this incident remain undisclosed, cases of individuals being struck by trains are a recurring challenge for the UK's rail network. Each year, hundreds of incidents involve trespass, accidents, or suspected self-harm.

The **British Transport Police** regularly emphasise the importance of rail safety campaigns, warning the public to remain cautious around railway lines and to seek support if struggling with personal difficulties. Charities such as the **Samaritans** partner with rail operators to encourage vulnerable individuals to reach out before tragedies occur.

Train operators note that beyond the immediate human toll, such incidents bring lasting disruption to passengers and staff alike, underlining the urgent need for both prevention and effective crisis response.

By late evening, most services through Cambridge and Ely had resumed normal schedules, though National Rail confirmed that minor knock-on delays continued past **9 pm**.

Greater Anglia thanked passengers for their patience and apologised for the disruption, while Network Rail reiterated its commitment to passenger safety and operational reliability.

Although Monday's disruption has ended, the incident serves as another reminder of the challenges facing Britain's railways. Safety concerns, combined with the complexity of managing emergencies across busy commuter routes, remain at the forefront of national transport discussions.