

Railway work made safer as human lookouts to no longer be used in Wales

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Engineering work on the railway in Wales has been made safer with the end of human lookouts which are used to warn the workforce of approaching trains.

The final step to eliminate this method of working was taken by Network Rail on Friday 18 June which means human lookouts, who used horns and flags to warn engineers of approaching trains, will no longer be used across its Wales and Borders route for work activity.

Wales Route teams have been transitioning to new working arrangements over the last 18 months to carry out work at times when trains can be stopped from running, which provides additional protection for our staff.

Additional warning technology is also being developed to safely facilitate work that may need to take place while trains are running. Until this is fully rolled out, Network Rail's Wales & Borders route has committed to not having engineers working on open lines.

Bill Kelly, Wales & Border route director at Network Rail said: "This is a landmark moment for the rail

industry in Wales & Borders and a huge step to improving the safety of our frontline teams.

“Safety is our number one priority at Network Rail and we are constantly re-evaluating our ways of working, looking at ways to eliminate outdated practices and making the necessary changes to keep our staff safe at work.

“This is a continuous process that will long continue into the future.”

Photo credit: Network Rail