



BRITISH
TRANSPORT
POLICE

Safer station safer journey

The Neighbourhood
Policing Newsletter



In this issue

Lancaster NPT – March 2011

Rural level crossings
Page 1

Crimestoppers
Page 2

*Where are offences
committed?*
Page 2

*Forthcoming meetings
and contact details*
Page 2

“...95% of
accidents at
level crossings
are caused by
misuse or
error.”

- Network Rail



BTP warns of dangers of rural level crossing misuse

Last year, nationally there were more than 3200 incidents of misuse at level crossings.

On average, nearly three motorists a week were involved in a near miss, where a train narrowly avoided missing them because they ignored warning signs and lights or weaved round barriers. There were 14 collisions between trains and motor vehicles for those that didn't beat the lights.

Pedestrians were also putting themselves at risk with hundreds involved in near misses. If a train hits a person at high speed, there is almost always only one tragic outcome.



Sadly, 13 people lost their lives at level crossings in 2009.

Each year, around 55 days of delays to trains and passengers are caused by level crossing misuse, costing Network Rail around £1.8million – money that can't be invested into the railway. The real cost to the industry far exceeds this, as it does not include actual damage to trains or tracks or staffing time and cost.

British Transport Police work closely with Network Rail and regularly prosecute vehicle drivers for level crossing offences. Within our area there are a large number of 'user operated crossings' (often where the main users are local farm workers). These crossings have specific requirements which relate to the user having to telephone first for permission to cross. It is vitally important that users of these predominantly rural crossings follow all the signed instructions. Failure to do so is not only an offence, but it is also an important safety requirement. Lancaster NPT officers will be patrolling these crossings over the coming months to prevent and detect offences.

If you have any questions about level crossing use you can contact the Network Rail helpline: **08457 11 41 41**.



0800 40 50 40 or visit www.btp.police.uk

Crimestoppers

If you have information about a crime that you want to give anonymously you can call Crimestoppers on freephone 0800 555 111.

No caller is asked for their name and if the information you give results in the arrest and charging of a suspect, you may be entitled to a cash reward from the Crimestoppers Trust. This can also be paid anonymously.

Crimestoppers is an independent charity which helps the police to solve crime and catch criminals.

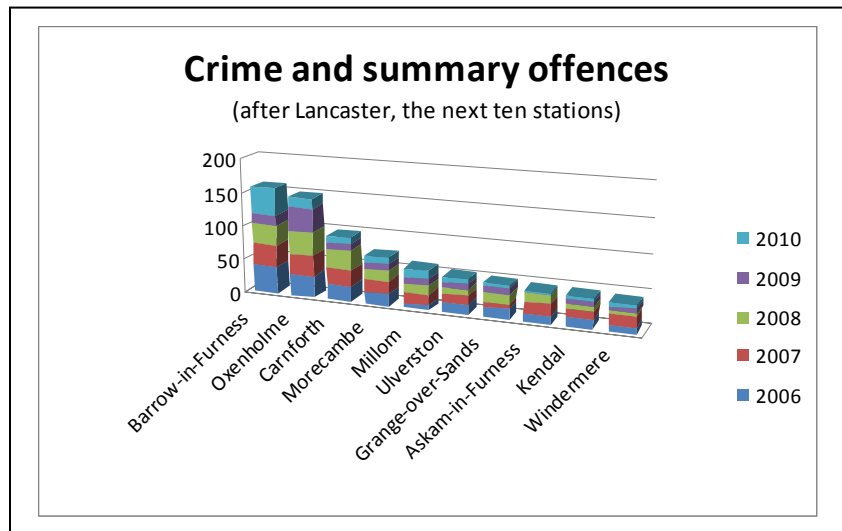
Since it began, Crimestoppers has received 392,000 calls leading to over 36,600 arrests and the recovery of property valued at £49 million. Each arrest costs Crimestoppers Trust, the parent charity, £200 and there is an average of 14 arrests every day. On average, each week there are 44 arrests for drug offences and one for murder or attempted murder.

The Crimestoppers freephone number...

0800 555 111

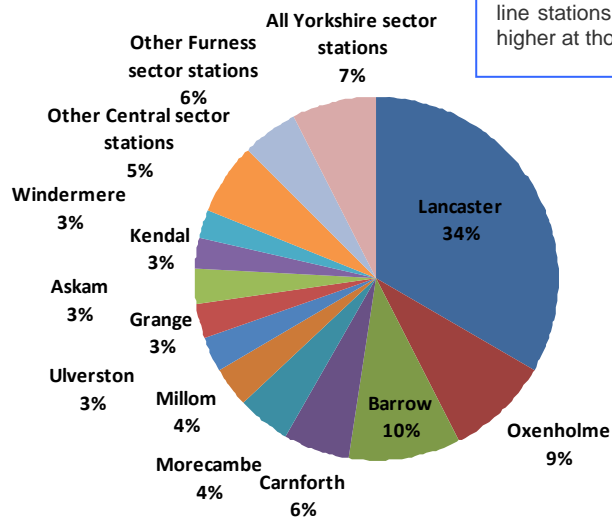
enables the community to fight back. You can help keep our railways safe and free of crime.

Where are offences committed? – Unsurprisingly, Lancaster Station records a third of offences on our area, whilst Barrow-in-Furness features in second place, having overtaken Oxenholme (where offences halved over the last year). Please note below the explanation of how BTP records offences...



Offences recorded 2006 - 2010

(1,594 offences - crime and summary)



BTP offence recording:

Crimes are recorded either at the station or onboard a train. Onboard crimes happen along the route of the train but are often reported at end of line stations meaning figures could be higher at those station locations.



Location: Lancaster PACT meeting, Friends Meeting House, 01/03/11, 7.30pm;

Location: Lakes Line Rail User Group meeting, Burnside Hotel, Bowness, 02/03/11, 6.30pm;

Location: Lancaster PACT meeting, Friends Meeting House, 05/04/11, 7.30pm.

Contact details for your Neighbourhood Policing Team:

Call: 01542-841658

Email: lancaster.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk

**IF YOU SUSPECT IT
REPORT IT**

CALL 0800 789 321

CONFIDENTIAL ANTI-TERRORIST HOTLINE

0800 40 50 40 or visit www.btp.police.uk