

**Teesside being targeted in bid to stamp out level crossing lunacy
New campaign will see police visit level crossings across the North-east
(Evening Gazette – 16.11.16)**

It's the sort of rail crossing madness police are doing their level best to stamp out.

From people wandering over crossings just moments before a train thunders past to cyclists trying - and failing - to beat the barriers coming down, CCTV cameras have picked up appalling level crossing behaviour.

And over the next fortnight, crossings across Teesside and North Yorkshire will be getting extra scrutiny in a bid to stop people taking potentially fatal risks.

Until November 26, British Transport Police will be out and about visiting level crossings across Yorkshire, the North-east, North-west, Lincolnshire and the East Midlands to urge the public to stay safe when using them.

As part of Operation Look, level crossing mobile safety vehicles (MSVs) will be located at a number of crossings - including several on Teesside.

Funded by Network Rail and operated by BTP officers, the MSVs are equipped with CCTV and automatic number plate recognition technology.

They also have access to the Police National Computer.

Officers and Network Rail staff will also be handing out leaflets about the dangers of level crossing misuse.

Among the crossings being targeted on Teesside is Redcar station - recently refurbished after wind kept causing its closure - which will be visited by the campaign on Monday, November 21 from 7am-5pm.

The crossing at Longbeck, Marske, will also be targeted on Tuesday, November 22 at the same times.

BTP Inspector Michelle Wedderburn said: "We'll be stepping up our activity during the next few weeks to ensure we speak to as many people as possible about using crossings safely.

"People have just got into the habit of taking risks at the crossing and are jumping red lights, and this has to stop. There is no excuse for jumping the lights at a level crossing and the consequences of doing so could be fatal.

"We are more interested in educating people and saving lives, but we will also prosecute anyone who is caught jumping level crossing lights in the hope that this will make them think twice in future."

<http://www.gazettelive.co.uk/news/teesside-news/teesside-being-targeted-bid-stamp-12184658>