

East Lancashire & Clitheroe Line updates:

Andrew Richardson BtP:

Please let me know if you have any specific questions that I can answer from BTP perspective.

As a general update from BTP on the WCML, all our officers from Lancaster now work out of Preston, where Lancaster is now covered remotely.

This means I have police posts currently at Preston and Carlisle. We are hoping to increase numbers again in the future to have a presence day-to-day at Lancaster, but currently this is our situation.

In terms of general crime, since 01/04/25 to current day (11/10/25) we've had 443 recorded crimes across the railway in Lancashire.

The main offences relate to Violence (25.7%), Public Order (26.9%) and Theft of Passenger Property (14%).

We currently have a number of initiatives under way to tackle these issues and bring offenders to justice which involves dedicated operations and plain clothes deployments.

Our current hotspots for crime include, Preston, Blackpool North, Barrow, Lancaster, Blackburn, Accrington, Oxenholme and Burnley in that order.

We have designated Police Officers to cover specific areas so should you or any of the other members have any concerns, please let me know.

Hetty Byrne, Forest of Bowland National landscape

Example of what a project proposal might look like:

Paths to Place (working title!) is a community-led proposal designed to support the development of a regenerative tourism approach in the Forest of Bowland National Landscape. Unlike traditional sustainable tourism, this approach actively contributes to the restoration and enrichment of the area's ecological, cultural and economic wellbeing. It's about leaving the landscape better than we found it—by empowering local communities, deepening visitors' understanding and care for the natural world, and creating meaningful experiences that foster lasting connections with place.

The project will be shaped through conversations with Bowland's residents and businesses, ensuring that tourism reflects and supports the needs and values of the community. It will also explore how public transport and active travel can be better integrated into the visitor experience, working with neighbouring Community Rail Partnerships and building on the success of the Eco Escapes initiative. The aim is to inspire low-impact travel and deepen connections between people and place.

Core Principles

- **Community-led:** Residents are empowered to co-design tourism experiences that reflect local values, stories and aspirations.
- **Circular economy:** Tourism celebrates and strengthens the area's local produce and hospitality sector, particularly businesses already part of the Forest of Bowland Sustainable Tourism Network. It reinforces local supply chains and fosters pride in Bowland's local distinctiveness.
- **Accessible, low-carbon travel:** Tourism promotes the use of public transport and active travel to reduce emissions and improve accessibility. By linking experiences to existing transport networks, visitors are supported to explore Bowland in a more sustainable and inclusive way.
- **Cultural revitalisation:** Local traditions, crafts and heritage are celebrated and sustained.
- **Transformative experiences:** Visitors engage in stewardship, learning and reciprocity.