



INVISIBLE WEAPON IN FIGHT AGAINST CABLE THIEVES IN WAKEFIELD

A new weapon is being used by Network Rail to protect essential rail equipment in Wakefield from thieves who are targeting it for its scrap value.

Thieves continue to target the cables used to signal trains in West Yorkshire, despite extra police patrols, use of CCTV and other protective measures.

In the past 12 months, the routes around Wakefield have seen 20 thefts which delayed passengers and cost around £400,000 in compensation costs alone. On 5 August a theft at Wrenthorpe caused eight trains to be cancelled and a further 108 to suffer delays after just 55 metres of cable was stolen.

Now a unique Forensic Taggant from RedWeb Technologies is being applied to the cables to help police catch the thieves, by providing the all important link between the criminal and the crime scene

Richard Lungmuss, route director for Network Rail said: "Cable theft continues to cause massive disruption to passengers and freight services. This is not acceptable. Britain relies on rail and the disruption and delay has a significant effect on people's lives – through being late for work, missing appointments or simply ruining a day out during the summer holidays.

"We are doing all we can to protect the network, including successful use of CCTV, extra dedicated police patrols and using various methods to make cables harder to steal. The use of the Red Web marker is another weapon against these thieves who are bringing misery to so many people."

Detective Inspector Mick Jackson, of British Transport Polices dedicated cable team, Operation Leopard, said, "Using Red Web on the rail network will assist us in identifying those responsible for stealing cable.

"Technological and forensic advances such as Red Web, are making life more and more difficult for thieves, and are increasing the opportunities for us to detect criminals.

"British Transport Police will continue to work hard to catch offenders in an effort to stamp out this problem. We will also continue to seek methods of detecting and preventing cable theft, and will endeavour to secure prosecutions on every occasion."

Note to editors

RedWeb's Advanced [Molecular Taggant Technology](#) provides police and prosecuting authorities with evidence linking offenders to the scene of their crime. The technology is being used to mark essential railway equipment in the Wakefield area

We will not be publishing any specific data about where the marking technology is being used. However it will only be used on rail property.

For more information contact

Rachel Lowe
Media relations manager (North East)
t01904 383180
erachel.lowe@networkrail.co.uk

Press Release: Stratique PR



www.stratique.com
Tel: 0845 226 3095

About Network Rail

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