

Tons of nuclear waste go through our towns

A Greenpeace scare tactic.

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Trains carrying tons of nuclear waste are making weekly trips through more Lancashire towns than first thought, according to a new report.

Environmental charity Greenpeace has published the first timetable showing the routes taken by the trains.

It shows they carry radioactive material through Preston, Leyland and Lancaster stations from four power stations at Sizewell in Suffolk, Dungeness in Kent, Bridgwater in Somerset and Wylsa in North Wales.

There are also trains carrying waste from Heysham power station which travel through Morecambe on the way to the nuclear reprocessing plant at Sellafield in Cumbria. All of them bypass a number of towns and villages en route to their destination.

Paid Greenpeace campaigner Sarah North said: "Hundreds of thousands of people in the UK are unwittingly exposed to the dangers of nuclear waste every year and we think the public has a right to know.

"Trains carrying radioactive waste trundle through the villages, towns and cities on a weekly basis with minimal protection through commuter train stations and past hospitals, schools and back gardens."

The charity said its aim was to ensure "the Government acts before terrorists do".

Greenpeace has also released video footage and photographs of trains "unprotected" at busy railway stations. Bosses from the Office of Civil Nuclear Security launched an investigation yesterday after a newspaper printed photographs of a reporter walking around the trains unchallenged.

Direct Rail Services, the company, which transports the waste on behalf of the British Nuclear Group, said it would not be commenting further on the issue until it had completed a "full investigation" into the security breach. It said it had been transporting the waste since 1962, travelling more than eight million miles without an incident involving the release of radioactive material.