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## Man killed in rail horror

by JOSH TAYLOR

A 55-YEAR-OLD man has been killed after being run down by a train as he walked across a railway track.



Pedestrian level crossing, which connects Old Road and Warren Lane in Branston

The man was hit by the train yesterday morning and killed instantly, British Transport Police said.

The tragedy happened as the victim walked over the narrow pedestrian level crossing, which connects Old Road and Warren Lane in Branston.

The collision, which happened several miles south of Burton Railway Station,

caused long delays for commuters during rush hour.

The man was hit by an empty passenger train, which was travelling between depots, at 5.50am.

The incident is not being treated as suspicious and the man is believed to be local.

Rail traffic in and out of Burton along the Derby to Birmingham line was halted until 8.05am while forensics teams combed the scene.

A transport police spokesman said: "British Transport Police were called to the line close to Old Road, Branston, following the report of a man being struck by a train.

"Transport police and Staffordshire Police officers attended the incident, which was reported at 5.50am and is currently being treated as non-suspicious.

"Paramedics also attended the incident but the man, believed to be a 55-year-old and from Branston, was pronounced dead at the scene.

"A file will be prepared for the coroner."

Keith Lumley, a spokesman for Network Rail, which maintains railway tracks across Britain, said: "All trains were brought to a standstill and nothing was on the move until after we were given the all clear from emergency services."

The crossing was opened again to pedestrians after forensics teams had concluded their investigations.

Police said an inquest into the man's death was likely to be opened and adjourned by the coroner's office next week, at which time his identity would be officially released by the authorities.

The pedestrian crossing has been a source of controversy for many months.

Network Rail threatened to close the crossing for safety reasons last year, but this was met with condemnation by some residents.

Rail bosses eventually backed down and kept the crossing open.

It is used regularly by schoolchildren heading to and from Paget High School.

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