



The Occupier

Community Relations
Western House
1 Holbrook Way
Swindon
SN1 1BD

**24 hour National Helpline
03457 11 41 41**

Date 22 July 2019

Our reference MLN3 265m 0c – 266m 0c

Dear Neighbour,

Safety-critical vegetation management

In order to run the railway safely, we will shortly be carrying out a controlled programme of tree and vegetation management on the railway line from Liskeard Station to Moorswater

Why do we need to undertake this work?

The safety of the general public, travelling passengers and our staff is our number one priority. Uncontrolled vegetation can pose a serious risk to the safe running of the railway.

During the summer of 2018, storms Ali and Bronagh led to over 150 incidents of fallen trees or branches on the tracks in less than 48 hours. Thankfully, no passengers were injured, or train drivers harmed. However, the impact of a fallen tree across the track could have been much worse.

When will this work take place?

We will be working each day between the hours of **7:30am** and **5.30pm**. Please be aware that we will not be continuously working through these dates:

Dates of work
Monday 5 August – Friday 11 October

Safety – See something suspicious? Contact British Transport Police 0800 405040.

Network Rail Infrastructure Limited Registered Office: Network Rail, 2nd Floor, One Eversholt Street, London, NW1 2DN, Registered in England and Wales No. 2904587 www.networkrail.co.uk



What is involved in vegetation management?

We take our responsibility to manage the railway safely and look after the habitats on our land very seriously. Work will be carried out considering the safety risks to passenger trains and our staff, the natural environment, bird nesting season and the local community.

Before we undertake any work, we will inspect vegetation and undertake ecological surveys. Once we have done these assessments, we will clear vegetation in line with best practice and guidance issued to us.

The vegetation clearance will involve stripping or removing trees and vegetation by 8m from the outer running rail or to the boundary fence, whichever is the lesser.

This programme will include investigating any vegetation growing on third party land that poses a risk to the railway. In this situation, we will contact the relevant landowner to discuss this with them directly.

How will we manage the impact on our neighbours?

We recognise that work on the railway can be disruptive to those living or working nearby. The nature of our work often means some disturbance is unavoidable, but we will make every effort is made to minimise any unnecessary noise and we have reminded all staff to be considerate of our neighbours.

Contact us

I hope this information is helpful and we apologise for any inconvenience this essential vegetation management may cause.

If you have any additional questions or concerns about the work taking place in your area please call our dedicated 24-hour National Helpline on **03457 11 41 41**, visit **networkrail.co.uk/contactus** or email **crwest@networkrail.co.uk**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emma Hutchins".

Emma Hutchins
Community Relations Executive

Enclosed: Vegetation management leaflet

Safety – See something suspicious? Contact British Transport Police 0800 405040.

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Protecting and promoting the environment

We have policies in line with guidance from a range of conservation bodies. We carry out ecological surveys before we carry out vegetation works and we put environmental protection in place before we start.

This includes:

- monitoring and protecting active bird nests until the young birds have fledged.
- protecting bats and other protected species
- obtaining permissions to work in protected sites



Our overall aim is to change the habitat within eight metres of the railway from woodland to grassland, promoting biodiversity whilst reducing the risk to train passengers and railway workers.

For more information

There is more information on our vegetation management programme available on our website at: networkrail.co.uk/managing-railways-habitats/

If you have any further questions please contact us at: 03457 114141 or crwest@networkrail.co.uk

“We have seen too many examples in recent years of fallen trees or large branches striking trains following numerous severe weather events. Action has to be taken to reduce this trend.”



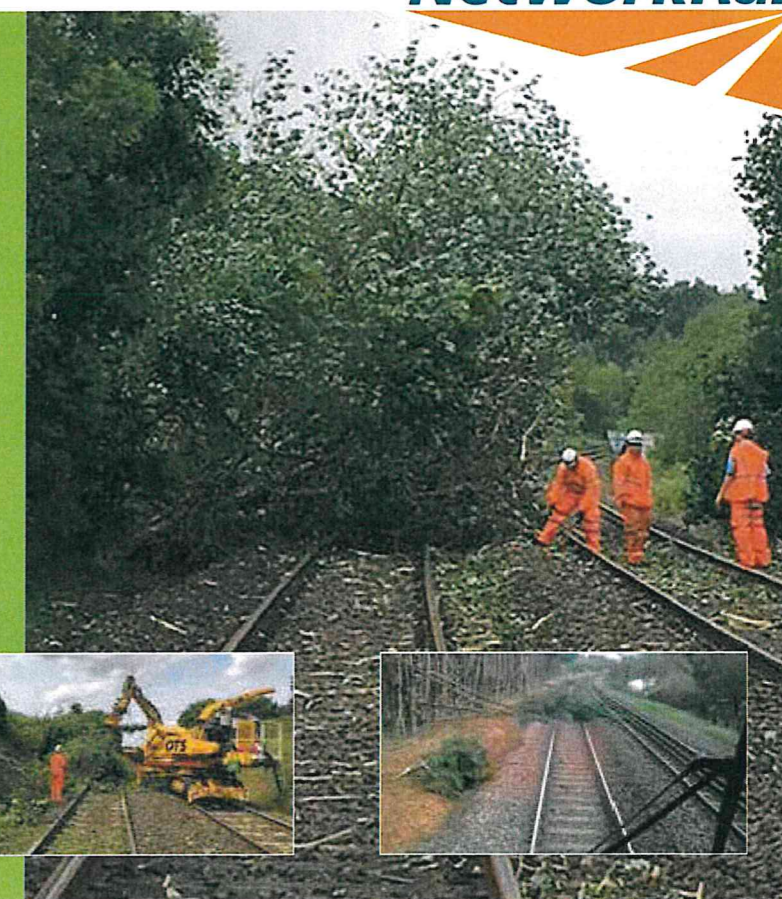
Ian Prosser, HM chief inspector of railways and director of railway safety at the Office of Rail and Road (ORR)



NetworkRail

Keeping the railway safe in your area

Managing vegetation on the railway



Managing vegetation on the railway

Overgrown bushes and trees close to the railway are dangerous. They can hide signals, reduce visibility, and damage or even derail trains.



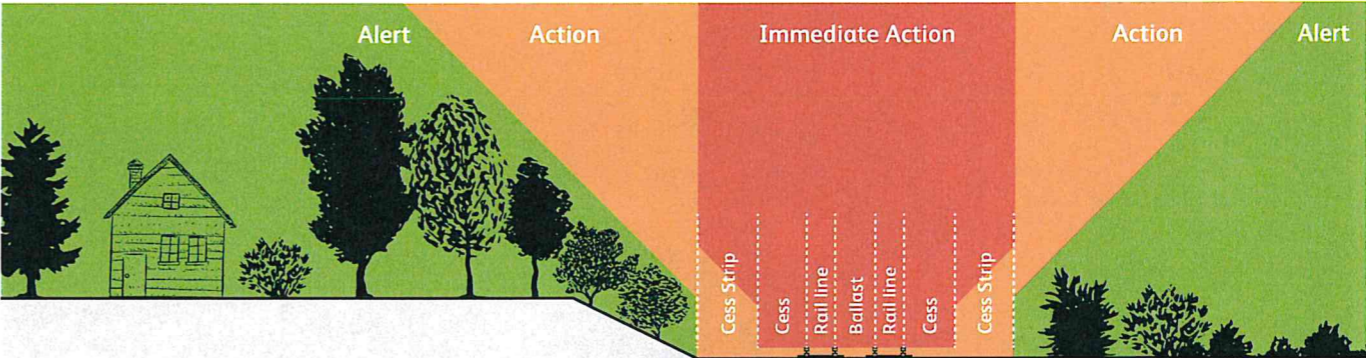
400 damaged trains every year

Every week we have safety incidents caused by trees and overgrown vegetation. Below is just one of the many safety incidents reported:

In Order	03/03/2019 22:50:00
Rectify At	03/03/2019 22:50:00
Reported By	Morton in Marsh Signaller
Reported As	WOLVERCOT JCN - DUDLEY : 91 : 1503 : 107 : 9075733 1064 : Down Fast/Main : OWW 2100 : TRACK
Details	Tree on line 500 yds Honeybourne side of Campden Tunnel on the Down main.
Cause	Evesham signaller advises that the driver of 1WS9 has found two trees down, described as being the size of lamp posts. He has moved them clear of the line, but is concerned that they blow back towards the line so recommends that trains remain on caution.
Action	Tree removed by the MOM and Off-track. The tree came from outside the boundary fence. At 98m 16ch.

During the summer of 2018, storms Ali and Bronagh led to over 150 incidents of fallen trees or branches on the tracks in less 48 hours.

£100 million in yearly costs



What are we doing near you?

We will be conducting ecological and biodiversity surveys of the area on both sides of the railway. We will then put in place any measures we need to protect nesting birds and other protected species.

Working at night (or in the day, when it is safe to do so) our teams work along the railway line to reduce the vegetation and trees back to safe levels.

We cut back trees that pose a safety risk between six to eight metres from the actual rail, or to the boundary fence if that is closer.

If there are trees outside of our boundary which might endanger the railway we will talk to the landowner to agree a plan of action to keep the railway safe.

