



Railway Neighbour
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Appleford
ABINGDON
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39577/1432



Community Relations
Western House
1 Holbrook Way
Swindon
SN1 1BD

24 hour National Helpline
03457 11 41 41

08th February 2022Our reference **DCL 53m 1122yds – 75m 0000yds**

Dear Neighbour,

Safety-critical vegetation management

We wanted to let you know that we will be working between **Station Road, Didcot, OX11 7NJ** and **Station Road, Heyford, OX25 5PD** to carry out a controlled programme of tree, plant and foliage management. Although some areas along the line will require vegetation clearance during the night, we may be only passing your property with machinery for a short duration and we will endeavour to keep the disturbance to an absolute minimum.

The purpose of these shifts are to clear vegetation in areas which are not accessible for our wood chippers while trains services are in operation, we may place wood chippers into these areas and proceed to clear the vegetation during daylight hours.

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.

Last year, storms Ciara and Dennis led to more than 63 incidents of fallen trees or branches on the tracks. Thankfully, no passengers were injured or train drivers harmed. However, the impact of a fallen tree across a railway track could have been much worse.

When will this work take place?

Work will commence from **14/02/2022** until **30/05/2022** between the hours of **08:00 and 18:00**.

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.

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



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 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?

The nature of our work often means some disturbance is unavoidable. Our teams are aware that they are working close to your home, and try to minimise disruption as much as possible, but we apologise in advance if you are disturbed during these works.

Our teams are taking all necessary precautions to keep each other safe and prevent the spread of Covid-19 by working within current Government guidelines.

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 or visit www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus.

For more information about living by the railway, please visit: <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/communities/living-by-the-railway/>

Yours faithfully,

Community Relations Executive

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