



Railway Neighbour

Network Rail
Western House
1 Holbrook Way
Swindon
SN1 1BD

24-hour National Helpline
03457 11 41 41

15 June 2022

Our reference: **MLN1 122m 0000yrds – 126m 0000yrds**

Dear neighbour,

Safety-critical vegetation management

We wanted to let you know that we will be working at **Long Ashton, Bristol, BS41 9LP** and **Backwell common, Bristol, BS48 3AF** to continue our tree and vegetation management work.

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.

This year, during Storm Eunice in February, we received more than 140 reports of fallen trees, branches, trampolines or other items on the track. Thankfully, no passengers were injured or train drivers harmed. However, the impact of a fallen tree could have been much worse. Incidents like this can lead to long delays for our passengers which affects the whole of the UK network.

When will this work take place?

We will carry out these tasks overnight between **10:30pm to 8am** on the dates listed below:

Dates of work
Saturday 25 June to Sunday 26 June
Every Saturday night in July (2,9,16,23,30)
Saturday 6 August to Sunday 7 August
Saturday 13 August to Sunday 14 August

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 practices 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.

We 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.

Contact us

I hope this information is helpful; 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 sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Cole".

Danielle Cole
Community Relations executive
Enc. Vegetation management leaflet