



The Occupier

Community Relations
Western House
1 Holbrook Way
Swindon
SN1 1BD

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

Date 25 July 2019

Our reference MLN2/MLN3 256m 0c – 257m 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 St Germans Viaduct to Barns Bridge, St Germans.

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 between the hours of **7.30am - 5.30pm** during weekdays, from **Monday 5 August** until **Friday 11 October**.

Please be aware our teams will not be working continuously throughout these dates.

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.

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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 grey ink, appearing to read "S. H. J.", positioned below the "Yours sincerely," text.

Community Relations Executive

Enclosed Vegetation management leaflet

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