



Community Relations
James Forbes House
27 Great Suffolk Street
London
SE1 0NS

Date 30/07/2021

Our ref: WD/Vegetation/NC/Selling Station- Site 22/ FDM 55m 20ch to 55m 36ch

Dear neighbour,

TREE AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT – Between Selling Station Footbridge & Fox Lane Railway Bridge

I am writing to let you know that we will be carrying out some essential tree and vegetation work near your property.

We are very aware of the impact that removing trees and vegetation can have on local communities and we that this can come as something of a shock for people who have become accustomed to lines of tree or hedges near their homes.

Good vegetation management on our property is a key part of **running a safe, reliable railway** and is completed under the guidelines set out by the Office of Rail and Road therefore, for the safety of our passengers and employees we have no option but to take action to reduce the risk posed to the railway.

Trains can collide with fallen trees or large branches which can block or close lines causing delays for millions of passengers. Lineside vegetation can obscure signals, get blown onto the tracks, or grow to an extent where staff do not have a safe place to wait whilst trains pass.

In addition, everyone remembers the old jokes about leaves on the line, but in fact they are a serious safety problem that causes trains to run late and in some circumstances affect trains so badly that they cannot run at all.

As part of our tree and vegetation management programme we will be clearing a 7-metre-wide corridor on either side of the track on our land. However, depending on the height of the embankment/cutting it could be to our boundary fence where the embankment/cuttings are 7m high and possibly further in areas where trains are known to accelerate and brake, or to improve visibility of our level crossings and foot crossings.

We will also be removing any dangerous trees and plants along the side of the railway which may be out of the 7-metre-wide corridor, prioritising areas that pose a significant safety risk or are likely to cause delays to passenger journeys. These areas will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Works will be undertaken between 02/08/21 to 06/08/21 and 09/08/21 to 13/08/2021

For more information on how we manage the vegetation on our land please see the links below www.networkrail.co.uk/vegetation visits and www.networkrail.co.uk/trees

Before work starts, Network Rail or its representatives will carry out an ecological survey to identify any protected species. If any species are identified appropriate methods of working will then be put into place.

To undertake this work, we will use a variety of equipment that can include chainsaws, flail machines, chipping machines or handsaws. Where suitable, logs and branches will either be left to create a safe habitat for wildlife, chipped and spread evenly; or will be completely removed from site.

We understand the effect our activities may have on the local community and we can assure you that our team is familiar with working near residents and on schemes of this nature. We will endeavour to keep any noise to an absolute minimum; however, some disturbance may be unavoidable due to the nature of the work.

Safety is our number one priority and for this reason work of this type may be carried out while trains are not in operation. Under our licence conditions we are contractually obliged to work, whenever possible, during the night and at weekends.

I hope this information is helpful and we apologise for any inconvenience these essential works may cause. However, if you have any additional questions or concerns, please visit www.networkrail.co.uk or telephone our **24-Hour National Helpline on 03457 11 41 41**.

Yours faithfully



John Moss-Coleman
Community Relations Manager