

Community Relations
1 Puddle Dock
London
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03457 11 41 41

Dear neighbour

Vegetation management on the railway between Elmers End and Hayes Train Stations

We're writing to let you know that we're carrying out work to manage the vegetation growing on the railway between Elmers End and Hayes Train Station. Ground preparation work will start on 15th December 2022. Most of the work will take place during daylight hours on weekdays, Monday to Friday. We're sorry for the inconvenience this may cause you and thank you in advance for your patience while we carry out these essential works for a safe and efficient railway.

Why are we doing this work?

Trees and other vegetation growing near the railway can pose a serious risk to passengers, staff, and railway neighbours. It can cause issues with the stability of soil earthworks (embankments and cuttings) and can pose an operational risk to the railway should they fall or become damaged.

Effective management of our land means:

- ensuring our train drivers have better sighting along the railway corridor, allowing them to see and react to distant signals
- better monitoring of ground conditions
- safer access for staff carrying out maintenance work on the track or trackside
- reducing tree incidents including branches on the track and trees falling
- reducing leaf-fall which causes reduced train braking efficiency and signalling problems

What are we doing?

We will be carrying out vegetation clearance on the railway to clear a 7-meter-wide corridor, prioritising areas that pose a significant risk or likely to cause delays to passenger journeys. Once this work has been completed a maintenance programme will be implemented to manage this section of our land. Following the 7-meter-wide corridor clearance a separate management plan will be implemented for the vegetation from the 7m clearance to the Network Rail Boundary. This will include reductions of high value amenity trees and prepared alongside the Tree Officer for Bromley Council.

What is the impact of our work on the environment?

We understand the effect our activities may have on the local community and we can assure you that our teams are familiar with working in close proximity to 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. Prior to all works commencing a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) has been carried out to identify any existing habitats and protected species and liaising with Bromley Council. We will be planning to create a diverse habitat where possible with creation of hibernacula and other features either installed or created with the arisings from the work.

Reference: WD/SH/COOMBES/LCH

What happens next?

As the ground preparation work starts on 15th December 2022, there will be increased traffic in the area. All staff working on site are fully briefed on working responsibly in the local community.

Some of the work will be noisy and disruptive to some neighbours. Where possible we will do as much work as we can using noisier equipment such as chainsaws and wood-chippers during the day. We're sorry for the inconvenience this work may cause you. We also understand our work can have a visual impact on neighbours living closest to our land. Please be assured that we try to retain vegetation where it is safe to do so.

If you have any questions about this work, please email Communityrelationsouthern@networkrail.co.uk quoting WD/SH/COOMBES/LCH and we'll arrange for the project team to assist you. Alternatively, telephone our helpline on 03457 11 41 41 quoting WD/SH/COOMBES/LCH.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Moss-Coleman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Moss-Coleman
Community Relations Manager
Southern Region