

Railway Neighbour

Contact & Communities
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22 May 2018

Ref No: ECM1

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Dear Neighbour,

Public Information Event Hadley Wood

I'm writing to you regarding the recent work around Hadley Wood as part of the vegetation management and fencing programme to improve the reliability and resilience of the railway ahead of the increase in services provided by Thameslink and invite you as a local resident to join us at a meeting on the evening of 7 June.

Firstly, I would like to apologise on behalf of Network Rail for the extreme nature of the de-vegetation throughout the Hadley Wood area and for the addition of the metal fencing toppers at Wagon Road and along the edge of fields near the railway boundary.

The work that took place was not as we intended, and since this work was brought to our attention further work in this area was paused whilst we understood what had gone wrong and what our plan was to correct this. We have also taken time to ensure further work required in the area is carried out in the correct way, sensitive to the environment whilst ensuring the safe operation of the railway.

We have met with the Hadley Wood Rail User Group, the Hadley Wood Association and the Tree Council to discuss a range of issues around this work. I can confirm that the fence 'toppers' have been removed on Wagon Road and will be also be removed alongside the railway, leaving the new green palisade fence as intended.

Our vegetation management plan has been reviewed and after discussions with the Tree Council, our team are now able to better identify those trees and shrubs which will not affect the railway. Please be assured that our ecology team do attend the sites before work takes place to ensure we consider bird nesting and protected species.

For the area around Hadley Wood Station, we are working on a replanting plan with the Tree Council to ensure that low level vegetation is allowed to flourish in this area, returning some of the valuable eco-system affected by our extensive and unnecessary removal of some of the trees.

Future work

More generally, we reviewed our specification for all the vegetation management and fencing work and we are in the process of contacting all lineside neighbours and communities who will see work as part of the Thameslink Resilience Programme to reassure them that we are both reviewing future work in their area and working with the community in Hadley Wood to rectify our mistakes.

I would also like to let you know that as part of our updated programme of work we will be undertaking vegetation management overnight. The reason for overnight work is that the vegetation is very close to the railway and can only be done safely when trains are not running. The location where we will be working is south of the south tunnel portal and from Wagon Road north towards Potters Bar. The work will involve strimming the vegetation between the four sets of track, siding of trees and vegetation that are currently or have the potential to strike the overhead power lines and clean-up work associated with these activities.

We will be working overnight on the following dates and times and apologise for the short notice.

Monday	28/05/2018 23:10	– Tuesday	29/05/2018 05:10
Tuesday	29/05/2018 23:10	– Wednesday	30/05/2018 05:20
Wednesday	30/05/2018 23:10	– Thursday	31/05/2018 05:20
Thursday	31/05/2018 23:10	– Friday	1/06/2018 05:20

I do appreciate that overnight work is not ideal, which is why we undertake as much work as possible during the daytime. However, it is sometimes the only way we can access the railway safely. I apologise in advance for any inconvenience this essential work may cause. However, if you have any additional questions or concerns, please visit www.networkrail.co.uk/contact or telephone our 24-Hour National Helpline on 03457 11 41 41.

Public information Event for Hadley Wood residents.

Network Rail does recognise that the railway is a major natural resource, but one that needs to be carefully managed at all times of the year to keep the railway safe. With that in mind, I would like to invite you to speak to our team working in the area on any of the issues above on Thursday 7 June 2018 at the Hadley Wood Association Centre, Crescent East, EN4 0EL. This evening event begins at 1900 with an opportunity for informal information-gathering followed by a Public Information meeting starting at 2000 until 2130. With the help of the Tree Council, we will be able to update you on the work taking place and the plans for replanting.

I hope this information is helpful and has updated you on both the work we have done, and the actions taken at Hadley Wood.

Yours faithfully,

Nick Sandham
Head of Communications
Network Rail (London North Eastern & East Midlands)