

Railway Neighbour

22 June 2020

Ref: East Kilbride – Glasgow

Dear Neighbour

Resumption of Tree Cutting Work between East Kilbride and Glasgow

In February I wrote to you regarding vegetation and tree cutting work on the East Kilbride-Glasgow line. Work began in March but was paused in order to protect the welfare of our staff, contractors and the wider public in line with Scottish Government guidance.

We are continuing to follow this guidance and can advise that this work is now due to resume.

Please be assured that the welfare of our passengers, the public, contractors and our staff remains our priority and we will put in place physical distancing measures where possible, use additional protective equipment when not and find new ways of work to ensure that work can be delivered safely.

As a reminder, I have included the information below, which was outlined in our letter to you from February 2020.

What are we doing?

We are removing trees and vegetation on land within the railway boundary between East Kilbride and Glasgow. We will be removing all trees and vegetation within six metres of the railway inside our boundary. For reference the volume of trees / vegetation within six metres is minimal and low in biodiversity value.

For trees beyond the six metres, we will look to safely retain trees where possible, but some will have to be removed. It will mean height-reducing and cutting-back, but this enables regrowth, continuing to provide carbon storage benefits as well as a visual barrier.

It will include a general tidy up and will address any issues with fencing uncovered as the vegetation is cleared along the 11-mile route corridor. We will then follow on with site and geological investigation (SI/GI) which will help to define a programme of enhancements which will deliver on the aim of growing capacity on the route.

The final decision on the exact programme of enhancement will be made by Transport Scotland. Options under consideration include double tracking and electrification, but no decisions have been made yet.

When will it happen?

This work will now take place from **June until December 2020** on the route between Glasgow and East Kilbride, though not continuously at any one location. Activities will be carried out during a combination of both day-time (8am – 5pm) and night time (midnight – 5am) working - including both Saturday and Sunday nights.

Why we are doing it?

Managing the trees and vegetation alongside our railway to ensure the safety of passengers and railway workers is essential, and it's something we plan carefully and with consideration. This work is a core part of maintaining the railway and will be carried out in compliance with our vegetation management standard. For more information you can visit <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/communities/environment/vegetation-management>

Protecting our environment

Before this work starts, we have undertaken all necessary environmental and ecological surveys to identify any protected species or nesting birds in the area. Appropriate methods of working have been put in place, with additional measures implemented as we enter into bird nesting season. Our aim has been, and will continue to be, to proactively identify safeguarded species, roosts and habitats of value.

If you have any questions regarding our work, please do not hesitate to contact us at www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus or telephone our **24-Hour National Helpline on 03457 11 41 41**.

I hope this information is helpful and apologise for any inconvenience this essential work may cause.

Yours faithfully

Owen Campbell
Communications Manager
Network Rail Scotland