

From: [CRNE](#)

To: [Dronfield Civic Society](#)

Sent: Wednesday, December 29, 2010 2:22 PM

Subject: RE: SR2785142 - tree clearance, Dronfield

Thank you for your recent email.

As this site was close to a conservation area prior to work starting contact was made with NE Derbyshire Council to explain what the work would entail and why we were carrying out the work. Our contact at the council was Lisa Walton Conservation Planning Officer.

Residents were pre notified about the work that was planned to take place in the Dronfield area by letter; this letter included the National Helpline number, which is available 24 hours a day. Dronfield Town Council was also advised by email prior to the works starting.

The vegetation works at these locations were undertaken to provide a safe infrastructure for trains, which in turn ensures the safety of the travelling public and provides them with an efficient and reliable railway.

It is well documented that during autumn months, thousand of tonnes of leaves fall onto the railway line. Passing trains compress these leaves to form a slippery black substance on the rails which can cause the train wheels to slip and compromise braking in a similar way to black ice on the roads. Furthermore, the build up of leaf material on the rails interferes with the signalling systems and can block drains and culverts, leading to flooding. This location was identified as an area which was causing concerns to train drivers due to poor adhesion. I am sure you are aware that difficulties with braking have the potential to lead to signals passed at danger and overrunning at stations both with serious safety consequences.

Network Rail contractors carried out full ecological surveys of the area prior to works taking place. This was carried out in accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. As a general rule Network Rail do not replant at these locations, a low level of native plants is encouraged to re grow once vegetation management works have been undertaken.

I am sure that you will agree that the management of lineside vegetation is an essential element of Network Rail's ongoing maintenance programme to provide a safe and reliable railway.

I do hope that this information is useful.

Denise Thompson
Community Relations Manager (LNE)

Our National Helpline is here 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to answer your questions and help with any problems caused by the railway. If we cannot give you an immediate answer, we will take your name, address and telephone number and get back in touch as soon as we can.

National Helpline 08457 11 41 41