

# Vegetation management

Proactively managing trees and vegetation along the railway is essential to keep trains running safely and reliably for passengers.

We have a responsibility to care for Britain's natural environment and the communities we serve. As one of the largest landowners in the country, and with more than six million trees growing along the railway, we take our work really seriously.

Working with experts, we have carefully designed our policies and standards to manage these lineside habitats sustainably.



## Our work is essential

If not managed well, vegetation can affect services for passengers by obscuring train signals, falling on the track or onto overhead lines. It can also put staff at risk by growing to an extent where our track workers don't have a safe place to wait while trains pass at speeds of up to 125mph.

Our standards are designed to safely, reliably and sustainably manage 20,000 miles of railway.



Find out more at  
[www.networkrail.co.uk](http://www.networkrail.co.uk)



## We plan our work carefully

As part of our planning, we take an evidence-based approach to decide what work needs to be done.

Before starting work, we research the area to identify any significant features or risks, and where necessary, carry out surveys and inspections on site, drawing on the advice of independent ecological experts.

Where trees require work, we consider the best approach. This can range from removing individual branches, coppicing or pollarding, through to removing trees that are assessed by a tree expert as posing a significant risk to the railway.

## Our long term vision

Our long term approach to managing vegetation will see the habitats closest to the railway change from woodland to grassland. By encouraging different habitats to grow, we aim to enhance biodiversity and reduce the risk to the safe and reliable running of the railway.

**Working for you**