

Ref:	NR/L2/TRK/5201
Issue:	4
Date:	2 June 2012
Compliance date:	31 March 2013

Level 2

Management of lineside vegetation

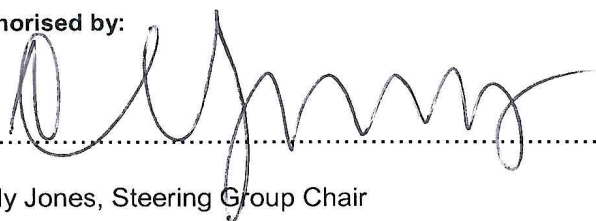
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User information

This Network Rail standard contains colour-coding according to the following Red–Amber–Green classification.

Red requirements – *No deviations, could stop the railway*

- **Red requirements shall** always be complied with and achieved.
- Red requirements shall be presented in a red box **with the word “shall” or expressed as a direct instruction**.
- Accountability for the efficacy of red requirements lies with the Professional Head/Standard Owner.
- Red requirements are monitored for compliance.
- Corrective actions shall be enforced if deviations are discovered through functional checks (e.g. engineering verification visits, audit or Operations Self-Assurance).

Amber requirements – *Controlled deviations, approved risk analysis and mitigation*

- **Amber requirements shall** be complied with unless deviation has been approved in advance.
- Amber requirements shall be presented with an amber sidebar **and with the word “shall” or expressed as a direct instruction**.
- Accountability for the efficacy of these requirements lies with the Professional Head/Standard Owner, or their nominated Delegated Authority.
- Amber requirements are monitored for compliance.
- Deviations **may** be permitted. Deviations are approved by the Standard Owner or through existing Delegated Authority arrangements.
- Corrective actions shall be enforced if **non-approved** deviations are discovered through functional checks (e.g. engineering verification visits, audit or Operations Self-Assurance).

Green – *Guidance*

- Guidance is based on good practice. Guidance represents supporting information to help achieve **Red** and **Amber** requirements.
- Guidance shall be presented with a dotted green sidebar **and with the word “should” (usually in notes) or as a direct instruction**.
- Guidance is **not mandatory** and is not monitored for compliance.
- Alternative solutions may be used. Alternative solutions do not need to be formally approved.
- Decisions made by a competent person to use alternative solutions should be backed up by appropriate evidence or documentation.

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Issue record

Issue	Date	Comments
1	December 2006	New document. Replaces all draft versions of NR/SP/TRK/05200 and RT/CE/S/075 in circulation.
2	August 2008	Updated to reflect Phase 2A reorganisation. References to 009054 and 090180 deleted, activities superseded by SMPs
3	September 2009	Updated to incorporate derogations to requirements and raise awareness of TEFs made since issue 1, to reduce over specification and to incorporate other changes deemed of benefit to the Company as "quick wins".
4	June 2012	Completely revised document with new / revised clauses and figures marked with a vertical line

Compliance

This Network Rail standard is mandatory and shall be complied with by Network Rail and its contractors if applicable from 31 March 2013.

When this standard is implemented, it is permissible for all projects that have formally completed GRIP Stage 3 (Option Selection) to continue to comply with the issue of any relevant Network Rail standards current when GRIP Stage 3 was completed and not to comply with requirements contained herein, unless stipulated otherwise in the scope of this standard.

Reference documentation

NR/L1/TRK/05200	Vegetation
NR/L2/ELP/29987	Working on or about 25 kV A.C. Electrified Lines
NR/L2/SIG/19608	Level Crossing Infrastructure (Inspection & Maintenance)
NR/L2/SIG/10157	Signal Sighting
NR/L2/TRK/5100	Management of fencing and other boundary measures
NR/L3/MTC/PL0215	Communicating with the Public
NR/L3/TRK/003/TEF3069	Pesticide application record form
NR/L3/TRK/003/TEF3076	Leaf fall Risk Assessment
NR/L3/TRK/003/TEF3077	Tree Hazard: Risk Evaluation and Treatment System (THREATS and THREATS-NR)
NR/L3/TRK/003/TEF3078	Record of decision to alter vegetation inspection method
NR/L3/TRK/003/TEF3079	Lineside vegetation inspection
NR/L3/TRK/003/TEF3211	Fallen Tree Incident Form
NR/L3/TRK/003/TEF3245	Tree risk evaluation & control by non-arboriculturist railway personnel (THREATS-NRP)
NR/L3/TRK/003/TEF3244	Third party tree notification letters
BS 3998: 2010	Tree work. Recommendations
BS 5837: 2005	Trees in relation to construction – Recommendations
BS EN 50122: 1998	Railway applications. Fixed installations
	Recommended Planting – Species guidance

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1 Purpose

This Standard mandates that lineside vegetation will undergo inspection, maintenance and management regimes derived from risk assessments based upon railway and vegetation characteristics.

Compliance to this Standard will mitigate the risk of vegetation negatively impacting upon railway operations and lineside neighbours.

2 Scope

This Standard applies to the whole of the Network Rail controlled infrastructure.

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3 Definitions

AFAG

Arboriculture and Forestry Advisory Group

Arisings

Vegetative material resulting from management and maintenance operations

AWRs

Authorised Walking Routes

Ballasted area

Area between the outside edges of the cess ballast shoulders

BASIS

An independent organisation set up to advise the UK Government and to specify and assess standards in the pesticide industry relating to storage, transport and competency

Cess

For the purposes of this document; the ground from the outer edge of the ballasted area to 3 metres from the running rail

Cess Strip

For the purposes of this document; the ground area 3 to 5 metres from the running rail

% clear of vegetation

An area of lineside to be x% clear of vegetation, measured over a length of 220 yards

Clearance

Initial management of vegetation in order to achieve a structure of vegetation that reduces the risk posed by that vegetation to as low as reasonably practicable and prepares it for a follow-up regime of cyclical / annual maintenance

Closed line

A line that is legally closed but where land is still in ownership of Network Rail

Coppice regrowth

The production of shoots from a cut stump of most broadleaved trees

Cutting slope angle

Slope angle measured from horizontal

dbh

Diameter [of a tree trunk] at breast height, measured at 1.3 metres above ground level – when trees on slopes are measured, this shall be done from the 'up-slope' side of the tree

Disused line

A line that is not in use but is still legally available to train and freight operating companies

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Follow-up regime

Operations to keep the vegetation in a state that reduces risk posed

Hazardous tree

A tree which has been inspected by a competent person and which poses a risk to either the railway or a third party

High risk leaf fall species

Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), poplar (*Populus* species – except aspen, *P. tremula*) and lime (*Tilia* species)

HSE

Health and Safety Executive

Injurious and invasive weeds

Plants listed in (1) The Weeds Act 1959 and (2) The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) – common ragwort⁽¹⁾ (*Senecio jacobaea*), Japanese knotweed⁽²⁾ (*Fallopia japonica*), giant hogweed⁽²⁾ (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Himalayan balsam⁽²⁾ (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and rhododendron⁽²⁾ (*Rhododendron ponticum*)

Plants not specifically listed in legislation – horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*)

IC

Incident Controller

Inspection

Routine or reactive activity

Lineside assets

Infrastructure assets including but not limited to the following: cess paths, walking routes, troughing/cable routes, access steps, location cabinets/rooms, lineside buildings, signalling gantries, OLE stanchions.

Live parts of the OLE

Except for the mast or structures, all parts in Figure 1 must be treated as live

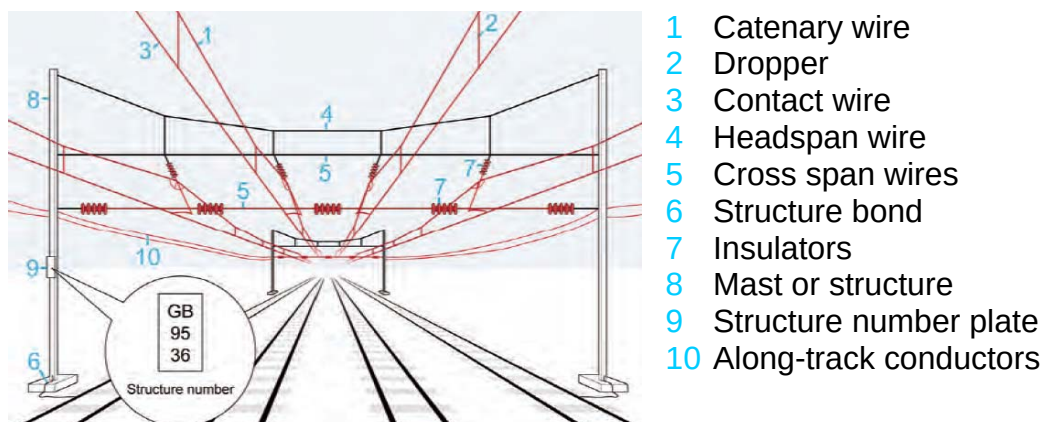


Figure 1 – Typical OLE construction

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Manual operations

The use of non-powered hand tools for the management of vegetation

Mechanical operations

The use of plant and machinery for the management of vegetation

PSR board

Permanent Speed Restriction board

Rail target

Potentially hazardous tree that is capable of reaching railway property

Rock cutting

Steep sided excavation through rock, chalk or interbedded rock and soil

Selective felling

Individual trees are identified and removed whilst retaining healthy trees and desirable species

Specialist

Persons undertaking surveys shall have a Level 3 competency as defined by the Arboricultural Association using the National Qualifications Framework (NQF)

Stump diameter

Measured at ground level and, for a coppice stool, shall include the diameter of the full extent of the stool

Survey

Periodic activity undertaken by specialist technical expert

Track category

Highest track category over the length of the record to be used for assessment purposes

Tree surgery

Activities including, but not limited to, crown lifting, crown reduction, crown thinning, pollarding and removal of dead wood

Windthrow

Uprooting or breakage of trees caused by strong winds

Woody vegetation

Trees and shrubs – brambles are included for the area up to 3 metres from the running rail and for 1 metre around lineside assets