Off-track – Open Channels and Ditch Maintenance

Scope

Includes: Manual clearance of ditches and open channels on Network Rail-controlled infrastructure
Excludes: Counterfort Drains

Preparation

Tools, equipment and plant items required but not limited to:

- Vegetation clearance tools
- Hand tools
- Gradient measuring tool

Work planning considerations:

- Isolation requirements
- Required permits to dig
- Pre work site inspection
- Environmental issues
- Disposal of arisings
- Continuity bonding requirements

Method

1. Determine the outfall of the ditch or watercourse. This may be outside of Network Rail property (presite survey)
2. Ensure outfall is clear and working
3. Work back from the outfall
4. Clear vegetation and debris from ditch using a suitable method for the type of construction or type of ground being excavated
5. Ensure that watercourse is protected from silt pollution as a result of works being undertaken. Store material for removal in non-polluting containers, avoid “wash-down”
6. Where contamination is likely the outfall will be stopped off and any arisings removed by other means
7. Clear any inlets to the ditch as they are encountered
8. Create an even gradient and regular cross-section to the ditch over the area worked to create even flow of water through the ditch (use sighting boards where appropriate)
9. Avoid steep or very flat gradients and sudden changes of direction
10. Ensure outfall is clear of contaminant and debris before reopening.
11. Dispose of removed material in a safe manner and in accordance with NR/PRC/MTC/EN0100 Waste Management
12. Ensure site is left tidy and clear of all rubbish and scrap material at end of each day’s work.

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References

Supports Ellipse Standard job
- 009191 Drainage – Ditch - Maintain

If applicable refer to the following directly associated documents:
- NR/SP/TRK/001 Inspection and Maintenance of Permanent Way
- NR/SP/TRK/9006 Design, Installation and Maintenance of Lineside Drainage
- NR/SP/CIV/003 Technical Approval of Design - Construction and maintenance of Civil Engineering Infrastructure
- NR/PRC/MTC/0135 Management of off track inspections
- NR/PRC/MTC/0136 Maintenance of off track assets
- NR/PRC/MTC/SE0113 Surface and buried services - avoidance of damage to and danger from
- NR/PRC/MTC/EN0100 Waste Management
- NR/L3/TRK/002/D12 Vegetation clearance ~ manual
- NR/GN/TRK/7001/TWI2B017 How to maintain open drains, watercourses and ditches

- Risk Control Sheets:
- NR/L3/MTC/0002/TK0000 Generic Track Risks
- NR/L3/MTC/0002/TK0324 Maintain Drainage including rodding and jetting

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