

Control of Pests and Vermin

Scope

Includes: Rabbits, rats, mice, wasps, brown-tailed moths
Excludes: Noxious weeds, pigeons and species requiring consent from Defra

Preparation

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

Generic

- Tools for vegetation clearance
- Tools for filling in holes
- Gas and bait with necessary certification
- Equipment for removal of waste

Rabbits

- Fencing tools
- Rabbit netting

Work planning considerations:

- A site inspection shall be undertaken (during daylight) prior to commencement of work. This inspection shall identify;
 1. Proximity of electric traction supplies
 2. Infrastructure or equipment, especially cables that may be damaged
 3. Third party property that may be damaged or that may require permission to gain access
 4. Underfoot conditions; likely to be hazardous due to the presence of burrows
- Site security; accessibility to third parties, especially children
- Warning signage
- Weather (also relevant to gas pellet application)
- Coordinated efforts with adjacent landowners to reduce risk of recurrence of pest problem
- User manuals and manufacturers instructions

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Method

Rabbits

Fence

1. Rabbit fencing shall be in accordance with DEFRA specifications, currently wire mesh netting affixed to a suitable boundary fence or be attached to at least 2 high tensile straining wires.
2. The wire mesh should be 900mm high with no point lower than 750mm with 150mm turned out towards the source of the rabbits and pegged down.
3. The mesh must be 18 gauge 31mm hexagonal mesh conforming to the British Standard 1722-2:2006 and should be attached to existing boundary fence-line using a clip ring system.
4. Rabbit fencing should be checked quarterly for the first year after installation to repair any breaches and should be inspected along with the boundary fence in accordance with NR/SP/TRK05100

Gassing

5. Notices should be put out prior to work commencing.
6. Anyone carrying out gassing must be certified competent by the British Pest Control Association plus a certificate in competency in the use of phosphine gas products.
7. Appropriate warning notices shall be displayed containing information of product used, limited access times and emergency telephone numbers.
8. Survey the area and remove vegetation as required to identify all entrances to the burrow. Block up holes not to be gassed then carry out gassing in accordance with manufacturers' instructions.
9. Sites where gassing has taken place should be monitored monthly for the first year after gassing and further gassing carried out if required.
10. For small infestations, ferreting may be appropriate. This is a labour intensive method but may be necessary in certain areas where the use of gassing is restricted or inappropriate. An experienced ferreter should be used under the direct supervision of Network Rail staff. Consult with line manager for the appropriateness of this method of working.