



The Occupier

Community Relations
Western House
1 Holbrook Way
Swindon
SN1 1BD

**Network Rail 24-hour
National Helpline
03457 11 41 41**

3 March 2021

Our reference: **MLN1 207m 0319y – 207m 0413y**

Dear Neighbour,

Cliff devegetation work around Parsons Tunnel, Teignmouth Rd, near Dawlish

We wanted to let you know that we will be removing vegetation and trees from the cliff face near Parsons Tunnel and will be accessing the railway at Smugglers Lane..

Due to the work and machinery we need to use to complete this work, it will be noisy at times. We will be working a mixture of day and night-time shifts, please see below for more information; please be aware these dates may change.

Dates and times of shifts	
Monday 22 March – Friday 26 March	8am - 6pm
Saturday 27 March - Monday 29 March	8pm - 7am
Monday 29 March - Friday 02 April	8am – 6pm
Saturday 03 April - Sunday 04 April	8pm – 7am
Monday 05 April - Friday 16 April	8am – 6pm

Why are you doing this work?

The railway is a vital link between the South West peninsula and the rest of the UK. Since 2014, when the line was badly damaged by storms, we have been investigating how best to make the railway more resilient along this stretch of the Devon coastline.

Safety – See something suspicious? Contact British Transport Police 0800 405040.

As a result, the new sea wall in Dawlish is already being built and we now propose to build a rockfall shelter at the northern end of Parsons Tunnel as the next part of our South West Rail Resilience Programme.

This rockfall shelter is an important element in preserving the railway line for future generations and the plans are currently being considered by Teignbridge District Council. If approved, we will start construction work later this year, but this will require safety netting to be installed on the cliff face in advance, and this in turn, requires vegetation to be cleared.

Why clear the vegetation now rather than when you are starting work?

To minimise the impact on any wildlife, it is important to do this work now.

Environmental protection is critical and so we have carried out a range of studies and submitted reports to Teignbridge District Council that set out our approach to ecological protection and management of potential impacts on wildlife habitats.

The team who will be delivering these vegetation works will follow the strict guidance outlined in these reports and will have an ecological clerk of works on site to ensure that no potential nesting habitat is removed during the breeding season (March to mid-September). We have separately written to council officers to inform them of the extent of the works and methodology of working.

The vegetation contractors will have their temporary compound in the Smugglers Inn car park on Teignmouth Road.

Our teams are aware that they are working close to your home, and try to minimise disruption as much as possible, but we apologise in advance if you are disturbed during these works. We will be taking all necessary precautions to keep each other safe and prevent the spread of Covid-19 by working within current Government guidelines.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions or concerns about the work taking place, please call our 24-hour National Helpline on 03457 11 41 41 or visit www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T Painter".

Tamison Painter
Community Relations Executive