

Railway Neighbour**10th September 2020****Ref: Levenmouth Rail Link****Dear Neighbour****Vegetation Clearance – Thornton Junction to Leven****What are we doing?**

I am writing to advise you that we will shortly start work to remove trees and vegetation on land within the railway boundary between Thornton Junction to Leven.

We will remove all trees and vegetation within six metres of the railway inside our boundary. For reference the volume of trees / vegetation within six metres is minimal and low in biodiversity value.

For trees beyond the six metres, we will look to safely retain trees where possible, but some will have to be removed. It will mean height-reducing and cutting-back, but this enables regrowth, continuing to provide carbon storage benefits as well as a visual barrier.

It will include a general tidy up and will address any issues with fencing uncovered as the vegetation is cleared along the 6-mile route corridor. We will then follow on with site and geological investigation (SI/GI) which will help to define a programme of enhancements which will deliver on the aim of reintroducing the train service to Leven.

When will it happen?

Work will be from Monday 21st September on the route between Thornton Junction and Leven, though not continuously at any one location. Activities will be carried out during daytime working (8am – 5pm).

Why we are doing it?

Managing the trees and vegetation alongside our railway to ensure the safety of passengers and railway workers is essential, and it's something we plan carefully and with consideration. This work is a core part of maintaining the railway and will be carried out in compliance with our vegetation management standard. For more information you can visit <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/communities/environment/vegetation-management>

As our work is funded by the public purse, we always look for ways to work efficiently and minimise the impact on lineside communities. We also take on board feedback from those who travel on, or live beside, the railway, and have used this to improve our policy and approach to the delivery of these works in Scotland.

Protecting our environment

Before this work starts, we have undertaken all necessary environmental and ecological surveys to identify any protected species or nesting birds in the area. Appropriate methods of working have been put in place. Our aim has been, and will continue to be, to proactively identify safeguarded species, roosts and habitats of value.

Where can I find out more?

We hope this is useful information, however, if you have any questions or concerns, you can telephone our **24-Hour National Helpline on 03457 11 41 41**.ot contact the project by email at LevenmouthReconnected@networkrail.co.uk

As we move forward with the project, you will see and hear more from us about the work – what is involved and when and how it will be happening. And we hope to get the opportunity to meet with you and allow you to share your thoughts and views with us.

I hope this information is helpful and we apologise for any inconvenience this essential work may cause.

Yours faithfully

Owen Campbell
Communications Manager
Network Rail Scotland