Removing logs and timber from site

Incident description:
In January 2016, an incident occurred when operatives were removing logs from the embankment, as part of a soft estate improvements scheme.

A cut log rolled down the embankment, across Lane 1 (which was closed) and across Lane 2 (which was live). The log narrowly missed a passing van. An operative then ran out across the live lane and retrieved the log. Fortunately, there were no resultant injuries and no damage to the passing vehicle.

Investigation/findings:
During the investigation, it was found that the Safe Working Procedure (which the contractor had in place) hadn’t been adhered to. This resulted in works being undertaken in an unsafe environment, without appropriate safety zones in place. A summary of the findings are listed below:

- Decisions made by the operatives on site, did not align with the company procedure and put the travelling public and workforce at high risk.
- There wasn’t a physical barrier to stop any errant logs from rolling into the carriageway.
- In line with the current ban on carriageway crossing, operatives are not to enter/cross the live carriageway.

Following the investigation, a company-wide review of the Safe Working Procedure was undertaken. This led to several changes and improvements being made, which are summarised to the right.

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