



Safety Alert

Felling of bat roost trees

28 May 2020

The following pages of this safety alert were issued by Highways England's supply chain partner:

LM JV working on behalf of HS2



PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Felling of bat roost trees

Trees with potential bat roosts not checked prior to felling

LM have had two instances where trees have been felled without sufficient checks having been completed of the trees prior to felling.

LM hold licences to fell trees within woodland areas. Unfortunately three trees have been felled at these locations without all pre-felling checks having been completed.

The licence allows trees to be felled only when they have been fully inspected by an accredited agent (highly qualified bat specialist) to ensure there are no bats present prior to felling. Due to communication issues the trees were felled without all pre-felling checks having been completed, in contravention of the procedures stipulated within the licence.

These two incidents have been reported to Natural England as two separate breaches of the protected species licence and have been reported to HS2 as L2 incidents.

Incident 1 - Marlowes Wood

Two trees were identified as having bat potential and required further assessment prior to felling. Due to the proximity of WPD assets the trees were to be felled by a 3rd party utility contractor. The requirement for the 3rd party contractor to be supervised by an Accredited Agent was not communicated to the contractor, leading to the trees being felled without supervision.



Tree incorrectly de-crowned

Incident 2 - Broadwells Wood

One tree in a stand of trees was identified as requiring further assessment prior to felling.

An assumption was made that the tree was approved to fell which deviated from the approved method of work.

Both of these incidents are now subject to internal investigation by LM-JV.

ACTION TAKEN AND/OR REQUIRED:

1. Ensure an up to date and approved PWMS is in place
2. Review of roles & responsibilities of parties on site
3. Ensure all parties are aware of the go/no go procedure for approving trees to be felled
4. Review communication between ecologists and site supervisors.
5. Where 3rd parties are operating under LM ecology licence areas ensure these requirements are communicated
6. If unsure please contact your LM environmental manager or email LMsustainability@lm-jv.com