

Safety Alert

A serious incident has taken place



Leighton Buzzard near miss

Scope: **Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and accredited contractors**

Ref: NRX20-05

Date: 29/06/2020

Location: Leighton Buzzard, West Coast Mainline South, NW&C

Contact: [Peter Luby](#), Route Programme Director, Works Delivery



Overview

A near miss has occurred in the Leighton Buzzard area. A contractor accessed the infrastructure to survey as part of a tender response for some de-vegetation work for Works Delivery.

Two staff who were sub-sponsored by the Principal Contractor undertook the survey. The work had been planned and there was a safe work pack in place, however there had been no agreement for them to access the track and undertake the work. One person crossed four open lines of traffic across West Coast Mainline.

The two individuals were surveying the lineside, one walking in each cress with cameras.

One of the track workers walked through a limited clearance overbridge.

A passenger train travelling at line speed passed the track worker as he walked through the bridge. The worker pressed against the bridge abutment but could not have achieved the require 2m clearance. The train driver was so shaken by the incident he had to be relieved at the next station stop.

The track workers continued to work until met by the local Mobile Operations Manager after the train driver reported the incident.

This incident is currently under investigation by Network Rail and RAIB.

Part of our group
of Safety Bulletins

Safety
Alert

Safety
Bulletin

Safety
Advice

Shared
Learning