









What's in this issue...



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RIDDOR Lost Time Injury



Description of accident

An incident occurred 6th February 2024 during wire adjustment works on the Midland Mainline Electrification project. Four Mobile Elevated working Platforms (MEWP's) and one Road Rail Vehicle had safely accessed at the RRAP and completed Small Parts Steel (SPS) works at a structure. After travelling north, they were required to stop and push back southwards to undertake track surveying work.

The team were stationary for 25-30 minutes during which the Supervisor re-organised the team to enable higher productivity. During that time one of the Machine Controllers moved away from his allocated MEWP and was witnessed in a nearby safety refuge on the Down Main Line. After a visual check to ensure exclusion zones were clear the MEWP's proceeded their movements. It was at this point the Injured Person (IP) was identified in the four-foot. With all plant movements suspended, the IP was given first aid and then taken to hospital for a follow up assessment. The IP was uncooperative during the investigation and without witness or CCTV, it was not possible to confirm exactly what happened to the individual.

Action taken since the event

- Staff under investigation received well-being support
- 360-degree camera installation and front and rear cameras on plant
- Review and enhanced monitoring of behaviors and attitudes of safety critical staff



View from the raised operator's basket showing the restricted view of the track immediately ahead of the machine. (Courtesy of SPL Powerlines UK Ltd.)

Discussion points

- 1. When there has been a change in the sequence of activities on-site what controls are implemented to ensure all members of the work party are accounted for and sent back to work safely?
- 2. How are behaviours and attitudes of people on site, who are responsible for managing exclusion zones, monitored, assessed and provided with feedback on their performance?
- 3. Do all safety critical staff undertaking key roles have the RSSB app and familiar with the handbook requirements are random checks undertaken as part of 'predict and prevent' exercises?
- 4. Do staff who are in control of on-track plant ensure that they have good visibility of the area ahead?
- 5. Are there suitable opportunities to use technology to manage exclusion zones?

Musculoskeletal Survey



Musculoskeletal Disorder Survey RSSB

Musculoskeletal disorders are one of the leading causes of absence in the railway. To better understand this issue, RSSB is launching the first industry-wide Musculoskeletal Disorder (MSD) survey. The survey will be distributed across the whole rail industry covering all sectors and job roles contributing to heavy rail operations in the UK.

The survey has been developed in collaboration with industry and will provide new data that will allow organisations and industry to understand the severity and causes of MSDs and then tackle this problem in the workplace.

Survey Objectives

The objectives of the survey are to:

- Understand the prevalence and type of MSDs rail workers are suffering from and the impact these have on their professional and personal lives.
- Identify the job roles affected by MSDs and, the tasks or factors at work likely contributing to the development of these disorders.
- Present detailed MSD data to the UK rail industry and suggest the areas that need to be prioritised to improve the musculoskeletal health of the UK heavy rail workforce.

Help make the industry healthier

Many rail workers experience aches, pain or discomfort at work.

We want to understand if this is happening to you and why so we can help make work a healthier place for you.

Share your experience in our short online survey by 30 September 2024.



For further information please scan or click the QR code











Lessons Learnt – Breeding Bird Incident -



What Happened?

The SPL team working on the Midland Mainline electrification project completed a visual inspection of a materials box for lifting purposes. The box was lifted using a forklift onto the back of a flatbed truck and transported to a separate depot where it was unloaded and placed inside a warehouse.

The following morning, while personnel were unloading the boxes, a nest containing 4 sparrow chicks was discovered at the very bottom of the box, previously hidden by materials. The discovery was promptly documented and reported to the SPL environmental team and ecologist. The ecologist advised to return the box and chicks to the compound as soon as possible. Despite the swift action of all of those involved, the chicks sadly perished.

Lessons Learnt

- Inadequate Inspection: The box was not thoroughly inspected for nests before being moved. The standard visual inspections did not account for potential wildlife nesting in concealed areas.
- **Environmental Conditions:** The absence of lids on the boxes allowed birds to access and nest inside the boxes, leading to this incident.





Pictures of the compound location and the nest after it was discovered

Breeding Birds and Nest Checks

- ALL wild birds, their nests, and eggs are afforded legal protection. The severity of penalties varies depending on the species and the nature of the offense – your ecologist can advise.
- A breeding bird check shall be completed before ALL vegetation work and before any activity that could impact nesting birds, such as tree work, shrub work, ditch maintenance, rock-face cleaning, and construction/ground disturbance.
- Copies of checks are to remain on site the British Transport Police can and have stopped works and requested to see these.
- Birds can and do breed outside of the breeding bird season (March-September).
 As this case study shows, not all nests occur in vegetation.



Scan or Click the QR Code for breeding birds and nest form





Recent Accidents and Incidents

Date of Incident	Portfolio	Project	Location	Type of Incident / Accident	Event Description
	Digital	Biggleswade to	Brook view school - Hitchin		Scrap cable found in Brook view school playground, Hitchin, site inspection of area fences along railway where break in is suspected, looks to be repaired, BTP informed
	Building and Minor Enhancemen ts	Selby AfA	Highway		Member of staff involved in car accident on way home from site, on Sunday morning, no other parties or vehicles involved, individual is uninjured and safely home











- Do you have something to share?
- Can others learn from your work?



Whether it be linked Health, Safety, Environment or Social Value Please get in touch and email: clic@networkrail.co.uk





