

06 February 2003

Network Rail

ADDITIONAL COMPLIMENTARY GUIDELINES IT IS REQUESTED BE OBSERVED IN CONNECTION WITH ANY TREE / SHRUB PLANTING ADJACENT TO THE RAILWAY

CG5

To ensure that any proposed tree / shrub planting scheme being installed adjacent to the railway will not cause an operational hazard with the sighting of signals, embankment / cutting stability, drainage or leaf fall, will you please assist with the following points.

1 Please provide a copy of any proposed planting scheme which is to be installed adjacent to the railway, giving **English** names and details of **growth** i.e., branch / route spread and height when full grown, also the approximate location with regards to the railway i.e. level / cutting / embankment and distance from the boundary fence.

2 The planting of large trees of any variety (i.e., **over 5m mature height**) adjacent to the railway is discouraged because of the **potential hazard** they cause to the safe operation of the railway i.e., **instability** to cuttings / embankments in bad weather conditions, obstructed sighting affecting drivers/operators vision, **drainage** and **leaf fall** problems. **Any species that is likely to cause any of the problems above cannot be agreed to under any circumstances as they are liable to cause a direct hazard to the safe passage of trains.**

3 Please Note : All tall growing deciduous trees at some stage will pose a leaf or maintenance problem to the railway. The problem is that when leaves fall onto the track they create a slippery surface, which interferes with traction (grip on the rails) of trains. This in certain circumstances could cause a safety hazard.

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4 The following trees will need to be kept well away from the railway boundary :

False Acacia : This tree has brittle branches and a tendency to form sucker shoots.

Sycamore, Ash : These are invasive and fast growing species with windborne seeds.

Sweet Chestnut, Beech : These develop into huge trees, posing a leaf-fall threat and Beech are prone to weakening of the limbs by fork-rot.

Silver Birch, Pines : These species are prone to develop rot with age and can become unstable.

Lime : This tree has brittle branches. (Tilia Euclora is one species that does not produce a sticky deposit and so can be used in car parks).

Rhododendron : This species is highly invasive and dominant in places where it has been introduced.

5 The following species are acceptable for growing near the boundary but should be situated so that the roots do not encroach onto railway land :

Trees

Crab Apple

Bird Cherry

Wild Cherry

Wych Elm

Holly

Juniper

Wild Pear

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Shrubs

Blackthorn

Alder Buckthorn

Purging Buckthorn

Sea Buckthorn

Dogwood

Guelder Rose

Hawthorn

Hazel

Service Tree

Osier

Whitebeam

Privet

Common Privet

Field Rose

Spindle Tree

Spindle

Wayfaring Tree

Goat Willow

Heather

Elder, Dog Rose (These are fast
growing and may dominate
planting, however they
in providing initial

are useful
quick cover).

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6 A list of all recommended ornamental species is not feasible, but as a rule, species maturing under 5m in height and non-deciduous species are acceptable.

Your co-operation and assistance with Network Rail's comments (concerns) about the above will be very much appreciated.

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