

# Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place



## Near miss involving track workers

Issued to: **All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and RISQS registered contractors**

Ref: NRB20-04

Date of issue: 03/03/2020

Location: Greenland Mill, Western Route

Contact: Louise Evatt, Head of Route Safety, Health & Environment



## Overview

On 26 February 2020 members of the Westbury Track team planned to work in a shared line blockage on the Up Trowbridge in order to undertake lifting and packing works. Whilst working on the Down Trowbridge with Hand Tamperers, the team were involved in a near miss with a Colas light loco.

The team managed to get to a position of safety only 3-5 seconds before the train passed.

A Level 2 investigation is underway to establish why this happened, and a shared learning will be issued in due course.

## Discussion Points

- **Planning:** Is your work planned according to the safe system of work hierarchy, in the safest system of work available?
- **Checking:** How do you ensure that your planned safe of system effectively covers your task and location to enable you to complete your work today safely? How do you test your safe system before you start?
- **Understanding:** How do you check that the location you are at is correct as per your planned safe system of work? Do you have sufficient local knowledge? If not, stop.
- **Communication:** When signing into a line blockage with a Protection Controller, how is the safety critical communication carried out? How is understanding checked before authority is given to share the line blockage?
- **Protection:** When working in a line block, what additional protection do you have in place? Also remember that in accordance with Handbook 8 Section 4.1 'Protection at the site of work', 'you must place a red flag or red light on the approach to the site of work if;
  - The work will affect the safety of any approaching train, or
  - A group is working'