

	Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental Alert	Alert number: 28-18	Document Reference: AMG/F/HSQE/001
	Vegetation encroachment on overhead line equipment	Issue Date: 12/07/18	Author: Steve Milroy

(To be posted on HSQE Notice Boards for a Period of 1 MONTH from date of issue)

Overview

Over the past 12 months there has been an increase in the number of overhead line equipment safety related events resulting from vegetation encroachment.

Vegetation related overhead line equipment safety related events equate for greater than 10% of all mechanical and electrical safety related reports.

The most recent event was at Dutton Viaduct, on the London North Western Route, where vegetation was in contact with the return conductor.

This resulted in the return conductor parting and a lineside fire causing significant damage to the S&T location cabinets in the area.



Immediate Actions Required

- Vegetation within 2.75m of Overhead Line Equipment shall be recorded and managed as a defect in accordance with NR/L2/ELP/21087.
- Vegetation within 1.0m shall be treated as a critical defect.
- Where vegetation defects cannot be managed in accordance with NR/L2/ELP/21087 then a Temporary Variation is required against the standard and safety mitigation measures are to be implemented.
- Vegetation management during nesting period shall follow [Safety Advice NRA 18/08](#).