

**IMDM INNER – Earley 10th July 2019****Title: Irregular Working – Incorrect Use of a Site Warden****Incident**

On the 10th of July 2019, a 3-man Nash Contract Service team, working on behalf of Network Rail's Inner Off-Track team, were observed carrying out 'Brush Cutting' at Earley in an unsafe manner.

The safe system of work to be implemented whilst carrying out the work was to be under protection (separated) arrangements, with the use of a Site Warden.

This particular type of work **must only** be carried out under protection arrangements.

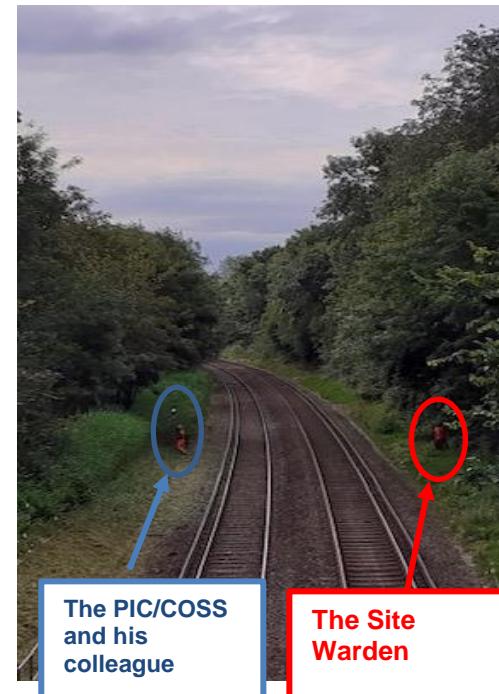
The PIC/COSS set up his 'safe system' of work and positioned the Site Warden in the Down line cess, which was 2 roads away from the rest of the team carrying out the de-vegetation work in the Up cess.

The position of the Site Warden was not in line with the Rule Book HB3 (Duties of the Lookout and Site Warden).

If the team encroached within 2 metres (6'6") of the nearest open line the Site Warden would have been unable to warn them.

It also meant that the PIC/COSS had no control or visibility over the movements of the Site Warden should he have chosen to leave his position.

Fortunately, this unsafe practice was identified and stopped before any harm could come to the team!

**Items for Discussion**

- **How are our teams implementing Site Wardens? See attached.** 
- **The COSS thought he was making things better. How do you think he came to this conclusion?**
- **Are your safe systems suitable, implemented correctly and then tested prior to work starting?**
- **Span of control – who is looking after the Site Warden?**
- **Worksafe Procedure – Do we challenge unsafe procedures?**