

Sukaina Devraj

From: Stephenson Jill <Jill.Stephenson@networkrail.co.uk>
Sent: 21 January 2020 10:21
To: Planning Control
Subject: Blea Moor Tunnel Shafts - Ice Prevention Covers
Attachments: Blea Moor Tunnel Shafts.pdf; Blea Moor 002.jpg

Dear Sir/Madam

Network Rail is developing a system of tunnel shaft protection measures, to be installed at the 3 shafts at Blea Moor tunnel on the Settle – Carlisle railway line. The location of the shafts is shown on the attached plan, and one of the shafts is shown in the image below.



The works will consist of the installation of a solid cover over the top of each shaft to prevent rainwater ingress, and will require the dismantling of a number of courses of existing brickwork, which will be rebuilt with air gaps. Our aim will be to reuse existing bricks wherever possible.

Our reason for needing to protect the shafts in this way is to prevent the build-up of ice from forming on the inside of the tunnels, which at its worst has caused train derailment and other severe damage to train cabs. The photograph attached show ice chandeliers within the tunnel.

As you will be aware, these works are deemed to be permitted under Part 18 of the GPDO. However, depending on the final design, we may need to seek Prior Approval from the Council. Given that the tunnel sits within the national park, the relevant authority is NYCC.

Although the tunnel is not listed, it does sit within a Conservation Area, so we would be grateful to receive any comments you might have in relation to these proposals, and would be happy to arrange to meet you on site if you'd find it useful.

We are also mindful of the sensitive setting of the tunnel shafts, including the SSSI designation to the west of the railway line. Our surveyors will take this into account when planning access arrangements.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

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