

Department of Conservation guide to track clearing

Clear vegetation 0.6–1 m
either side of the track's centreline
(1.2 – 2 m total)

Clear vegetation 2.5 m high

250 mm
150 mm
DRAIN
200 mm

TRACK
(usually 1.2 m wide)

track centreline

Turn over for
guide to pruning
branches

Dispose of all
vegetation out of
sight, well away from
the track and side
drains

Turn over for guide
to clearing drains

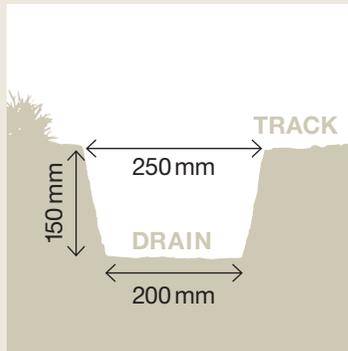
Clear a vegetation 'corridor'

1. Cut back vegetation to:
 - ▶ 1 m (max) either side of the track's centre line
 - ▶ 2.5 m high
2. Vegetation/seedlings that are growing through the track surface (generally 1.2 m width) should be weeded rather than cut. If cutting is required, cut at ground level.
3. Cut branches close to the main trunk to avoid sharp hangars (see over page).
4. Clear the side drains and culverts (see over page).
5. Rake the cleared vegetation into piles and dispose in the bush, out of sight of the track.
6. Dispose of large sticks and logs perpendicular (at right angles) to the track, with the cut edge facing away from the track so they are less easy to see and easier to push into the undergrowth.
7. Vegetation that is difficult to cut with a scrub bar (eg. flax) should be cut with a knife or other sharp blade, as close to the ground as possible.

Side drains and culverts

The ideal time to maintain side drains and culverts is in wet weather.

- ▶ Start at bottom of the track from the lowest culvert catch pit and work uphill along the side drains to each culvert. This will help keep the side drains to the correct depth.
- ▶ Clear all material from catch pits and side drains, and dispose of out of sight of the track.
- ▶ Hand-weed any vegetation that has grown on the shoulder between the track surface and the side drain.



Side drains

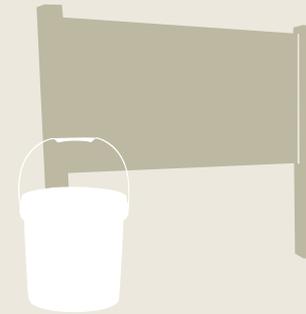
- ▶ Side drains should be at least 200 mm wide at the bottom x 150 mm deep. The side should be slightly sloped so the drain is 250 mm wide at the top.
- ▶ Get the drainage levels right with no small rises that will act as a dam.
- ▶ Maintain drains to the correct depth (150 mm); do not make them deeper each time they are cleared.



Culverts

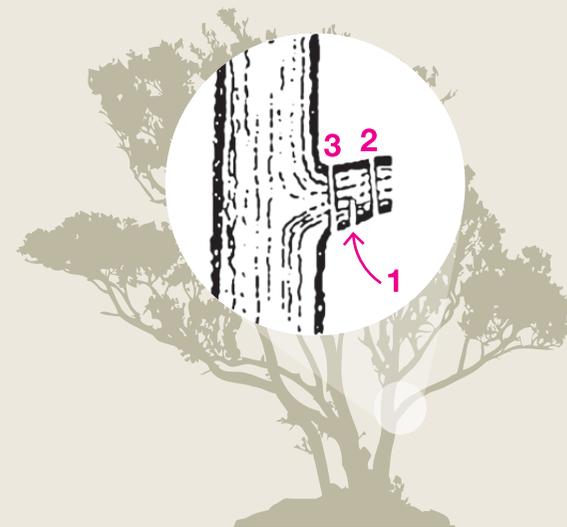
A culvert allows water to flow under a track. They are usually a pipe, reinforced concrete or other material buried in the soil.

- ▶ Make sure the culvert catch pit is a minimum of 100 mm (10 cm) below the bottom edge of the culvert. The pit will be deeper than the side drain.



Signs

Scrub clean all signs and sign legs, and remove any graffiti.



Branch pruning

The 3 step cutting method lets the branch fall away cleanly leaving a tidy cut surface.

1. Undercut the branch 20–30 cm from the trunk.
2. Make a second cut on top of the branch, 30–40 cm from trunk.
3. Make the third cut as close as possible to the trunk, without damaging the trunk.

Injuryfree
SAFE HOME EVERY DAY

Take all practicable steps to provide
a safe working environment.