

Midland Metro

7.7 Heritage

Archaeology and Cultural

7.7.1 Introduction

This section of the ES presents a desk-based assessment of the potential short term impacts on archaeology and cultural heritage as a result of the construction of the proposed scheme. This includes potential impacts on archaeology, listed buildings and conservation areas and utilises existing documentary and cartographic information (as described in *Section 6.7*). Where potential impacts have been identified, mitigation measures have been determined. Permanent and long term impacts resulting from the proposed scheme are discussed in *Section 6.7*.

The scope of the assessment, sources of information, assessment methodology employed, the local planning policy context and the baseline conditions are discussed in *Section 6.7* and are not repeated in this section of the ES.

7.7.2 Predicted Impacts

Introduction

The potential for impacts to occur in the absence of mitigation measures, in each section of the proposed alignment is described below. At this stage in the project it is anticipated that any impact to archaeology, which might arise, will have the potential to be a permanent effect. These effects are described in *Section 6.8*. Consequently, no short term impacts are envisaged either during the construction or the operational phase of the scheme, in any of the four route sections. However, impacts on the setting of listed buildings and conservation areas are described below.

Existing Rail Corridor – Wednesbury to Tipton Road

Short term impacts on the setting of the Grade II listed Hempole Lane Bridge and the Grade II listed Jones Bridge over the Tame Valley canal, are expected to occur during the construction of the scheme.

Dudley Centre – Tipton Road to Blower's Green Road

Victoria Park and the listed buildings in its vicinity are sufficiently removed from the proposed route, such that no adverse impacts are anticipated. However, there will be a short term impact on the setting of the Grade II listed buildings and the non-statutorily locally listed buildings in the vicinity of Castle Hill during the construction. The setting of the Castle Hill Conservation Area will also be affected by the works.

Existing Rail Corridor – Blowers Green Road to Pensnett Canal

Short term impacts on the setting of the listed and non-statutorily locally listed buildings in the Parkhead Locks Conservation Area are expected to occur during the construction phase of the proposed scheme. The setting of the Conservation Area as a whole will also be affected.

Merry Hill – Pensnett Canal to Brierley Hill

There are no listed buildings or conservation areas in this section of the proposed route and hence no impacts are predicted to occur.

7.7.3 Summary of Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts

No short term impacts on archaeology are expected to occur as a result of the scheme. Short term impacts on the setting of listed buildings and conservation areas are expected to occur during construction, although these are not expected to be significant. As a result, no mitigation measures have been proposed.

A range of mitigation measures associated with long term and permanent impacts on archaeology and cultural heritage have been established and these are described in *Section 6.7.8*.