

Midland Metro

7.8 Conservation Impacts

Ecology and Nature

7.8.1 Introduction

This section of the ES considers the short term and construction impacts on nature conservation. The scope of the assessment, sources of information, the assessment methodology employed, local planning policy context, baseline conditions and mitigation measures to be employed are discussed in

Section 6.8 and are not repeated here.

7.8.2 Predicted Impacts

A number of short term construction impacts are likely to result from the requirement for temporary work areas, temporary access routes and the reconstruction of bridges and viaducts associated with the scheme. A description of the construction works required is provided in *Section 2.7.3*. The location of temporary works areas is illustrated on *Figure 2.1*.

A total of 14 temporary work areas are required, the majority of which are on hard standing or amenity grassland areas of little nature conservation value. The permanent loss of habitat from construction of these areas is discussed in *Section 6.8*.

It will be necessary to carry out works to a number of bridges during the construction of the scheme, as described in *Table 2.3* in *Section 2.7.3*.

Temporary access routes will utilise existing roads to access the majority of the scheme works and temporary lands. There will, however, be some habitat loss, which is discussed in *Section 6.8*.

It is likely that there will be some disturbance to a range of predominantly common fauna species and measures will be taken to reduce the risk of disturbance. A description of the mitigation measures to be employed is provided in *Section 6.7.9*.

Piling will be undertaken during construction of bored concrete walls along some sections of the route corridor and temporary sheet piling will be required at all new bridges/bridge extensions (see *Section 2.7.3*). This activity is likely to cause disturbance to wildlife from noise (see *Section 7.4 Noise and Vibration*) and measures will be implemented to reduce the risk of disturbance.

Bats were recorded emerging from roost sites within Parkhead Viaduct and several other of the bridges were considered likely to support roosts, though no evidence was apparent during the surveys. All bridges and other built structures and mature and over mature trees will be checked for bats prior to construction and appropriate mitigation measures agreed with English Nature and implemented if bats are found. Mitigation measures could include incorporating 'bat bricks' into the reconstruction of the bridges affected in order to provide bat roosting habitat.

7.8.3 Summary of Residual Impacts

No statutory designated sites of nature conservation interest will be affected during construction. Eight sites of local nature conservation value will be affected by proposed bridge works and temporary works areas, and these permanent impacts potentially arising from these are described in *Section 6.8*.

Construction activities will be confined to the minimum areas required for the works. Implementation of best practices will ensure that the risk of disturbance or damage to adjacent habitats is minimised.

It is likely that disturbance will result to some species of fauna in close proximity to the construction site. A number of protected species have been recorded in the area, including bats and water vole, as described in *Section 6.8*. Although such species may be disturbed indirectly by construction activities, it is unlikely to be a long-term or significant impact.