

Fosterstown

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT – METRO NORTH

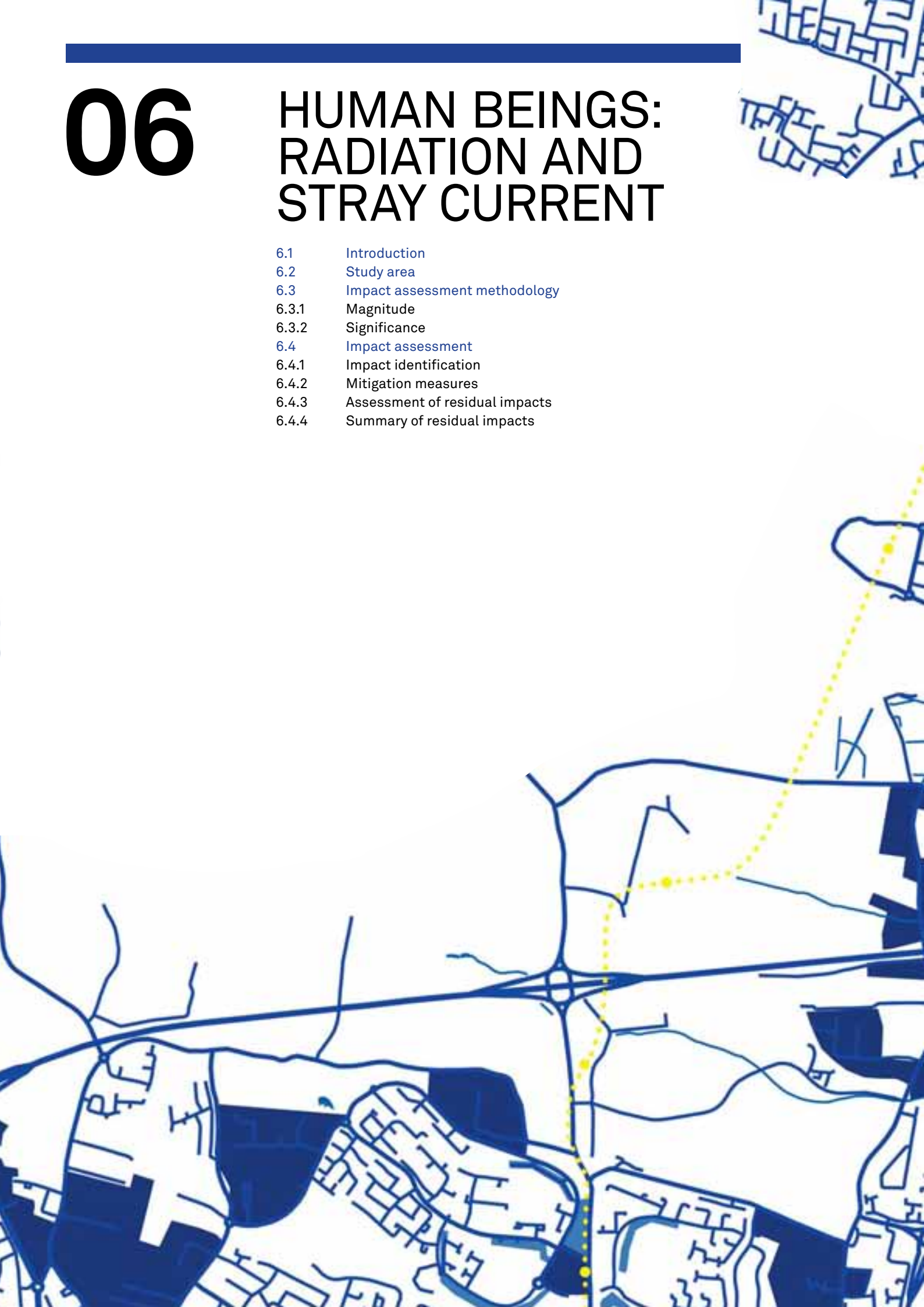
SWORDS STOP TO DUBLIN AIRPORT NORTH PORTAL

AREA MN102 (PART 2 – CHAPTERS 6 TO 12)
VOLUME 2 – BOOK 2 OF 7

06

HUMAN BEINGS: RADIATION AND STRAY CURRENT

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This chapter of the EIS evaluates the potential for radiation (nuclear and electromagnetic) and stray current impacts to arise due to the construction and operation of the direct current, light rail traction systems associated with the proposed scheme in Area MN102.

6.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter of the EIS evaluates the potential for radiation (nuclear and electromagnetic) and stray current impacts to arise due to the construction and operation of the direct current, light rail traction systems associated with the proposed scheme in Area MN102.

6.2 STUDY AREA

The study area for this chapter is set out in Table 6.1. EMI decreases very quickly with distance from the source at a ratio based on the square of the distance between the source and the receptor.

Disruption of normal household appliances usually occurs when magnetic field strengths of 10 μT or more are present. However, very sensitive equipment such as electronic/laser equipment may be affected if the magnetic field strengths are greater than 0.16 μT . For schemes such as the proposed scheme, in the absence of stray current, magnetic field strengths of 0.16 μT do not persist at distances of more than 100m from the track. Stray current is generally minimised via technical and structural mitigation during construction. Consequently, in the case of this specific scheme and the potential sources that exist, EMI is highly unlikely to have any impact on even the most sensitive equipment at distances of more than 100m.

Table 6.1 Study area

Aspect	Width of study area (on both sides of the alignment)
Potential impacts from Radiation and Stay Current	100m

6.3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The potential for EMI impacts has been assessed by:

- Step 1: Selecting representative locations (cross sections) of the alignment for detailed analysis;
- Step 2: Identifying representative scenarios for detailed analysis (including failure modes and non-routine events such as accelerating, braking and coasting);
- Step 3: Simulating/calculating the magnetic fields for the chosen locations and scenarios;
- Step 4: Extrapolating the obtained results to assess the potential risk along the entire alignment.

The source and type of potential impacts is described in Section 6.4.1. Mitigation measures to be put in place are defined in Section 6.4.2. The residual effect of each impact is then evaluated in Section 6.4.3 in terms of magnitude and significance.

6.3.1 Magnitude

The criteria used to assess the different impacts associated with this scheme are shown in Table 6.2. The criteria have been defined in consideration of research carried out by the Technical Academy in Wuppertal (1998) in relation to potential EMI impacts from Stadtbahn projects, which are comparable to the proposed scheme.

Table 6.2: Criteria for assessment of impact magnitude.

Criteria	Impact magnitude
Magnetic fields of > 180 μT (*1)	very high
Magnetic fields of > 40 μT	high
Magnetic fields of > 10 μT	medium
Magnetic fields of >0.1 μT	low
Magnetic fields of < 0.1 μT	very low

(*1) In EN 50061 the limit of immunity of pacemakers against magnetic fields is defined as 1 mT. However, the reference document from Technical Academy in Wuppertal demonstrates that pacemakers will be impacted by this value (see the reference document from Technical Academy in Wuppertal).

6.3.2 Significance

The significance of all impacts is assessed in consideration of the magnitude of the impact and the functional value of the receptor upon which the impact has an effect.

6.4 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.4.1 Impact identification

The infrastructure equipment associated with the proposed scheme does not include any sources of nuclear radiation and therefore this issue has been scoped out of this assessment and is not considered any further. Any issues relating to radon are detailed in the Soil and Geology chapter of this EIS (Volume 2, Chapter 9).

Electromagnetic radiation can be associated with EMI coupling effects. EMI coupling effects are defined in accordance with EN 50121 as follows:

- Inductive coupling;
- Capacitive coupling;
- Conductive coupling;
- Magnetic and electromagnetic radiation.

Inductive coupling arises from alternating current (AC) systems, such as the power supplies of lighting, ventilation and other auxiliary systems. These types of system are not used in direct current, light rail traction systems and therefore inductive coupling is not relevant to this proposed scheme and is not considered any further. Capacitive and conductive coupling are not be considered because EMI source levels associated with this scheme are too small to generate an impact in this regard.

Any piece of electromagnetic equipment is designed to function in an environment where the earth's magnetic field is present, which is approximately 50 μT . The magnitude of the electromagnetic fields in the vicinity of the proposed alignment will be equal to the earth's magnetic field plus any electromagnetic fields generated or propagated by the proposed scheme.

Elements of the proposed scheme that can potentially act as sources and propagators of EMI comprise:

- Construction equipment (tunnel boring machines, lighting, pump stations etc.);
- The bulk power supply and distribution system;
- The traction power supply system (TPSS). When a LMV demands traction energy, the current flows from the traction power station along the Overhead Catenary System (OCS) to the LMV and from the LMV via running rails back again to the substation. This traction current has the potential to generate electromagnetic fields. The TPSS includes substations, feeders, OCS, running rails (regarding return and stray current) and feeding/return current cables between the OCS and running rails to the substation.
- The rolling stock traction equipment, including inverters, traction motors and auxiliaries;
- The signalling and communications equipment.

It is assumed that all equipment is designed according to the standards of the EMC Directive 2004/108/EC and therefore will not cause any significant impact. In light of this fact, only the direct current, light rail traction systems associated with the proposed scheme are considered as potential sources in this assessment.

6.4.2 Mitigation measures

- Measures to minimise stray current have been incorporated into the design specifications and will be implemented during the construction and operation of the proposed scheme. These measures may include the use of a stray current collector system, together with other design measures such as resilient insulating polymer around the rails.
- Monitoring of the earthing system in the tunnel sections is to be carried out to locate any faults in the earthing system. Active and passive measures such as insulated shielding or cathodic protection can be applied to protect any critical components.
- The system contractor(s) will ensure that the electrical systems and equipment associated with this scheme comply with the EMC Directive 2004/108/EC.
- With regard to some types of sensitive electric appliances, relocation of the affected appliance (even a short distance from a railway boundary) may be possible.

6.4.3 Assessment of residual impacts

6.4.3.1 Project scenario: construction phase

Potential levels of EMI and stray current during the construction phase (including the testing and commissioning of the LMV and traction power supply system) are expected to be within those limits detailed in Section 6.3.

6.4.3.2 Project scenario: operational phase

The assessment of residual impacts takes into consideration the reference standards, regulations and guidelines detailed in Table 6.3.

Table 6.3 Reference standards, regulations and other relevant documents

Reference document

2004/108/EC EMC Directive

EN 50121-1 – 5: Railway applications - Electromagnetic compatibility

EN 50122-2: Railway applications - Fixed installations, earthing and bonding – Part 2: Provisions against the effects of stray currents caused by d.c. traction systems

IEC 60050 (161) International Electrotechnical Vocabulary – Chapter 161: Electromagnetic compatibility

Research report: Meßtechnische Ermittlung der elektromagnetischen Felder im Bereich von Gleichstrom-Nahverkehrsbahnen – Forschungsbericht FE-Nr. 70506/96 – Technische Akademie Wuppertal

RPA document: EMC analysis of results of magnetic fields monitoring at IBTS building during Luas Day-One-Run - 03/08/04

RPA document: EMC analysis of results of the system with the outside world 20/06/03

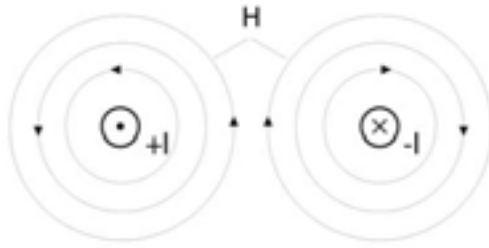
RPA document: Gníomhaireacht Um Fháil Iarnród, Title: New LMV Specification – Appendix 4 – Luas power system

The potential for significant impacts to occur due to stray current is considered to be low provided that the mitigation measures detailed in Section 6.4.2 are put in place.

The EMI calculations arising from direct current (DC) power supply system are based upon the following physical phenomena:

Magnetic fields occur if an electrical current passes through a conductor. The field intensity (strength) depends upon the magnitude of the current and the distance between that conductor (source) and the destination point (receptor). A planar view of two conductors is shown in Figure 6.1. The magnetic field intensity has its maximum magnetic strength at the centre of the conductor, which reduces with increasing distance from its centre.

Figure 6.1
Electric
conductors with
magnetic field
streamlines



In case of a conductor with an efficient length, the magnetic field intensity can be calculated as:

$$H = I / (2 * \pi * r)$$

Where:

H: magnetic field intensity
[measured in amps per metre];

I: traction current (Amps A): and

r: distance between source point and destination point (radius of streamlines).

At any determined point in space, magnetic fields of various sources may interfere with each other. The resulting magnetic field may be amplified or compensated as a result of these interferences.

It is not possible to quantify magnetic field intensity directly; rather the impact of the magnetic field (magnetic flux density) can be detected. This is dependent on the magnetic field intensity:

$$B = \mu_r * \mu_0 * H$$

Where:

B: magnetic flux density (measured in Tesla [T]);

μ_0 : absolute permeability (physical constant);

μ_r : relative permeability (coefficient of materials).

Selection of representative locations

Four locations along the proposed alignment have been chosen for detailed investigation of EMI. These locations are:

- Seatown Stop (at-grade);
- Albert College Park (cut and cover tunnel);
- Mater (bored tunnel and stop);
- Rotunda Hospital (bored tunnel).

For each of the above locations, specific factors, such as depth of the tunnel sections and distance to housing areas were identified and taken into consideration. The modelling results for these four locations are representative of that which will be experienced across the entire scheme.

Identification of representative scenarios

To cater for the variation and combination of EMI from different LMVs, the calculations for the foreseeable worst case levels are based upon the following operational scenarios:

- one LMV starting and accelerating (peak current) on one track at the same time as one LMV is running at maximum speed (continuous current) on the other track (This is a pessimistic worst case traction power demand at the same longitudinal location on both tracks along the alignment);
- traction power supply system is fed from only one substation (e.g. in case of maintenance), the traction current of both tracks will be in the same direction

During normal operation the traction power supply is fed from two substations (one at each end of each section), which means that the electric loads are split/shared between two adjacent substations.

For completeness, the emergency failure condition of a short circuit failure of the OCS system has also been considered.

Predicting the magnetic fields for the chosen scenarios and locations

The electromagnetic calculations carried out were based upon the key assumptions set out in Table 6.4 and 6.6. The results are set out in Table 6.7 to 6.11.

Table 6.4 LMV Performance

	Per LMV	Per train (Two coupled LMVs)
Peak Current	1800A	3600A
Continuous RMS Current	1200A	2400A
Maximum braking current	1800A	3600A

Table 6.5 Power Supply Performance

Maximum short circuit current	20000A
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Table 6.6 Track and OCS Parameters

Vehicle width	2.4 metres
Track gauge	1435 mm
Track centre distance	4 – 10 metres
Contact wire height	6.0 metres (at grade) and 3.9 metres (within tunnel)

Table 6.7 EMI at Seatown – Normal Operation

Normal operation	1 x 3600 A and 1 x 2400 A	1 x 3600 A and 1 x 2400 A
Destination point	Ground floor of residential houses next the alignment	First Floor of residential houses next the alignment
Distance between top of rail and destination point	20 metres (vertical [y]) and 0 metres (horizontal [x])	20 metres (vertical [y]) and 4 metres (horizontal [x])
Load current	2800A	2800A
EMI	38.1 μ T	39.5 μ T
Impact magnitude	medium	medium

Table 6.8 EMI at Seatown – Fault Operation

Fault operation	20 000 A	20 000 A
Destination point	Ground floor	First floor
Distance between top of rail and destination point	20 metres (vertical [y]) and 0 metres (horizontal [x])	20 metres (vertical [y]) and 4 metres (horizontal [x])
Load current	20 000A	20 000 A
EMI	129.9 μ T	129.9 μ T
Impact magnitude	high	high

Table 6.9 EMI at Albert College – Normal Operation

Normal operation	1 x 3600 A and 1 x 2400 A
Destination point	Ground floor
Distance between top of rail and destination point	30 metres (vertical [y]) and 9.7 metres (horizontal [x])
Load current	2800A
EMI	7.4 μ T
Impact magnitude	low

Table 6.10 EMI at Mater Hospital – Normal Operation

Normal operation	1 x 3600 A and 1 x 2400 A
Destination point	Ground floor
Distance between top of rail and destination point	100 metres (vertical [y]) and 25.5 metres (horizontal [x])
Load current	3600A
EMI	0.6 μ T
Impact magnitude	low

Table 6.11 EMI at Rotunda Hospital – Normal Operation

Normal operation	1 x 3600 A and 1 x 2400 A
Destination point	Ground floor
Distance between top of rail and destination point	0 metres (vertical [y]) and 22.9 metres (horizontal [x])
Load current	3600A
EMI	15.3 μ T
Impact magnitude	medium

Extrapolating of the obtained results to assess the potential risk along the entire alignment

The results presented in the tables above show that during normal operations, the electromagnetic impact of the proposed scheme is low and medium, which results in a small increase in the electromagnetic environment in the vicinity of the proposed scheme.

Whilst, a 'hard' short circuit failure of the OCS system (failure condition) leads to a high impact magnitude, this is an extremely unlikely event. This type of fault has never occurred on the Luas scheme since this system commenced operations. If this fault did occur, the duration of the failure would last no longer than 20ms, (the time it takes for the fault to be detected and switched off). This means, that only very short peaks of magnetic fields would occur.

6.4.4 Summary of residual impacts

The technical design of the proposed scheme conforms to current best practice. The described radiation impacts can be regarded of Low significance and do not present any significant safety risk. The potential for significant impacts to occur due to stray current is considered to be low provided that the mitigation measures detailed in Section 6.4.2 are put in place.

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HUMAN BEINGS: TRAFFIC

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This chapter of the EIS examines the transportation impact of the proposed scheme. The impacts on vehicular, pedestrian and cycling traffic and safety arising out of the construction and operation of the proposed scheme are described for Area MN102.

7.1 INTRODUCTION

The proposed scheme will have a city wide impact on traffic movement during its construction and operational phases. The impacts will be very beneficial during its operational phase as there will be a general reduction in the number of cars on the road network as some car users will switch to use the proposed scheme. However, the impact will be negative during its construction phase as the construction programme and activity would create considerable levels of traffic disruption, without the introduction of the mitigation measures described herein.

As the cumulative impact of the proposed scheme can only be understood through a strategic understanding of the impact, it is necessary to firstly examine the predicted impacts of the construction and operational phases for the full alignment, as this will inform the local area impact. To fully understand the true extent of the transportation impact, the assessment is, therefore, presented in a two tier manner. The first tier presents the strategic nature of the impact and the second tier presents the localised impact.

The strategic assessment involves identifying the impact of the proposed scheme in its entirety for both construction and operational phases. This provides an understanding to the extent of the zone of influence the impact has and informs on the requirement for overarching strategic mitigation measures. The second tier impact assessment focuses on each of the designated assessment areas and provides a more detailed understanding of the localised impact on all modes of transport.

The predicted construction impact of the proposed scheme could be significant without mitigation measures, as some of the stops will be constructed in sensitive areas where there are high levels of transportation activity. The construction methodology and programme takes cognisance of the potential construction impact on all road users, and has evolved to a point where the potential impact has been minimised to the furthest extent possible. Inherent within the construction methodology and programme of the proposed scheme are generic objectives and associated mitigation measures that aim to minimise the overall strategic transportation impact on all road users. The strategic mitigation measures are also applicable to the operational phase of the proposed scheme.

The strategic mitigation measures are needed to ensure transportation impacts are minimised for all road users throughout the proposed alignment during both construction and operational phases. On an area by area level, further additional mitigation measures will be required to cover localised transportation impacts not addressed within the strategic mitigation measures.

7.1.1 Transport assessment methodology

Figure 7.1 illustrates the transportation assessment methodology. The stages of the methodology are as follows:

Stage 1 of the process is the Impact Assessment Criteria which defines the parameters against which the impact is measured. These criteria were derived from international best practice and industry standard guidelines. A categorisation of effects was established against which the impacts of the construction and operation of the proposed scheme could be assessed on a strategic and local level. These criteria inform both the Strategic Assessment of the Full Alignment and the Area by Area Impact Assessment.

Stage 2 is the Strategic Assessment of the Full Alignment. Within this stage a comprehensive Strategic Mitigation Methodology was developed for the full alignment, the aim of which is to establish traffic management principles that will ensure that the impact of the proposed scheme will be minimised as much as possible. The predicted strategic impact then focuses on traffic statistics, traffic flow change and re-distribution, journey time and speed differences in order to demonstrate the predicted impacts of construction and operation. Following this assessment, recommendations for a series of further mitigation measures are identified in order to reduce the severity of the construction impact.

Stage 3 is the localised impact assessment on all road users which presents the predicted impact of the proposed scheme within each study area. A local area assessment is presented for each study area to identify the severity of the construction and operational impact. A detailed assessment is made of the impact on general traffic movements, access requirements, public transport services, the pedestrian and cycling environment and on the impact of construction and background HGV traffic on each area. Further area specific mitigation measures, not covered by the strategic mitigation methodology, are presented to address the impact on the local area. Finally, when all mitigation measures have been considered the residual impacts on a local area basis are identified.

7.1.2 Structure of transportation assessment section

The transportation assessment section is structured as follows:

- Impact Assessment Criteria;
- Strategic Mitigation Methodology;
- Predicted Strategic Impact;
- Strategic Further Mitigation;
- Predicted Local Area Impact;
- Local Further Mitigation Measures.

Transportation Mitifgation Methodology

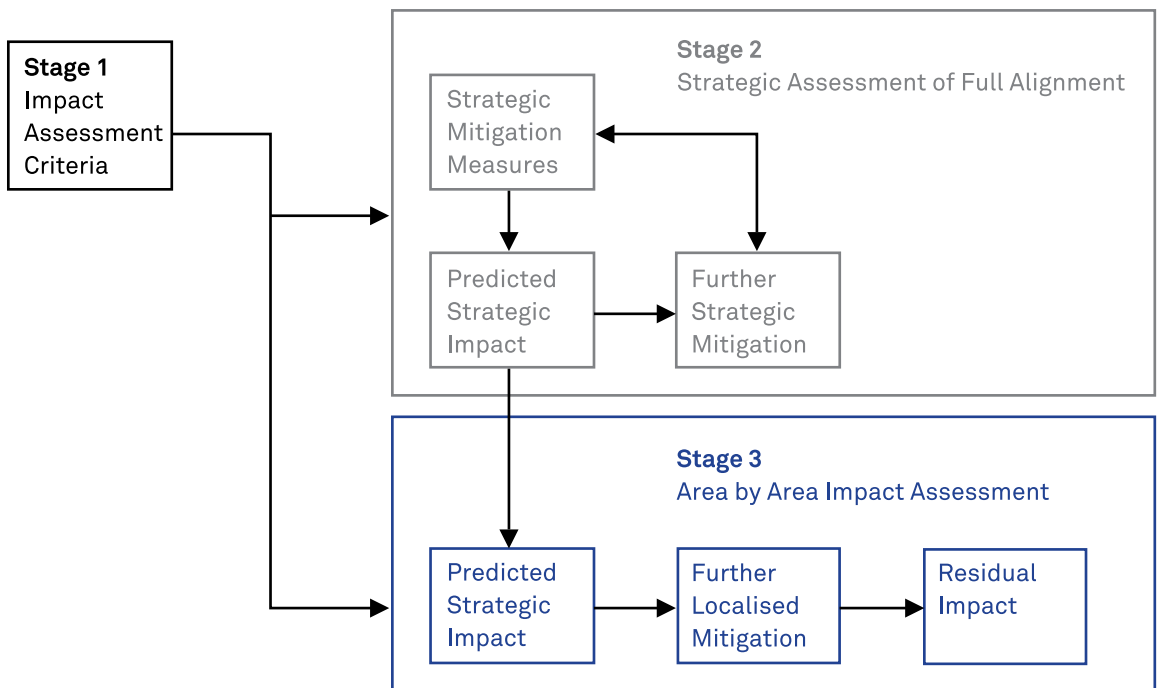


Figure 7.1
Transportation
impact
assessment
process

7.2 IMPACT ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The Impact Assessment Criteria are based on advice contained in EIS guidance sources. Among the most important references are the Environmental Protection Agency's 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements (2002)', and the UK Department of Transport's 'Design Manual for Roads and Bridges' (DRMB Volume 11) which offers comprehensive advice for the staged assessment of major road schemes. Detailed information on the developing engineering design is used to 'scope' the potential key issues relating to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The Impact Assessment Criteria are categorised as follows:

- Data sources used;
- General Assessment Criteria used for the Transport Assessment;
- Categorisation of Effects;
- Impact on Vehicular Traffic (Vehicular Traffic can be classified as all mechanised modes using the road network including: Car, Light Vehicles, Heavy Goods Vehicles, Buses and Taxis);
- Criteria for Driver Delay;
- Impact on Pedestrian and Cyclist Amenities;
- Impact of Severance on Pedestrians and Cyclists;
- Consideration of Impact on Vehicular, Pedestrian and Cyclist Traffic and Safety.

7.2.1 Data sources

The principal sources of data for pedestrian and vehicular traffic, for accidents, and for transportation modelling are as follows:

7.2.1.1 Traffic data (vehicle flows)

The principal source of traffic data for the assessment is the the proposed scheme Traffic Model (MNTM), a traffic model developed specifically for the task of assessing the traffic related impact of the proposed scheme for both construction and operational years. This has been supplemented by individual traffic link and junction counts undertaken by the Railway Procurement Agency (RPA). Pedestrian and cycle counts have also been collected in sensitive areas in the city centre and Swords.

7.2.1.2 Accident data

An Garda Síochána has provided RPA with traffic accident data which in itself is derived from the National Roads Authority Accident database, for the period 2002-2006. This information, which relates to personal injury accidents, is derived from the national Garda reporting system which categorises accidents as fatal/serious/minor.

7.2.2 General assessment criteria used for the transport assessment

The criteria used for the assessment of the proposed scheme are based on EIS advice from industry standard best practice guidelines. Furthermore, the assessment is benchmarked against previous EIS assessments undertaken in Ireland and internationally to ensure that best practice has been maintained. The sources for this advice are as follows:

- The Environmental Protection Agency's 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements (2002)' and Advice Note on Current Practice;
- The US Highway Capacity Manual, 2000, providing advice on measuring pedestrian impact and level of service parameters for pedestrian movement;
- The UK Department of Transport's 'Design Manual for Roads and Bridges' (DRMB Volume 11) which offers comprehensive advice for the staged assessment of major road schemes;
- The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) – Guidelines for Traffic Impact Assessment (1994).

The advice contained within these documents forms the basis for the impact assessment of the proposed scheme.

Generally, the transport assessment for both construction and operational phases should have regard for the following:

- Data collection for vehicular, pedestrian and cyclist traffic;
- An understanding of the potential impacts generated by the proposed scheme;
- A development of mitigation measures to minimise the impact generated by the proposed scheme during both the construction and operational phases;
- An identification of predicted impacts for the construction and operational stages;
- A development of further mitigation measures (or remedial measures);
- An understanding of the additional mitigation residual impact.

Additionally, factors influencing the transport assessment during the construction phase include the:

- Sequence of construction activities and construction duration;
- Construction methodology;
- Construction compound locations.

7.2.3 Categorisation of effects

A transportation impact is determined significant by reference to the following criteria:

- The extent of the impact (the geographical area and size of population affected);
- The magnitude and complexity of the impact;
- The probability of the impact;
- The duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact.

The determination of significance rating for all road users is defined in the table below. They are categorised broadly into Slight, Moderate or Severe (see Table 7.1). Further additional significance ratings are provided for pedestrians and cyclists in Section 7.2.6.

Table 7.1 Categorisation of impact significance¹

Level	Description
Slight	<p>'Slight' impacts are those which, by and large, should be capable of being 'designed out' in the detailed design and construction planning.</p> <p>In particular, construction activity will generate many 'slight' effects that are typically of short duration and can be remedied with suitable traffic management measures and the provision of temporary bridges and footways.</p>
Moderate	<p>'Moderate' impacts are those which, depending on their intensity or the sensitivity of location to vehicular or pedestrian activity or the duration of the effect, should be recorded in an assessment, but which do not rank as severe themselves.</p>
Severe	<p>The 'Severe' level equates to impacts that are residual or of long duration, of a high magnitude and/or affecting a substantial population.</p>

¹ Adapted from The Environmental Protection Agency's 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements (2002)' and Advice Note on Current Practice and The UK Department of Transport's 'Design Manual for Roads and Bridges' (DRMB Volume 11) which offers comprehensive advice for the staged assessment of major road schemes.

7.2.4 Determination of impact significance on vehicular traffic

The significance of vehicular traffic impact is determined by changes to traffic flow, as follows:

- Highway links where traffic flows will increase by more than 30% (or the number of heavy goods vehicles will increase by more than 30%).

- Any other specifically sensitive areas where traffic flows will increase. (Specifically sensitive areas would include accident blackspots, conservation areas, hospitals, links with high pedestrian flows etc.).

Table 7.2 further outlines the criteria for classifying the impact of increases in traffic flows.

Table 7.2 Categorisation of impact significance for vehicular traffic²

Traffic Flow Increases

<10%	Traffic flow increases directly attributable to the proposed scheme of less than 10% are not considered likely to give rise to any potential significant effects.
10% to 30%	Traffic flow increases of 10% to 30% are only considered to give rise to significant effects in specifically sensitive areas. For accidents, this is defined as any road link with more than 15 accidents in the last five year period for which data is available.
>30%	Traffic flow increases directly attributable to the proposed scheme of more than 30% are considered likely to give rise to potentially significant effects.

² Adapted from The Environmental Protection Agency's 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements (2002)' and Advice Note on Current Practice and The UK Department of Transport's 'Design Manual for Roads and Bridges' (DRMB Volume 11) which offers comprehensive advice for the staged assessment of major road schemes.

7.2.5 Determination of impact significance on driver delay

A further determination of impact significance for vehicular traffic is the effect on driver delay which is deemed to exist where:

- there is predicted to be a decrease in link speeds of more than 5kph;
- there is predicted to be a increase in journey length of 500m.

7.2.6 Determination of impact significance on pedestrians and cyclists

The significance of pedestrian and cyclist movement impact is primarily determined by reference to the following criteria:

- There is predicted to be a increase in total traffic flow of more than 30% and the increase is more than 40 movements per day;
- There are 'material' levels of pedestrians;
- The sensitivity of the area is 'high' (e.g. conservation area, major community facility).

Severance can be defined as the sum of divisive effects that a project may impose on a community in terms of access to and movement between locations such as residences, workplaces, commercial/retail areas, schools, community facilities, etc. Catchment areas for community and religious facilities can be established by reference to parish boundaries. The significance of the severance impact is determined with regard to the following:

- The number of people who would be impacted;
- The presence of particularly vulnerable groups such as children, the aged or the disabled amongst those likely to be impacted.

The significance rating of pedestrian and cyclist impact is primarily determined by reference to Table 7.3.

Table 7.3 Categorisation of impact significance for pedestrians and cyclists³

Extent of Impact	Description
Slight	In general the current journey pattern is likely to be maintained, but there will probably be some hindrance to movement, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pedestrian at-grade crossing of a road with <8000 Annual Average Daily Traffic – AADT); - A new bridge will need to be climbed or a subway traversed; - Increases in pedestrian journeys of at least 250m
Moderate	Some residents, particularly children and elderly people are likely to be dissuaded from making trips, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two of the impacts listed under Slight; - Pedestrian at-grade crossing of a road with between 8,000 and 16,000 AADT; - Journeys will be increased by 250m to 500m
Severe	People are likely to be deterred from making trips to an extent sufficient to induce a re-organisation of their habits, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pedestrian at-grade crossing of a road with >16,000 AADT; - An increase in length of journeys of over 500m; - Three or more of the hindrances listed under slight; - Two or more of the hindrances listed under Moderate.

³ Adapted from The UK Department of Transport's 'Design Manual for Roads and Bridges' (DRMB Volume 11) which offers comprehensive advice for the staged assessment of major road schemes.

7.2.7 Consideration of impact on vehicular, pedestrian and cyclist traffic and safety

7.2.7.1 Baseline environment

The proposed scheme penetrates a large number of areas with very different environments. These environments vary in terms of the road network, the existing concentration of traffic movements and the existing make up of that traffic (i.e. cars, pedestrians, cyclists, buses).

The assessment of vehicular and pedestrian traffic and safety, for each of the seven areas, is carried out with regard to the following inputs:

- All day traffic flows at locations along the full alignment;
- Public transport infrastructure and services;
- Pedestrian counts in areas of high pedestrian concentrations;
- Cyclist counts;
- Accident history along the full length of the proposed alignment.

Construction phase

The construction phase will include utilities diversions and enabling works, which, by their nature are of short duration and will have localised impacts which will be mitigated. This phase also includes the main construction works for the proposed scheme, which are of longer duration and which have a potentially greater impact along the full length of the proposed scheme. The assessment therefore considers the main construction works.

The transport and traffic assumptions and modelling assessment undertaken represent a conservative view of the likely traffic conditions that will be experienced during the construction phase of the proposed scheme. The construction phase at each construction site (at a road junction or stop location) that is considered to have the most potentially significant impact on traffic was modelled. In reality the construction phases for each site that have the most significant impact on traffic movement are very unlikely to occur in tandem. However to ensure a robust traffic assessment and to ensure that mitigation requirements are not underestimated it was viewed as essential to examine worst case construction impact scenario. For the purposes of assessing the impact during construction, worst case scenarios are assumed. The construction assumptions are as follows:

- The phases of construction that will have the most severe impact at key junctions occur concurrently;
- Network changes including infrastructure/road closures/ prohibited turning movements and other traffic restrictions are implemented;
- Construction Strategy – maximum length of time that specific areas will be affected;

- Construction vehicle routes and volumes – peak construction vehicle movements occur at each stop simultaneously.

The assessment of the impact on vehicular and pedestrian traffic and safety, for each of the seven areas, is carried out with regard to the following:

- Modelled traffic flows (AM Peak 08:00 to 09:00) extracted from the MNTM;
- Public transport infrastructure and services;
- Pedestrian and cyclists;
- Mobility Impaired / Disabled (MID);
- Access and servicing requirements.

Operational phase

The assessment of impact on vehicular and pedestrian traffic and safety during the opening year (2014) and forecast year (2029), for each of the seven areas, is carried out with regard to the following inputs:

- Modelled traffic flows (AM Peak 08:00 to 09:00) extracted from the MNTM;
- Modelled traffic flows (Off-Peak 14:00 to 15:00) extracted from the MNTM;
- Road network changes;
- Traffic management alterations;
- Public transport infrastructure;
- Details of pedestrian facilities – pedestrian bridges, crossing locations, etc;
- Details of cycle facilities – cycle lane provision and cycle parking;
- Mobility Impaired / Disabled (MID);
- Access and servicing requirements

7.3 STRATEGIC MITIGATION METHODOLOGY

7.3.1 Introduction

This Mitigation Methodology forms the basis for developing a comprehensive set of mitigation measures to minimise the impacts generated by the proposed scheme during both construction and operational phases. Mitigation measures are defined for any adverse impacts that are deemed to be of Moderate or greater significance prior to mitigation. The extent to which mitigation is needed increases as the severity of the impact increases.

7.3.1.1 Mitigation objectives

As it is anticipated that the construction phase of the proposed scheme will have a greater impact than the operational phase, a greater emphasis has been placed on construction mitigation objectives, although many are also applicable to the operational phase.

Light Metro Vehicles (LMVs) and HGV

- Minimise impact on current delivery arrangements for affected businesses;
- Minimise impact on current levels of on-street car parking provision;
- Maintain access to all off-street car parks;
- Minimise impact on quality of access/egress to off-street car parks;
- Minimise impact on current car journey times.

Buses

- Minimise impact on current bus service coverage;
- Minimise impact on current bus stop facilities;
- Minimise impact on current bus journey times;
- Minimise impact on routes between bus garages and termini;
- Minimise impact on current conditions on bus paths for turnaround of buses at the end of their routes.

Taxis

- Minimise impact on current taxi service coverage;
- Minimise impact on taxi passengers.

Pedestrians and cyclists

- Maintain a safe environment for pedestrian and cyclist movement in the vicinity of each construction site;
- Maintain pedestrian access to all buildings in the vicinity of construction works;
- Minimise impact to pedestrian and cycle networks.

Emergency vehicles

- Maintain emergency service access to all buildings in the vicinity of construction works;
- Minimise impact to current emergency services journey times.

Mobility impaired

- Ensure full mobility impaired/disabled (MID) compliance for all facilities.

7.3.1.2 Categorisation of Mitigation Measures

According to the EPA Guidelines, the central purpose of the Environmental Impact Assessment is to identify potentially significant adverse effects/impacts at the pre-consent stage and to propose measures to mitigate or ameliorate such impacts. There are two established strategies for impact mitigation which are used for this assessment, namely reduction and remedial measures. The difference between these two measures is highlighted by the examples given below:

- Strategic Reduction Measures – e.g. introduction of the proposed scheme Traffic Management Plan prior to construction of the proposed scheme;
- Strategic Remedial Measures – e.g. adjustment of traffic signals to improve traffic flow;
- Localised Reduction Measures – e.g. reduce the construction area in order to maintain a footpath;
- Localised Remedial Measures – e.g. when the construction area covers the footpath resulting in its closure, then the impact will be lessened by widening the opposite footpath.

In general, strategic reduction mitigation occurs before construction, while remedial measures are implemented during construction on an on-going basis. Mitigation is mainly achieved by remedial measures i.e. measures which can be put in place to negate the impacts of the proposed scheme on the environment.

Maintaining the safety of all road users is the primary objective during the construction of the proposed scheme; and is considered in the preparation of recommendations for mitigation measures.

In order to successfully limit the impact of the construction period on the environment, a number of key mitigation measures are required, as outlined in the following sections.

7.3.2 Strategic construction mitigation measures

The mitigation required during the construction phase of the proposed scheme will be substantial. Due to the scale of the proposed scheme and its associated construction impact, it is important to develop an overarching Mitigation Methodology covering the full alignment of the proposed scheme. The aim of the methodology is to establish traffic management principles that will ensure that the construction impact of the proposed scheme will be minimised to the greatest extent possible. The principles of the Mitigation Methodology must be adhered to by the contractor. As part of the development of the Mitigation Methodology, international best practice guidelines were reviewed to produce a comprehensive list of mitigation objectives and an associated set of mitigation measures which can be applied to achieve them. These are outlined below.

7.3.2.1 Reduction measures (construction phase)

Reduction measures – general

- Construction of the proposed scheme will lead to some level of disruption throughout the study area. A number of mitigating measures have been proposed to address the impacts of the construction phase, which will minimise hindrance to general activity in the area while allowing the construction period to be progressed as fast as is feasible. Appropriate safety measures will be put in place to mitigate in general any safety risks to the general public. A scheme of traffic management measures will be adopted to manage traffic impacts. Development of this scheme will involve on-going consultation with all relevant stakeholders including Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, Dublin Bus, the Dublin Transportation Office, An Garda Síochána, Dublin Chamber of Commerce, Dublin City Business Association, etc;
- Prior to the commencement of each construction phase, the necessary enabling works will be implemented. These will primarily take the form of additional road works and traffic signal changes;
- Co-ordination by RPA representatives of works by the utility companies and their contractors;
- Co-ordination by RPA representatives of the works of the infrastructure contractor;
- Prior to the commencement of the construction phase, a comprehensive publicity campaign will take place. This campaign will be launched through the local and national press and through radio and the internet, and will provide updates on the progress of the construction phases and on further mitigation measures that may be needed during the course of the construction programme. Overall, the public information campaign will inform the general public on:
 - The envisaged city centre traffic management plan (road closures, designated diversionary routes for general traffic, new bus routings and stop locations, new access arrangements, new taxi rank locations and pedestrian and cycling infrastructure);
 - The enabling works required before construction work commences and the associated timeframe;
 - The construction programme, including timeframe, construction vehicle routes, working hours and works areas;
 - The other general mitigation measures required to minimise the disruption;

- To ensure a coordinated response to the construction activities, there will be frequent communication with, and information exchanged between interested parties (i.e. Local Councils, National Roads Authority, Local Chamber of Commerce, etc);
- All traffic management implementation measures will be discussed and agreed with the relevant roads authorities, An Garda Síochána and other agencies such as the National Roads Authority as required.

Reduction measures – construction traffic

- Construction vehicles routes have been identified to direct construction traffic onto suitable roads, and to minimise the negative effects of increased HGV traffic on the environment;
- There will be strict controls and regulations at the entrance/exits of sites for construction vehicles in order to ensure the safety of other road users.

Reduction measures – general traffic

- Where practicable, construction work requiring short term disruption and road closures will be undertaken at times that minimise their impact, and will be agreed with the relevant planning and roads authority;
- Temporary ramps across trenches may be provided to facilitate the movements of diverted traffic.

Reduction measures – pedestrians and cyclists

- Pedestrian routes will be maintained throughout the construction period, either around or through the construction site, where safety risks to the general public will not increase as a result of construction activity;
- In very sensitive areas, such as the city centre, the designated access and pedestrian routes around the construction sites, particularly at and/or along the hording lines, must not be perceived as uninviting by pedestrians. The environment around the sites, therefore, will be designed to ensure that pedestrians and cyclists feel they are entering a safe and accessible environment. This will ensure that impact to businesses and shops adjacent to the works areas is minimised.

7.3.2.2 Remedial measures (construction phase)

Where significant adverse effects on the environment are identified, the impact will be limited by undertaking remedial works.

Remedial measures – general

- Alternative arrangements will be provided if road closures are unavoidable i.e. diversions, signage strategies for access traffic and through traffic;

- The Dublin City Council urban traffic signal control system will be used to optimise the flow of traffic along the diversion routes to mitigate queuing and delay which would otherwise be expected during peak periods. This may affect the level of green time afforded to pedestrians;
- Agreement will be sought from the relevant road authority and An Garda Síochána for the introduction of stricter speed limits on roads adjacent to construction sites to ensure the safety of all road users:
 - 50kph speed limit in the city centre will be reduced to 30kph;
 - 80kph on all other routes will be reduced to 50kph.
- The public will be provided with advanced warning of any proposed diversions and disruption through:
 - Signage on site;
 - Continuous updates on construction progress on the project website and external media.
- Temporary reinstatement of road surfaces to facilitate pedestrians, cyclists and MIDs will be provided;
- There will be safety procedures and fencing around trenches at all times in order to ensure the safety of road users.

Remedial measures – construction traffic

- Construction vehicles will be covered to ensure loss of material is minimised;
- Wheel wash facilities or road cleaning will be provided at work sites, as required;
- The numbers of employee vehicles travelling to and from construction sites on a daily basis will be limited through:
 - Car sharing;
 - Transporting workers to site via car pools and mini-buses from designated collection points (such as Luas and DART stations or other appropriate locations);
 - Offering subsidised travel via public transport.

Remedial measures – general traffic

- To maintain traffic flow and minimise delay, the introduction of traffic management measures will be implemented as agreed with the road authority and An Garda Síochána, including prohibitions of turning movements, loading and waiting restrictions, reconfiguration of traffic signals etc.

Remedial measures – public transport

- The requirement and potential for additional mitigation measures to facilitate enhanced public transport operations along the corridor to encourage a transfer from car to public transport will be examined.

- Bus stops affected by the construction of the proposed scheme will be temporarily relocated in order to ensure the safety of passengers and the continued operation of services.

Remedial measures – pedestrians and cyclists

- Temporary pathways and cycle tracks will be installed where appropriate and provision will be made to ensure access for the mobility impaired is maintained;
- Where the existing level of service cannot be maintained in the vicinity of the construction sites, an alternative route will be designated, be clearly visible, be safe and be signed and have the level of service required to cater for the pedestrian demand.

7.3.3 Strategic operational mitigation measures

During its operational phase, the proposed scheme will have an overall beneficial impact on traffic. There may, however, be localised increases in traffic volumes around each stop associated with increased pedestrian activity, Park & Ride, and drop off facilities.

The aim of the Strategic Mitigation Methodology is to establish traffic management principles that will ensure that the operational impact of the proposed scheme will be minimised as much as possible.

7.3.3.1 Reduction measures (operational phase)

Reduction measures – pedestrians and cyclists

Subject to agreement of the relevant road authority and An Garda Síochána, where necessary, the following measures will be implemented:

- The number of pedestrian crossing facilities will be increased in the immediate vicinity of stops where appropriate;
- Sufficient pedestrian access between the drop-off points and the stops will be provided where appropriate;
- Suitable parking and storage facilities for bicycles will be provided in prominent locations at Stops and Park & Ride facilities for public use.

Reduction measures – public transport

- At designated stops, bus and car interchange facilities will be provided;
- Enhanced bus priority facilities will be introduced at selected locations, subject to agreement with the relevant roads authority.

Reduction measures – mobility impaired

- All proposed pedestrian crossing facilities installed will incorporate audio/tactile units to facilitate mobility and visual impaired persons;
- Adequate ramps / lifts will be provided at each stop platform to enable access for mobility impaired / disabled persons;
- Mobility impaired / disabled compliance will be ensured at stops and Park & Ride facilities.

7.3.3.2 Remedial measures (operational phase)

Remedial measures – general traffic

- Variable Message Signs will be located at appropriate locations to advise motorists on appropriate access routes to the Park & Ride sites, and on available car park capacity at the site;
- The Dublin City Council urban traffic signal control system will be used to optimise the flow of traffic along the routes, particularly during peak traffic times, to reduce the impact of queuing and delay during the operational phase.

Remedial measures – pedestrian and cyclists

- Appropriate signage will be installed to advise pedestrians of appropriate crossing locations and access routes to each stop.

7.4 PREDICTED STRATEGIC IMPACT

7.4.1 Introduction

The proposed scheme will have both a local and strategic impact on all road users. The scale of the proposed scheme, its anticipated construction impact footprint and the envisaged operational benefits means that there will be a significant predicted impact during both construction and operational phases. There will either be considerable vehicular re-assignment away from roads where construction is taking place or, during its operational phase, reductions in car numbers within the study area. The cumulative impact of the proposed scheme can only be understood through a strategic understanding of the impact.

7.4.2 Source of the predicted strategic impact

The proposed scheme will have two very distinct impact phases. The construction phase could have significant negative impacts on all road users, which will be limited through the introduction of mitigation measures. During the operational phase the proposed scheme will have very significant beneficial impacts. Understanding, managing and reducing the impact generated by the construction phase of the proposed scheme is of particular importance to ensure that general traffic can move at reasonable speeds and that vulnerable road users can move in a safe manner around the construction sites. In its operational phase, understanding the strategic traffic impact is of lesser importance as the proposed scheme will generally reduce the level of traffic.

7.4.2.1 Construction phase

The construction impact is largely created by the construction of the stops, particularly in the city centre at St. Stephen's Green, O'Connell Bridge and Parnell Square where road capacity will be reduced substantially. The construction of these stops requires large areas of road space to be removed for long periods of time (for example, at Westmoreland Street and Parnell Square East) which will severely reduce the operating capacity available for all road users. Other construction activity, such as cut and cover tunnelling, through Ballymun and construction activity through junctions along the R132 in Swords will create further capacity limitations for all modes of travel in these areas. In all areas along the alignment of the proposed scheme, appropriate mitigation measures are required.

Each of the proposed scheme's construction sites will also generate substantial levels of spoil removal and construction vehicles which will impact on both the local and strategic road network. The cumulative impact of all the construction sites (and the associated number of construction vehicles generated) on traffic movement throughout the Dublin Area has been assessed. The routes proposed to facilitate construction vehicle activity are illustrated in Annex I of this EIS (Volume 3, Book 2 of 2).

The combination of the construction site impact and the construction vehicle activity creates a situation where significant mitigation is required to create a workable transport environment within the vicinity of the proposed alignment and also in areas where vehicles re-distribute to completely avoid the construction sites.

7.4.2.2 Operational phase

The operational phase of the proposed scheme will have a substantial overall beneficial impact as it will allow people within its walking, cycling and bus interchange catchment (and those who can avail of the Park & Ride facilities at Belinstown, Dardistown and Fosterstown Stops) to use a high quality public transport service. Furthermore, during its operational phase, vehicular traffic on the surrounding road network will be reduced as some people who would otherwise have driven will use the service provided by the proposed scheme. It is estimated that the proposed scheme will remove in the region of up to 5,000 cars from the road network, in the morning peak period (07.00-09.00), during its operational phase as a result of mode shift from car to the proposed scheme.

During the proposed scheme's operational phase, some stops will generate additional pedestrian, cyclist, bus and car trips on the local surrounding road infrastructure when compared to the situation without the proposed scheme. Some level of mitigation is required to ensure that the local environment around each stop is configured to accommodate the additional demand and that complementary facilities are in place at and around each stop.

7.4.3 Assessment of the predicted strategic impact

Given the proposed scheme's length and catchment it will have a city wide impact on traffic movement during its construction and operational phases. The traffic modelling process adopted to assess the impact of the proposed scheme ensures that both local and strategic impacts are understood and mitigation measures tested. Furthermore, the impact of the proposed scheme during its operational phase will become more beneficial over time as other elements of the Transport 21 network are built which will connect with the proposed scheme thereby enhancing accessibility from within its catchment area. This will further increase its attractiveness to commuters and continue to reduce car use within the proposed scheme's catchment.

To assess the strategic impact of the proposed scheme for the construction and operational phases the following traffic modelling statistics, extracted from the MNTM, are presented:

- General traffic statistics for the full Greater Dublin Area for average network speed, queuing, distance travelled and time travelled;
- General traffic flow plots representing traffic changes between the do-minimum and do-something scenarios on strategic roads within the Greater Dublin Area;
- Journey time and speed changes on a number of key routes that will be affected by the proposed scheme;
- Strategic Bus operation speeds and queuing statistics.

Pedestrian and cyclist impacts are considered under local predicted impact, described later.

7.4.3.1 Strategic traffic statistics for Greater Dublin Area

A number of summary traffic statistics were extracted from the MNTM traffic model. These statistics include the following:

For general vehicular traffic assessment:

- Queuing – This statistic relates to the time spent in congestion within the modelled period. The units of measurement are in Passenger Car Unit (pcu) hours.

- Travel Time – This statistic relates to the time spent travelling within the modelled period. The units of measurement are in pcu hours.
- Travel distance – This statistic relates to the distance travelled by vehicles across the GDA within the modelled period. The units of measurement are in pcu kilometres.
- Average Speed – This statistics represents the average speed across the road network. The units of measurement are in kilometres per hour (kph).

For bus movement assessment:

- Average Bus Speeds – This statistic represents the average bus speed across the road network. The units of measurement are in kilometres per hour (kph);
- Bus kilometres lost to queuing – This statistic provides information on the kilometres lost to congestion in the modelled hour for buses. The units of measurement are in kilometre hours.

These statistics provide good indicators to the overall performance of the road network and, therefore, are a very useful way of presenting and understanding the overall strategic predicted impact of the proposed scheme during both construction and operational phases. The statistics are presented for the AM Peak hour (08.00-09.00) only as this time period represents a heavily congested road network and negative or positive impacts generated by the proposed scheme can be clearly identified.

7.4.4 Predicted strategic construction impact

The predicted strategic impact has been determined based on the worst case scenario without mitigation measures, but with local diversionary measures in place.

Table 7.4 shows the strategic modelled impact of the proposed scheme during its construction phase. In general, queuing, time spent travelling and distance travelled would increase as a result of the construction activities. Queuing would increase by over 22% with time spent travelling increasing by over 15%. The time spent queuing as proportion of overall travel time would increase from 24% to 27% as a result of the construction phase.

The increase in travel time and travel distance indicates that without mitigation measures there would be considerable re-routing of vehicles through the network as drivers try to avoid construction areas. This would impact on parallel routes contributing to further delay and congestion.

The average speed for travel across the network would deteriorate by over 11%, a reduction of 3kph. Based on these statistics, the strategic impact on the city wide road network during the construction phase would be Severe without the proposed mitigation measures.

Table 7.4 Strategic construction impact 2011 (AM peak hour) – general traffic

Indicator	Do-Minimum	Do-Something	% Change
Queuing Statistic (pcu hours)	21,000	25,700	+22.4%
Travel Time (pcu hrs)	86,700	100,200	+15.6%
Travel Distance (pcu kilometres)	2,190,000	2,250,000	+2.8%
Average Speed (kph)	25	22	-11.1%

Table 7.5 presents the impact of the proposed scheme without public transport mitigation measures. This would have a city wide impact on bus movement during the construction phase. The average bus speed throughout the city is predicted to decrease by 27%, a drop of 4kph. Furthermore, the bus kilometres lost to queuing per hour is predicted to increase by over 250% as a result of construction.

Table 7.5 Strategic construction impact, 2011 (AM peak hour) – bus only

Indicator	Do-Minimum	Do-Something	% Change
Bus Speed (kph)	19	15	-27%
Bus kilometres lost to queuing per hour	1,900	4,800	+252%

The traffic modelling statistics shown above clearly show that the strategic, or city wide, predicted impact of the construction phase would be Severe on all vehicular modes of transport without the proposed mitigation measures.

7.4.5 Predicted strategic operational impact

The predicted strategic impact has been determined based on the assumed scenario and traffic management measures being restored to baseline arrangements.

Tables 7.6 and 7.7 present the strategic impact of the proposed scheme during its operational phase for the assumed year of opening, 2014, and the forecast year, 2029. In 2014, the operational impact of the proposed scheme on the highway network would be very positive. The queuing, travel time and distance travelled statistics would all decrease substantially from the Do-minimum scenario. Queuing would decrease by over 21% with time spent travelling decreasing by over 9%. The time spent queuing as a proportion of overall travel time would decrease from 25% to 22% as a direct result of the proposed scheme. The average speed on the network would increase by 8% in 2014, or by 2kph.

In 2029, the statistics show a similar positive impact as 2014. In 2029, the proposed scheme forms part of a much bigger public transportation network than in 2014 (in 2029, the full Transport 21 public transportation network is assumed). Furthermore, in 2029, the demand for travel in the Dublin area is much higher than in 2014 and, therefore, the number of vehicles on the highway network is greater. This is particularly reflected in the growth in queuing between 2014 and 2029 (i.e. 23,400 to 66,500 in the do-minimum scenarios). The queuing, time spent travelling and distance travelled statistics would all decrease from the do-minimum scenario. Queuing would decrease by approximately 9% with time spent travelling decreasing by up to 32%. The average speed on the network would increase by 17% in 2029, or by 3kph.

Table 7.8 and Table 7.9 present the predicted impact during the operational phase that the proposed scheme will have on buses. In 2014, the average speed of bus increases by 6%, or 1kph. The bus kilometres lost to queuing decreases by 21%. In 2029, there is predicted to be a 14% increase in average bus speed, or 2kph. Bus kilometres lost to queuing in 2029, decreases by 10%.

Table 7.6 Strategic operational impact 2014 (AM peak hour)

Criteria	Do-Minimum	Do-Something	% Change
Queuing Statistic (pcu hours)	23,400	19,400	-21%
Travel Time (pcu hrs)	95,200	86,900	-9.5%
Travel Distance (pcu kilometres)	2,320,600	2,250,300	-3%
Average Speed (kph)	24	26	+8%

Table 7.7 Strategic operational impact 2029 (AM peak hour)

Criteria	Do-Minimum	Do-Something	% Change
Queuing Statistic (pcu hours)	66,500	60,600	-9%
Travel Time (pcu hrs)	173,700	117,800	-32%
Travel Distance (pcu kilometres)	3,155,500	2,510,300	-20%
Average Speed (kph)	18	21	+17%

Table 7.8 Strategic operational impact 2014 (AM Peak Hour) – bus only

Criteria	Do-Minimum	Do-Something	% Change
Bus Speed (kph)	18	19	+6%
Bus kilometres lost to queuing per hour	2,300	1,900	-21%

Table 7.9 Strategic operational impact 2029 (AM Peak Hour) – bus only

Criteria	Do-Minimum	Do-Something	% Change
Bus Speed (kph)	14	16	+14%
Bus kilometres lost to queuing per hour	4,100	3,700	-10%

Overall, the predicted operational impact of the proposed scheme would be very positive. In both 2014 and 2029, significant beneficial impacts are demonstrated to the road network in terms of increasing average speed, decreasing congestion and reducing the distance and time spent travelled. There would also be a very beneficial impact to bus movement as the proposed scheme reduces the number of cars on the road network reducing congestion generally and thereby allowing buses to move more freely. The positive impact of the proposed scheme will also grow over time as more elements of the Transport 21 public transport network come on stream allowing better interchange and enhancing accessibility.

7.4.6 Strategic traffic flow changes and re-distribution

Another means of presenting the strategic impact of the proposed scheme is by comparing the traffic flow changes on the highway network and ascertaining where vehicles will redistribute during construction and operational phases.

Traffic flow plots have been extracted from the MNTM traffic model and are presented in Figure 7.2 to Figure 7.17. These plots illustrate the changes in traffic flow, for different areas in Dublin, between the do-minimum and the do-something scenarios for the construction year 2011 and the operational years 2014 and 2029 respectively. The flow changes are presented in terms of coloured bandwidths, green representing an increase in traffic flow and blue a decrease in traffic flow. The thickness of the bandwidth demonstrates the proportionate level of change (i.e, the thicker the greater the increase or decrease in traffic flow).

7.4.6.1 Changes in traffic flow during construction of the proposed scheme

Figure 7.2 and Figure 7.3 illustrate the traffic flow changes in Swords and its surrounding areas. Generally, traffic would try to avoid the construction works on the R132 and divert to the other roads such as the R108, R129 and the M1. Main Street in Swords would also experience an increase in traffic flow.

Figure 7.4 illustrates the traffic flow changes across the Dublin area within the vicinity of the M50. This plot shows that without the proposed mitigation measures there would be a substantial reduction in traffic using the Ballymun Road particularly in a southbound direction as drivers would try to avoid the construction activities. The Port Tunnel becomes an attractive diversionary route for some drivers accessing the city centre and the south east city areas. Furthermore, the upgraded M50 would allow some drivers to drive longer distances to avoid the congestion caused by construction activities.

Generally, as Figure 7.4 demonstrates, there would be some increase in traffic on all areas of the city as traffic would redistribute across the road network to avoid the construction sites and to minimise journey time.

Figure 7.5 provides a more detailed view of traffic distribution changes in the Ballymun, Finglas, Glasnevin and Drumcondra areas. Generally, traffic travelling Southbound along the Ballymun Road reduces and diverts to parallel routes such as the N2, Port Tunnel and Drumcondra Road.

Figures 7.6 and 7.7 provide a more detailed view of traffic distribution changes in the city centre. Without the proposed mitigation measures there would be substantial reductions in traffic volumes on Dame Street, College Green, O'Connell Bridge, O'Connell Street and Nassau Street. There would be increases in northbound traffic on Patrick Street, High Street, Bridge Street, Church Street and on Tara Street. Southbound traffic increases would occur on Amiens Street, Talbot Memorial Bridge, City Quay, and Lombard Street. East west traffic movements on the north and south quays would also increase particularly on Georges Quay, Burgh Quay, Eden Quay and Custom House Quay.

Other areas of the city experiencing increases in traffic flow include Bridgefoot Street and Queen Street to the west and East Wall Road to the east.

In summary the city wide predicted impact of the construction phase on vehicular routing would be extensive. Drivers would look for quicker alternative routes through the city, in all areas, avoiding the construction sites to complete their journey.

7.4.6.2 Changes in traffic flow during operation of the proposed scheme

During the operational phase of the proposed scheme the impact on traffic flow would be a general reduction in the levels of traffic within the areas served by the proposed scheme. This will be more pronounced in outlying areas such as Swords where the existing public transport service is poor and car use is high, particularly for commuting. In other areas further into the city served by the proposed scheme the impact on car use would be reduced as some users would transfer from other public transport modes such as bus.

Figure 7.8 presents the traffic flow distribution pattern for the Swords area for the opening year of the proposed scheme. Generally, the R132 experiences a reduction in traffic flow as a result of the proposed scheme. The increases in traffic flow on the M1 can be attributed to a redistribution of general traffic availing of increased road capacity which would be created by the modal shift from car to the proposed scheme.

Figure 7.9 provides a view of the traffic flow changes in the Ballymun, Glasnevin, Finglas and Drumcondra areas. There are general reductions in traffic flow on the M50, M1, Port Tunnel, Ballymun Road, Finglas Road and on many other roads within the catchment area of the proposed scheme corridor.

Figures 7.10 illustrates the traffic flow and distribution impact of the proposed scheme from a city wide perspective. There are reductions in traffic flow on the M50.

Figure 7.11 and 7.12 illustrate the impact on traffic flow and distribution in the city centre. Generally the impact of the proposed scheme within the city centre area in terms of reducing traffic flow would be positive. In 2029, the traffic flow changes and distribution results are similar to those of 2014. Figures 7.13 to 7.17 illustrate these changes from Swords to the city centre. The impact of the proposed scheme in 2029 would be positive in terms of reducing traffic flow within the catchment area.



Figure 7.2
Traffic flow changes – do-minimum vs. do-something 2011 (Swords area)



Figure 7.3
Traffic flow changes – do-minimum vs. do-something 2011 (Swords area)

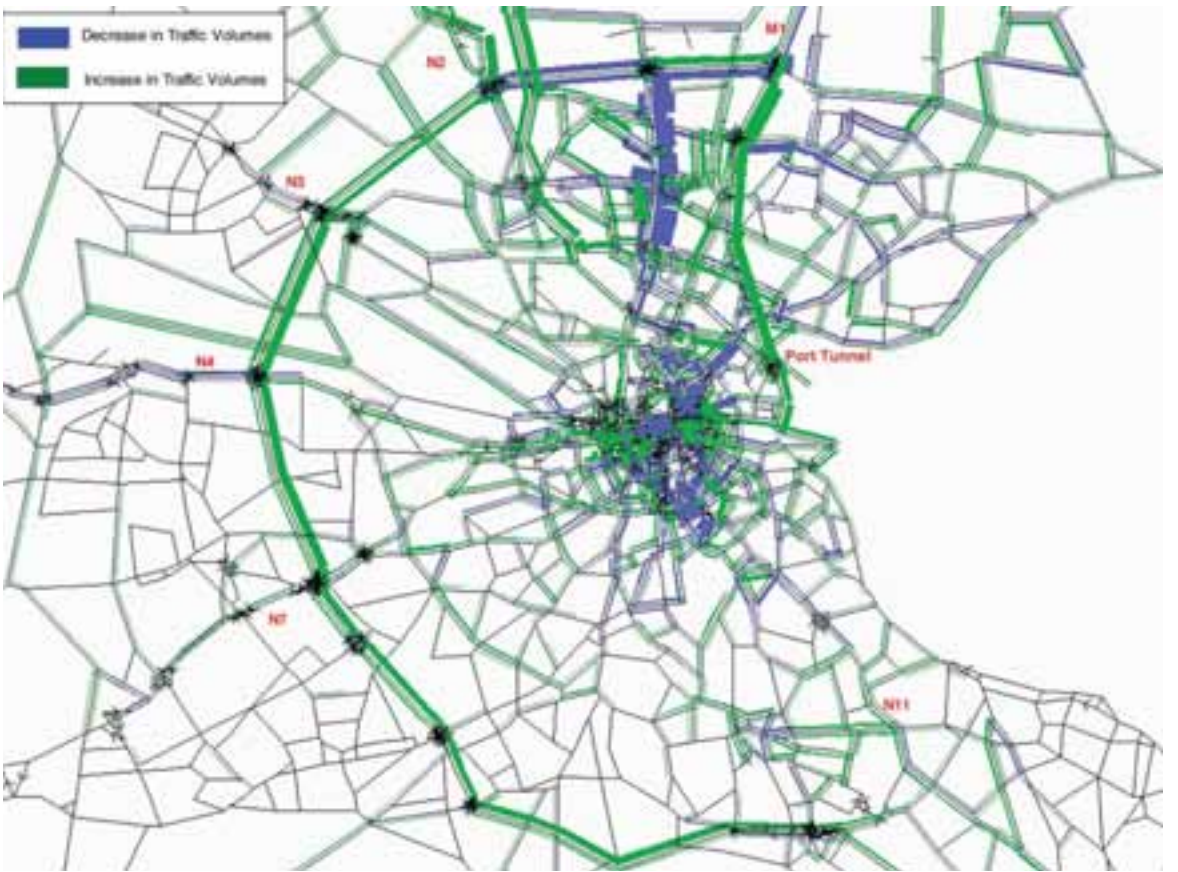


Figure 7.4
Traffic flow
changes – do-
minimum vs. do-
something 2011
(city wide area)



Figure 7.5
Traffic flow
changes – do-
minimum vs. do-
something 2011
(Ballymun/
Glasnevin/
Finglas/
Drumcondra
areas)

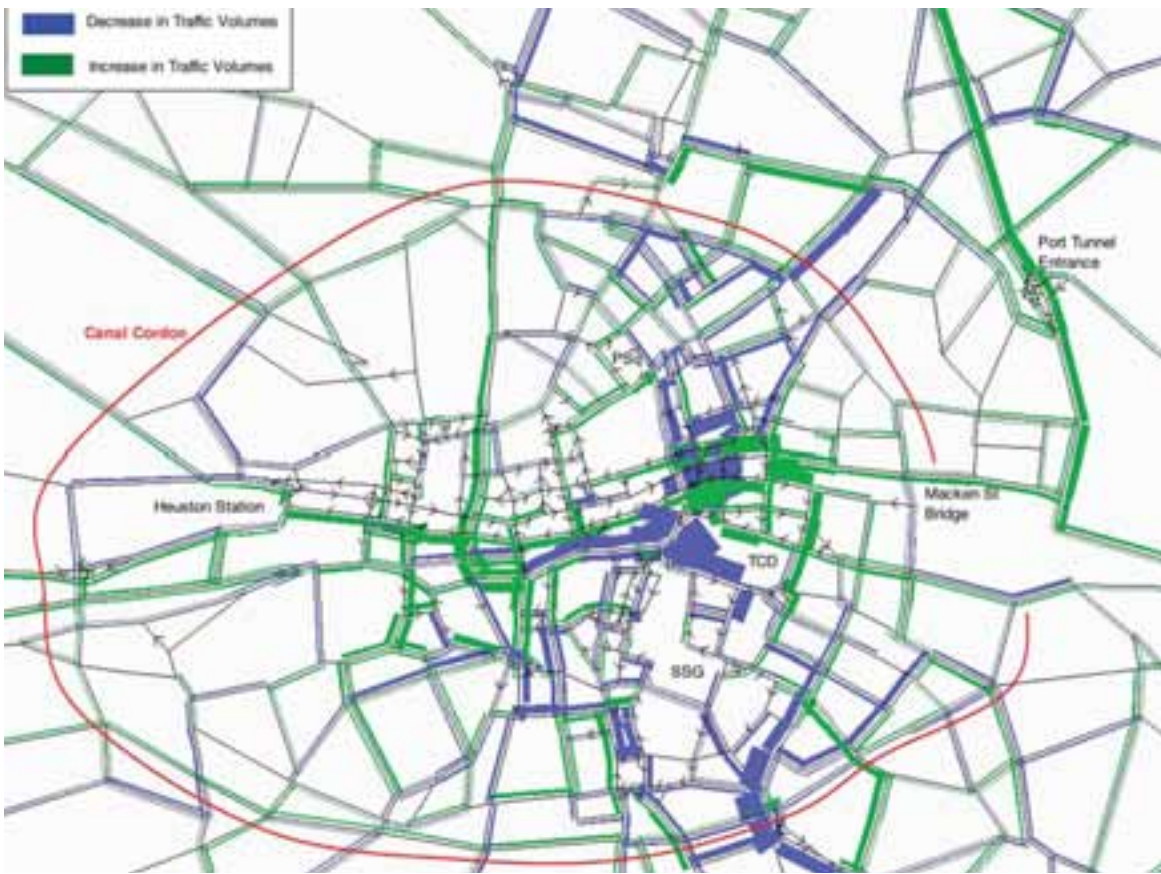


Figure 7.6
Traffic flow changes – do-minimum vs. do-something 2011 (city centre area)

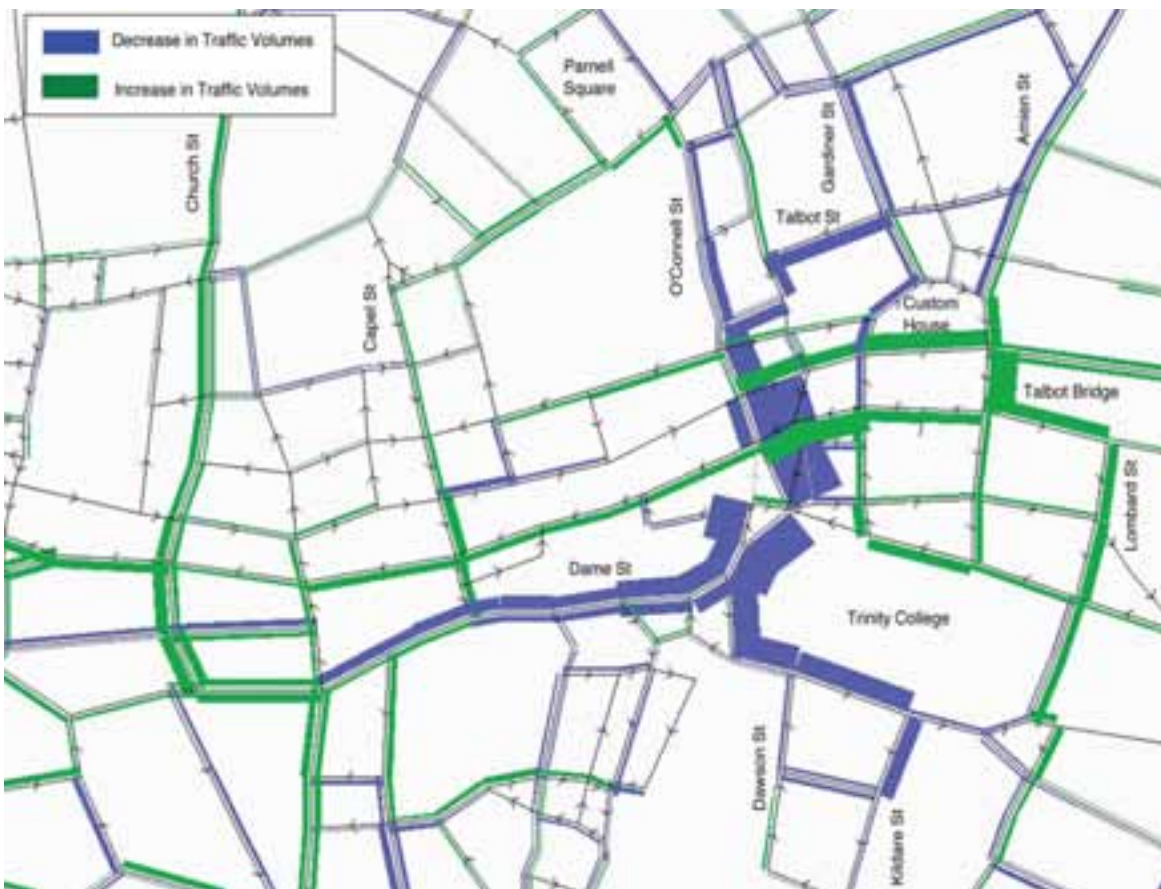


Figure 7.7
Traffic flow changes – do-minimum vs. do-something 2011 (core city area)



Figure 7.8
Traffic flow changes – do-minimum vs. do-something 2014 (Swords area)



Figure 7.9
Traffic flow changes – do-minimum vs. do-something 2014 (Ballymun/Glasnevin/Finglas/Drumcondra area)

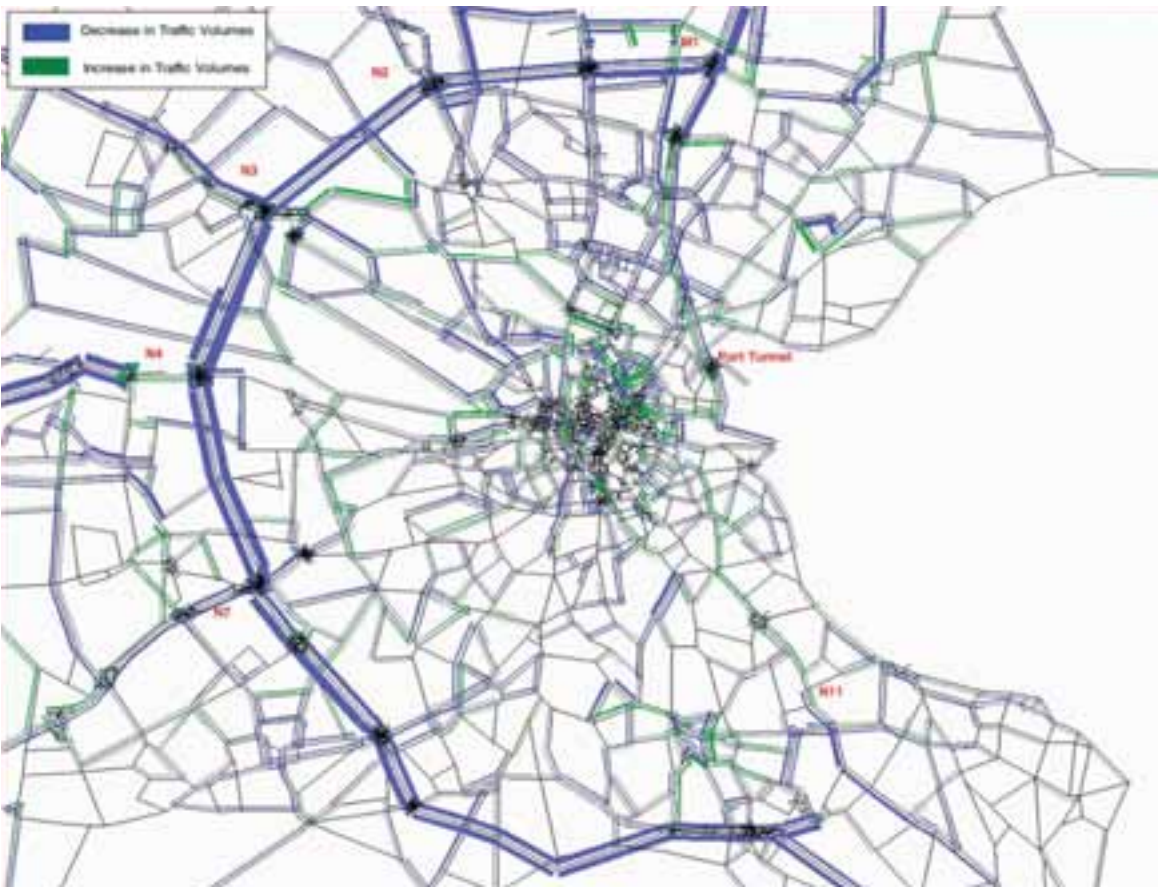


Figure 7.10
Traffic flow
changes – do-
minimum vs. do-
something 2014
(city wide area)

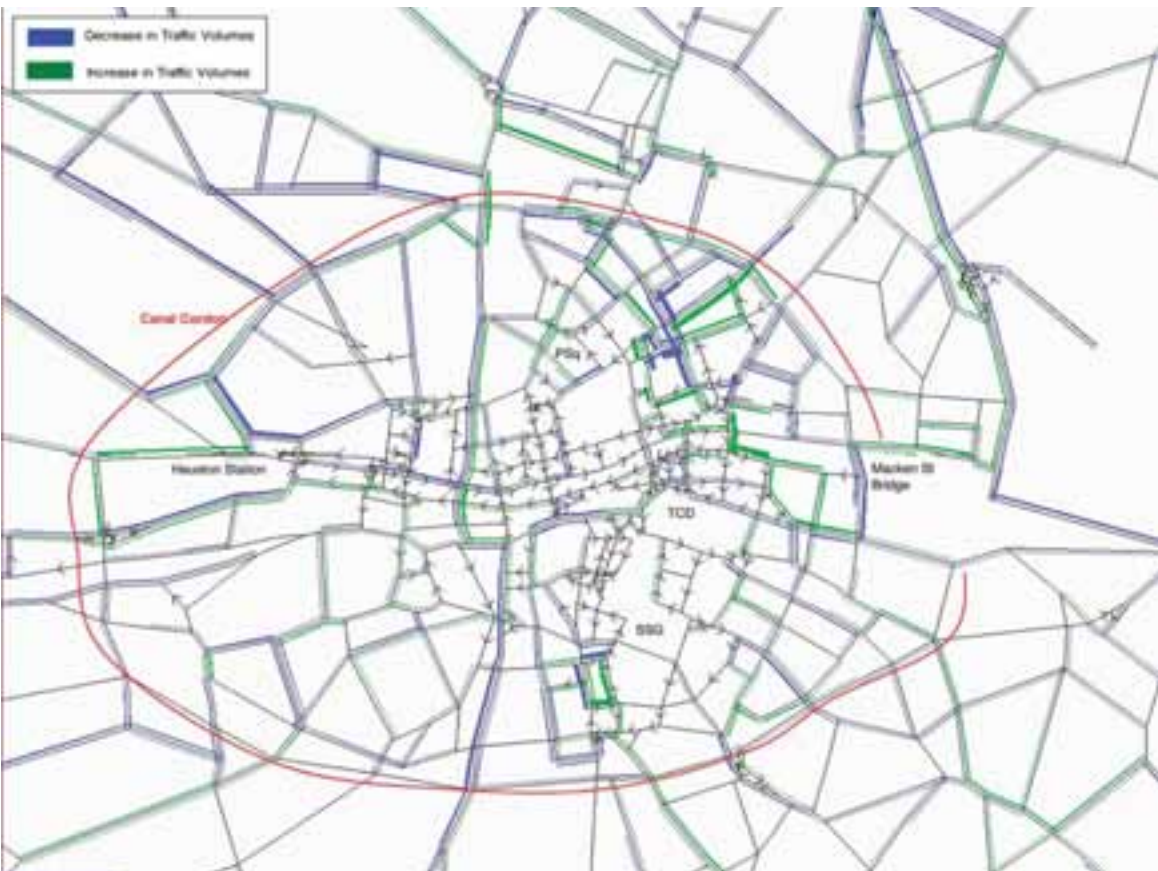


Figure 7.11
Traffic flow
changes – do-
minimum vs. do-
something 2014
(city centre area)



Figure 7.12
Traffic flow changes – do-minimum vs. do-something 2014 (core city area)

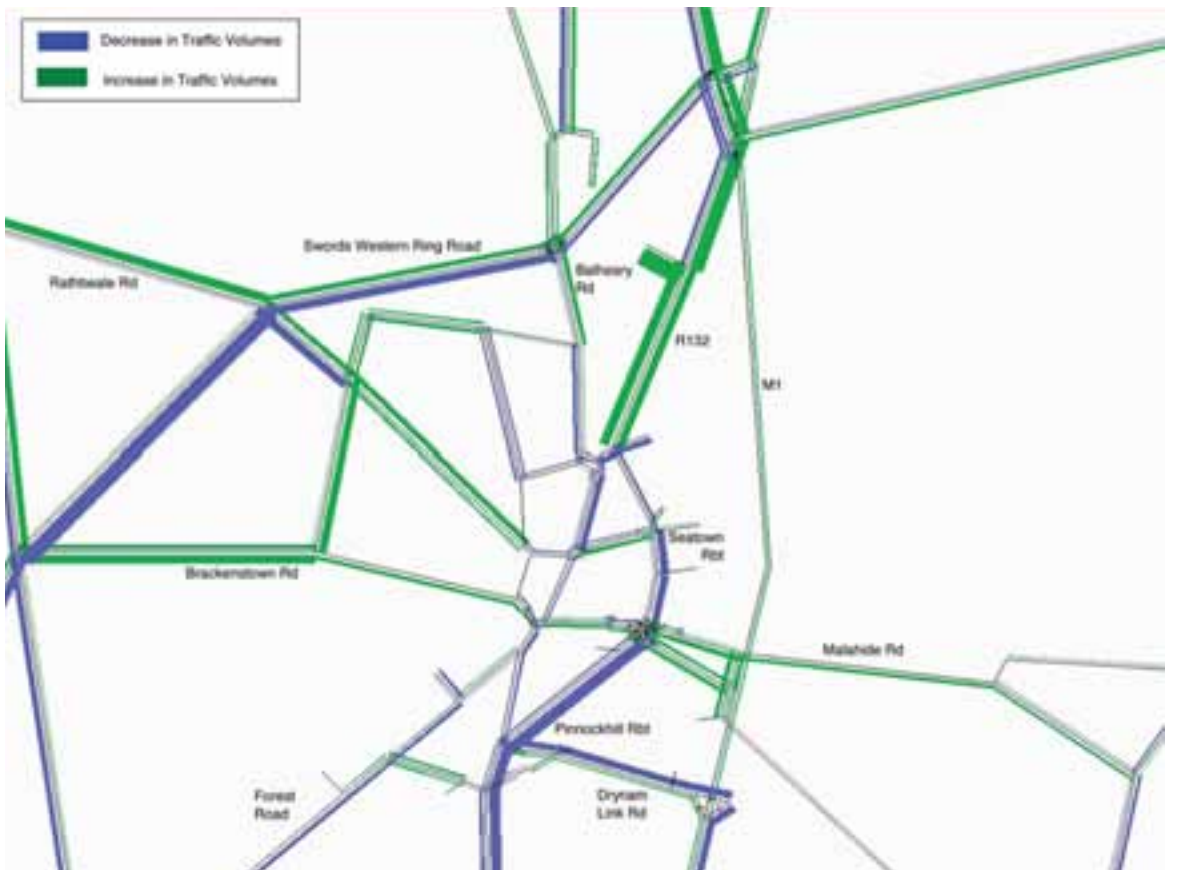


Figure 7.13
Traffic flow changes – do-minimum vs. do-something 2029 (Swords area)

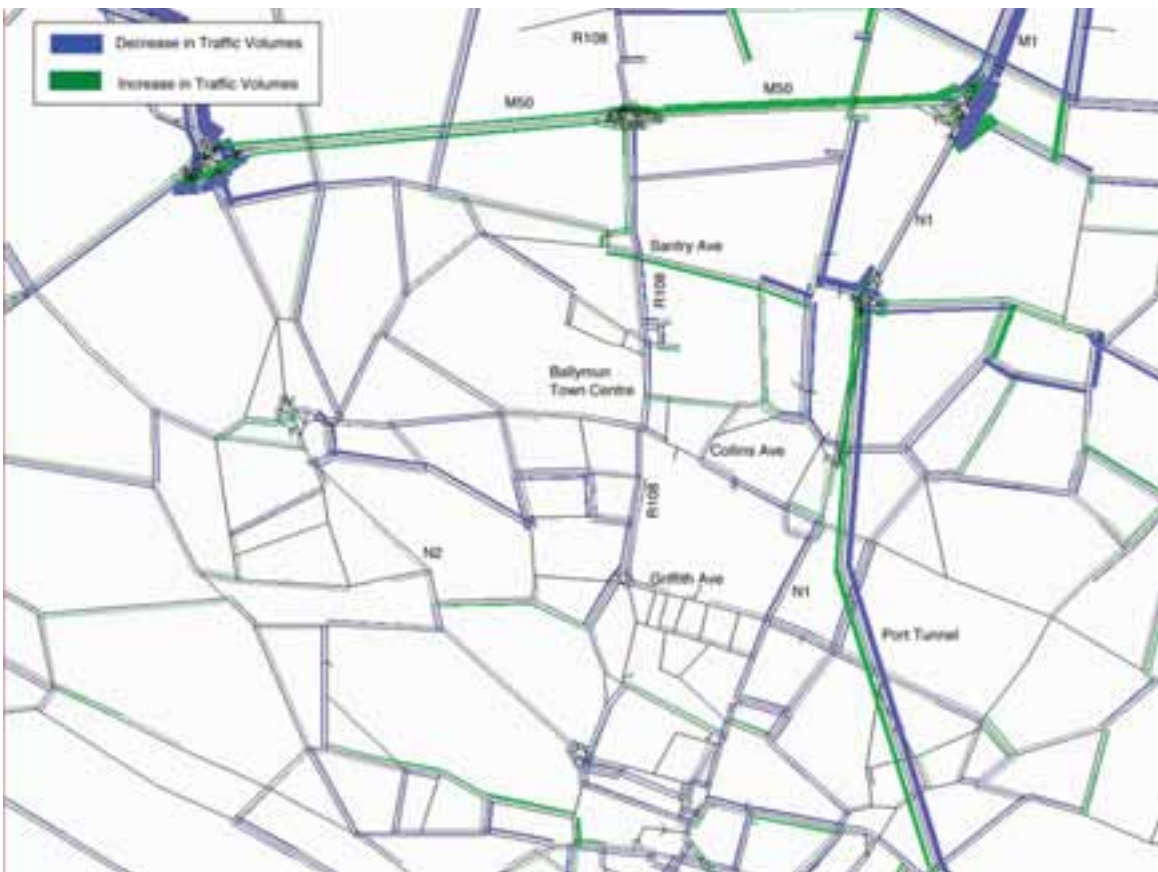


Figure 7.14
Traffic flow changes – do-
minimum vs. do-
something 2029
(Ballymun/
Glasnevin/
Finglas/
Drumcondra area)

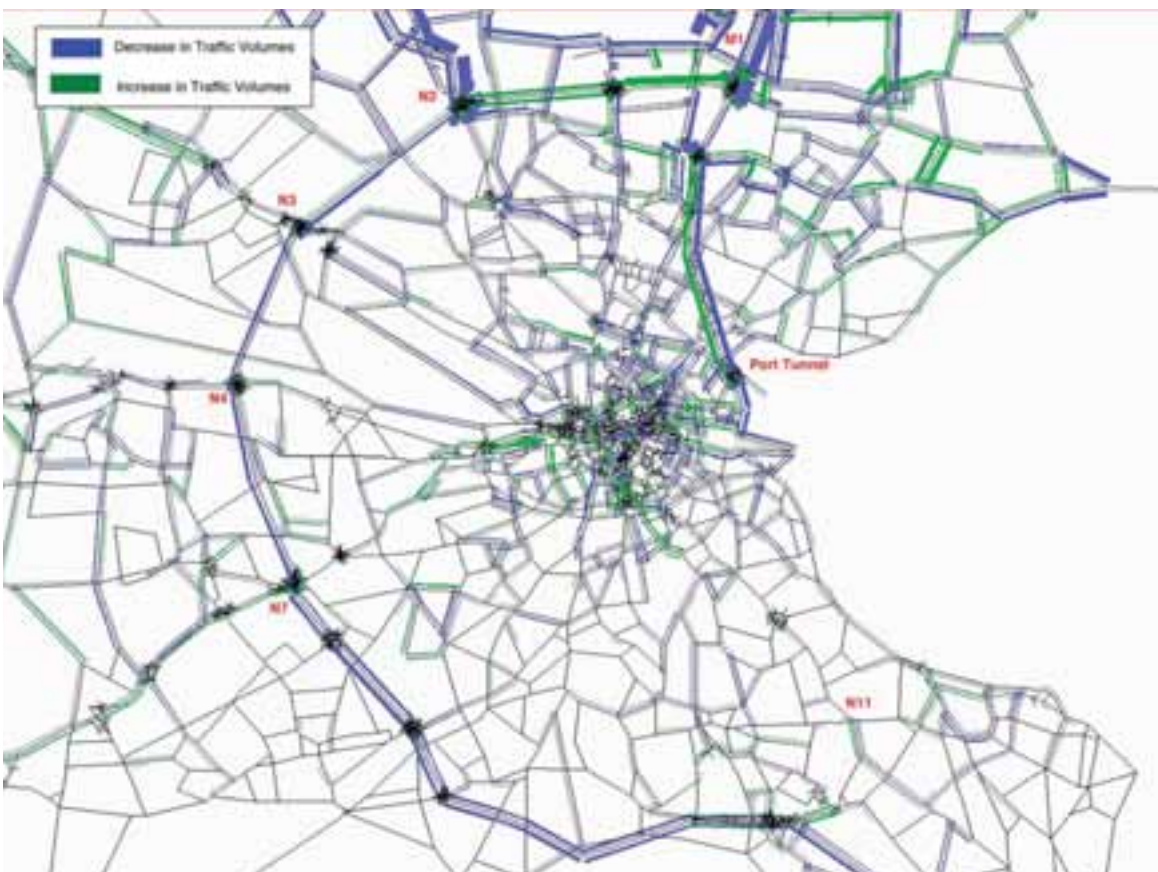


Figure 7.15
Traffic flow changes – do-
minimum vs. do-
something 2029
(city wide area)

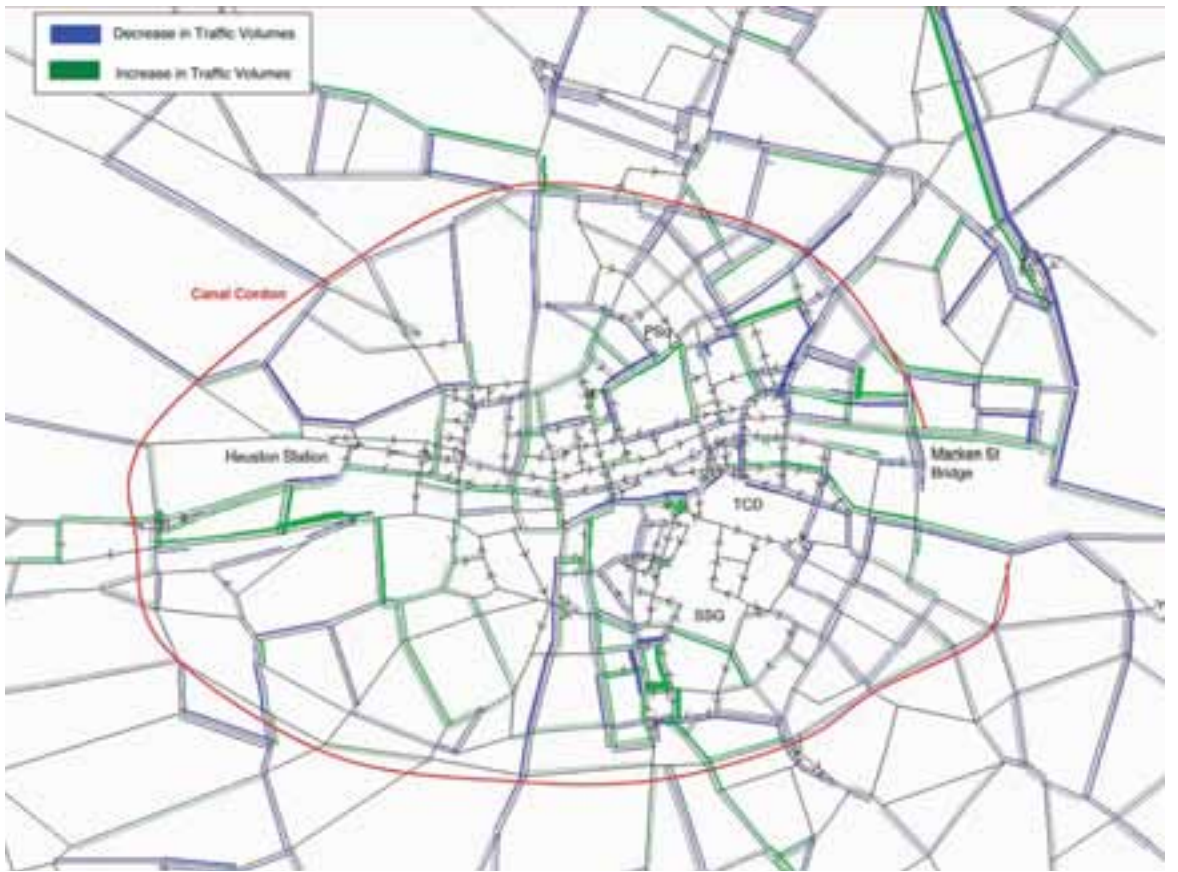


Figure 7.16
Traffic flow
changes – do-
minimum vs. do-
something 2029
(city centre area)



Figure 7.17
Traffic flow
changes – do-
minimum vs. do-
something 2029
(core city area)

7.4.6.3 Journey time and speed changes along key routes

A further method of demonstrating the predicted impact of the proposed scheme is through the assessment of journey times along key radial and orbital routes. Journey time statistics for a number of key radial and orbital routes in the vicinity of the proposed scheme have been extracted from the MNTM traffic model for the do-minimum and do-something scenarios.

Annex I of this EIS (Volume 3, Book 2 of 2) illustrates the routes for which these statistics are presented.

7.4.6.4 Predicted construction impact on traffic flow

Table 7.10 presents and compares the journey time statistics for 2011 for the do-minimum and do-something scenarios. Generally there is an increase in journey times on most of the routes assessed. Without the mitigation measures some routes would experience considerable journey time deterioration, particularly the R132 through Swords, Ballymun Road, N2, Collins Avenue, Church Street and Baggot Street.

Overall the impact on journey time can be classified as Moderate to Severe on the routes assessed in the absence of the proposed mitigation measures.

7.4.6.5 Predicted operational impact on traffic flow

Table 7.11 and Table 7.12 present and compare the journey time statistics for the do-minimum and do-something for 2014 and 2029 respectively. In both operational years there is a general reduction in journey times on most of the routes assessed. Journey time reductions of note include on the R132, Ballymun Road, M1, N2, Collins Avenue and Santry Avenue. The journey time assessment for the operational years illustrates the magnitude of the positive impact that the proposed scheme would have on traffic movement particularly in the vicinity of the alignment.

Table 7.10 Journey times – 2011 do-minimum vs. do-something

Route	2011 AM Peak Do-minimum (Minutes)	2011 AM Peak Do-Something (Minutes)	% Change
R132 Southbound	21m 28s	26m 33s	23.6%
R132 Northbound	35m 15s	45m 09s	28.1%
M1/N1 Southbound	42m 57s	44m 25s	3.4%
M1/N1 Northbound	20m 55s	23m 42s	13.3%
N2 Southbound	25m 39s	27m 19s	6.5%
N2 Northbound	15m 40s	16m 23s	4.6%
Ballymun Road Southbound	34m 07s	34m 22s	0.7%
Ballymun Road Northbound	18m 40s	21m 52s	17.1%
M50 Southbound	26m 01s	26m 53s	3.3%
M50 Northbound	24m 47s	24m 17s	-2.0%
Santry Ave Southbound	23m 55s	23m 14s	-2.8%
Santry Ave Northbound	18m 33s	19m 29s	5.0%
Collins Ave Eastbound	22m 02s	24m 40s	11.9%
Collins Ave Westbound	13m 04s	15m 41s	20.1%
Griffith Ave Eastbound	13m 07s	12m 13s	-6.9%
Griffith Ave Westbound	10m 57s	11m 25s	4.2%
Port Tunnel Southbound	07m 44s	09m 02s	16.8%
Port Tunnel Northbound	09m 11s	08m 29s	-7.7%

Route	2011 AM Peak Do-minimum (Minutes)	2011 AM Peak Do-Something (Minutes)	% Change
Gardiner Street/ Baggott Street Southbound	16m 32s	17m 11s	3.9%
Baggott Street/ Gardiner Street Northbound	34m 04s	40m 54s	20.0%
Church Street/ Clanbrassil Street Southbound	30m 57s	36m 46s	18.8%
Clanbrassil Street/ Church Street Northbound	21m 40s	31m 40s	46.1%
North Quays – Heuston to O’Connell Bridge	15m 33s	17m 02s	9.5%
South Quays - O’Connell Bridge to Heuston	06m 42s	07m 54s	17.9%
South Quays – Georges Quay to O’Connell Bridge	14m 02s	08m 58s	-36.1%
North Quays – Heuston to North Wall Quay	22m 38s	24m 26s	8.0%
South Quays – Georges Quay to Heuston	22m 40s	17m 19s	-23.6%

Table 7.11 Journey times – 2014 do-minimum vs. do-something

Route	2014 AM Peak Do-minimum (Minutes)	2014 AM Peak Do-Something (Minutes)	% Change
R132 Southbound	22m 13s	21m 26s	-3.6%
R132 Northbound	37m 20s	32m 42s	-12.4%
M1/N1 Southbound	53m 13s	41m 34s	-21.9%
M1/N1 Northbound	21m 28s	21m 07s	-1.7%
N2 Southbound	26m 60s	26m 06s	-3.3%
N2 Northbound	14m 52s	15m 06s	1.6%
Ballymun Road Southbound	38m 45s	32m 18s	-16.7%
Ballymun Road Northbound	17m 28s	17m 37s	0.9%
M50 Southbound	27m 49s	26m 29s	-4.8%
M50 Northbound	25m 29s	27m 25s	7.6%
Santry Ave Southbound	14m 42s	13m 32s	-7.9%
Santry Ave Northbound	19m 53s	17m 31s	-11.9%
Collins Ave Eastbound	20m 07s	18m 19s	-9.0%
Collins Ave Westbound	13m 04s	13m 26s	2.9%
Griffith Ave Eastbound	11m 05s	10m 54s	-1.6%
Griffith Ave Westbound	11m 13s	10m 53s	-3.0%
Port Tunnel Southbound	07m 58s	07m 52s	-1.4%
Port Tunnel Northbound	08m 34s	08m 37s	0.6%
Gardiner Street/ Baggott Street Southbound	15m 59s	15m 35s	-2.5%
Baggott Street/ Gardiner Street Northbound	35m 11s	35m 35s	1.1%
Church Street/ Clanbrassil Street Southbound	32m 07s	30m 07s	-6.2%
Clanbrassil Street/ Church Street Northbound	18m 38s	17m 21s	-6.9%

Route	2014 AM Peak Do-minimum (Minutes)	2014 AM Peak Do-Something (Minutes)	% Change
North Quays – Heuston to O’Connell Bridge	18m 04s	17m 07s	-5.2%
South Quays - O’Connell Bridge to Heuston	06m 32s	06m 38s	1.5%
South Quays – Georges Quay to O’Connell Bridge	13m 23s	12m 44s	-4.8%
North Quays – Heuston to North Wall Quay	24m 56s	24m 08s	-3.2%
South Quays – Georges Quay to Heuston	21m 46s	21m 03s	-3.3%

Table 7.12 Journey times – 2029 do-minimum vs. do-something

Route	2029 AM Peak Do-minimum (Minutes)	2029 AM Peak Do-Something (Minutes)	% Change
R132 Southbound	26m 52s	27m 02s	0.6%
R132 Northbound	40m 06s	32m 09s	-19.8%
M1/N1 Southbound	64m 32s	54m 05s	-16.2%
M1/N1 Northbound	24m 56s	24m 38s	-1.2%
N2 Southbound	37m 29s	34m 12s	-8.8%
N2 Northbound	18m 24s	18m 15s	-0.9%
Ballymun Road Southbound	49m 55s	45m 04s	-9.7%
Ballymun Road Northbound	21m 09s	21m 24s	1.2%
M50 Southbound	40m 04s	37m 42s	-5.9%
M50 Northbound	39m 23s	38m 52s	-1.3%
Santry Ave Southbound	17m 01s	16m 11s	-4.9%
Santry Ave Northbound	30m 04s	25m 11s	-16.2%
Collins Ave Eastbound	28m 06s	25m 30s	-9.3%
Collins Ave Westbound	17m 41s	16m 25s	-7.1%
Griffith Ave Eastbound	11m 35s	11m 21s	-1.9%
Griffith Ave Westbound	13m 39s	13m 18s	-2.5%
Port Tunnel Southbound	10m 33s	09m 56s	-5.9%
Port Tunnel Northbound	12m 02s	09m 57s	-17.2%
Gardiner Street/Baggott Street Southbound	17m 04s	16m 05s	-5.7%
Baggott Street/ Gardiner Street Northbound	35m 38s	36m 27s	2.3%
Church Street/ Clanbrassil Street Southbound	35m 06s	35m 45s	1.9%
Clanbrassil Street/ Church Street Northbound	20m 24s	19m 30s	-4.4%
North Quays – Heuston to O’Connell Bridge	16m 58s	18m 28s	8.9%
South Quays - O’Connell Bridge to Heuston	07m 05s	07m 25s	4.9%
South Quays – Georges Quay to O’Connell Bridge	14m 18s	12m 15s	-14.3%
North Quays – Heuston to North Wall Quay	24m 29s	26m 05s	6.5%
South Quays – Georges Quay to Heuston	22m 51s	21m 01s	-8.0%

7.4.7 Conclusions drawn from the strategic predicted impact assessment

The traffic modelling results have shown that the strategic predicted impact of the proposed scheme would be Severe during the construction phase in the absence of further mitigation to offset these predicted impacts. The predicted impact of the operational phase of the proposed scheme on traffic movement is very positive and further mitigation measures are not required.

7.4.7.1 Summary of the predicted construction impact

The assumptions underpinning the traffic modelling undertaken to assess the construction impact of the proposed scheme are very conservative and represent an absolute worst case construction scenario. Limited mitigation measures have been assumed in this assessment. The assessment, therefore, must be viewed in the context of this conservatism in that the modelled impact will be further mitigated to ensure that this impact would not come to fruition. A Scheme Traffic Management Plan which will be developed will (see below) provide further mitigation measures that are required to alleviate the severity of the modelled impact.

Based on the traffic modelling construction assumptions and results, the predicted strategic impact on traffic accruing from construction activities would be Severe without implementing further mitigation measures. Modelling results indicate that traffic speeds across the GDA would decrease by over 11%, a reduction of 3kph. Drivers would travel further distances to avoid construction areas compounding the congestion levels on other parallel routes and affecting the operation of buses through the city. Other traffic modelling statistics such as impact on bus speeds and journey time on key routes further demonstrate the significance of the construction impact in the absence of mitigation measures.

Substantial further traffic management mitigation measures, described below, are required along the full alignment to reduce this impact and to develop intervention policies that will clearly demonstrate how traffic will operate in conjunction with the construction phase.

7.4.7.2 Summary of the predicted operational impact

The strategic impact of the proposed scheme during its operational phases would be very positive. The modal shift from car to the proposed scheme improves the average speed across the GDA by 2kph and 3kph in 2014 and 2029 respectively. Time spent queuing decreases, distance travelled decreases and also time spent travelling decreases. There are also improvements to bus speeds across the GDA. Journey time assessments on key routes further demonstrate the positive nature of the impact as the majority in both 2014 and 2029 show decreases.

7.5 STRATEGIC FURTHER MITIGATION

7.5.1 Introduction

The strategic predicted impact assessment has shown that the city wide construction impact of the proposed scheme, without mitigation measures, would be Severe with average speeds across the city falling 3kph. The following are mitigation measures that are required to reduce the severity of the construction impact.

7.5.2 Scheme Traffic Management Plan

Measures necessary to mitigate the negative effects of construction of the proposed scheme will be developed as the proposed scheme evolves to construction in consultation with key stakeholders such as the relevant roads authorities. These will be detailed in a Scheme Traffic Management Plan.

This plan will prioritise pedestrian, cyclist, public transport and local access needs (for example, multi storey car parks, residential and commercial properties). Such an approach will minimise the impact of the construction phase on transport and business activities. To facilitate this, it will be important for the plan to divert through traffic away from key construction areas.

This plan is a framework document within which the necessary mitigation measures will be developed through the various stages of design and construction. This will detail the proposed programme of works, how appropriate access can be retained throughout the works and how the potential negative traffic impacts (including pedestrian and cyclist impacts) associated with operating a number of urban construction sites concurrently can be managed. Initially, this plan will be developed by RPA in consultation with the roads authority and other key stakeholders until the PPP contractor is appointed. Then the PPP contractor will continue to develop and implement the strategy throughout the construction phase. This plan will be reviewed on a regular basis during its implementation for its relevance and effectiveness.

The MNTM traffic model has been used to assess the impact of Dublin City Council's SCATS system. Within the MNTM there is a facility to optimise signal green times for the whole Dublin region. This signal optimisation programme was run through the MNTM for 2011 with scheme construction assumed. The results of this test are shown below in Table 7.13 and Table 7.14 compared to the do-minimum and do-something scenarios. The results indicate that by reconfiguring the signal green time within the city there will be potential to minimise the traffic disruption generated by the construction activities to achieve congestion levels and network speeds that exist in the do-minimum scenario.

Table 7.13 Strategic construction impact 2011 (AM Peak Hour) – general traffic

Criteria	Do-Minimum	Do-Something	Do-Something with Signal Optimisation
Queuing Statistic (pcu hours)	21,000	25,700	19,400
Travel Time (pcu hrs)	86,700	100,200	87,000
Travel Distance (pcu kilometres)	2,190,000	2,250,000	2,220,300
Average Speed (kph)	25	22	25

Table 7.14 Strategic construction impact 2011 (AM peak hour) – bus only

Criteria	Do-Minimum	Do-Something	Do-Something with Signal Optimisation
Bus Speed (kph)	19	15	19
Bus kilometres lost to queuing per hour	1,900	4,800	2,100

7.5.3 Public transport operations

The Scheme Traffic Management Plan will consider public transport operating needs along the alignment of the proposed scheme. Discussions will be held with relevant public transport operators, and roads and planning authorities to mitigate the proposed scheme's impacts.

7.5.4 Corridor management strategies

The Scheme Traffic Management Plan will include corridor management strategies as required for areas and roads directly affected by construction activities. These strategies are required for routes that without mitigation measures would experience substantial increases in traffic flow from displaced vehicle trips avoiding construction areas. The corridor management strategies will take the form of additional signal priority for certain movements, reconfiguration of key junctions, re-signing of routes (including utilisation of VMS).

7.5.5 Pedestrian management strategies

The Scheme Traffic Management Plan will include pedestrian management strategies around each work site to ensure that pedestrian circulation and safety requirements take priority in all instances where construction works interface with pedestrians. This is critical in the context of the large number of construction phases envisaged at and between discrete site locations. Furthermore, the city centre stops are located in very sensitive urban areas with high pedestrian volumes and substantial volumes of general traffic. The additional construction activity (site areas and construction vehicles) in these areas will impede pedestrian circulation and access unless properly managed.

7.6 PREDICTED LOCAL CONSTRUCTION IMPACT - AREA MN102

The construction phase will include utilities diversions and enabling works, which, by their nature are of short duration and will have localised impacts which will be mitigated. This phase also includes the main construction works for the proposed scheme, which are of longer duration and which have a potentially greater impact along the full length of the proposed scheme. The following assessment therefore considers the main construction works. The combined impact of both HGV and general traffic has been assessed in the preceding Strategic Impact Assessment section.

7.6.1 Construction impact area

The alignment of the proposed scheme, through Area MN102, closely follows the R132 from north of the Pinnock Hill Roundabout as far south as the entrance to Airside Retail Park. Subsequently, the alignment heads southwest through predominantly green field areas until it reaches Naul Road at the southern boundary of Area MN102.

One stop will be constructed within Area MN102 at Fosterstown near the Airside Retail and Business Park. The method of construction within Area MN102 will be by way of elevated track on viaducts descending to ground level south of the proposed Fosterstown Stop.

The proposed scheme will also be predominantly constructed away from the R132 carriageway and the impact on road traffic will be minimised as a result. South of the proposed stop at Fosterstown, the alignment will pass under the R132 crossing diagonally from east to west. Construction works at this location will include mitigation measures to ensure the impact is minimised.

The construction of the proposed scheme will require some temporary alterations to the configuration of the R132 between the northern boundary of Area MN102 and the junction with Airside Retail Park. The existing number of general traffic lanes will be maintained during all phases of construction. Whilst works are on-going in the area it will be necessary to close the existing bus lanes in both directions along the entire length of the construction works area.

The construction of the proposed scheme, in Area MN102, will take place in a phased manner. The assessment assumes that all construction sites within MN102 are simultaneously at the phase of greatest impact. This represents the critical construction phase. The other construction phases will have a lesser impact as more options for traffic movement are available.

The alterations that are likely to be made to the configuration of major junctions within Area MN102, during the construction phase, are described below.

7.6.1.1 Pinnock Hill Roundabout

For almost the entire duration of the construction period, the Pinnock Hill Roundabout will continue to operate without major alterations. The road links to and from the roundabout will be maintained and all existing traffic movements will be permitted except for very limited periods of time.

During some construction phases, to facilitate the connection of construction works, there will be a need to partially close the roundabout. These temporary lane closures will be of very limited duration of the order of 2 days. To mitigate the impact of the works, the temporary closures will be scheduled to take place at periods of low traffic flow. Diversion routes will be in operation whilst lane closures are in effect. Two principal diversion routes will be available during the temporary closures. The first will divert traffic towards the Malahide Roundabout where all traffic movements will be permitted. The second will divert traffic along the eastern arm of the Pinnock Hill Roundabout and around the Airside Retail Park to rejoin the R132 at the Airside Retail Park junction. The diversions will add approximately 2km in journey length to those affected. Given that the diversions will be in effect for very limited durations, the overall impact on general traffic at this junction is slight.

7.6.1.2 R132 / Airside Retail Park junction

The critical construction phase at this junction, as modelled as part of this assessment, comprises the closure of the Airside Retail Park exit onto the junction to all traffic except that heading from the Airside Retail Park southbound on the R132. During this critical construction phase, traffic diversions would be in operation. All traffic from the Airside Retail Park heading either northbound on the R132, or westbound on Rathingle Road, will be diverted around Airside Retail Park to rejoin the R132 at Pinnock Hill Roundabout. The diversion will add approximately 1 to 1.5 km in journey length to those affected.

Construction works will be ongoing in the vicinity of this junction for a prolonged period of time. The Airside Road does not, however, cater for considerable levels of traffic volumes. Overall the impact on general traffic of alterations to this junction is moderate, without further mitigation measures.

7.6.1.3 Fosterstown underpass

Immediately south of the proposed Fosterstown Stop, the proposed scheme will traverse the R132 by way of a cut and cover underpass. During the construction of the underpass, a temporary traffic deck will be required to facilitate traffic movement on the R132 as it will not be possible to close the R132 for any significant periods

Temporary road closures will be required to construct the supporting structure and weekend possessions of each carriageway with contra flow on the opposing carriageway will be required to install and remove the temporary traffic deck.

Without further mitigation measures, the impact on traffic during the critical phases will be severe but of short duration.

7.6.2 Construction traffic and background HGV traffic flows

To provide the most robust assessment of the impacts on all road users, the modelled scenario is based on a worst case assumption of excavation and concreting operations taking place simultaneously at every work site throughout the scheme.

In practice, due to constraints on vehicle/ plant/ staff resources the full impacts predicted below are very unlikely to materialise, in particular on routes serving multiple sites such as the M1 and R132. The Scheme Traffic Management Plan will inform the most appropriate level of construction vehicle activity that can be accommodated based on the predicted impact of the worst case scenario. Table 7.15 details the predicted construction traffic volumes within Area MN102 based on the combined impact of the construction of each critical stage along the alignment. In addition, the modelled results allow for the impact of the redistribution of background HGV traffic as a result of the overall traffic impact of the construction of the proposed scheme.

Table 7.15 Comparison of 2011 modelled heavy goods vehicle traffic flows with and without construction of the proposed scheme (AM peak hour flows 08:00 to 09:00)

Link	Direction	2011 Do- Minimum	2011 Do- Something	% Change
R132, between Malahide and Pinnock Hill Roundabouts	Northbound	100	120	20%
	Southbound	110	120	9%
Dublin Road, north of Pinnock Hill Roundabout	Northbound	10	10	0%
	Southbound	20	35	75%
M1 Link Road (to Drynam Interchange)	Eastbound	120	110	-8%
	Westbound	60	60	0%
R132, between Pinnock Hill Roundabout and Fosterstown Junction	Northbound	50	60	20%
	Southbound	30	40	33%
Rathingle Road	Eastbound	15	15	0%
	Westbound	10	10	0%
Airside Retail Park	Eastbound	5	5	0%
	Westbound	10	10	0%
R132 between Fosterstown Junction and Cloghran Roundabout	Northbound	40	45	13%
	Southbound	30	35	17%
Naul Road	Eastbound	10	20	100%
	Westbound	25	35	40%
Clonshaugh Road	Eastbound	10	10	0%
	Westbound	5	5	0%
M1, between Drynam and Airport Interchanges	Northbound	320	510	59%
	Southbound	370	540	46%

There are relatively low volumes of background HGV traffic within Area MN102. The volume of HGV traffic on the R132 within Area MN102 will not increase substantially as a result of the construction of the proposed scheme.

The highest increase in HGV and construction vehicle traffic is likely to occur northbound on the R132 between the Pinnock Hill Roundabout and the Malahide Road. Along this section of the R132, an increase of 20 HGV movements is predicted during the critical phases. Overall the impact as a result of construction vehicle movements and background HGV redistribution will be slight.

7.6.3 Construction phase impact on general traffic

Table 7.16 illustrates the modelled traffic flows within Area MN102 for the construction year 2011.

Table 7.16 Comparison of 2011 modelled car and light goods vehicle traffic flows with and without construction of the proposed scheme (AM peak hour flows 08:00 to 09:00)

Link	Direction	2011 Do-Minimum	2011 Do-Something	% Change
R132, between Malahide and Pinnock Hill Roundabouts	Northbound	1,550	1,270	-18%
	Southbound	1,360	1,100	-19%
Dublin Road, north of Pinnock Hill Roundabout	Northbound	450	550	22%
	Southbound	550	670	22%
M1 Link Road (to Drynam Interchange)	Eastbound	1,010	960	-5%
	Westbound	860	810	-6%
R132, between Pinnock Hill Roundabout and Fosterstown Junction	Northbound	850	640	-25%
	Southbound	760	520	-32%
Rathingle Road	Eastbound	510	580	14%
	Westbound	170	290	71%
Airsides Retail Park	Eastbound	190	100	-47%
	Westbound	200	190	-5%
R132 between Fosterstown Junction and Cloghran Roundabout	Northbound	680	640	-6%
	Southbound	940	890	-5%
Naul Road	Eastbound	330	230	-30%
	Westbound	490	410	-16%
Clonsaugh Road	Eastbound	230	250	9%
	Westbound	340	340	0%
M1, between Airport and M50 Interchanges	Northbound	3,470	3,070	-12%
	Southbound	4,050	3,660	-10%

The volume of general traffic on the R132 is reduced during the construction of the proposed scheme. Traffic model results indicate that there is a considerable decrease in through traffic along the R132, accumulating in a reduction of over 250 vehicles per hour heading southbound between the Pinnock Hill Roundabout and Fosterstown. Analysis of the traffic model results also indicate that much of this traffic is through traffic that is redistributed throughout the strategic road network as a result of the wider impacts of the construction outside of Area MN102.

There are no indications of severe impacts on local traffic movements within Area MN102. During the AM peak hour period, traffic model results indicate a 71% increase in traffic volumes westbound on the Rathingle Road due to the redistribution of through traffic. This increase in traffic comprises 120 additional vehicle movements per hour during the AM peak, which is considered to be a slight to moderate impact.

Without mitigation, overall average car speeds within Area MN102 decrease from 56kph in the do-minimum scenario to 44kph during construction of the proposed scheme. This represents a decrease of approximately 20% in car traffic speeds during the AM peak hour period. Although the percentage decrease in average car speeds is large within Area MN102, a relatively high average traffic speed of 44kph is predicted during the critical phase of construction. However, without mitigation, a decrease of 12kph within MN102 represents a severe impact on traffic.

Similarly, during off-peak hours average car speeds within Area MN102 would decrease from 63kph to 55kph. This equates to a 13% decrease in car traffic speeds during the representative off-peak hour (14:00 to 15:00). Given residual speed and the length of duration of the construction works the impact, without mitigation, on car traffic will be moderate.

7.6.4 Construction phase impact on public transport

Bus is the main form of public transport currently available within Area MN102. The Swords Quality Bus Corridor (QBC) joins the R132 at the Malahide Roundabout and extends along the length of the R132 in Area MN102 in both directions. Bus lanes are provided, in both directions, along the R132 within Area MN102. During the construction period of the proposed scheme, these bus lanes will be closed for the duration of works.

The principal bus services within Area MN102 are the Dublin Bus 33 and 41 service groups. There are also a number of Bus Éireann and private operator services. Traffic model results indicate that the general traffic speeds will be in the region of 33kph southbound on the R132 during the AM peak hour period between the Malahide Roundabout and the Naul Road. During the construction works, bus journey speeds will be similar to general traffic speeds. The design speed for QBC corridors is a minimum of 20kph. Although there are relatively high volumes of buses operating along the R132, there is limited need to retain the bus lanes as general traffic speeds are in excess of QBC minimum standards. The impact, therefore, of the construction works on bus movement within Area MN102 is classified as slight.

Existing bus stops will be relocated to accommodate works in specific areas, however there will be no overall reduction in the number of bus stops along the R132.

Overall, the impact on bus operations, in Area MN102, during the construction phase of the proposed scheme is classified as slight.

7.6.5 Construction phase impact on pedestrians and cyclists

The construction works will include the realignment of the R132. During these works, it will be necessary to close existing footpaths in the vicinity of the works, and alternative routes will be provided. Measures will be implemented to maintain adequate levels of pedestrian safety through the construction period. On completion of these works, enhanced pedestrian facilities will be provided.

Pedestrian access to and from existing or relocated bus stops will be maintained at all times during the hours of bus operation. Existing pedestrian crossings of the R132 will be accommodated through the construction areas where alternative access is not available, to ensure that the construction works do not result in severance.

Pedestrian diversions in all instances will be no greater than 250m resulting in a slight impact on pedestrians. Mitigation will include the provision of pedestrian crossing facilities during the construction phase with a minimum footpath width of 2m. Overall the impact of the construction phase on pedestrians will be slight.

Cyclists will be affected by the same turning restrictions and junction reconfigurations as general traffic. The closure of the existing bus lanes will have a negative impact on cyclists. Without mitigation, the impact on cyclists will be severe.

7.7 PREDICTED LOCAL OPERATIONAL IMPACT - AREA MN102

7.7.1 Operational phase impact on general traffic

Table 7.17 presents the traffic flows extracted from the MNTM traffic model for cars and light goods vehicles during the operational phase of the proposed scheme for 2014 and 2029. There is a decrease in traffic volumes throughout Area MN102. The number of cars travelling southbound on the R132 decreases by up to 25% in 2014, and 33% in 2029, compared to the do-minimum scenario. This very positive impact and is a direct result of the modal shift from car to the proposed scheme.

Associated with the Fosterstown Stop will be a Park & Ride facility with spaces for up to 300 cars. Access to the Park & Ride facility will be via the Drynam Link Road, close to Pinnock Hill Roundabout. Traffic generated by the Park & Ride facility will generally come from estates located to the south-west of Swords, Kinsealy and Malahide.

From the west, access to the Park & Ride site will be from the R132 / Airside Retail Park junction, then via Pinnock Hill Roundabout or the Airside / Drynam Link Road roundabout. From the east, traffic will be routed along Malahide Road or Feltrim Road / Drynam Road. There will be some additional traffic generated by the Park & Ride site on the Drynam Link Road, as shown in Table 7.17.

There will be a car drop-off/ pick-up facility providing for approximately two cars to stop at a time located within the car-park boundary, and these will not therefore have a direct impact on other road users. There will be two more car drop-off/ pick-up spaces located adjacent to the northbound R132 carriageway, opposite the Fosterstown Stop, in close proximity to the pedestrian bridge that provide access to the stop. There may be some localised increases in traffic volumes around each stop associated with car drop offs and bus interchange. Given the transfer from car to public transport, the predicted impact is assumed to be neutral.

The general decrease in AM-peak traffic volumes in Area MN102 is reflected in the increased average network car speed. In 2014, the do-minimum average speed in Area MN102 is 56kph, which increases to 57kph with the proposed scheme in place. Similarly, in 2029, the do-minimum speed is 55kph, which increases to 56kph with the proposed scheme in place. This will positively impact on drivers by reducing AM-peak journey times, thus lessening driver stress on routes through the area. This is a slight positive impact on am-peak journey times.

Comparison between the off-peak do-minimum and do-something scenarios reveals marginal increases in the average network car speed within Area MN102. In 2014, the do-minimum average speed is 60kph, which increases to 61kph with the proposed scheme in place. Similarly, in 2029, the do-minimum speed is 49kph, which increases to 52kph with the proposed scheme in place. Thus, the presence of the proposed scheme will also have a slight positive impact on off-peak journey times.

Table 7.18 presents the traffic flows extracted from the MNTM traffic model for heavy goods vehicles during the operational phase for 2014 and 2029. Except on the M1, all modelled changes in HGV volumes are less than ten vehicles per hour, and the predicted impact, therefore, is assumed to be minimal.

Table 7.17 Changes in car and light goods vehicle traffic volumes due to the operation of the proposed scheme, as modelled for the years 2014 and 2029 (AM peak hour flows 08:00 to 09:00)

Link	Direction of traffic flow	2014 Cars and LGVs			2029 Cars and LGVs		
		Do-Minimum	Do-Something	% Change	Do-Minimum	Do-Something	% Change
R132, between Malahide and Pinnock Hill Roundabouts	Northbound	1,650	1,600	-3%	1,610	1,560	-3%
	Southbound	1,480	1,350	-9%	1,470	1,200	-18%
Dublin Road, north of Pinnock Hill Roundabout	Northbound	430	380	-12%	380	400	5%
	Southbound	580	510	-12%	620	570	-8%
M1 Link Road (to Drynam Interchange)	Eastbound	940	920	-2%	970	810	-16%
	Westbound	700	760	9%	590	620	5%
R132, between Pinnock Hill Roundabout and Fosterstown Junction	Northbound	1,030	960	-7%	1,060	1,040	-2%
	Southbound	910	690	-24%	990	750	-24%
Rathingle Road	Eastbound	410	400	-2%	470	460	-2%
	Westbound	340	380	12%	340	330	-3%
Airside	Eastbound	240	210	-13%	280	250	-11%
	Westbound	150	150	0%	150	120	-20%
R132 between Fosterstown Junction. and Cloghran Roundabout	Northbound	1,030	1,080	5%	1,050	1,000	-5%
	Southbound	900	780	-13%	980	720	-27%
Naul Road	Eastbound	660	640	-3%	830	760	-8%
	Westbound	720	660	-8%	1,150	730	-37%
Clonshaugh Road	Eastbound	500	390	-22%	810	590	-27%
	Westbound	940	940	0%	1,000	980	-2%
R132, between Cloghran and Airport Roundabouts	Northbound	860	830	-3%	1,340	900	-33%
	Southbound	1,090	1,000	-8%	1,140	1,000	-12%
M1, between Drynam and Airport Interchanges	Northbound	2,160	2,250	4%	1,770	1,760	-1%
	Southbound	4,260	4,350	2%	3,970	3,750	-6%

Table 7.18 Changes in heavy goods vehicle traffic volumes due to the operation of the proposed scheme, as modelled for the years 2014 and 2029 (AM peak hour flows 08:00 to 09:00).

Link	Direction of traffic flow	2014 HGVs			2029 HGVs		
		Do-Minimum	Do-Something	% Change	Do-Minimum	Do-Something	% Change
R132, between Malahide and Pinnock Hill Roundabouts	Northbound	85	90	6%	95	100	5%
	Southbound	125	125	0%	115	100	-13%
Dublin Road, north of Pinnock Hill Roundabout	Northbound	15	15	0%	15	10	-33%
	Southbound	15	20	33%	30	25	-17%
M1 Link Road (to Drynam Interchange)	Eastbound	125	130	4%	130	125	-4%
	Westbound	55	50	-9%	55	55	0%
R132, between Pinnock Hill Roundabout and Fosterstown Jn.	Northbound	40	50	25%	54	50	-7%
	Southbound	25	20	-20%	30	25	-17%
Rathingle Road	Eastbound	20	20	0%	35	35	0%
	Westbound	10	15	50%	15	25	67%
Airside	Eastbound	5	5	0%	10	10	0%
	Westbound	5	5	0%	5	10	100%
R132 between Fosterstown Junction and Cloghran Roundabout	Northbound	40	50	25%	55	50	-9%
	Southbound	40	35	-13%	45	40	-11%
Naul Road	Eastbound	15	20	33%	80	70	-13%
	Westbound	30	20	-33%	40	50	25%
Clonshaugh Road	Eastbound	20	15	-25%	45	35	-22%
	Westbound	25	20	-20%	35	40	14%
R132, between Cloghran and Airport Roundabouts	Northbound	45	50	11%	75	75	0%
	Southbound	30	30	0%	70	65	-7%
M1, between Drynam and Airport Interchanges	Northbound	325	335	3%	365	375	3%
	Southbound	370	380	3%	450	470	4%

7.7.2 Operational phase impact on public transport

During the operational phase, the proposed scheme has no impact on the level of bus priority in Area MN102, where buses benefit from long sections of existing bus lane infrastructure along the R132.

Interchange facilities will be provided at the Fosterstown Stop for bus feeder services. The bus stops will be located in close proximity to the pedestrian bridge to the proposed scheme platform to facilitate interchange. Pedestrian access to these bus stops will be improved with new footpaths in the vicinity of the stop.

7.7.3 Operational phase impact on pedestrians and cyclists

The Fosterstown Stop will be located to the east of the R132, just south of Pinnock Hill Roundabout. The Airside Retail Park is on the southern border of the stop, and good pedestrian links between the two will be provided.

The proposed scheme will have a significant positive impact on pedestrians in Area MN102, where the pedestrian network will be improved by:

- The extension of footpaths on both sides of the road north of the Airside Retail Park junction up to the Fosterstown Stop and adjoining bus stops;
- The creation of a pedestrian footbridge across the R132 at the northern end of the platform to provide access to the Fosterstown Stop.

The existing at-grade signalised pedestrian crossing of the R132 at the Airside Retail Park junction will provide pedestrian access to the stop from the south.

Pedestrian security on the platforms will be enhanced by good lighting facilities and CCTV surveillance. Those with reduced mobility are provided for by compliance with the DETR Guidelines and the Disability Act, 2005. The following infrastructure will be provided at all at-grade stops:

- Tactile paving at the controlled crossings;
- Ramps for access to the platform;
- All stop furniture being aligned against the back of the platforms or as a centre island on the platform, maximising the effective platform width;
- Public address system;
- Electronic passenger information display boards.

The provision of the new footbridge will make it easier for pedestrians to cross the R132, thus reducing severance between the Boromimhe and Airside areas. This feature, in conjunction with a reduced speed limit will create a safer pedestrian environment. Overall, the presence of the proposed scheme will have a slight positive impact on pedestrians in Area MN102.

The proposed scheme will have a slight improvement on cycle conditions along the R132 in Area MN102. Covered cycle storage will also be provided at Fosterstown Stop.

7.8 RESIDUAL LOCAL IMPACT – AREA MN102

7.8.1 Further local construction mitigation measures

7.8.1.1 General traffic mitigation measures

- The realignment of the R132 will take place at an early stage in the construction programme so that traffic can be diverted onto the new carriageway during the remainder of the construction period;
- The construction methodology at the Airside Retail Park junction will be revised to avoid the need to temporarily close the Airside Retail Park Access Road;

- A reduced speed limit of 50kph will be imposed on the R132 in the vicinity of the proposed scheme in order to ensure the safety of all road users during the construction phase;
- Where appropriate, construction work requiring short term disruption and road closures at the Pinnock Hill Roundabout will be carried out when traffic volumes are low, such as:
 - At night;
 - At weekends;
 - During school holidays.
- The hours of operation and routes of construction vehicles accessing/egressing the sites will be strictly controlled in Area MN102. On contract award the contractor will further develop construction vehicle routing arrangements in line with project programme and the evolving construction methodology. The Scheme Traffic Management Plan will be updated to reflect this.

7.8.1.2 Pedestrian and cyclist mitigation measures

- The closure of the existing bus lanes on the R132, will lead to a moderate negative impact on cyclists who share these facilities at present. The inside lane of the R132 will be temporarily widened to provide sufficient space to accommodate general traffic and cyclists. To achieve this, it may be necessary to reduce the width of the outer lane.
- Appropriate measures to minimise risk to pedestrian and cyclist safety will be developed through the construction phase. These will be reviewed on an ongoing basis for their relevance and effectiveness on site.

7.8.2 Residual local construction impact

The localised impacts resulting from the proposed scheme construction in Area MN102 have been described in detail above. By applying the further local mitigation measures, the severity of these impacts will be reduced, as outlined in the Table 7.19 below.

Table 7.19 Construction impact, further mitigation, and residual local impacts

Impact ID	Location	Source of Impact	Description of local impact	Strategic mitigation measures	Possible further local mitigation	Residual local impact
MN102/ T01	R132 and M1	Additional construction vehicle traffic on the network.	There will be substantial levels of construction vehicle traffic on the R132.	Phasing and sequencing of construction works	The Scheme Traffic Management Plan will address an appropriate phasing schedule for construction vehicle activities and construction works areas.	The residual impact will be moderate post introduction of mitigation
MN102/ T02	Throughout Area MN102	Reduction in traffic capacity due to lane closures and restrictions.	Without further mitigation there would be a decrease from 56kph in the Do-minimum scenario to 44kph during the construction of the proposed scheme within Area MN102. This represents a 21% decrease in car traffic speeds during the AM peak hour period and a relative change of 12kph.	Phasing and sequencing of construction works	The Scheme Traffic Management Plan will detail a comprehensive construction phasing plan to ensure that all critical phases do not coincide and that the impact is minimised.	The residual impact will be moderate post introduction of mitigation.
MN102/ T03	North and South carriageways of the R132	The closure of the existing bus lanes on the R132	In addition to providing bus priority, bus lanes can be accessed by cyclists and are part of the overall cycle infrastructure. The closure of cycle facilities will have a severe impact on cyclists.	None	The Scheme Traffic Management Plan will examine options to facilitate cyclist movement.	The residual impact will be moderate post introduction of mitigation.

7.8.3 Residual local operational impact

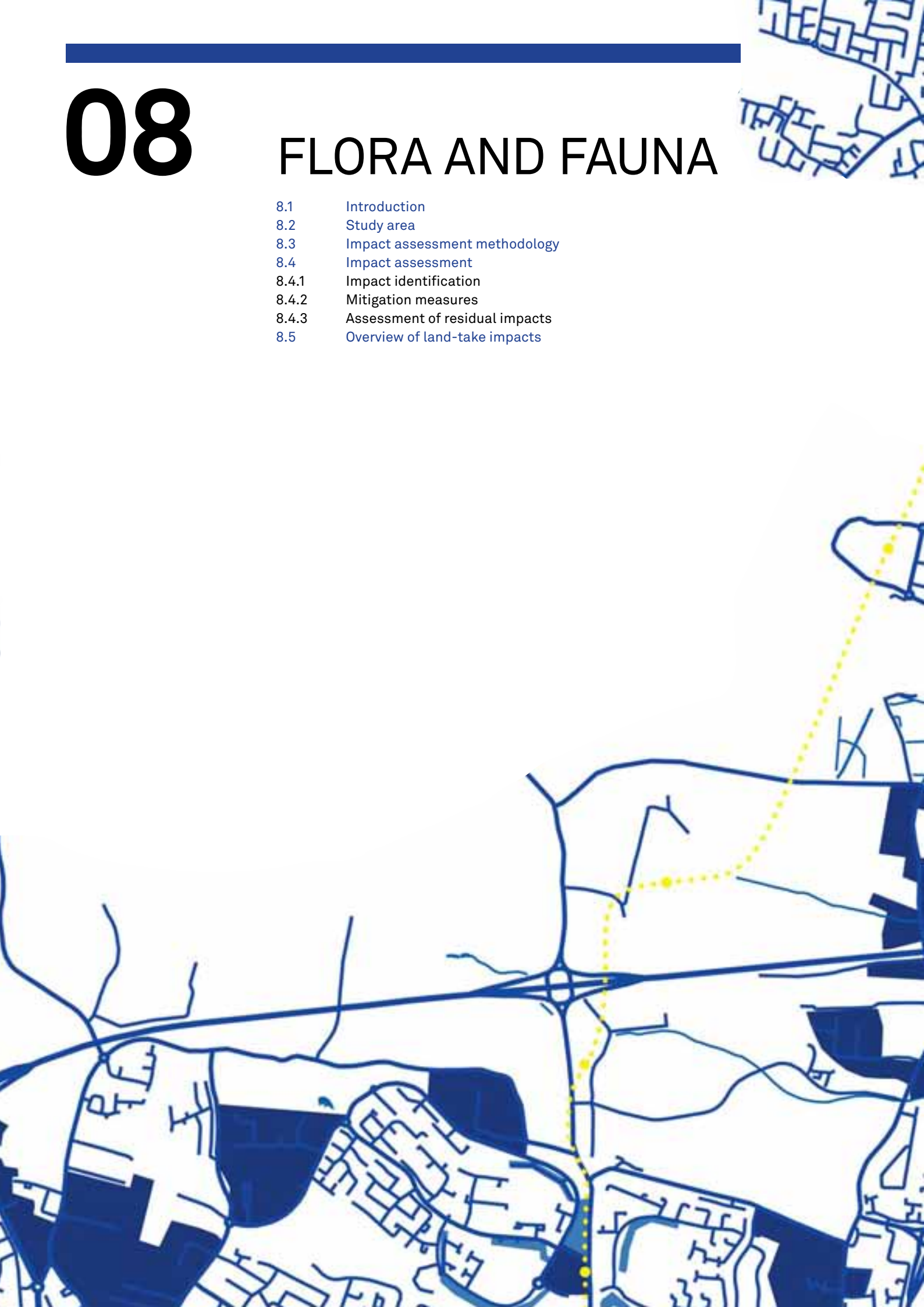
The proposed scheme has been designed to minimise the impact on all road users in its vicinity. The overall impact will be slightly positive, and therefore no operational mitigation measures are required.



08

FLORA AND FAUNA

- 8.1 Introduction
- 8.2 Study area
- 8.3 Impact assessment methodology
- 8.4 Impact assessment
 - 8.4.1 Impact identification
 - 8.4.2 Mitigation measures
 - 8.4.3 Assessment of residual impacts
- 8.5 Overview of land-take impacts





This chapter of the EIS describes the potential impacts on flora and fauna, which may arise due to activities associated with the construction and operation of the proposed in Area MN102.

8.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter of the EIS describes the potential impacts on flora and fauna, which may arise due to activities associated with the construction and operation of the proposed in Area MN102.

8.2 STUDY AREA

The study area comprises any area within 500m of the centre line of the proposed alignment. This study area extends to up to 1km from the proposed alignment if species or habitats of particular interest are found to occur. The study area for designated sites comprises all areas within 10km of the central line of the proposed alignment. Within this study area, a number of individual detailed faunal surveys have been carried out and the extent of the study area for each of these detailed faunal surveys is primarily influenced by species mobility. The study area for individual aspects of this environmental topic as set out in Table 8.1.

Table 8.1 Study area

Environmental aspect	Habitats to be surveyed	Width of study area (on both sides of the alignment)
Designated Sites*	Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Natural Heritage Areas (NHA), Nature Reserves, Ramsar Sites, National Parks, Refuge for Fauna	10km
Badger	Woodland habitats and hedgerows	500m
Otter	Rivers and streams in the area of above ground sections of the alignment	500m
Bats	Man-made structures (buildings, bridges and culverts) and aquatic habitats including rivers, streams and still water habitats associated with hedgerows, scrub woodlands etc.	500m
Birds	Suitable habitats for birds as identified during the Phase 1 Habitat Survey. Specific survey to record flight heights of wintering birds in the area of the Broad Meadow Swords SPA	500m
Amphibians	Specific aquatic habitats identified during the Phase I Habitat Survey as having a high potential to provide amphibian habitat e.g. lakes, ponds, rivers	500m
Habitats Phase I	All accessible habitats	500m

* Designated sites comprise those designated under national legislation, EU directives and other international conventions.

The habitat complexes in Area MN102 are predominantly of low local ecological value. At the extreme southern end of Area MN102 lies the Sluice River, which is a salmonid river and flows into the Baldoyle Bay SPA, and is of higher nature conservation value.

8.3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The impact assessment methodology is described in Section 8.3 and the potential impacts are described in Section 8.4.1. Mitigation measures to be implemented are listed in Section 8.4.2. These measures are designed to reduce the adverse impacts that are deemed to be significant at a given geographical level. The residual impacts are reported in Section 8.4.3.

The potential for ecological and nature conservation impacts has been assessed in the light of the habitats and species that are likely to be affected by the proposed scheme taking into account the latest 'Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom' published by the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM, 2006), the 'Guidelines for the Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Road Schemes' (National Roads Authority, 2006) and the relevant EPA guidance with respect to EISs (EPA, 2002, 2003).

As part of the assessment the significance of potential ecological impacts have been evaluated taking into account the following factors:

- the magnitude of both positive and negative effects, as determined by intensity, frequency and by the effect extent in space and time;
- the vulnerability of the habitat or species to the changes likely to arise from the proposed scheme;
- the ability of the habitat, species or ecosystem to recover, considering both fragility and resilience;
- the viability of component ecological elements and the integrity of ecosystem function, processes and favourable condition;
- value within a defined geographic frame of reference (national, regional or district);
- the biodiversity value of affected species, populations, communities, habitats and ecosystems, considering aspects such as rarity, distinct sub-populations of a species, habitat diversity and connectivity, species-rich assemblages, and species distribution and extent;
- designated site and protected species status, and Priority Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) or Habitat Action Plan (HAP) status.

Significance is determined through consideration of these criteria. The value of the affected feature is used to determine the geographical scale at which the impact is significant (e.g. international, national, regional and local levels). The determination of significance is based on whether the impact will affect the integrity or conservation status of the species, habitat, site or ecosystem within a given geographical frame of reference. Residual impacts are considered to be either significant or insignificant (and negative or positive), after taking into account the zone of influence, mitigation measures and the confidence in predictions associated with the assessment.

8.4 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.4.1 Impact identification

Potential sources and types of impact are set out in Table 8.2.

Table 8.2 Sources and types of impact

Impact source	Impact type
Construction phase	
Temporary land-take	- Permanent loss of habitat or species
- Construction compounds	- Temporary loss of habitat or species
- Working areas along track bed	- Fragmentation of habitat or severance of wildlife corridors between isolated habitats of ecological importance
- Cut and cover tunnels	- Creation of barriers to the movements of animals, especially mammals, amphibians and plants with limited powers of dispersal
	- Impacts on designated sites.
Construction activities (e.g. runoff and other pollution, increase of suspended solids, alteration of hydraulic conditions, noise and dust emissions, lighting, movement of vehicles, presence of construction personnel)	- Damage or alteration to adjacent habitats
	- Disturbance to species in the vicinity of the proposed scheme
	- Impacts on designated sites
	- Introduction of invasive species
Operational phase	
Permanent land-take (e.g. stops, track bed, substations, ventilation shafts, ancillary roads, tunnel portals, watercourse crossings (bridges and culverts), overhead wires, catenary system and supporting structures and elevated structures	- Permanent loss of habitat or species
	- Permanent alterations to existing habitats
	- Fragmentation of habitat or severance of wildlife corridors between isolated habitats of ecological importance
	- Creation of barriers to the movements of animals, especially mammals, amphibians and plants with limited powers of dispersal
	- Impacts on designated sites
	- Creation of new habitats as a result of reinstatement works, habitat enhancement proposals and landscaping
Operation of rolling stock and maintenance of the track (e.g. runoff and other pollution, increase of suspended solids, noise and dust emissions, lighting, movement of vehicles, presence of maintenance personnel)	- Disturbance to species in the vicinity of the proposed scheme
	- Animal collisions
	- Impacts on designated sites

8.4.2 Mitigation measures

The mitigation measures necessary to avoid or reduce the significance of any adverse impacts on flora and fauna are outlined in this section. Detailed information regarding mitigation measures specific to this area are outlined in Section 8.4.3. These measures are over and above those already incorporated into the scheme design, which has for example sought to avoid sensitive habitats by using existing bridges over watercourses (e.g. across the Broad Meadow River).

- Habitat loss will be limited to the minimum needed for safe implementation of the works. Implementation of best practices will ensure that the risk of disturbance or damage to adjacent habitats is minimised.
- The 'Guidelines for the Protection and Preservation of Trees, Hedgerows and Scrub prior to, during and post Construction of National Road Schemes' (NRA) will be followed in areas where these habitats will be impacted upon or are in close proximity to the proposed scheme. Where possible, linear habitats such as hedgerows and tree lines will be crossed at right angles, utilising any existing gaps, to reduce the extent of habitat loss.
- Where new access roads are required, they will be situated in a position that utilises existing gaps in hedgerows/trees wherever possible to minimise tree loss and hedgerow removal.
- Where ditches are to be affected by works, measures will be implemented to ensure a regular water flow is maintained.
- Prior to excavation work, topsoil will be stripped and stored separately from subsoil and reinstated in the same order on completion of the works. Topsoil from any habitats of nature conservation value will be stored separately from topsoil removed from other areas.
- Stockpiled sand, gravel and soil will be placed in areas of low conservation value, kept to minimum size, situated well away from all watercourses and covered or seeded where appropriate.
- Sustainable Urban Drainage Solutions (SUDs) are to be incorporated into the design of all storm control areas, using best practice standards as detailed in the Surface Water chapter of this EIS (see Volume 2, Chapter 11).
- Best site management practices will be adopted during construction to minimise the risk of secondary impacts on adjacent habitats. Such practices include fencing to clearly mark boundaries and prevent accidental entrance into adjacent habitats, drainage systems designed to prevent water pollution and dust suppression to avoid dust dispersion. Further information is provided in as detailed in the Surface Water and Air and Climatic Factors chapter of this EIS (Volume 2, Chapters 11 and 12 respectively).
- Measures will be put in place to avoid the pollution of waters during the construction and operation of the scheme, including following CIRIA guidance (Masters et al., 2001) on the control of water pollution from construction sites as described in the Surface Water chapter of this EIS (Volume 2, Chapter 11).
- Measures will be taken to avoid the spread of invasive species (including Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), and giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) during construction work (e.g. using appropriate control methods if species are noted), managing plant movement (e.g. wheel washing) and managing the use of imported soil (e.g. not using soil from areas where invasive species are known to be present).
- Where habitats are directly lost as a result of the proposed scheme, new alternative habitats will be created where feasible. Temporary works areas will be restored as soon as is reasonably practicable. Progressive restoration will occur along the route. Where areas of land become isolated due to severance and fragmentation, opportunities will be taken to create new habitat as part of the landscape strategy.
- Mitigation planting will be undertaken using predominantly native species typical of the area, obtained from local sources wherever possible and planted in order to emulate the surrounding natural vegetation. The details of tree planting, species mixes and habitat creation will be established by a professional landscape architect with the project ecologist at the detailed design stage of the project, in consultation with NPWS.
- Tree loss during construction and operation of the scheme will be compensated for by tree planting along the proposed scheme as detailed in the Landscape and Visual chapter of this EIS (Volume 2, Chapter 13).
- Where attenuation ponds are created, their restoration upon completion of the construction works will include features to enhance biodiversity in the longer term (e.g. scalloped edges, variation in water depths, marginal habitats and aquatic plant species).
- Mitigation which will be implemented will take account of relevant guidance including for badgers (NRA, 2006), bats (NRA, 2006) and otters (NRA, 2006) and will be agreed with National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS). It will ensure that appropriate pre-construction surveys are undertaken for protected species, that works are undertaken at appropriate times of the year, pathways and foraging routes are maintained including through the use of tall trees for bats, breeding sites protected and animals are not disturbed or excluded/translocated (unless under licence). Alternative breeding sites (e.g. bat boxes, bird boxes) will be provided in areas where nest and roost sites are lost.

- Vegetation clearance will take place outside the breeding bird season (1 March to 31 August inclusive) in order to avoid the risk of disturbing breeding birds (which is an offence under the Wildlife Act, 1976 (as amended)). If work has to be undertaken within the breeding bird season, buildings and trees, scrub and other vegetation will be checked for nesting birds before removal using methods agreed with NPWS.
- Measures will be taken to ensure that all construction areas are made safe and do not pose a threat to mobile and inquisitive species such as otters and badgers (e.g. planks will be placed across any identified pathways in excavated areas and in trenches to allow escape for any animals which may fall in, and exposed pipe systems will be covered).
- The contractor will develop best practice construction procedures and method statements in consultation with the Eastern Regional Fisheries Board (ERFB) prior to the commencement of in-stream construction activities. In-stream works will be undertaken in accordance with the advice set out in the guidelines of the NRA, ERFB and/or Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources. No works will be undertaken in salmonid rivers during the annual closed season of 1st October to 30th April inclusive or where amphibians are present in waterbodies during their breeding season. Any requirements specified by the Office of Public Works (OPW), ERFB or NPWS will be adhered to by the contractor.
- Culverts will be designed to allow the safe passage of wildlife, including fish and otter, in accordance with the NRA and ERFB best practice guidance referenced previously.
- Construction/security/scheme lighting will be kept to a minimum and directed away from sensitive receptors (e.g. badger setts, otter holts, bat foraging habitats). All light will be directed downwards and the height of the light columns will be as low as possible, taking safety and visibility requirements into account. Low pressure sodium lighting will be used where possible as these lights have been shown to attract the lowest numbers of prey insects which attract feeding bats. Construction compounds will not be illuminated at night when working has ceased to avoid impacts to bats.
- Night time lighting at construction compounds will be restricted to the minimum necessary for safety purposes, to reduce the risk of disturbance impacts on bats and otters.
- 'Safe-hop-over' features will be incorporated into the design of new bridges where flight paths of important bird species could potentially be affected. Tall trees will also be included in the landscaping planting to encourage important bird species to fly over the light metro vehicles.
- Works associated with the strengthening of the existing bridges and the construction of new bridges will commence after sunrise and finish before sunset in order to avoid disturbance impacts on otters.
- The methods used for applying herbicides to control plant growth on the tracks will ensure that it does not result in adverse impacts on adjacent habitats. The type of herbicides used will also be ones which do not have adverse effects on wildlife in the surrounding areas. The types and methods of application will be agreed with OPW, NPWS and ERFB.
- Best construction practices will be implemented to ensure that noise and air pollution (such as dust) is kept to a minimum to reduce impacts on adjacent flora and fauna. Further information in this regard is provided in the Noise and Air and Climatic Factors chapters of this EIS (Volume 2, Chapters 4 and 12 respectively).
- Trees that are lost will be replaced where possible using a mixture of native species, of local provenance and typical of the local area and ornamental species.
- Monitoring will be undertaken to confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures during construction.

8.4.3 Assessment of residual impacts

This section describes the residual impacts resulting from construction and operation of the proposed scheme assuming that all the mitigation measures are successfully implemented.

Through the northern part of this area, the alignment runs at-grade along the road corridor of the R132 before crossing the Pinnock Hill Roundabout via an elevated structure. To the south of this, the alignment runs along the eastern verge of the R132, to the Fosterstown Stop at Airside Retail Park. Fosterstown Stop is located on an embankment with a retained wall to the west of Airside Retail Park. Construction Compound 5 (Pinnock Hill Viaduct) is located immediately east of the stop, and this will also be the site of the Park & Ride facility for the stop with access onto the R132.

South of the stop at Fosterstown, the alignment remains on the eastern verge of the R132 in an open cut section, before crossing beneath the R132 via the Fosterstown underpass. The track then runs mainly in cutting through the arable lands of Fosterstown South towards the airport. A further construction compound (Fosterstown) is located within this arable land. This area is dominated by the built and cultivated land and grassland, with occasional watercourses, hedgerows, and small woodlands and scattered trees/parklands.

8.4.3.1 Project scenario: construction phase

Construction impacts on designated sites

The nearest designated site is the proposed NHA 'Feltrim Hill' which is located approximately 1.8km to the east of the proposed alignment. This site will not be affected by the proposed scheme. The Sluice River and a northern tributary both run through Area MN102 and the Sluice River feeds the Sluice River Marsh pNHA. The northern tributary of the Sluice River is crossed by the proposed alignment. However, the mitigation measures detailed in Section 8.4.2 will ensure that the construction activities at this location do not result in pollution which passes downstream and affects the Sluice River Marsh pNHA.

Construction impacts on habitats

Temporary land-take is required for the cut and cover tunnel under Nevinstown Lane, Construction Compound 5 (Pinnock Hill Viaduct) and for Construction Compound 6 (Fosterstown) are adjacent to the alignment. This land-take for the scheme results in the temporary loss of the following habitats:

- Watercourses (FW1 - eroding/upland river);
- Hedgerows (WL1);
- Improved agricultural grassland (GA1)
- Amenity grassland (improved) (GA2);
- Semi-natural grassland (Dry meadows and grassy verges);
- Cultivated land (BC1 – arable crops);
- Built land (BL3 – buildings and artificial surfaces).

The overall loss of habitat is shown in Table 8.3.

Freshwater habitats

Only the northern tributary of the Sluice River will be affected by the proposed scheme, which feeds into the Sluice River to the east of the proposed alignment. The water in the tributary is currently stagnant and shows signs of eutrophication. Water sampling on the Sluice River in the townland of Greenwood in September/October 2007 indicated a Q Value of 2-3 (Class C, moderately polluted) at this location as detailed in the baseline Surface Water chapter of this EIS (Volume 1, Chapter 19). Measures will be implemented during the construction works to maintain any water flow that occurs, reduce the risk of any additional pollution of the watercourse, and minimise the spread of any sediment disturbed during the channeling of a 60m section of the watercourse under the bridge as detailed in the Surface Water Chapter of this EIS (Volume 2, Chapter 11).

Woodland

The proposed cut and cover tunnel under Nevinstown Lane will also result in the loss of a small fraction of semi-mature and mature hedgerows dominated by maple (*Acer campestre*) and lime (*Tilia cordata*) associated with private gardens and young ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The trees and hedgerows will be reinstated in the same location once the construction of the tunnel has been completed. This impact will not affect the long-term distribution or function of this habitat and the species are common in the local area and in Ireland. No significant impacts are predicted.

Grassland

Construction Compound 5 will result in a temporary loss of improved agricultural grassland (GA1). The majority of this area is to be taken permanently to facilitate the subsequent development of the stop and Park & Ride facility at Fosterstown. However a small area of grassland at the northern end of the construction compound site will be reinstated to its original state. This temporary loss of a small area of habitat type, which is common both locally and nationally, is not predicted to be significant.

Small areas of amenity grassland associated with public open space and private gardens will be lost in a number of locations throughout Area MN102. This habitat is widespread and common both locally and in the wider area. The favourable conservation status of this habitat type will not be significantly affected by the proposed scheme. No significant impacts are therefore predicted to occur.

Cultivated land

Construction Compound 6 will result in the loss of 2.1ha of arable fields (BC1) south of Fosterstown. A small area will be taken permanently and impacts associated with this are described in Section 8.4.3.2. The remaining area will be reinstated to arable use on completion of the construction works (estimated to be approximately four years). The temporary loss of a small area of arable habitat will not affect the favourable conservation status of this habitat, which is common and widespread both locally and in the wider area. No significant impacts are predicted.

Built land

The temporary removal of areas of built land and hard-standing areas will not result in significant impacts on ecological resources.

Construction impacts on species

Bats

A pipistrelle roost was recorded in 1997 and 1999 (Bat Conservation Ireland, 2008), 350m to the west of the proposed alignment in the vicinity of Fosterstown Stop. This roost will not be affected by the proposed scheme. Mitigation measures will be implemented during the construction of the proposed scheme to ensure that bats are not affected. These measures are described in Section 8.4.2 and include appropriately sited and directed lighting and careful management of hedgerow/tree lines adjacent to the works. Some temporary loss of commuting/foraging routes may occur. However this will not result in barriers to the movement of bats as other corridors remain. There is also considerable foraging habitat available in the surrounding area. Buildings impacted upon as part of the construction process will be surveyed for the presence of bats prior to demolition.

The construction works are not predicted to adversely affect the favourable conservation status of bats. No significant impacts on bats are predicted during the construction phase of the proposed scheme.

Further surveys will be undertaken in Area MN102 during August 2008 to confirm the status of bat species in this area, and any necessary additional measures taken in consultation with NPWS.

Badgers and otters

There were no records of badger or otters in Area MN102. A badger sett with recent signs of activity was recorded nearby in Area MN103 during a survey in June 2008, but this is sufficiently distant from the works to remain unaffected. Mitigation measures will be implemented as described in Section 8.4.2 to ensure that any movements of these species will not be affected by the construction works. Pre-construction surveys will be undertaken to confirm whether any changes in the status of these species occur in the area.

Birds

Linear woodland, agricultural arable fields and semi-natural grassland within Area MN102 supports a low diversity of common bird species such as meadow pipits (*Anthus pratensis*), robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), magpie (*Pica pica*), house martin (*Delichon urbica*) and dunnock (*Prunella modularis*). These bird species will experience a degree of disturbance from construction activities over an approximate period of two years due to, for example, increased noise levels and additional lighting requirements. Part of the route in this area passes along the existing R132 road corridor which currently supports low number of common bird species. Birds in habitats adjacent to the road will already be tolerant to noise levels from traffic on the road. The remainder of the alignment passes through more open arable fields which support fewer species. The size of the fields should ensure that those species that are present are able to maintain a stand off distance from the works.

The construction works are temporary and mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce the risk of disturbance. These measures are described in Section 8.4.2 and include minimisation of noise emissions and directing light into works sites and avoiding it spilling into surrounding areas. Habitat removal will also take place outside the period 1st March to 31st August to avoid the breeding bird season. The long-term distribution and abundance of the bird species will not be affected and hence their conservation status will be maintained. No significant impacts are predicted.

Aquatic fauna

A 50m section of Forest Little Stream will be temporarily diverted during the construction of the channels and culverts. This watercourse is seen as having a low potential to support species protected under national and international legislations e.g. kingfisher and salmonid fish species. The methods for undertaking this diversion will be agreed with relevant authorities to ensure that water flow is maintained, and effects on aquatic fauna in adjoining stretches of the tributary are minimised. Measures will also be implemented to reduce the risk of additional pollution of the watercourse during the construction works in this location. These mitigation measures are described in Section 8.4.2 and the Surface Water chapter of this EIS (Volume 2, Chapter 11). Given the current condition of the tributary, the existing poor water quality (as described in the baseline Surface Water chapter of this EIS (Volume 1, Chapter 19), the localised nature of the impact and the short duration of the works in this area, significant effects are not predicted.

8.4.3.2 Project scenario: operational phase

Operational impacts on designated sites

No designated sites will be affected by the operation of the proposed scheme.

Operational impacts on habitats

The following habitat will be permanently lost due to above ground structures including railway track, bridges and stops and access roads.

- Freshwater habitats
- Eroding upland river (FW1);
- Drainage ditches (FW4);
- Woodlands
- Hedgerows (WL1);
- Grasslands and cultivated lands
- Improved agricultural grassland (GA1);
- Amenity grassland (GA2);
- Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2);
- Cultivated land (BC1 – arable crops, BC3 – tilled land);
- Built land
- Built land (BL3 – buildings and artificial surfaces).

The overall loss of habitat is shown in Table 8.3.

Freshwater habitats

The northern tributary of the Sluice River will be crossed by the proposed scheme, although it will be bridged across the tributary to allow an agricultural access route to be maintained parallel to it. The tributary will be affected over an approximately 90m section with the resultant loss of bank-side and in-stream habitat, although only 65m will be culverted under the track, with the remainder in open channels at either end. Arable fields and semi-natural grassland to the north and south of the watercourse run to the edge of the tributary where the flora is species poor and dominated by bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg). with little or no marginal habitat, or other buffer zone between the water course and agricultural habitat. There was also little or no flow in the tributary which contained stagnant water, suggesting eutrophication from run-off from the adjacent agricultural fields, and hence its inclusion into the habitat class FW4 (Drainage ditches).

The permanent loss of habitat from the tributary will not adversely affect the abundance or distribution of this habitat type and significant impacts are not predicted. New planting will be undertaken along the route alignment, and the species composition will enhance the riparian corridor in this location as illustrated on the Landscape Insertion Plans included in the Landscape and Visual chapter of this EIS (Volume 2, Chapter 13). In addition new freshwater habitat will be created by enhancing the attenuation ponds for the benefit of wildlife.

Woodland

The proposed alignment, footpaths and stops will cause a permanent loss of roadside treeline/hedgerow habitat from the eastern edge of the R132 north of Pinnock Hill Roundabout. This habitat is characterised by semi-mature maple (*Acer campestre*) and birch (*Betula pendula*) with minor ivy (*Hedera helix*). A tree-line dominated by mature lime (*Tilia cordata*) and a group of poplar trees (*Populus* spp.) will also be lost south of the roundabout to the west of R132. A heavily managed hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) hedgerow will be lost from the central reservation of the existing R132.

The creation of the Fosterstown Stop and associated Park & Ride facilities, including its access road, will result in the permanent loss of mature hedgerow habitat. This includes the loss of almost all of the hedgerow which runs east-west between the R132 and the Swords Pavilions shopping centre to the east, and severance of the hedgerow further south by the access road for the Park & Ride facility. These hedgerows are, however, of moderate value predominantly mature and dominated by hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) with a good cover of ivy (*Hedera helix*).

The extent of hedgerow loss is small in comparison to the overall amount of hedgerow 5.5km within the Area MN102 study area and new hedgerows/treelines will be planted along the new route alignment and around the Park & Ride facility to replace those lost as illustrated in the Landscape Insertion Plans included in the Landscape and Visual chapter of this EIS (Volume 2, Chapter 13). The loss will not have a significant effect on the long-term distribution and function, or the survival of the tree and shrub species in the local area, therefore no significant impacts are predicted.

Grassland and Cultivated land

Little grassland habitat will be affected in Area MN102. There will be a permanent loss of 1.7ha of improved agricultural grassland (GA1), 0.5ha semi-natural grassland (GS2) and 1.7ha amenity grassland (GA2) at the proposed Fosterstown Stop and Park & Ride facility and further south of the northern tributary of the Sluice River. The proposed trackbed, embankments and associated access tracks will cause the loss of a small fraction of arable fields from Habitat Complex 09 west of the existing R132.

Extensive areas of improved agricultural grassland, semi-natural grassland and arable fields occur to the north of Swords in Habitat Complex 01 and in the wider surrounds. The areas lost are very small in comparison to the overall amount in area MN102 and significant effects are not predicted.

Built land

A large proportion of the proposed scheme runs along the existing R132 road and the permanent loss of the road has no effect on habitats or species and is not significant.

Operational impacts on species

Bats

The habitats within Area MN102 have the potential to act as foraging and commuting roosts for bat species. Bat Conservation Ireland has confirmed that a pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus* spp.) roost is present approximately 350m to the west of the proposed scheme in the vicinity of Fosterstown Park & Ride facility and stop (Bat Conservation Ireland, 2008). This roost site will not be affected by the proposed scheme. The proposed scheme will result in the loss of buildings immediately west of the R132 and Fosterstown South, hedgerows and treelines (e.g. adjacent to the R132 and for the Pinnock Hill Construction Compound) in this section of the scheme.

Considerable foraging habitat and foraging/commuting corridors will remain unaffected. Some loss of foraging and commuting routes will occur close to the R132 road corridor, but none of those lost will result in barriers to bat movement as other corridors remain. The low value hedgerow at the site of the Park & Ride facility near the Fosterstown Stop is unlikely to provide a major commuting corridor given its position. The proposed scheme north of the Sluice River will result in the loss of approximately 50m of habitat from the northern tributary of the Sluice River, but will not prevent bats from moving along the tributary due to the retention of the agricultural underpass, allowing bats to move beneath the bridge. Hence there will be no permanent severance of the corridor for foraging/commuting bats.

The landscaping strategy as illustrated on the Landscape Insertion Plans included in the Landscape and Visual chapter of this EIS (Volume 2, Chapter 13) for the scheme will include planting of native trees and shrubs along the route alignment including adjacent to the R132 and the northern tributary of the Sluice River. This will provide considerable new habitat for commuting and foraging bats, and will enhance the ecological value of the local area in the longer term. Lighting once the scheme is operational will be kept to a minimum following general mitigation measures as outlined in Section 8.4.2. Bat boxes will also be erected in locations agreed with the NPWS to provide additional roosting opportunities for bats in the long-term (see Section 8.4.2)

The main species present in this section of the route is likely to be common pipistrelle, which is one of Ireland's most common species, and feed along linear habitats such as watercourses and hedgerows. Whilst there will be some permanent loss of habitat and of individual foraging/commuting routes, this will be compensated for by replacement planting and no barriers to movement will occur.

Given the above the operation of the proposed scheme in Area MN102 will not affect the long-term abundance or distribution of bat species, and is likely to increase the extent of foraging and commuting routes. Effects on the favourable conservation status of bat species are, therefore not predicted.

Otters and badgers

Otters and badgers were not recorded within Area MN102. A badger sett with recent signs of activity was recorded nearby in Area MN103 during a survey in June 2008, but this is sufficiently distant from the proposed scheme and will remain unaffected once the scheme is operational. Measures will be implemented as described in Section 8.4.2 to ensure that any movements of these species will not be affected by the operating scheme. The crossing of the northern tributary of the Sluice River will maintain access for mammals along the banks. Further surveys will be undertaken prior to construction commencing to confirm the status of these species.

Birds

The habitats within Area MN102 are all common and widespread and support a species poor avifauna as described in Section 8.4.3.1. The species diversity is particularly low alongside the existing road corridor of the N132 due to high noise levels alongside the road corridor.

The permanent loss of habitat for the proposed scheme will entail some small losses of breeding habitat for common bird species. However, new planting will take place along the scheme throughout Area MN102 to replace that lost in the long-term. In some parts this will enhance the biodiversity value for example the planting of linear woodland along the at grade section crossing Habitat Complex 09, which will provide new nesting and foraging habitats for birds within an area dominated by large arable fields.

The operating scheme will result in some short-term and localised disturbance to a range of common bird species due to the effects of noise, people and lighting. These effects are most likely in areas where existing levels of disturbance are relatively low (e.g. along the northern tributary of the Sluice River), however, there are few such areas in Area MN102. In many instances the proposed scheme will run through areas which are already well lit and subject to considerable levels of traffic and noise disturbance, as well as human activity, consequently the birds are already used to a degree of disturbance.

Aquatic fauna

Impacts on local amphibian populations present within the area of Airside Business Park are not predicted to occur. The pond habitat will not be affected by the proposed scheme and is located well away (500m) from the proposed scheme. Due to the presence of suitable wintering and summer habitat in the vicinity of this spawning site it is seen as unlikely that amphibian movements to and from this habitat cross the route corridor of the proposed scheme and hence there will be no significant impact on this species.

The impacts of the proposed scheme on aquatic fauna of the tributary of the Sluice River are not predicted to be significant. The water in the tributary is stagnant and shows signs of eutrophication, and it is unlikely that it supports important populations of aquatic fauna and hence no significant impacts are predicted.

8.5 OVERVIEW OF LAND-TAKE IMPACTS

Table 8.3 shows the permanent and temporary land-take within the different habitat types within Area MN102 in comparison to the total area of those habitat types within the study area of the proposed scheme.

Table 8.3 Permanent/temporary habitat loss in Area MN102

Habitat Type	Area of habitat lost in Area MN102 [ha]	Total existing area of habitat within Area MN102 [ha]	Total area of habitat in study area [ha]
Temporary land-take			
BC1	2.2	29.2	219.3
BL3	1.1	88.0	1,054.6
GA1	0.9	23.8	159.7
GA2	0.6	18.1	255.2
GS2	0.3	16.2	80.6
WS1	0.1	2.5	10.8
Permanent land-take			
BC1	2.0	29.2	219.3
BL3	0.5	88.0	1,054.6
GA1	1.7	23.8	159.7
GA2	0.5	18.1	255.2
GS2	0.5	16.2	80.6
WD1	0.2	3.3	27.0

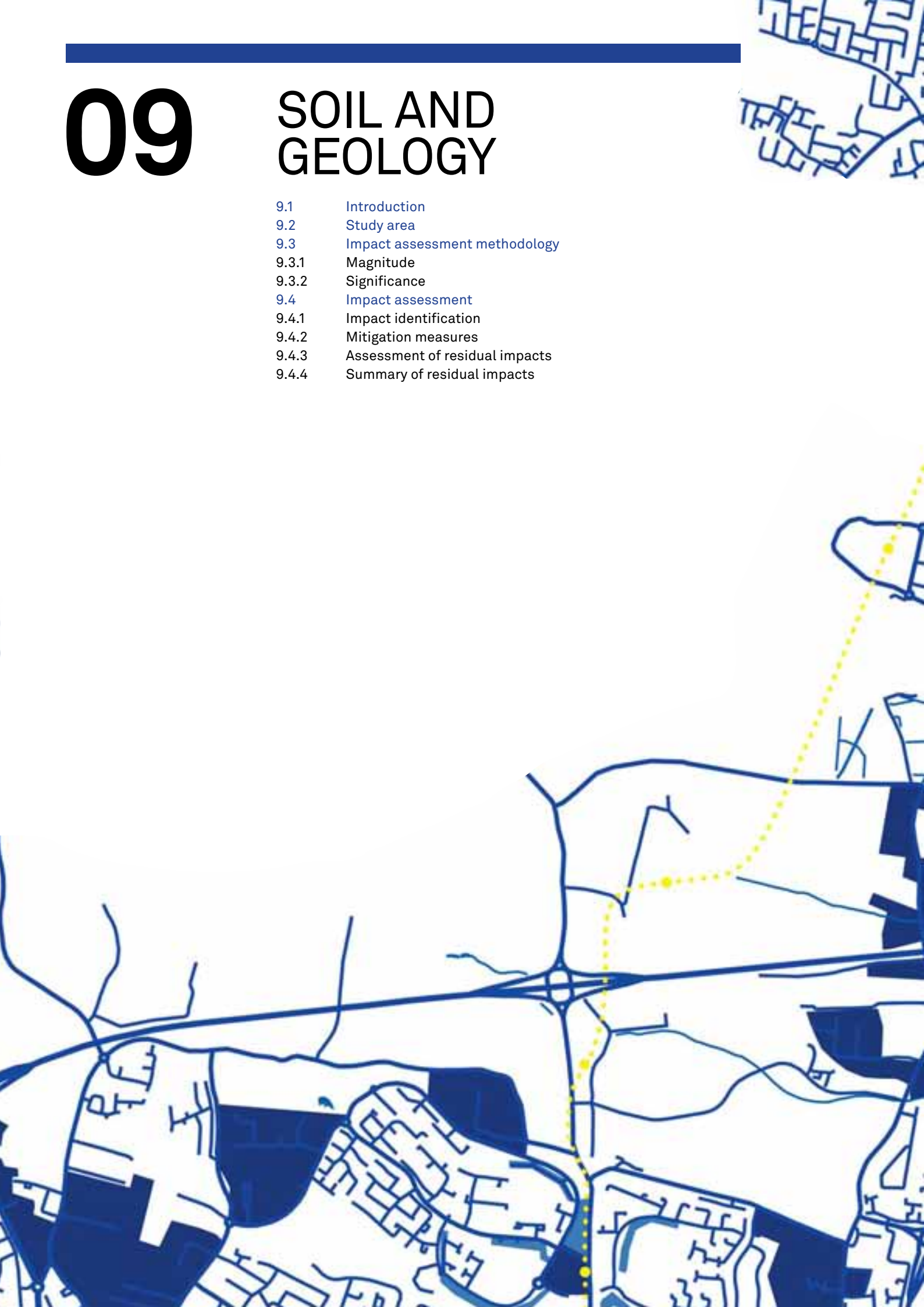
Pinock Hill Roundabout



09

SOIL AND GEOLOGY

- 9.1 Introduction
- 9.2 Study area
- 9.3 Impact assessment methodology
 - 9.3.1 Magnitude
 - 9.3.2 Significance
- 9.4 Impact assessment
 - 9.4.1 Impact identification
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 - 9.4.3 Assessment of residual impacts
 - 9.4.4 Summary of residual impacts





This chapter of the EIS describes the potential impacts on soils and geology, which may arise due to activities associated with the construction and operation of the proposed scheme in Area MN102.

9.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter of the EIS describes the potential impacts on soils and geology, which may arise due to activities associated with the construction and operation of the proposed scheme in Area MN105. In addition this chapter also considers the impact of ground movements generated by the construction of the Fosterstown Underpass.

9.2 STUDY AREA

The study area for this assessment is set out in Table 9.1. The assessment area has been defined with reference to the potential for impact from the scheme and the availability of relevant information.

Table 9.1 Study area

Criteria	Width of study area (on both sides of the alignment)
Geology	50m
Landuse	50m
Subsoils	50m
Ecology	50m
Preliminary Ground Investigation	1km approx.
Construction compounds	All areas within 50m of construction site boundary 'The greater of the distance equating to the depth of the excavation measured from the face of the excavation, or the position of the predicted 2mm settlement contour line.
Construction generated ground movement	The greater of the distance equating to the depth of the excavation measured from the face of the excavation, or the position of the predicted 2mm settlement contour line.

9.3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The source and type of all potential impacts is described in Section 9.4.1. Mitigation measures to be put in place are defined in Section 9.4.2. Mitigation measures are defined for any adverse impacts that are deemed to be of Medium or greater significance prior to mitigation or are undertaken to manage ground movements generated by tunnelling and cut and cover construction. The extent to which mitigation is needed increases as the significance of the impact increases. The residual impact of each impact is then evaluated in Section 9.4.3 in terms of magnitude and significance.

9.3.1 Magnitude

The criteria used to assess the different impacts associated with this proposed scheme with the exception of those associated with ground movements are shown in Table 9.2.

The method of assessing the impact of ground movements and in particular the response of buildings and infrastructure to excavation induced ground movements is based on a progressive approach, where successive assessment and elimination allows concentration on property considered to be at potential risk.

Table 9.2 Criteria for assessment of impact magnitude

Criteria	Impact magnitude
Creation of impermeable areas that do not allow the percolation of water through soils e.g. paving, construction of impermeable tunnels through areas of soil	very high
Creation of areas with very high levels of contamination	
Permanent substantial impacts to soils including compaction, excavation and contamination	high
Temporary major impacts to soils during construction e.g. temporary creation of impermeable areas	
Creation of areas with high levels of contamination	
Temporary moderate impacts to soils including compaction and excavation.	medium
Creation of areas with medium levels of contamination	
Permanent low magnitude impacts such as implementation of drainage schemes, landscaping and maintenance work	low
Creation of areas with low levels of contamination	
Temporary immaterial impacts such as minor ground disturbance or use of unpaved, non-compacted areas for and impacts associated with activities such as track cleaning etc.	very low
Creation of areas with very low levels of contamination	

For the proposed scheme a 4 stage assessment process has been adopted, as summarised below. At each stage a review of the proposed construction methods is carried out, and where appropriate the construction methods are amended to reduce the risk of potential damage.

Stage 1 Preliminary 'Greenfield' Settlement Analysis

This stage involves the prediction of ground movements generated by underground excavation and construction of TBM bored tunnels, cut and cover tunnels, retained cuttings, mined tunnels, shafts, stop (station) boxes and portal structures and the identification of property at potential risk of damage.

Settlement predictions take account of likely construction methods, ground conditions and comparable projects (in terms of ground conditions and construction methods). The predictions have been undertaken using empirical, finite element and discrete element computer analysis and validated against case studies.

The settlement predictions are translated into settlement contours that are then used to identify property at potential risk. For the proposed scheme any building where the predicted settlement is less than 10mm and the predicted slope is less than 1/500 shall not be subject to further assessment in accordance with the guidance provided by CIRIA Project Report 30 'Prediction and effects of ground movements caused beneath urban areas'. Settlement and slope less than these values corresponds to a negligible damage classification (superficial damage unlikely). Settlement and slope in excess of these values will be progressed to the next assessment stage.

In addition buildings and structures identified from site inspection that are deemed to be particularly susceptible to ground movements, or are of significant public interest shall also be progressed to the next assessment stage for further study.

Typically this includes:

- Complex structures
- High value structures
- Prestigious property
- Prominent structures.
- Structures of cultural or historical value
- Structures in poor condition.
- Structures known or suspected to contain equipment sensitive to ground movements e.g. hospitals, recording studios, aircraft instrumentation.

In addition to buildings there will be items of infrastructure that will be affected by the underground construction of the proposed scheme, including:

- Highways
- Luas
- Railways
- Embankments
- Bridges
- Electricity Sub-Stations
- Canals
- Airport infrastructure
- Monuments
- Hospitals

For the Stage 1 assessment any item of infrastructure that falls within the predicted 2mm contour line will be selected for further assessment at Stage 2A.

At this stage consideration is also given to alignment adjustment to minimise the amount of damage, reduce the number of buildings affected, or to avoid particularly sensitive property.

Stage 2A Initial Response Assessment

This stage involves the assessment of the response of buildings and infrastructure (identified during Stage 1) to predicted ground movements, and where appropriate the consideration of possible mitigation measures.

All buildings carried through from the Stage 1 Assessment are individually assessed using a limiting tensile strain approach. Buildings are modelled and assumed to follow the greenfield settlement profile of the ground. This approach is conservative since it neglects any interaction between the stiffness of the buildings and the ground. The maximum tensile strains resulting from differential settlement and/or rotations of the foundations are calculated and together with the ground surface settlement predictions the corresponding levels of risk are determined in accordance with Table 9-3. The impact of ground movements on piled buildings has been assessed in accordance with methodology proposed by Kaalberg and guidance from Professor John Burland.

Buildings identified as being in the negligible, very slight or slight damage risk category will not be assessed further. Where buildings or structures are classified as being at moderate damage or above risk levels, then a review of the construction methods proposed is undertaken and if appropriate amended and the building(s) re-analysed. Where ground movements still generate an unacceptable level of risk to buildings they are passed to Stage 3 for detailed assessment. In addition buildings that are deemed to be complex structures in terms of their response to ground movements, or where the application of the Stage 2A building response assessment methodology is considered inappropriate are also progressed to the Stage 3 detailed assessment.

As noted earlier the above approach for deriving categories of damage is likely to be conservative in its estimation. In the majority of cases the likely actual damage will be less than the assessed category since the calculation of tensile strain assumes that the building in question has no inherent stiffness, and that it deforms to the greenfield settlement profile. In reality the stiffness of the building will interact with the supporting ground, and therefore tend to reduce the deflection ratio and horizontal strains. More robust buildings such as framed buildings will offer greater restraint and therefore ground slope may overestimate likely damage.

The Stage 2A assessment of infrastructure involves an assessment of the impact of predicted ground movements against specified limiting criteria set down by standards or infrastructure owner's guidance documents. In the absence of documents defining limiting criteria, assessments are undertaken to demonstrate the predicted ground movements do not cause unacceptable damage. Where infrastructure is adjudged to be at potential risk, then the assessment is progressed in a manner similar to that described for buildings above.

The impact of long term consolidation settlements resulting from groundwater drawdown is also considered at Stage 2A.

Stage 2B Review of 2A Initial Response Assessment

Stage 2B provides for a review and update of the Stage 1 and 2A assessments taking account of the detailed design and actual construction methods to be used.

Stage 3 Detailed Response Assessment

This stage involves a detailed assessment of all buildings, utilities and infrastructure carried over from Stage 2B, and the design and implementation of protection measures as appropriate.

All buildings that fall into the moderate, severe and very severe categories will be assessed in detail taking account of information collected from detailed structure and sub-structure surveys. The method, extent and detail of the analysis will be determined on a case by case basis, however factors that would be taken account of include, three dimensional effects, construction and excavation methods and sequencing, structural continuity of the building, foundation and structural details, building condition, orientation of the building, soil / structure interaction, settlement predictions at depth and previous movements.

Reflecting the conservative assumptions of the previous assessments, the detailed evaluation will usually result in a reduction in the possible degree of damage. If any buildings fall into the 'at risk' category after the Stage 3 Assessment then further amendments to construction proposals will be considered as will possible protective works.. The assessment is then repeated to ensure that the measures taken remove the property from the 'at risk' category.

Prior to the Railway Order Planning Application, Stages 1 and 2A have been undertaken by RPA. The remaining stages of the process shall be undertaken by the Contractor taking account of detailed design and construction proposals.

The criteria used to assess the impact of construction generated ground movements on overlying and adjacent buildings are in accordance with the building damage classification system set out by the Building Research Establishment 251 (1990) using a limiting tensile strain approach (see Table 9-3).

Table 9.3 Building Damage Classification System

Category of damage	Normal degree of severity	Limiting Tensile Strain (%)	Description of typical damage
0	Negligible	0 – 0.05	Hairline cracks less than about 0.1mm
1	Very Slight	0.05 – 0.075	Fine cracks not greater than 1mm which are easily treated during normal decoration.
2	Slight	0.075 – 0.15	Cracks less than 5mm. Cracks filled. Re-decoration probably required. Recurrent cracks can be masked by suitable linings.
3	Moderate	0.15 – 0.30	Cracks 5-15mm, or number of cracks >3mm. The cracks require some opening up and can be patched by a mason. Repointing of external brickwork and possibly a small amount of brickwork to be replaced.
4	Severe	>0.3	Cracks 15-25mm. Extensive repair work involving breaking-out and replacing sections of walls, especially over doors and windows.
5	Very Severe	>0.3	Cracks >25mm. This requires a major repair job involving partial or complete rebuilding.

The calculated damage category forms the basis for determining the need for ground movement mitigation measures for each of the buildings assessed. It is generally considered that where the degree of damage predicted is “negligible”, “very slight” or “slight” that these categories fall under the aesthetic damage category and that protective measures are not required.

The basis for not providing protective measures for the slight damage category or below is that small deformations that cause cracking with a very low risk of structural damage may generally be more easily and cost effectively repaired than the measures required to prevent them. Any potential protective measures are likely to result in considerable disruption to the function and occupiers of the buildings, and may themselves cause some degree of cracking or damage during their installation. Therefore it is preferable to monitor the buildings, with final crack repairs, re-plastering and finishing being carried out after the cessation of ground movements.

For buildings where the degree of severity of ground movement damage is “moderate” or above, protective measures will be considered with the aim to restrict damage to the “slight” category or below. However it is recognised that the degree of importance attached to cracks less than 5mm can be subjective, and there may be situations where such damage would be unacceptable. For example where a building has been identified as having historical or other significance and the development of such cracking may be unacceptable, then the limit before mitigation or protection measures are considered is reduced to “very slight”.

9.3.2 Significance

The significance of all impacts is assessed in consideration of the magnitude of the impact and the functional value of the area upon which the impact has an effect.

9.4 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.4.1 Impact identification

The following components of the proposed scheme may cause impacts on soils and geology.

- All areas where elements of the proposed scheme intersect soils or geology e.g. stops, track, substations, ventilation shafts, landscaping bunds, ancillary roads and access ways and tunnel portals;
- Earthworks, cuttings and embankments;
- Spoil storage areas and disposal sites;
- Construction compounds;
- Track maintenance and drainage operations which may lead to contamination of soil.

In addition ground movements generated by the excavation and construction of the following has the potential to impact on property overlying or adjacent to sites where such works are being undertaken:

- TBM bored tunnels
- Cut and cover tunnels
- Retained cuttings
- Mined tunnels
- Shafts
- Stop (station) boxes
- Portal structures

Two types of impact are recognised to occur: temporary and permanent.

9.4.1.1 Temporary Impacts

Temporary impacts are typically associated with the construction phase of the proposed scheme. These impacts are typically short-term in nature and are required to facilitate the construction of the proposed scheme. The impacts will not continue after the construction phase has been completed. Impacts of this type include those associated with activities such as the movement, excavation and disposal of soils, contaminated materials and bedrock, temporary paving or compaction of soils, temporary construction of roads, traffic management procedures and dewatering works.

In some cases, only minor disturbance of soils occurs. An example of this is areas on construction compounds used for temporary administration structures or ground disturbed during construction but not subject to compaction.

9.4.1.2 Permanent Impacts

Permanent impacts are longer term impacts which are expected to persist for the lifetime of the proposed scheme and its operation. Permanent structural impacts occur where the soil or geology has been permanently altered to allow for the construction of the parts of the scheme e.g. sealing of surfaces by paving and also impacts associated with the installation of the railway, new traffic systems or roadways, drainage and conduit channels, car park facilities, ancillary buildings and ground movement and / or settlement.

Permanent operational impacts occur where the general day to day operation of the proposed scheme impacts on soil and geology. Potential impacts of this type arise due to activities such as maintenance works (including track cleaning) and activities which could potentially lead to contamination.

To assess the impact of ground movements on section MN102 a Stage 1 Preliminary Ground Movement Assessment and Stage 2A Preliminary Building Response Assessment have been undertaken. From these assessments the following impact has been determined:

Highways

The assessment of highways has been undertaken in two stages:

1. An assessment of the impact of ground movements on serviceability criteria, measured in terms of poor performance due to excessive change in gradient, cross fall and / or road drainage inefficiency. These criteria are more critical and onerous in determining the performance of a highway than risk of structural damage.
2. For highways identified as exceeding serviceability limiting criteria, or highways deemed to be particularly sensitive to ground movements, a risk based approach has then been adopted to consider particular features of the highway such as surfacing material, condition and traffic levels / usage. The risk assessment has been completed considering likelihood of 'ponding' occurring, and requirement for temporary and permanent repair. An assessment of the temporary and permanent situations has also been undertaken for walkways.

Where the Fosterstown Underpass runs alongside and traverses the Dublin Road in Area MN102, the road is predicted to settle in the region of 5mm close to the face of the excavation, with a corresponding maximum settlement slope of 1:1333 predicted. Based on experience of highway maintenance, settlements of up to 50mm are considered permissible for carriageways and can be managed for temporary situations provided ground slope is not greater than 1:500 which is the case for Area MN102.

9.4.2 Mitigation measures

Paving

Paving of areas will be avoided where possible. Paved areas that are not required after the construction of the project will be removed and reinstated with landscaping to compliment the surrounding landuse. The areas that are to be reinstated illustrated on Landscape Insertion Plans contained within the Landscape and Visual chapter of this EIS (Volume 2, Chapter 13).

Compaction

Compaction of areas will be avoided where possible. Hoarding and signposting will be used in this regard to clearly demarcate haulage routes and other areas being used during construction. Landscaping and restoration will be undertaken with areas reinstated to their original condition, where possible. The areas that are to be reinstated are illustrated on Landscape Insertion Plans contained within the Landscape and Visual chapter of this EIS (Volume 2, Chapter 13).

Excavation

Excavation of areas will be avoided where possible. Areas of potential contamination may be encountered during the construction phase. Uncontaminated spoil will be reused where possible within the proposed scheme to construct areas such as the depot, embankments, bunds and landscaping structures. Uncontaminated spoil will be loaded directly onto trucks so that intermediate storage will not usually be required. Any contaminated spoil will be treated in accordance with all relevant legislation and best practice guidelines at the point of origin or at an alternative suitable site prior to disposal. Spoil will be dewatered, as part of treatment, if required, in order to reduce the volume of spoil generated. Once the spoil has been loaded onto the trucks, the trucks will then travel directly to the area in which the spoil is to be reused, recycled or disposed. All trucks will be covered during transport. Spoil that cannot be reused or recycled will be disposed of in a manner that is in accordance with all relevant legislation and best practice guidelines.

Any mitigation measures associated with potential human health impacts are addressed in the Human Health chapter of this EIS (Volume 1, Chapter 8) Measures taken to reduce the potential for environmental pollution and dispersion of contaminated soil comprise capping of contaminated areas and dust suppression if necessary. The disturbance of contaminated soils will be minimised and an appropriate risk assessment will be undertaken to mitigate against environmental risks.

Waste, spoil and contamination

A waste management plan is to be developed in accordance with the Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects (DoEHLG, 2006) as part of the construction environmental management plan to ensure that all construction waste is stored, managed, moved, reused or disposed of in an appropriate manner by appropriate contractors in accordance with all relevant waste legislation. A spoil strategy is to be developed as part of a Waste Management Plan to ensure that spoil and any potential contamination is dealt with in an appropriate manner in accordance with all relevant legislation

Maintenance of the light metro vehicles (LMVs) will only occur in hardstanding areas of the depot. All maintenance/repair work of LMVs or track will be undertaken using non-polluting substances where possible. Any hazardous materials required for the proposed schemes maintenance will be stored in bunded areas.

Ground gases including radon

It is noted the The Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) assessment does not take into consideration exposure pathways that may be created due to any underground works such as the construction of tunnels or underpasses. In recognition of this fact, an occupational monitoring programme will be implemented to ensure that no adverse impacts occur as a result of the tunnel construction process due to the migration of ground gases (including carbon dioxide, methane and radon) which may be mobilised due to the tunnel construction technique or associated dewatering activities. The RPII has issued separate guidance in respect underground working entitled 'Radon in Underground Workplaces - Guidance Notes for Employers' (2007) and in this guidance an occupational exposure standard of 400 Bq/m³ has been set. If radon levels in the underground sections of the proposed scheme exceed this threshold during construction, appropriate remedial measures (as prescribed by the RPII) will be undertaken to ensure that no negative impact on the surrounding environment occurs.

Settlement

The mitigation and protection measures for Section MN102 have, or are expected to take the form of the following:

(a) Ground Investigation

To enable the adequate design of ground support measures to control and manage ground movements resulting from construction of the Fosterstown Underpass and the accurate prediction of ground movements. For the proposed scheme this has been achieved by undertaking a review of historical site investigation data available from Geological Survey Ireland, the Metro North Preliminary Ground Investigation, the Metro North Main Ground Investigation and a desk study review of historical maps.

Further ground investigation will be carried out as required for the detail design and construction phase of the proposed scheme.

(b) Sub-structure Surveys and Building Records

The collection of sub-structure survey data, property and infrastructure condition data and as-constructed records to enable the impact of ground movements to be accurately determined and appropriate mitigation and / or protection measures to be designed where required.

(c) Alignment design

The alignment of the Fosterstown Underpass has been located to minimise the impact on adjacent property and the Dublin Road, to the extent that no property is predicted to be affected by ground movements generated by construction of the Fosterstown Underpass.

The shallow depth of the underpass reduces the magnitude of ground movement/settlement generated, and the extent of the ground movement zone of influence.

(d) Internal Measures

For the Fosterstown Underpass structural measures comprising stiffness of the vertical support, propping arrangements and excavation phasing will be employed to maintain ground movements within manageable limits.

(e) Instrumentation and Monitoring

A comprehensive instrumentation and monitoring regime will be implemented to monitor ground displacements and the deformation of structures. Measurements can be taken at the surface or indirectly from sub-surface installations. Instrumentation that may be employed includes:

- Optical/electronic surveying methods
- Portable displacement gauges
- Single point monuments
- Vertical pipe settlement gauges
- Remote settlement gauges
- Heave gauges
- Inclined meters and electrolevels
- Borehole extensometers
- Soil strain gauges
- Tunnel convergence
- Piezometers
- Load cells and strain gauges

Instrumentation will be installed to enable baseline monitoring to be undertaken 6 to 12 months prior to construction to identify ambient background levels, operator variations, reading errors, instrument error, survey and seasonal variations.

During construction, verification of the predicted ground movements will be carried out using actual monitoring data measured on site. The results of the verification re-analysis shall be communicated back to the design and site teams so that modifications to the construction methods and/or the protection and mitigation measures can be made if appropriate.

(f) Action and Contingency Plans

A pre-determined plan of action in response to recorded readings to ensure that action is taken before damage is incurred to buildings, structures, utilities and infrastructure or the stability of the works are placed at risk. The action and contingency plans shall be integrated with monitoring and construction plans.

(g) Highways

The maximum settlement predicted as a result of the construction of Fosterstown Underpass is in the region of 5mm and occurs close to the face of the excavation. Resurfacing of the highway to restore it to its original condition prior to the construction of Fosterstown Underpass will be undertaken as part of the reinstatement works.

(h) Property Protection Scheme

A Property Protection Scheme will be implemented covering properties within 30m of the tunnel centreline or the face of a cut and cover structure. If damage occurs as a result of the underground works below a ceiling of €30,000, as certified by an independent firm of building surveyors, arrangements will be made for prompt rectification involving as little disruption to the property owner as possible. The Property Protection Scheme is in addition to and does not impede people's normal legal rights.

9.4.3 Assessment of residual impacts

9.4.3.1 Project scenario: construction phase

Paving

A number of paved areas will be constructed in Area MN102. These paved areas will include parts of the track, electricity substation, bridges, viaducts, the stops, the Park & Ride facility at the Fosterstown Stop, the underpass of the R132, access roadways, roads, footpaths and the construction compounds. The magnitude of the impact associated with paving of any area is considered to be very high because the soil cannot continue to perform its natural functions. The paved areas will be constructed predominantly in areas of medium functional value so the impacts will have Medium significance.

Areas of made-ground and existing paved areas such as those along the R132 have lower functional value and the significance of impact is reduced to Low and Very low respectively. When the mitigation measures are taken into consideration, the magnitude and significance of this impact remains the same but the footprint of the area impacted upon decreases.

The locations of paved areas are illustrated on Landscape Insertion Plans contained within the Landscape and Visual chapter of this EIS (Volume 2, Chapter 13).

A summary of the residual impacts associated with the scheme and affecting this area is provided in Table 9.4

Compaction

Compacted areas will occur during the construction phase in Area MN102. These will include parts of the track, the stops, the Park & Ride facility at the Fosterstown Stop, the underpass at R132, access roadways, roads, footpaths and the construction compounds. The magnitude of the impact associated with the compacting of an area during construction is high as the soil is compressed and disturbed. The majority of the compacted areas are to be constructed in areas of medium functional value so the impacts will have medium significance. When the mitigation measures are taken into consideration, the magnitude and significance of this impact remains the same but the footprint of the area impacted upon decreases.

Areas of made-ground and existing paving such as those along the R132 have lower functional value and the significance of impact is reduced to Low and Very low respectively.

The locations of paved areas are illustrated on Landscape Insertion Plans contained within the Landscape and Visual chapter of this EIS (Volume 2, Chapter 13).

A summary of the residual impacts associated with the proposed scheme and affecting this area is provided in Table 9.4.

Excavation

Excavation of soil will occur along the track line in Area MN102 and at the underpass of the R132. The magnitude of the impact associated with this activity (i.e. excavating an area during construction) is high as soil disturbance has a high impact on soil function. The majority of the excavated areas are located in areas of medium functional value so the impacts will have Medium significance.

However, areas of made-ground and existing paving such as those along the R132 have lower functional value and the significance of impact is reduced to Low and Very low respectively.

The locations of paved areas are illustrated on Landscape Insertion Plans contained within the Landscape and Visual chapter of this EIS (Volume 2, Chapter 13).

A summary of the residual impacts associated with the scheme and affecting this area is provided in Table 9.4

Table 9.4 Summary of residual impacts

Location	Area of land-take (m ²)	Type of impact	Significance of Impact
MN 102	37,000	Paved	medium to very low
MN 102	54,000	Potentially Disturbed Ground	medium to very low

Waste spoil and contamination

Soil from a number of sampling locations along the route has been sampled and tested for contamination. In all cases, the current information indicates that there will not be any impact on commercial landuses in which the samples all occur because contamination levels are all below the screening criteria for a commercial end landuse. However, soil sampling was undertaken at discrete representative locations only based on historical activities and an assessment of the potential for contamination to be encountered. Areas of soil contamination could potentially be encountered in other areas outside the areas where analysis was undertaken.

If contamination is encountered in other areas during construction, the magnitude of this impact will range from low to high depending on the type and amount of contamination encountered. Areas of contamination may be encountered in Area MN102 in areas of medium functional value so the impacts would be of Medium significance if mitigation measures were not put in place. The mitigation measures to be put in place are specified in Section 9.4.2. When these mitigation measures are taken into consideration, the magnitude of the impact will be reduced to low or very low.

Areas of made ground and existing paved areas such as those along the R132 have lower functional value and the significance of impact is reduced to Low and Very low respectively.

A total of approximately 2.9 million cubic metres of spoil is to be generated across the entire proposed scheme. Approximately 2.0 million cubic metres of this spoil is to be reused in the proposed scheme for a number of purposes such as construction of embankments, levelling of topography, landscaping and other mitigation measures. Where reuse is not possible, spoil will be recycled and where this is not possible, spoil will be disposed of in a manner that is in accordance with all relevant legislation. Impacts associated with the transport of spoil are addressed in the Traffic chapter of this EIS (Volume 2, Chapter 7). A waste management plan is to be developed as part of the construction environmental management plan to ensure that all construction waste is managed, stored and disposed of in an appropriate manner by appropriate contractors in accordance with all relevant waste legislation.

Ground gases including radon

Radon gas comes from the radioactive decay of minute quantities of uranium present in all rocks and soils. The Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) has produced a 'Radon Map of County Dublin' which was compiled based on monitoring results from a number of sample houses within the county.

The map illustrates 10km grid squares within the county and provides an estimate of the percentage of dwellings within each 10km area which are predicted to exceed the domestic radon standard of 200 Bq/m³ of radiation.

The geology of the study area is described in the baseline Soil and Geology chapter of this EIS (Volume 1, Chapter 17). As detailed in this chapter, the study area is dominated by limestones and shales which would allow the transmission of radon to occur if a significant source of radon existed. However, the RPII database indicates that within the study area, the percentage of dwellings predicted to exceed the domestic radon standard is low (1- 5%) and the area is not defined as a 'high radon area'. This provides an indication that the area as a whole is not likely to be associated with a significant radon problem. It is noted that the RPII assessment does not take into consideration exposure pathways that may be created due to any underground works such as the construction of tunnels or underpasses. In recognition of this fact, the mitigation measures detailed in Section 9.4.2 are to be put in place to ensure that no significant adverse impact occurs.

Settlement

For Section MN102 the residual impact is a maximum predicted settlement in the region of 5mm for the Fosterstown Underpass. The significance of this impact is Very low.

9.4.3.2 Project scenario: operational phase

Scheme maintenance

Maintenance work will be undertaken along the track and at stops. There is the potential for contaminating materials (such as oils, lubricants, weed killer and cleaning materials) to impact on the soil outside of paved areas. The magnitude of impact associated with a spill of hazardous materials during maintenance/repair work is high because of the potential for soil contamination to occur. However areas around the track are typically of low to very low functional value and when the mitigation measures set out in Section 9.2.2 are taken into account, the significance of an impact is Low to Very low.

During the operational phase the Fosterstown Underpass will not generate further ground movement. The structure is designed to prevent long-term ground movements resulting from groundwater lowering occurring.

9.4.4 Summary of residual impacts

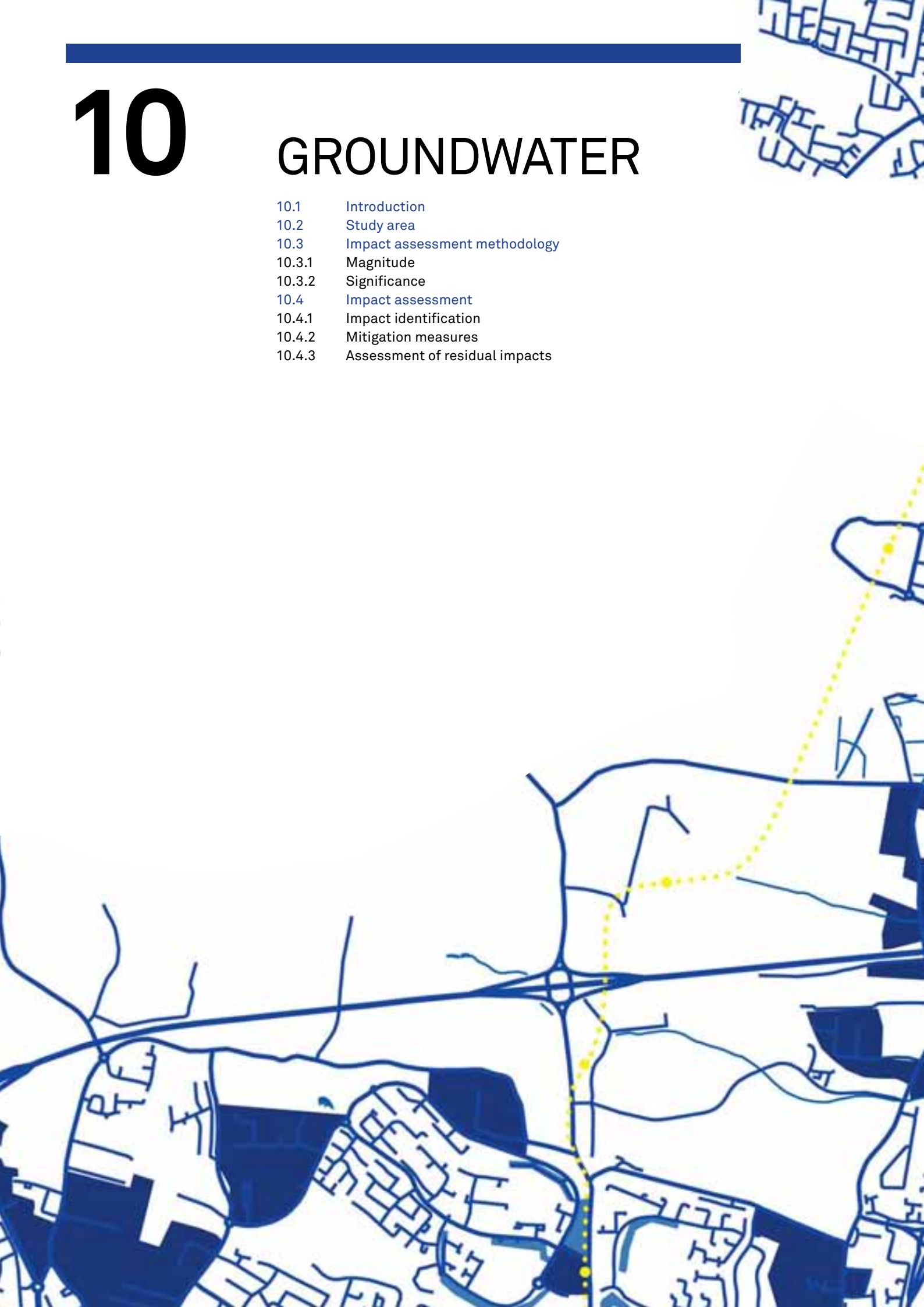
A summary of the residual impacts associated with the scheme and affecting this area is provided in Table 9.4 Summary of residual impacts.



10

GROUNDWATER

- 10.1 Introduction
- 10.2 Study area
- 10.3 Impact assessment methodology
 - 10.3.1 Magnitude
 - 10.3.2 Significance
- 10.4 Impact assessment
 - 10.4.1 Impact identification
 - 10.4.2 Mitigation measures
 - 10.4.3 Assessment of residual impacts





This chapter of the EIS describes the potential impacts on groundwater, which may arise due to activities associated with the construction and operation of the proposed scheme in Area MN102.

10.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter of the EIS describes the potential impacts on groundwater, which may arise due to activities associated with the construction and operation of the proposed scheme in Area MN102.

10.2 STUDY AREA

The study area for this assessment is set out in Table 10.1.

Table 10.1 Study area

Criteria	Width of study area (on both sides of the alignment)
Groundwater	500m

10.3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The source and type of all potential impacts is described in Section 10.4.1. Mitigation measures to be put in place are defined in Section 10.4.2. Mitigation measures are defined for any adverse impacts that are deemed to be of Medium or greater significance prior to mitigation. The extent to which mitigation is needed increases as the significance of the impact increases. The residual effect of each impact is then evaluated in Section 10.4.3 in terms of magnitude and significance.

10.3.1 Magnitude

The criteria used to assess the different impacts associated with this proposed scheme are shown in Table 10.2. The criteria have been defined in consideration of the 'Guidelines on Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements' (EPA, 2002).

Table 10.2 Criteria for assessment of impact magnitude

Criteria	Impact magnitude
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permanent impact relating to the alteration of the direction of groundwater flow 	very high
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long-term impact relating to the depletion of groundwater sources due to dewatering activities - Long-term impact relating to the deterioration of groundwater quality (if left untreated) - Permanent impact relating to the recharge of the underlying groundwater sources 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long-term impact relating to the alteration of the direction of groundwater flow - Medium-term impact relating to the depletion of groundwater sources due to dewatering activities - Medium-term impact relating to the deterioration of groundwater quality (if left untreated) - Long-term impact relating to the recharge of the underlying groundwater sources 	high
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medium-term impact relating to the alteration of the direction of groundwater flow - Medium-term impact relating to the depletion of groundwater sources due to dewatering activities - Medium-term impact relating to the deterioration of groundwater quality (if left untreated) - Medium-term impact relating to the recharge of the underlying groundwater sources 	medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short-term impact relating to the alteration of the direction of groundwater flow - Short-term impact relating to the depletion of groundwater sources due to dewatering activities - Short-term impact relating to the deterioration of groundwater quality (if left untreated) - Short-term impact relating to the recharge of the underlying groundwater sources 	low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Temporary impact relating to the alteration of the direction of groundwater flow - Temporary impact relating to the depletion of groundwater sources due to dewatering activities - Temporary impact relating to the deterioration of groundwater quality (if left untreated) - Temporary impact relating to the recharge of the underlying groundwater sources 	very low

The duration of impacts (as detailed in Table 10.2) are defined as shown in Table 10.3 as per EPA Guidance (EPA, 2002).

Table 10.3 Definition of duration criteria

Impact Description	Definition
Permanent impact	Impact lasting over sixty years
Long-term impact	Impact lasting fifteen to sixty years
Medium-term impact	Impact lasting seven to fifteen years
Short-term impact	Impact lasting one to seven years
Temporary impact	Impact lasting for one year or less

10.3.2 Significance

The significance of all impacts is assessed in consideration of the magnitude of the impact and the functional value of the area upon which the impact has an effect. The functional value of all groundwater resources is set out in the baseline Groundwater chapter of this EIS (Volume 1, Chapter 18).

10.4 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.4.1 Impact identification

Various elements of both the construction and operational phases have the potential to impact on the groundwater environment.

10.4.1.1 Construction Phase Impacts

During the construction phase, certain activities have the potential to impact on the hydrogeological environment within the study area. Potential impacts can include localised alteration of the direction of groundwater flow due to tunneling operations and the construction of cut and cover tunnels and stops. Developments that extend into underlying aquifers, for example during tunneling operations, in addition to the construction of cut and cover tunnels and stops, can potentially cause temporary lowering of the water table, if dewatering is required. This can result in the temporary depletion of groundwater in supply wells (where present) in the surrounding area, if prolonged or significant dewatering occurs.

There is the potential that the underlying groundwater quality may be impacted during the construction phase due to leakage of fuel from construction vehicles, oil spillages during refueling or vehicle maintenance operations, leakage from chemical storage areas and inappropriate disposal of chemicals (paints, oils, glues etc.). Surface contaminants can migrate towards underlying groundwater sources. Contaminants arising from similar activities during subsurface operations can be released directly into the surrounding aquifer. It should be noted that the construction of the proposed scheme may result in a localised improvement in groundwater quality along some sections of the route due to the removal of overlying contaminated material.

10.4.1.2 Operational phase Impacts

Potential impacts on the groundwater environment during the operational phase would be expected to include localised alteration of the groundwater flow along sections of the proposed route where tunnels exist. The replacement of greenfield areas along sections of the route with areas of hardstanding areas (stops, rail depots, in addition to Park & Ride facilities) can reduce to some extent the recharge rate into the underlying aquifer. The construction of a tunnel within an aquifer can result in a localised depression of the water table due to the construction of sumps within the tunnel.

During the operational phase of the proposed scheme, there is the potential for the migration of surface contaminants (arising from chemical storage areas at depots, wastewater discharge and runoff from car parks, for example) towards the underlying groundwater sources. Due to the fact that the tunneled sections of the route will comprise sealed structures and all underground pipework will include appropriate containment measures, the potential for contamination from underground sections of the route is considered to be low.

10.4.2 Mitigation measures

10.4.2.1 Construction phase

All of the impacts identified for the construction phase of the proposed scheme for this section of the route were found to be of Low significance. The following good housekeeping practices will be implemented in order to ensure protection of the surrounding groundwater sources.

Where possible groundwater will be recharged to the groundwater aquifer potentially contaminated groundwater generated by construction activities will be discharged to a nearby foul water sewer in accordance with the conditions set in the Trade Effluent Discharge License from the relevant Local Authority. Where required by the Local Authority, the treatment of groundwater will be carried out prior to discharge to the foul sewer in order to comply with the requirements of the discharge licence, which may contain limits for such parameters as, inter alia, pH, heavy metals, hydrocarbons, suspended solids and BOD. In the event that sufficient capacity is not available in the local foul sewer, the groundwater will be treated in accordance with the conditions in the Effluent Discharge License from the relevant Local Authority prior to discharge to a nearby surface water body.

Groundwater, which is generated during the construction phase, will be collected on-site and tested prior to discharge to the surface water drain or foul sewer. The treatment of surface water runoff and groundwater will include as a minimum the use of silt/sediment traps and oil interceptors prior to the release to surface water bodies, surface water drains or foul sewers.

Foul water generated by the welfare facilities at the construction compounds will be collected in portaloos facilities. At the larger compounds semi-permanent welfare facilities may be provided and the foul water generated will be treated at a local package treatment plant and the effluent will be discharged to local foul sewers.

Groundwater pollution will be minimised by the implementation of good construction practices as contained in the publication by the Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) 'Control of Water Pollution from Construction-sites, Guidance from Consultants and Contractors' (Master et al. 2001). An emergency response protocol for pollution incidents will be established by the contractor and regularly updated. This protocol will include containment measures, a list of appropriate clean-up materials and equipment, details on staff responsibilities and trained personnel and contact details for pollution clean-up companies and relevant Local Authorities and emergency services.

In order to minimise any impact on the underlying subsurface strata and groundwater, all oils, solvents and paints used during construction will be stored within labelled, sealed containers in specially constructed dedicated, temporary, bunded areas or suitable bunded lockable storage containers within buildings or enclosures (hardstanding) in the construction compounds. Taking into account the 'Guidance Note for the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulation 2001' (Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in the UK (DEFRA), 2001), oil and fuel storage tanks are to be stored in designated bunded areas within the construction compounds. These areas are to be either double skinned or are to be bunded to a volume of 110% of the capacity of the largest tank/container present or 25% of the total tank capacity within the bund (plus an allowance of 30 mm for rainwater ingress). Filling and draw-off points will be located entirely within the bunded area(s). Drainage from the bunded area(s) is to be diverted for collection and safe disposal off site by an appropriately licensed contractor. All storage tanks will have primary, secondary and tertiary containment. Their integrity will be regularly checked and maintained. Tank level gauges will be checked regularly in order to detect leakage at an early stage.

Refuelling of construction vehicles and the addition of hydraulic oils or lubricants to vehicles, will take place in a designated area of the construction compound site. The refuelling area will not be situated close to any surface water body or surface water drain. If it is not possible to bring a machine to the refuelling point, fuel will be delivered in a double skinned mobile fuel bowser. A drip tray will be used beneath the fill point during refuelling operations in order to contain any spillages that may occur. Spill-kits and hydrocarbon absorbent packs will be stored in this area and operators will be fully trained in the use of this equipment. Spill-kits and drip trays will be used to contain any spillages, which may occur.

Where concrete mixing is required, this will only take place at a designated area at the construction compound, which will not be located next to a surface water drain or stream. The washing of concrete mixing vehicles will take place in a hardstanding bunded designated area. An emergency response protocol will be implemented in the event of concrete spillages during pouring operations.

All associated hazardous waste residuals, such as oil, solvent, material used in oil spill clean-ups, glue and solvent based paint containers will be stored within appropriately covered skips prior to removal by a suitable Local Authority or EPA licensed waste management contractor for off-site treatment/recycling/disposal. Any other construction waste will be disposed of to on-site skips for removal by a duly approved waste management contractor.

Once hardstanding is removed, the underlying soil is exposed and it has the potential to be contaminated if Made Ground is present or industrial activities have taken place in the area in question. During wet weather, surface water that infiltrates through the exposed ground could leach contaminants, if present in the soil profile, downwards towards groundwater sources. In order to minimise the potential for the generation of this potentially contaminated leachate, all ground disturbances will be completed as quickly as possible and appropriately managed. The generation of potentially contaminated runoff from stockpiles of made ground will be prevented by the installation of temporary bunds around the stockpile, minimising the size of the stockpile and arranging for the removal of the material off-site as soon as possible.

10.4.2.2 Operational phase

All of the impacts identified for the operational phase of the proposed scheme for this section of the route were found to be of Low significance. The following good housekeeping practices will be implemented in order to ensure protection of the surrounding groundwater sources.

The substation located at the Fosterstown Stop will be regularly checked and maintained to minimise the potential for leakage of oil to occur. The substation will be located on an area of hardstanding and bunded.

In accordance with the Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended) and associated regulations, waste material generated at the Fosterstown Stop will be stored in appropriate containers in a suitably designed waste storage area and collected on a regular basis by a suitably licensed waste collection contractor for disposal at an appropriately licensed waste facility. The waste storage area will be regularly and appropriately maintained.

There is the potential that surface water from the Park & Ride facility at Fosterstown Stop and HGV turning areas may be contaminated with respect to hydrocarbons.

The release of potentially contaminated surface water into the groundmass can adversely impact on the underlying groundwater quality. Permeable paving overlying a modular geo-cellular storage tank is proposed at the Park & Ride facilities. Surface water drainage from the permeable pavement areas will pass through a Class I EN858 hydrocarbon interceptor before entering the track drainage system. This will ensure that hydrocarbons are removed from the surface water runoff prior to entering surrounding surface water bodies that may be hydraulically connected to the underlying groundwater.

Foul effluent generated at the Fosterstown Park & Ride along this section of the route will be discharged to the nearby foul water sewer under the approval of the relevant Local Authority. Where this is not possible the foul water will be treated on-site by means of a septic tank and biofiltration system. This will ensure that untreated foul water is not released into the surrounding groundmass, thus towards the underlying groundwater sources.

10.4.3 Assessment of residual impacts

10.4.3.1 Project scenario: construction phase

The Groundwater Baseline Assessment indicates that groundwater along this section of the route is not considered to be heavily contaminated but does contain elevated concentrations of pesticide Malathion, zinc, lead, ammoniacal nitrogen, sulphate, nitrite and Total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH). These contaminants would be considered typical for areas used for agricultural purposes and urban development. In general, the concentration of the contaminants in the groundwater is below the surface water quality criteria in the EPA publication 'Parameters of Water Quality, Interpretation and Standards' (EPA, 2001). Therefore, there is the possibility that groundwater generated from construction along this section of the route can be discharged into a surface water body/drain but this would be subject to approval by the relevant Local Authority.

Groundwater encountered in excavations may be hydraulically connected to the underlying aquifer. Alternatively shallow groundwater encountered in excavations may indicate perched water, which is not hydraulically connected to the underlying aquifer but located instead above a low permeability clay layer. The accidental release at the surface of potential contaminants such as oils or solvents into groundwater encountered in excavations has the potential to contaminate the underlying aquifer, in the event that it is hydraulically connected to the aquifer. Provided that the mitigation measures detailed in Section 10.4.2 are put in place, the magnitude of this impact is low and the impact affects an area of medium functional value. Therefore, the overall impact is considered to be of Low significance.

There is the potential that the underlying groundwater quality may be impacted during the construction phase due to:

- leakage of fuel/lubricants/hydraulic oils from construction vehicles/equipment;
- oil spillages during refueling or vehicle maintenance operations;
- leakage from chemical storage areas (including storage tanks) at the compounds and inappropriate disposal of chemicals (paints, oils, glues etc.);
- the generation of leachate/runoff from inappropriately managed waste storage areas at the construction compound;
- Spillage and/or inappropriate disposal of raw or uncured concrete or grout;
- The generation of potentially contaminated leachate from storage areas for construction materials at the construction compounds;
- Inappropriate disposal of domestic effluent from welfare facilities at the construction compound;
- Spillage and/or leakage of bitumen or sealants for waterproofing surfaces.

Surface contaminants can migrate towards underlying groundwater sources. Provided that the mitigation measures detailed in Section 10.4.2 are put in place, the magnitude of this impact is low and the impact affects an area of medium functional value. Therefore, the impact is considered to be of Low significance.

Limited amounts of made ground (to a maximum depth of 3m below ground level according to the Baseline Assessment) are present in localised areas along Area MN102 of the proposed scheme. There is the potential for the generation of contaminated leachate from the localised areas of made ground and its migrations downwards to groundwater sources during rainfall events. The removal of areas of hardstanding in urbanised areas along this section of the route can result in the exposure of underlying potentially contaminated made ground. There is the potential for the generation of contaminated leachate from the made ground and its migrations downwards to groundwater sources during rainfall events. Similarly, the storage of stockpiles of excavated made ground, which have the potential to be contaminated, can result in the generation of contaminated leachate if suitable mitigation measures (such as the provision of bunding) are not implemented. Provided that the mitigation measures detailed in Section 10.4.2 are put in place, the magnitude of this impact is low and the impact affects an area of medium functional value. Therefore, the overall impact is considered to be of Low significance.

This section of the route is mainly at-grade or elevated but some excavations will extend to approximately 7m below ground level (bgl). The approximate depth of 7m bgl is based on information from illustrations on Railway Order drawings accompanying this application. According to the Groundwater Baseline Assessment, groundwater has been encountered within 1.0m bgl along this section of the route. Therefore, it is likely that the discharge of groundwater will be required. Unless they are suitably controlled, construction activities have the potential to temporarily cause minor reductions in the level of the water table. No significant long-term lowering of the water is expected as a consequence of construction of the proposed scheme. Lowering of the water table will be limited to 1m depth during construction. Provided that the mitigation measures detailed in Section 10.4.2 are put in place, the magnitude of this impact is low and the impact affects an area of medium functional value. Therefore, the impact is considered to be of Low significance.

10.4.3.2 Project scenario: operational phase

During the operational phase of the proposed scheme, there is the potential for the migration of surface contaminants towards the underlying groundwater, which would result in the deterioration of the groundwater quality, from the following potential sources:

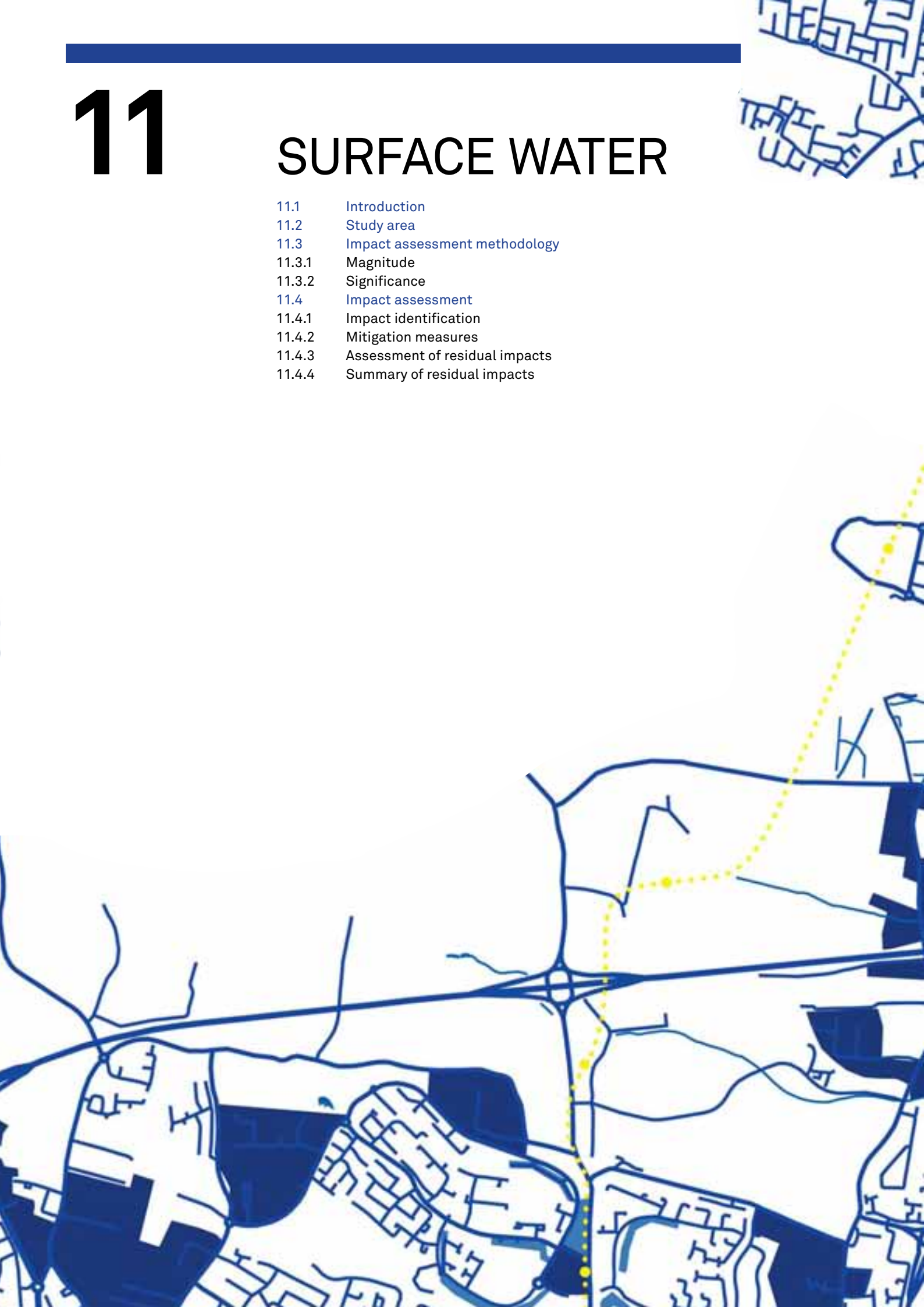
- Inappropriate waste disposal practices at Fosterstown Stop and Park & Ride;
- The infiltration of potentially contaminated surface water runoff from car parks, Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) turning areas and tracks into the surrounding ground;
- Inappropriate disposal of domestic effluent at the Fosterstown Park & Ride;
- Leakage from oils used in the substation at the Fosterstown Stop.

With the mitigation measures set out in Section 10.4.2, the magnitude of this impact is low and the impact affects an area of medium functional value. Therefore, the impact is considered to be of Low significance.

11

SURFACE WATER

- 11.1 Introduction
- 11.2 Study area
- 11.3 Impact assessment methodology
 - 11.3.1 Magnitude
 - 11.3.2 Significance
- 11.4 Impact assessment
 - 11.4.1 Impact identification
 - 11.4.2 Mitigation measures
 - 11.4.3 Assessment of residual impacts
 - 11.4.4 Summary of residual impacts





This chapter of the EIS evaluates the potential impacts on surface water, which may arise due to activities associated with the construction and operation of the proposed scheme in Area MN102.

11.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter of the EIS evaluates the potential impacts on surface water, which may arise due to activities associated with the construction and operation of the proposed scheme in Area MN102.

11.2 STUDY AREA

The study area for this assessment is set out in Table 11.1.

Table 11.1 Study area

Criteria	Width of study area (on both sides of the alignment)
Surface water quality and hydrodynamics (including flooding)	500m

11.3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The source and type of all potential impacts is described in Section 11.4.1. Mitigation measures to be put in place are defined in Section 11.4.2. Mitigation measures are defined for any adverse impacts that are deemed to be of Medium or greater significance prior to mitigation. The extent to which mitigation is needed increases as the significance of the impact increases. The residual impact of each impact is then evaluated in Section 11.4.3 in terms of magnitude and significance.

11.3.1 Magnitude

The criteria used to assess the different impacts associated with this scheme are shown in Table 11.2. The criteria have been defined in consideration of the 'Guidelines on Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements' (EPA, 2002).

Table 11.2 Criteria for assessment of impact magnitude

Criteria	Impact magnitude
Long-term to permanent change to a designated conservation site or designated salmonid river	very high
Medium-term to permanent contamination of surface water over entire surface water catchment	
Medium-term to permanent potential changes in drainage patterns over entire catchment	
Medium term change to a designated conservation site or a designated salmonid river	high
Temporary to short-term contamination of surface water over entire surface water catchment	
Temporary to short-term potential changes in drainage patterns over entire catchment	
Temporary to short-term change to a designated conservation site or a designated salmonid river	medium
Medium to long-term contamination of local surface water	
Medium to long-term potential changes in local drainage patterns	
Short-term contamination of local surface water	low
Short term potential changes in local drainage patterns	
Temporary contamination of local surface water	very low
Temporary changes in local drainage patterns	

The duration of impacts (as detailed in Table 11.2) are defined as shown in Table 11.3 as per EPA Guidance (EPA, 2002).

Table 11.3 Definition of duration criteria

Impact Description	Definition
Permanent impact	Impact lasting over sixty years
Long-term impact	Impact lasting fifteen to sixty years
Medium-term impact	Impact lasting seven to fifteen years
Short-term impact	Impact lasting one to seven years
Temporary impact	Impact lasting for one year or less

11.3.2 Significance

The significance of all impacts is determined in consideration of the magnitude of the impact and the functional value of the surface water resource.

11.4 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

11.4.1 Impact identification

Various elements of both the construction and operational phases have the potential to impact on surface water.

11.4.1.1 Construction Impacts

During the construction phase, various activities have the potential to result in increased surface water runoff which could potentially impact local drainage resulting in flooding. These include:

- The discharge of dewatering liquids from tunnel excavations;
- Construction of watercourse crossing points;
- The installation of drainage discharge points to watercourses and surface water or foul drains;
- The installation of hard standing for temporary construction compounds and access roads;
- The construction of surface and elevated structures on existing greenfield sites.

During the operational phase, surface water runoff will arise from drainage of the metro tracks and surface and elevated structures.

Works involving the diversion of ditches and the construction of bridges have the potential to impact flow regimes in existing watercourses and to lead to flooding of adjacent lands. Culverting has the potential to alter the hydraulic characteristics of the stream and may have the following impacts:

- Increased flood levels upstream of the culvert due to the creation of a restriction in the watercourse;
- Erosion of the watercourse and/or floodplain being initiated or accelerated due to the restriction increasing flow velocities and turbulence
- Deposition of material in the watercourse or on the flood plain due to a change in flow velocities and turbulence
- Interference with the passage or movement of fish.

Furthermore, dewatering of groundwater from sub-surface track and structures that are below the local groundwater table level has the potential to pollute surface water bodies if subsequently discharged to them untreated.

11.4.1.2 Operational impacts

Potential impacts on hydrodynamics and flooding.

During the operational phase, potentially contaminated runoff may arise at the Park & Ride site. Contaminated runoff has the potential to pollute receiving water bodies.

11.4.2 Mitigation measures

11.4.2.1 Measures to mitigate potential impacts on water quality

Any discharges arising from the construction or operational phases of the scheme entering foul/storm sewer network will be in accordance with the requirements of a discharge licence granted by Fingal County Council. Similarly, any water discharged to surface water bodies will be treated in advance and also in accordance with the requirements of a discharge licence (if required) granted by Fingal County Council.

Treatment of water produced during the construction phase will involve silt removal using a silt trap and hydrocarbon removal using a hydrocarbon interceptor. Contaminated groundwater, if encountered, may require treatment using more specialised treatment equipment including chemical treatment, activated carbon or other absorbent systems.

Regular monitoring of water will be conducted prior to discharge to ensure all relevant water quality parameters are within criteria specified by the Fingal County Council.

Re-fuelling of construction equipment and the addition of hydraulic oil or lubricants to vehicles/equipment will take place in designated areas within the construction compounds, away from surface water gullies or drains. The vehicles and equipment will not be left unattended during refuelling. Spill kits and hydrocarbon adsorbent packs will be stored in this area and operators will be fully trained in the use of this equipment. As a precaution, a spill kit will also be stored in the cab of each vehicle in case of localised hydrocarbon loss of containment incidents, such as a machine 'blowing' a hydraulic hose.

Any hazardous waste residuals or potentially contaminated sludge from spill clean-up will be stored within appropriate metal or plastic containers in temporary bunded storage areas in the construction compounds prior to removal by an appropriate Local Authority or EPA approved waste management contractor for off-site treatment/recycling/disposal.

Silt fences will be used during construction of the culvert on the Forrest Little Stream (tributary of the Sluice River) and on the stream at the agricultural underpass to prevent contamination of the stream with sediment. Washing of concrete trucks in the vicinity of the Stream will be prohibited and concrete contractors will be required to make provision for removal of any concrete washwaters, no such washwaters will be permitted to be discharged to the stream under any circumstances.

The guidelines provided by the Department of the Marine and Natural Resources (1997) and guidelines provided by CIRIA (2001) and the ERFB (2006) on the prevention of water pollution from construction sites, will be adhered to, in order to ensure that the impact on the water environment during the construction phase of the proposed scheme is minimised. The ERFB document in particular provides most useful information about minimising the environmental risks associated with construction works, and will be referred to in the planning of any construction works in the vicinity of watercourses.

In relation to above ground track drainage within Area MN102, all filter drains will be designed to a 30 year return period with a 10% climate change factor.

A geo-cellular system and oil interceptor will be installed at the Park & Ride facility at Fosterstown to treat surface water runoff. The system and oil interceptor will be regularly checked and maintained in full compliance with the manufacturers requirements. An appropriately licensed contractor (holding an appropriate Local Authority Permit) will clean out the interceptor on a regular basis and dispose of the resulting material at an appropriately licensed facility.

Foul water generated at the Park & Ride facility at Fosterstown will be connected to the nearby foul drainage system.

In relation to works on the stream at the agricultural underpass and culverting the stream at Forrest Little, the design will be in accordance with the requirements of the Office of Public Works (OPW) and Section 50 of the Arterial Drainage Act, 1945. Culverts will be capable of passing a fluvial flood flow with a 1% annual exceedance probability or a 1 in 100 year flow without significantly changing the hydraulic characteristics of the watercourse. In addition, the developer will adhere to the National Roads Authority (NRA) Guidelines for the Crossing of Watercourses during the Construction of National Road Schemes.

Herbicides used during operation will be applied sparingly and in compliance with suppliers' guidance, and will be suitable for use in an environment in which receiving watercourses are present.

11.4.3 Assessment of residual impacts

11.4.3.1 Project scenario: construction phase

Construction compounds will be installed at all stop locations along the scheme. In addition, a construction compounds will be installed at Fostertown Accommodation Bridge. Welfare facilities will be provided at the construction compounds. Temporary portaloos will be used and that foul water generated will be removed and treated off-site by an appropriately licensed contractor.

During construction surface water runoff from areas of hardstanding will be collected and drained to the nearby storm water drainage system or treated and discharged to surface water bodies (if available). All waters collected in this manner will be treated in silt traps and hydrocarbon interceptors prior to discharge. These measures are subject to agreement with Fingal County Council and if necessary to obtaining an appropriate discharge licence.

Discharge of surface water runoff to storm water sewers or receiving surface water bodies could potentially impact the quality of receiving water bodies if the runoff does not receive adequate treatment in advance. The degree of contamination of the receiving water body depends on the volume and composition of the discharge. A pollution incident (for example a fuel spill) could potentially contaminate a receiving water body for a duration of up to 1 year. The magnitude of this potential impact is therefore assessed as low. The significance of the impact depends on the magnitude of the impact and the sensitivity of the receiving water body. A medium functional value was assigned to water courses in this area during the baseline study. Therefore the significance of this impact is assessed as Low to not significant.

Construction of the culvert on the stream at Forrest Little will involve carrying out works to the stream bed and banks. There is the potential for sediment and pollutants to contaminate the stream which could have a duration of impact of up to 1 year. The magnitude of this potential impact is assessed as low. The Sluice River has been identified as having a medium functional value in the baseline assessment. Therefore the significance of the impact is also assessed as Low.

Construction of a water channel to accommodate an existing stream at the Agricultural Underpass will also involve carrying out works to the stream bed and banks. There is the potential for sediment and pollutants to contaminate the stream which could have a duration of impact of up to 1 year.

Provided that the mitigation measures specified in Section 11.4.2 are implemented for the construction phase, the magnitude of all impacts is considered to be low to negligible. The significance of impacts depends on the magnitude of the impact and the sensitivity of the receiving or affected stream/water body. A medium functional value was assigned to water courses in this area during the baseline study, Therefore the significance of this impact is assessed as Low to not significant.

11.4.3.2 Project scenario: operational phase

The proposed scheme includes at-grade and elevated sections of track as well as an underpass. Fosterstown Stop and an adjoining Park & Ride facility will be provided. The stream at Forrest Little will be culverted. A water channel will be constructed to convey an existing stream through the Agricultural Underpass.

Discharge of surface water runoff can potentially impact the quality of receiving water bodies however, the likelihood of contamination from surface water run off from a light rail system is considered low as the proposed system is electrically powered, and while it uses hydrocarbon lubricants within the rail vehicles, the lubricants are contained within sealed units, and the risk of leaks is therefore low. Herbicides may be used occasionally to control weed growth, but the quantities involved will be small and the herbicides used will comply with all applicable environmental codes.

The drainage strategy for open cut sections during the operational phase involves the provision of cut-off drains at the top of cut sections to intercept runoff flowing towards the cut slope. Filter drains will be provided at the toe of the cut to collect runoff from the track as well as runoff from the cut slope. Runoff collected in filter drains will be discharged to watercourses by gravity outfall. Where this cannot be achieved filter drains will be connected to the sump at the adjoining underground section from where the runoff will be pumped up into a nearby surface drainage system, in both cases with appropriate treatment and subject to any licensing requirements of Fingal County Council.

During the operational phase, the stops along the route will be drained using a linear drainage system that will outfall to the filter drain serving the track.

Runoff from the Pinnock Hill viaduct will be collected through down pipes and discharged to the drainage system.

The existing drainage ditches along the Fosterstown Accommodation Road will be piped and diverted to the Agricultural Underpass culvert.

The Park & Ride facility at Fosterstown will comprise a permanent structure overlaying a modular geo-cellular storage tank. The geo-cellular system will be designed to withstand the expected traffic loads, as well as to serve as a storage device. The tank will be fitted with a flow control device and will discharge to a surface water drain via a Class I EN 858 hydrocarbon interceptor. Discharge will be restricted to the Greenfield runoff rate of 2 l/s/ha or 6 l/s/ha for impermeable areas, as specified by Fingal County Council. An emergency or by-pass system will be included within the interceptor system to safely pass forward flows that exceed the design event.

All storage systems are designed to accommodate the 1 in 100 year storm with a 10% allowance for climate change. Foul water generated at the car park will be connected into the nearby foul drainage system.

Surface water sewers or receiving surface water bodies could potentially impact the quality of receiving water bodies if the runoff does not receive adequate treatment in advance. The degree of contamination of the receiving water body depends on the volume and composition of the discharge. A pollution incident (for example a fuel spill) could potentially contaminate a receiving water body for a duration of up to 1 year if mitigation measures were not put in place. The magnitude of this potential impact would be low. Provided that the mitigation measures specified in Section 11.4.2 are put in place, the significance of this residual impact is Low to negligible.

The drainage drawings indicate that surface water discharge points within area MN102 include to a watercourse in the vicinity of Fosterstown Accommodation Bridge, to the stream at the Agricultural Underpass and to the stream at Forrest Little which is upstream of the Sluice River. The magnitude of the impact of discharging to the stream at Forrest Little is assessed as low. The baseline study identified that the Sluice River has a medium functional value; therefore the significance of this impact is also assessed as Low.

During the operational phase, the stream at Forrest Little will be culverted. In addition, works will be carried out to convey an existing stream through the Agricultural Underpass.

11.4.4 Summary of residual impacts

All bridge and culvert design and ditch diversion for the proposed scheme will be in accordance with the requirements of the Office of Public Works (OPW) and Section 50 of the Arterial Drainage Act, 1945. As such, approval will be sought from the OPW for construction of the culvert, and the OPW's hydraulic design standards will be adhered to. The contractor will also adhere to the requirements of the Eastern Regional Fisheries Board (2006) when selecting a culvert design, to ensure minimum negative impact on fish life. Therefore, the magnitude of the impact on the Forrest Little Stream (tributary of the Sluice River) is assessed as very low. The baseline functional value assigned to the Sluice River is medium. Therefore the significance of this impact is Low.

Pinock Hill
Viaduct (view
from Carlton
Court)



12

AIR AND CLIMATIC FACTORS

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This chapter of the EIS evaluates the potential air and climatic impacts arising from the construction and operation of the proposed scheme in Area MN102.

12.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter of the EIS evaluates the potential air and climatic impacts arising from the construction and operation of the proposed scheme in Area MN102.

12.2 STUDY AREA

The study area for this assessment comprises all areas within 175m of the central alignment or construction compounds and areas within 200m of road links where changes in air quality are predicted to occur.

12.3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

12.3.1 Introduction

The source and type of all potential impacts is described in Section 12.4.1. Mitigation measures to be put in place are defined in Section 12.4.2. Mitigation measures are defined for any adverse impacts that are deemed to be of Medium or greater significance prior to mitigation. The extent to which mitigation is needed increases as the significance of the impact increases. The residual effect of each impact is then evaluated in Section 12.4.3 in terms of magnitude and significance.

The impact that the scheme will have on air quality is assessed after the first year of construction 2011. The impact that the scheme will have on air quality during operation is assessed for 2029. Predicted changes in traffic flows for the do minimum and do metro years of 2011 and 2029 are described in the baseline Traffic chapter (Volume 1, Chapter 15) and Traffic impact assessment chapters of this EIS (Volume 2, Chapter 7).

12.3.2 Assessment methodology for dust

For the purposes of this study, dust is taken to mean the particles released that have the capacity to cause annoyance to neighbours, through soiling of surfaces, such as windows and cars. There are no legal standards relating to acceptable levels of deposited dust, although monthly mean deposition rates in excess of $200 \text{ mg m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$ are considered likely to cause a nuisance (Schofield and Shillito, 1990). A risk-based approach has been developed for the purpose of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to identify significant potential impacts. This risk evaluation matrix has been devised and is presented in Table 12.1. The criteria detailed in the table have been devised in consideration of studies by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) which suggests that nuisance is unlikely to occur at distances greater than 50m from a construction site boundary (BRE, 2003). One particular study (Baughan, 1980) has also shown that at least half the people living within 50m of the site boundary of a road construction scheme were 'seriously bothered' by construction nuisance due to dust, but that beyond 100m less than 20% of the people were 'seriously bothered'. Construction sites also temporary in nature and some degree of nuisance is normally tolerable if the activity lasts for no more than a few months.

12.3.3 Assessment methodology for vehicle emissions

The Transport Analysis Guidance (TAG) of the UK's Department for Transport (2004) and the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Air Quality Assessment (Highways Agency, 2003) have been used to assess the proposed scheme with respect to the pollutants that relate to road traffic i.e. nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and particulate matter (PM_{10} or $\text{PM}_{2.5}$), and the greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide (CO_2). These tools have been selected because they are the best tools available in terms of allowing the user to assess impacts across many roads in a network, rather than simply considering individual roads in isolation.

In order to protect our health, vegetation and ecosystems, the EU has set down air quality standards in member states for a wide variety of pollutants. On the 14th April 2008 the European Commission adopted the Directive on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe 2008. This directive merges four earlier directives and one Council decision into a single directive on air quality, all of which have been transposed into Irish law through the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 (Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management) Regulations (S.I. No. 33 of 1999).

The new directive has not yet been transposed into Irish law, but does not introduce any new air quality limit values, except for the approach to particulate matter. Whereas the previous directive, and Irish law, have a limit value for PM_{10} to be achieved in 2010, the new directive calls for a limit value for $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ of $20 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ to be achieved by 2020, with an interim target value of $25 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ by 2015. This limit value will, at some point, be transposed into Irish law and has therefore been adopted as a criterion for this assessment.

A summary of the air quality standards relevant to the Dublin area is shown in Table 12.2.

Table 12.1 Evaluation of Potential Significant Effects of Dust Deposition, with control measures in place

Duration of on-site dust raising activity	Distance from Site Boundary to Sensitive (a) Receptors (m)		
	< 50 m	50 – 100 m	> 100 m
> 12 months	Significant	Significant	Potentially Significant
6 – 12 months	Significant	Potentially Significant	Not Significant
< 6 months	Potentially Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant

(a) Sensitive receptors defined as: residential, commercial office, hospital, surgery etc

Table 12.2 Irish Air Quality Standards

Pollutant	Limit Value Objective	Averaging Period	Limit Value ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)	Basis of Application of the Limit Value	Limit Value Attainment Date
NO ₂	Protection of Human Health	Calendar year	40	Annual mean	1st January 2010
		1 hour	200	Not to be exceeded more than 18 times in a calendar year	1st January 2010
PM ₁₀ Stage 1 ^(a)	Protection of Human Health	Calendar year	40	Annual mean	1st January 2005
		24 hours	50	Not to be exceeded more than 35 times in a calendar year	1st January 2005
PM ₁₀ Stage 2 ^(b)	Protection of Human Health	Calendar year	(20)	Annual mean	1 January 2010
		24 hours	(50)	(Not to be exceeded more than 7 times in a calendar year)	1 January 2010

(a) Stage 1: 1 January 2005 to 1 January 2010

(b) Stage 2: From 1 January 2010 (no longer part of EU legislation)

12.3.4 Assessment methodology for microclimate

The significance of impacts associated with conversion of vegetated to unvegetated surfaces is assessed through consideration of the area of the land experiencing such a change and the area of vegetated land that continues to remain. If the area of land affected is marginal, then the effect on air temperature and microclimate is insignificant. The areas of land-take associated with the proposed scheme have been calculated on the basis of the following assumptions:

- Temporary land-take inside the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)-line and within the construction compound is assumed to be reinstated back to its original state after construction operation;
- Permanent land-take associated with the proposed scheme is converted to permanent hardstanding concreted areas during operation. This is a worst-case scenario assumption because the some of this land may remain vegetated, depending on the limits of deviation associated with the scheme design.
- Cut and cover areas and embankments are assumed to be reinstated to their original status after construction.
- For the purpose of the calculations, all construction works are assumed to occur in tandem. The actual planned duration of individual construction work tasks is discussed in Section 12.4.3.1.
- Calculated figures are approximate figures with an estimated margin of error of approximately 10%.

All other potential microclimatic impacts are assessed on a case-by-case basis in consideration of the nature of the area affected and the specific design proposed in the area.

12.3.5 Assessment methodology for climate change

The impact of the proposed scheme with respect to climate change is assessed through consideration of the change in CO₂ emissions that will occur due to traffic changes in response to the proposed scheme.

12.3.6 Assessment criteria

The criteria used to assess the different magnitudes of impact associated with the proposed scheme are shown in Table 12.3. In the case of air quality, five classes of impact magnitude are used. In the case of microclimate and climate change, only four classes of magnitude are used because the precision of the assessment is such that only four classes are required.

Table 12.3 Criteria for assessment of impact magnitude

Criteria	Impact magnitude
<p>Air quality</p> <p>Change of >35 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in ambient NO_2 concentration</p> <p>Change of >17.5 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in ambient PM_{10} concentration</p> <p>Change of >17.5 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in ambient $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentration</p> <p>Any change with regards to compliance with any regulatory air quality limit specified in relevant legislation</p> <p>A substantial change in the area of green areas exerting an influence on the surface energy balance.</p>	very high
<p>Air quality</p> <p>Change of between 25 and 35 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in ambient NO_2 concentration</p> <p>Change of between 12.5 and 17.5 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in ambient PM_{10} concentration</p> <p>Change of between 12.5 and 17.5 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in ambient $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentration</p> <p>Any change with regards to compliance with any regulatory air quality limit specified in relevant legislation</p> <p>Microclimate</p> <p>A substantial change in the area of green areas exerting an influence on the surface energy balance.</p> <p>Climate Change</p> <p>More than 25% change in CO_2 emissions</p>	high
<p>Air quality</p> <p>Change of between 5 and 25 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in ambient NO_2 concentration</p> <p>Change of between 2.5 and 12.5 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in ambient PM_{10} concentration</p> <p>Change of between 2.5 and 12.5 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in ambient $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentration</p> <p>Microclimate</p> <p>Permanent structural impacts such as bridges, roadways, embankments, car park facilities and buildings where cold air 'ponding' and shading may take place.</p> <p>A moderate change in the area of green areas exerting an influence on the surface energy balance</p> <p>Climate Change</p> <p>15- 25% change in CO_2 emissions</p>	medium
<p>Air quality</p> <p>Change of between 1 and 5 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in ambient NO_2 concentration</p> <p>Change of between 0.5 and 2.5 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in ambient PM_{10} concentration</p> <p>Change of between 0.5 and 2.5 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in ambient $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentration</p> <p>Microclimate</p> <p>A minor change in the area of green areas exerting an influence on the surface energy balance</p> <p>Temporary stockpiling of soils during construction that may cause cold air ponding and shading to take place.</p> <p>Climate Change</p> <p>5- 15% change in CO_2 emissions</p>	low

Criteria	Impact magnitude
Air quality	very low
Change of between -1 and 1 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in ambient NO_2 concentration	
Change of between -0.5 and 0.5 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in ambient PM_{10} concentration	
Microclimate	
Permanent non-structural impacts such as minor landscaping and minor drainage.	
Air movement generated through movement of the light metro vehicles (LMVs)	
Immaterial temporary impacts such as minor ground disturbance or non-compacted areas of construction compounds.	
A very minor change in the area of green exerting an influence on the surface energy balance	
Climate Change	
0-5% change in CO_2 emissions	

The significance of impacts is assessed in consideration of the magnitude of the impact and the functional value of the receptor or nature of the receiving environment in which the impact has an effect.

The quantity of dust released during construction depends on a number of factors, including:

- the type of construction activities occurring (e.g. crushing and grinding);
- the volume of material being moved;
- the moisture and silt content of the materials;
- the distance travelled on unpaved roads;
- the area of exposed materials;
- the mitigation measures employed.

12.4 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

12.4.1 Impact identification

12.4.1.1 Dust

Sources of such dust include material stockpiles and other dusty surfaces, which may be disturbed by wind action. Dust of this type may also be thrown up by mechanical action, due to activities such as the movement of tyres on a dusty road, drilling or demolition. General construction works may cause occasional rather than continuous emissions of dust, as only certain activities (such as grinding and cutting) will result in dust emissions. Black smoke particles may also occur where hot bitumen is used to carry out tarmac laying. Ventilation shafts can also act as a minor source of dust above ground. Dust is generated underground through the action of the LMV braking and friction wear on the tracks, together with a small biological component from the passengers themselves. Ventilation shafts transfer dust particles from underground tunnels and emit them to the open atmosphere.

The effect of dust also depends on the wind direction and the distance between the dust source and receptor. Dust emissions arising from construction activities have the potential to cause nuisance both within the construction site and outside the site boundary. Accumulation and settling of particles on surfaces close to the point of release may occur leading to soiling of property, windows, cars or laundry. Such dust affects amenity, as the particles are mostly of sufficient size that they are visible. In industrial and commercial premises dust can cause soiling of goods, abrasion of moving parts in the plant and clogging of filters, if present in sufficient quantity. The generation of dust can also lead to increases in levels of particulate matter; this may have an impact on human health. It is also important to consider whether the dust has been generated through the disturbance of contaminated ground.

12.4.1.2 Vehicle emissions

Local emissions of NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} are typically emitted from vehicle exhausts and therefore are directly associated with the number of vehicles travelling on local road networks. The change in vehicles numbers as a result of the proposed scheme will therefore have an impact on the concentrations of these pollutants in areas where traffic levels change in response to the proposed scheme. The changes in traffic that will occur are described in the Traffic chapter of this EIS (Volume 2, Chapter 7). NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} emission can have a potential impact on human health as described in the Human Health chapter of this EIS (Volume 1, Chapter 8).

12.4.1.3 Microclimate

The principal change to microclimate would occur through the replacement of a previously vegetated surface with paved surfaces. If this change occurred over a sufficiently large area, a change in the surface energy balance would occur, as moisture evaporation from the soil beneath the paved surfaces is eliminated and more of the available solar radiation is used to heat air rather than to evaporate water transpired by plants and trees. This could potentially have a discernible effect on air temperature, especially as a cooling effect in summer, and exacerbate the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect, as described in the baseline Air and Climatic Factors chapter (Volume 1, Chapter 20).

During the construction phase, vegetated surfaces may be replaced with compacted or paved surfaces that are not vegetated. Examples include construction compounds, embankments, stockpiles and other temporary features that may lead to the disruption or destruction of existing vegetation. Vegetated surfaces may also be replaced permanently due to the above ground operational structures of the proposed scheme (e.g. track form, Park & Ride facilities, stops)

Alterations of the direction and speed of air flow may occur, due to large structures associated with the proposed scheme. The movement of LMVs on the track can potentially generate localised wind turbulence if the vehicles are moving at significant speeds. The construction of new elevated pedestrian crossings can expose pedestrians to wind.

Similarly, large structures can also lead to changes in lighting and shade. This impact is usually only significant if the barriers are solid and if sensitive areas are located in close proximity. Cold air can also accumulate behind physical barriers, such as buildings and embankments, thereby blocking nocturnal drainage flows and increasing the potential for incidence of 'frost hollows' and ice. These frost hollows and ice can impact on crops in an agricultural setting or create slip hazards on thoroughfares. These artificial frost hollows only typically occur if relatively solid barriers are created across valleys, where cold surface air would otherwise drain away during the night.

12.4.1.4 Climate change

Greenhouse gases are gases that exist in the earth's atmosphere and that contribute to global temperatures by reducing the loss of heat into space. This 'greenhouse effect' is a natural essential phenomenon in that without it, the planet would be cold and uninhabitable. However, the creation of excess greenhouse gases can lead to adverse impacts associated with excessive increases in global temperature. The major greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and fluorinated gases. Significant sources of methane, nitrous oxide or fluorinated gases are not associated with the proposed scheme. Traffic emissions are considered to be a significant source of carbon dioxide and this source of impact is considered in this assessment.

12.4.2 Mitigation measures

12.4.2.1 Dust

It is not possible to eliminate completely emissions of dust from construction sites. However, there are a number of good site practices that will be implemented to reduce the risk of dust effects arising during construction:

- All materials with the potential to cause dust will be covered during transport;
- Wheel washing facilities will be installed in all relevant construction sites and will be used by vehicles leaving the site;
- All material stockpiles with the potential to generate dust will be covered or dampened as necessary to minimise the potential for creation of dust. Particular precautionary measures will be undertaken if stockpiles comprise hazardous materials. Such measures will be agreed with the relevant authorities prior to commencement of the activity such that no adverse impact on the environment or human health is allowed to occur at any stage;
- Water suppression or dust extraction will be fitted where possible to construction equipment that has the potential to generate dust e.g. drilling, cutting and grinding equipment;
- On-site vehicle speeds on unhardened roads and surfaces will be limited to less than 15kph;
- Drop heights for material transfer activities such as unloading materials will be minimised;
- Surfaces that are to be excavated or cleared will be dampened prior to clearing or excavation where there is potential for excessive dust to be created;
- Bowsers or similar equipment will be available for use in construction compounds to wash down surfaces and roads, particularly in periods of dry weather.

Tarmac laying and the associated use of hot bitumen can generate significant amounts of black smoke particles. This will be minimised by the application of the following measures suggested by the Building Research Establishment (BRE, 2000):

- bitumen will not be overheated and where possible, bitumen will not be heated with open flame burners;
- pots and tanks containing hot bitumen will be covered to minimise fume production;
- spillages will be minimised.

12.4.2.2 Vehicle emissions

The measures to be taken to minimise the potential for traffic generation and congestion, and associated emissions of PM₁₀ and NO₂, are described in the Traffic chapter of this EIS (Volume 2, Chapter 7).

12.4.2.3 Microclimate

A powerful method of off-setting the loss of vegetated surfaces is to plant trees, which have a large leaf area and transpire large quantities of water and thereby exert a significant cooling effect in summer. A summary of the key planting measures to be implemented at numerous locations across the proposed scheme is provided in this chapter. Details regarding the measures to be implemented are detailed further in the Landscape and Visual chapter (and Landscape Insertion Plans) of this EIS (Volume 2, Chapter 13).

- As much existing vegetation as possible is to be retained within and adjacent to the scheme. Trees that are to be retained will be protected in accordance with BS5837;
- Planting and/or hedgerow is to be introduced to compensate for vegetation loss;
- Planting is to be introduced on earthwork embankments and construction compounds to facilitate the reinstatement of these areas.

All bridges have been designed in accordance with appropriate safety design standards.

12.4.2.4 Climate change

The measures to be taken to minimise the potential for traffic generation and congestion, and associated emissions of CO₂, are described in the Traffic chapter of this EIS (Volume 2, Chapter 7).

12.4.3 Assessment of residual impacts

12.4.3.1 Project scenario: construction phase

Dust

Sources

There are two construction compounds (Compound 5 and 6) located at the stop in Fosterstown and further south at Fosterstown Underpass. These are both local compounds which will be used for the delivery and storage of construction materials and plant equipment before distribution to the relevant section of surface works. These compounds will also be used for layout space for assembly of pre-fabrication material. Depending on volume, exposure and prevailing winds there is potential for dust to be generated from the stored materials.

The activities in Area MN102 considered likely to give rise to construction dust are shown in Table 12.4.

Table 12.4 Construction activities having the potential to give rise to dust

Activity	Duration
- Construction of the Pinnock Hill Viaduct.	6 months
- Fosterstown Stop at surface (including telecommunications tower that needs to be moved before construction can commence)	6 months
- Fosterstown Underpass using cut and cover techniques	14 months
- Construction of surface lines	
- Malahide Underpass (using cut and cover techniques) to Pinnock Hill Viaduct	5 months
- Pinnock Hill Viaduct to Fosterstown Stop	9 months
- Fosterstown underpass to Dublin Airport North Tunnel Portal.	11 months

Sensitive Receptors

Maps (Air and Climatic Factors Baseline and Impact) included Volume 3, Book 1 of 2 shows the boundaries of Area MN102 with dust buffers around the construction compound at 50m, 100m and 150m intervals. The alignment and construction compound boundaries have been used as the point from which to measure the distance contours because it is not possible at this stage to pinpoint the actual locations of potential dust generating activities within specific construction compounds or along the route. In reality the actual project worksites are likely to be much more limited in their spatial extent than the project boundary would indicate.

The only sensitive receptors in Area MN102 are residential properties. Immediately South of Swords Stop to the east of the alignment lies Carlton Court, 50m away from the alignment. Dust deposition on these properties will be potentially significant as they are located with 50m of construction activities. This construction, however, is only anticipated to last for 5 months.

To the south-west of Fosterstown Stop lies another sensitive residential area that occupies an area that is of 50m-150m away from the alignment. It is expected that dust deposition impacts on these properties will be potentially significant or significant during the construction of the Fosterstown Underpass (using cut and cover techniques) over a period of approximately 14 months. The precise significance of impacts, however, will depend on how close each residential receptor is to the alignment. Those properties that are 50m away will experience significant impacts, whereas those that are 150m away will experience potentially significant impacts. There is a smaller residential area to the west of Construction Compound 6; again, these properties are located within 50m - 150m of the compound and alignment. Compound 6 is to be used for approximately than 4 years. These properties are therefore likely to be subject to significant impacts from dust.

As is the case with the properties near Fosterstown Stop, the significance of impacts on these properties will vary depending on the distance of individual properties from the construction.

Vehicle emissions

Changes in NO₂ and PM_{2.5} across the entire scheme in comparison to regulatory limits

Many of the changes described in the previous section do not lead to breaches of any regulatory limits. As described in the baseline Air and Climatic Factors chapter of this EIS (Volume 1, Chapter 20), air quality along 3 road links of the traffic network of the scheme is predicted to breach the NO₂ limit value of 40 µg m⁻³ in 2011 if the proposed scheme is not implemented. If the scheme is implemented during construction, air quality at these 3 road links does not improve and breaches of the limit value persist. The breaches are not attributable to the scheme and therefore are not discussed any further.

The net result of the construction of the proposed scheme in 2011 is that the NO₂ concentration alongside a further 1 road link is predicted to exceed the NO₂ limit value of 40 µg m⁻³. Table 12.5 shows the street link where a new marginal breach of the NO₂ limit value is predicted to occur in 2011, as a result of the construction phase of the alignment. This street link occurs within Area MN101.

Table 12.5 Street links where a new breach of the NO₂ limit value (40 µg m⁻³) is predicted to occur in 2011

Road link	Street name	Magnitude of Change (µg m ⁻³)	New Concentration (µg m ⁻³)	Distance from Alignment
NO ₂				
3562_3560	Link road from M1 Northbound to R127 north of Lissenhall	13.53	40.7	Between 500m and 1km

Source: Road names provided by MVA traffic consultants

The magnitude of change in NO₂ concentrations is 13.53 µg m⁻³. This adverse impact would therefore normally be considered to be of medium magnitude because a change of between 5 and 25 µg m⁻³ in ambient NO₂ concentration occurs. However, this change leads to a breach of the 40 µg m⁻³ NO₂ limit value and therefore the impact is considered to be of high magnitude. As set out in the baseline Air and Climatic Factors of this EIS (Volume 1, Chapter 20), any areas where a potential breach of any regulatory limit may occur are considered to be of very high functional value. This impact is therefore considered to be of High significance.

The proposed scheme does not have any impact in terms of changes in compliance or non-compliance with the limit values for PM₁₀ or PM_{2.5} in any area.

Changes in NO₂ and PM_{2.5} across the entire scheme

Changes in NO₂ and PM₁₀/PM_{2.5} concentration (µg m⁻³) for 2011 (the first year of construction) are presented in Table 12.8 for two scenarios: if the proposed scheme is not implemented and if it is implemented. The table shows the number of road links that will experience air quality improvements and degradations. The extent of change that will occur has been evaluated using the criteria detailed in Table 12.3 and the links on which changes will occur have been categorised into the relevant magnitude classes. It is assumed that vehicle exhaust is essentially all in the form of PM_{2.5} and therefore may be thought of as contributing to PM₁₀ or PM_{2.5} concentrations equally.

Table 12.6 Road links with changes in NO₂ and PM₁₀/PM_{2.5} Concentration (µg m⁻³) from 2011 Do Minimum to 2011 With Metro

Impact Magnitude	Number of links with:			
	Degradation in Air Quality with respect to NO ₂ Concentration (µg m ⁻³)	Improvement in Air Quality with respect to NO ₂ Concentration (µg m ⁻³)	Degradation in Air Quality with respect to PM ₁₀ /PM _{2.5} Concentration (µg m ⁻³) (a)	Improvement in Air Quality with respect to PM ₁₀ /PM _{2.5} Concentration (µg m ⁻³) (a)
high	0	0	0/0	0/0
medium	5	7	0/3	0/8
low	108	46	34/77	23/44
very low	12,318 ^(b)		12,427/12,352 ^(b)	

(a) Although the magnitude of the PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ concentration changes are equal, the assessment criteria are not and so the impacts are distributed differently across the categories.

(b) This is the total number of changes as defined by a very low impact magnitude for both Degradation and Improvement combined.

All of the changes in NO₂ and PM₁₀/PM_{2.5} concentrations are of medium to very low magnitude. These changes are of Low significance.

Microclimate

During the construction phase, existing vegetated areas within Area MN102 will be temporarily converted to unvegetated areas due to the development of construction compounds, embankments and localised movement of plant and construction vehicles. The main sources of land-take are outlined in Table 12.7.

Table 12.7 Significant sources of temporary land-take within Area MN102

Land-take	Approximate area	Duration of land-take
Compound 5 – Pinnock Hill Viaduct	24,000m ²	2 years approx
Compound 6 – Fosterstown	21,000m ²	4 years approx
Total	45,000m ²	

Area MN102 comprises approximately 1,985,000m² of land. Approximately 52% of this land currently comprises open green areas (1,025,000m²). The use of approximately 45,000 m² of this area for the construction compounds is considered to be an impact of low magnitude and has no significance in light of the fact that the land-take is short in duration (2-4 years approx.) and extensive green areas exist within the study area and further afield.

Climate change

Predicted CO₂ emissions in the do minimum year of 2011 are detailed in the baseline Air and Climatic Factors chapter of this EIS (Volume 1, Chapter 20). The annual CO₂ emissions from vehicles during construction that will be produced in 2011 if the proposed scheme is implemented are detailed in Table 12.8 along with the percentage change relative to baseline emissions.

Table 12.8 CO₂ Emissions from road traffic network in 2011 (tonnes annum⁻¹)

Do Metro 2011 (tonnes annum ⁻¹)	Change relative to baseline (%)
2, 671,268 (a)	+0.6 %

(a) Estimated using DMRB methodology

The magnitude of change in CO₂ emissions in 2011 during construction if the scheme goes ahead is very low and is, therefore, of no significance. The slight increase arises through a slight reduction in overall vehicle speeds on parts of the network and the additional traffic associated with construction activity.

12.4.3.2 Project scenario: operational phase

Modelling results for 2014, the first operational year of the scheme, showed less of an influence on air quality than for 2029; therefore, these results have not been discussed in detail in this section. They are however presented in the technical report included as Annex G. The 2029 results reflect the worst case scenario and are detailed in the following sections.

Dust

There will be no significant dust impact associated with the operation of the proposed scheme in Area MN102

Vehicle emissions

Changes in NO₂ and PM₁₀/PM_{2.5} across the entire scheme in comparison to regulatory limits

As described in the baseline Air and Climatic Factors of this EIS (Volume 1, Chapter 20), air quality along six road links of the proposed scheme within the 50m band alongside the road are predicted to breach the NO₂ limit value in 2029 if the proposed scheme is not implemented. If the proposed scheme is implemented, air quality at these six road links improves such that breaches of the limit value no longer occur. The six relevant links are shown in Figure 12.1.

The magnitude of improvement in NO₂ concentrations for the majority of the six links shown in Figure 12.1 is between -10 and -20 µg m⁻³. This positive impact would normally therefore be considered to be of medium magnitude. However, the changes are such that breaches of relevant legislative limits no longer occur. The impacts are therefore considered to be of high magnitude and Medium significance.

Table 12.9 Street links where improvements in NO₂ concentrations result in compliance with the NO₂ limit value (40 µg m⁻³) in 2029

Road link	Street name	Magnitude of Change (µg m ⁻³)	New Concentration (µg m ⁻³)	Distance from Alignment
NO ₂				
5165_5144 ^(b)	Taney Road	-18.11	26.28	More than 5km
5014_5011 ^(b)	N11	-18.47	25.95	Between 3km and 4km
4250_4210 ^(b)	N7 Eastbound	-12.01	29.19	More than 5km
1833_1832	Oscar Traynor Road	-26.1	27.24	Between 2km and 3km
1415_1408	Berkeley Road	-17.51	24.99	Between 250m and 500m
2013_2012	Junction between College Green, Westmoreland Street and College Street.	-11.32	32.65	Less than 250m

(a) North of the alignment

(b) South of the alignment

Source: Road names provided by MVA traffic consultants

The result of the implementation of the proposed scheme in 2029 is that there will only be one road link where NO₂ concentrations are predicted to exceed the NO₂ limit value. This is part of the Red Cow Roundabout. The link is shown in Figure 12.1 and Table 12.10. The magnitude of increase in the annual average NO₂ concentration for this link is approximately 13 µg m⁻³ and causes a marginal breach of the regulatory limit. This negative impact is therefore considered to be of high magnitude and of Medium significance.

Table 12.10 Street link where a new breach of the NO₂ limit value (of 40 µg m⁻³) is predicted to occur in 2029.

Table 12.10 Street links where a new breach of the new NO₂ limit value (of 40 µg m⁻³) is predicted to occur in 2029

Road link (a)	Street name	Magnitude of Change (µg m ⁻³)	New Concentration from (µg m ⁻³)	Distance from Alignment
NO ₂				
4221_4220 (b)	Part of the Red Cow Roundabout, going from the East to the West (4221 to 4220), roundabout linking Western Parkway, R110 and Naas Road	12.98	41.41	More than 5km

(b) All links are South of the alignment

Source: Road names provided by MVA traffic consultants

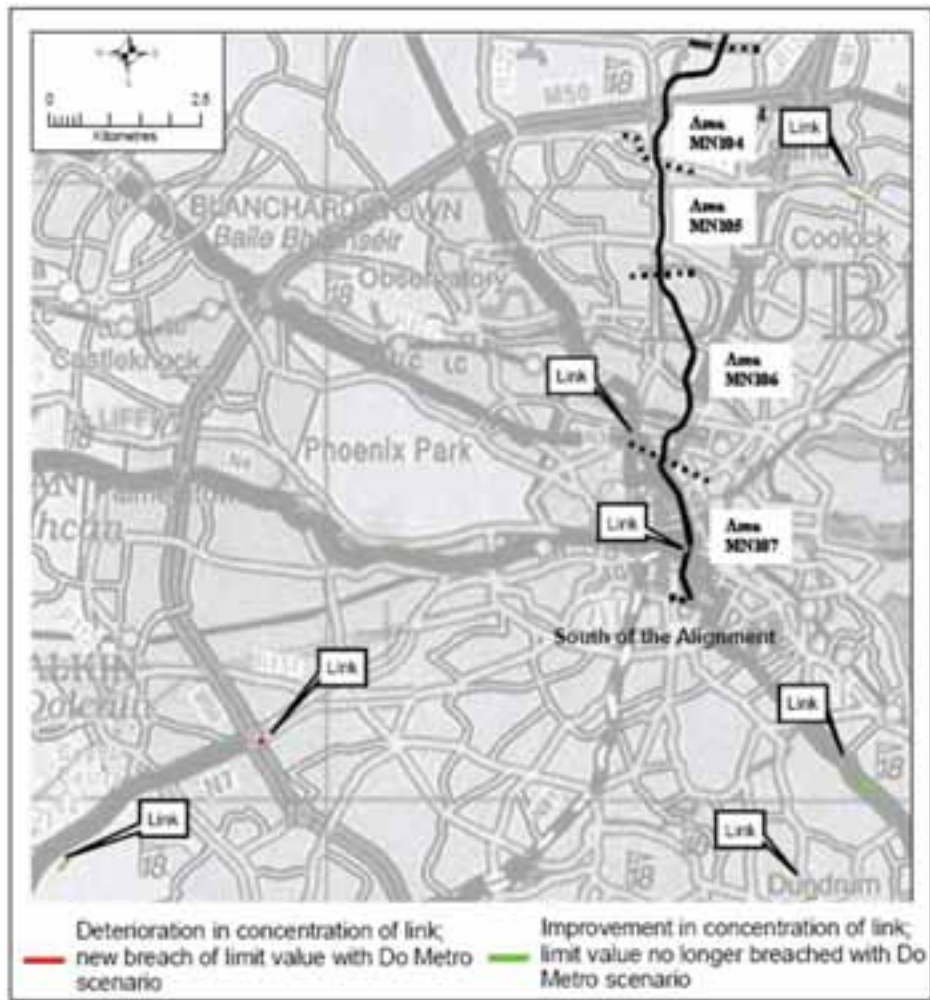


Figure 12.1 Road links where changes in compliance with regulatory NO₂ levels occur

If the proposed scheme is implemented, PM₁₀/PM_{2.5} concentrations will decrease substantially alongside several road links. The proposed scheme does not have any implications in terms of compliance with PM₁₀/PM_{2.5} limit values.

Changes in NO₂ and PM₁₀/PM_{2.5} across the entire scheme

Changes in NO₂ and PM₁₀/PM_{2.5} concentration ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) for 2029 are presented in Table 12.1.1. The table shows the number of road links with air quality improvements or degradation related to the magnitude of concentration changes for both NO₂ and PM₁₀/PM_{2.5}.

Table 12.11 Road Links with changes in NO₂ and PM₁₀/PM_{2.5} Concentration (µg m⁻³) from 2029 Do Minimum to 2029 With Metro

Impact Magnitude	Change in NO ₂ Concentration (µg m ⁻³)		Change in PM ₁₀ /PM _{2.5} Concentration (µg m ⁻³)	
	Number of links with Degradation in Air Quality	Number of links with Improvement in Air Quality	Number of links with Degradation in Air Quality	Number of links with Improvement in Air Quality
high	0	1	0/0	0/0
medium	47	45	0/7	3/14
low	595	536	68/184	63/198
very low	11,404 ^(a)		12,225 ^(a)	

(a) This is the total number of insignificant positive and negative changes as defined by a very low impact magnitude

All of the changes in NO₂ and PM₁₀/PM_{2.5} concentrations are of medium to very low magnitude. These changes are of Low significance

Microclimate

Area MN102 comprises approximately 1,985,000m² of land. Approximately 52% of this land currently comprises open green areas (1,025,000m²). Land-take in this area occurs to facilitate structures such as the above ground sections of the route. This land-take primarily occurs within the central median of the road or in other existing hardstanding areas. In light of the large amount of green vegetated areas within Area MN102, the microclimatic impact of land-take is considered to be Low and not significant.

The maximum speed of the LMVs in any area along the alignment is approximately 70km/h. This speed is not high enough to cause significant impacts on wind turbulence and thus microclimate. The topography of Area MN102 is relatively flat such that significant channelling of wind does not occur in any area. Large structures are therefore unlikely to have a significant adverse impact on wind patterns in the local area. All elevated structures to be constructed in this area (including the Pinnock Hill viaduct) are relatively low in terms of elevation and do not obstruct localised air movement. Impacts associated with cold air pooling and shading are therefore unlikely to occur and are not considered significant. All of the bridges that are constructed are designed for an appropriate wind loadings and safety railing are eliminate any safety hazards arising from wind exposure.

Climate change

Predicted CO₂ emissions in the do minimum year of 2029 are detailed in the baseline Air and Climatic Factors chapter of this EIS (Volume 1, Chapter 20). The annual CO₂ emissions from road traffic vehicle emissions that will be produced in 2029 if the scheme is implemented are shown in Table 12.12, along with the percentage change relative to baseline emissions.

Table 12.12 CO₂ Emissions from Network in 2029 (tonnes per annum)

Do Metro 2029 (tonnes annum ⁻¹)	Change relative to baseline (%)
3,096,110 ^(a)	- 0.6 %

(a) Estimated using DMRB methodology

The magnitude of change in CO₂ emissions in 2029 if the scheme goes ahead is low and is, therefore, insignificant. The decrease is a result of a combination of traffic re-routing associated with the direct impacts of the proposed scheme on road capacity and the modal shift from car to the rail system. Emission factors are used to predict future emissions; these depend on fuel consumption and the carbon content of fuel. Emission factors decrease in the future as fuel consumption changes with improvements in vehicle efficiency and carbon content from 2008 to 2020 will reflect the introduction of bio-fuels.



