

Environmental surveys

Environmental surveys have helped us better understand the landscape, habitats, wildlife and environmental features along the proposed route.

Much of this work has already been completed and informed the proposals submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as part of our DCO application. The surveys have helped identify environmental sensitivities, assess potential effects and develop measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate impacts where possible.

The work has included habitat and protected species surveys, landscape assessments, water environment studies and ground investigations. These surveys provide important information about local conditions, from wildlife and habitats to soils, groundwater and other environmental features. The findings have helped shape the project design and Environmental Statement, allowing us to refine proposals, consider alternative approaches and identify opportunities to protect and enhance the environment. In some cases, survey findings have directly influenced design decisions and helped avoid environmentally sensitive areas.

Any remaining environmental surveys are generally focused on supporting detailed design, updating information where required and helping to ensure appropriate environmental management measures are in place should the project proceed.

Traffic surveys

Traffic surveys have helped us understand how local roads, footways and cycle routes are used and how the transport network operates across the study area.

Much of this work has already been completed and informed the proposals submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. Surveys have included traffic counts, junction assessments, vehicle classification surveys, journey time studies and pedestrian and cyclist counts.

The information collected has helped transport planners and engineers assess existing conditions, understand how the project could interact with the local road network and identify appropriate access arrangements, construction routes and mitigation measures where required.

The findings have informed the Transport Assessment submitted as part of the planning application, which considers potential effects on road users, public transport, walkers, wheelers, cyclists and local communities.

Any remaining traffic surveys are generally focused on supporting detailed design and refining construction traffic management plans, helping to minimise disruption to local roads, residents and businesses wherever practicable.

Archaeological surveys

Archaeological surveys have helped us understand the historic environment along the proposed route and identify any heritage assets or archaeological remains that need to be considered as part of the project.

Much of this work has already been completed and informed the proposals submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. This has included reviewing historic records and maps, previous investigations, aerial imagery and information held by local and national heritage organisations.

We have also used specialist survey techniques, such as geophysical surveys and other remote sensing technologies, to identify archaeological features below ground without disturbing them. In some locations, trial trenching has been carried out to investigate areas where there was potential for significant archaeological remains.

The work has been undertaken with input from heritage organisations and local authority archaeological advisers. The information gathered has helped shape the project, informing both the design and environmental assessments and helping us consider opportunities to avoid or reduce impacts where possible.

Any remaining archaeological surveys are generally focused on supporting detailed design, refining construction plans and ensuring appropriate measures are in place to protect important heritage assets should the project proceed.

