



# Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

## Assessing Crossrail's impact on people and the environment

Crossrail would be one of the largest engineering projects in Europe and could create thousands of jobs during its construction. When complete it would bring considerable benefits to London, the South East and the UK as a whole with improved connections and less crowding on trains.

However, building Crossrail in a densely populated area would inevitably cause some disturbance. To manage this, we are actively working with local authorities and those who may be affected.

Environmental experts are preparing an assessment of likely environmental impacts during and after construction. This is called an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The report setting out the findings of the EIA is called the Environmental Statement (ES). The ES would be presented to Parliament when seeking permission to build the new railway.

## What is an EIA?

Since 1988, an EIA has been required under European law identifying the likely positive and negative impacts on the environment of major projects such as Crossrail. It looks at the potential impact of the project and, importantly, at the steps which might be taken to manage the impact on people, buildings and the environment.

The scope of the EIA and the way that information is gathered has been discussed with local authorities along the proposed route and with relevant organisations such as English Heritage and the Environment Agency.

## What would the EIA cover?

The EIA would cover a wide range of possible impacts both during the construction and operation and would be presented under the following headings:

- Land use, property and planning – the likely way that land, property and buildings near the railway may be affected
- Socio-economic – the likely effect upon people living or working near the proposed route. It would identify the potential disruption to businesses during construction, and the longer-term benefits that the new railway could bring in terms of greater access to jobs and regeneration
- Traffic and transport – looks at the likely effect on roads and existing rail services during construction and the local benefits it could bring when trains are running
- Community – looks at likely disturbance to community facilities near the railway

- Noise and vibration – consideration of the likely causes and levels. A separate information sheet is available on this subject
- Ecology and natural resource – examines the likely impact on plants, animals and nature
- Contaminated land – looks at how Crossrail would deal with contaminated land which could potentially be disturbed by construction
- Landscape and visual – looks at the likely visual impact and impact on the landscape
- Archaeology and historical resource – would look at likely effects on important sites and buildings along the route
- Water quality – looks at the likely impact on streams, rivers, canals, drainage systems and groundwater
- Air quality and climate change – would consider the likely effects on air quality of, for example, dust

### **How would the effects be controlled?**

An important part of our environmental work is to consider how we can reduce or limit likely impacts using “mitigation measures”. We would produce a Construction Code containing principles for managing and controlling construction.

Noise and traffic arising from worksites are likely to be two important considerations for worksite neighbours and the general public. Crossrail is working with the authorities and those who may be affected to ensure that disruption is managed.

### **How can I get a copy of the EIA?**

The EIA is currently being carried out and the ES would be available at the time of any Parliamentary Bill deposit. The most important findings would be published in a non-technical summary. Copies would be made public with the non-technical summary available on the website and through the Helpdesk.

### **Further information**

If you would like further information, please contact the Crossrail team. You can either phone the help desk on 0845 602 3813, e-mail us on [helpdesk@crossrail.co.uk](mailto:helpdesk@crossrail.co.uk), send a message through our web site at [www.Crossrail.co.uk](http://www.Crossrail.co.uk) or write to us at, Consultation Team, FREEPOST NAT6945, London SW1 0BR.

Crossrail's Round 2 Public Consultation ends on 27 October, 2004.

