

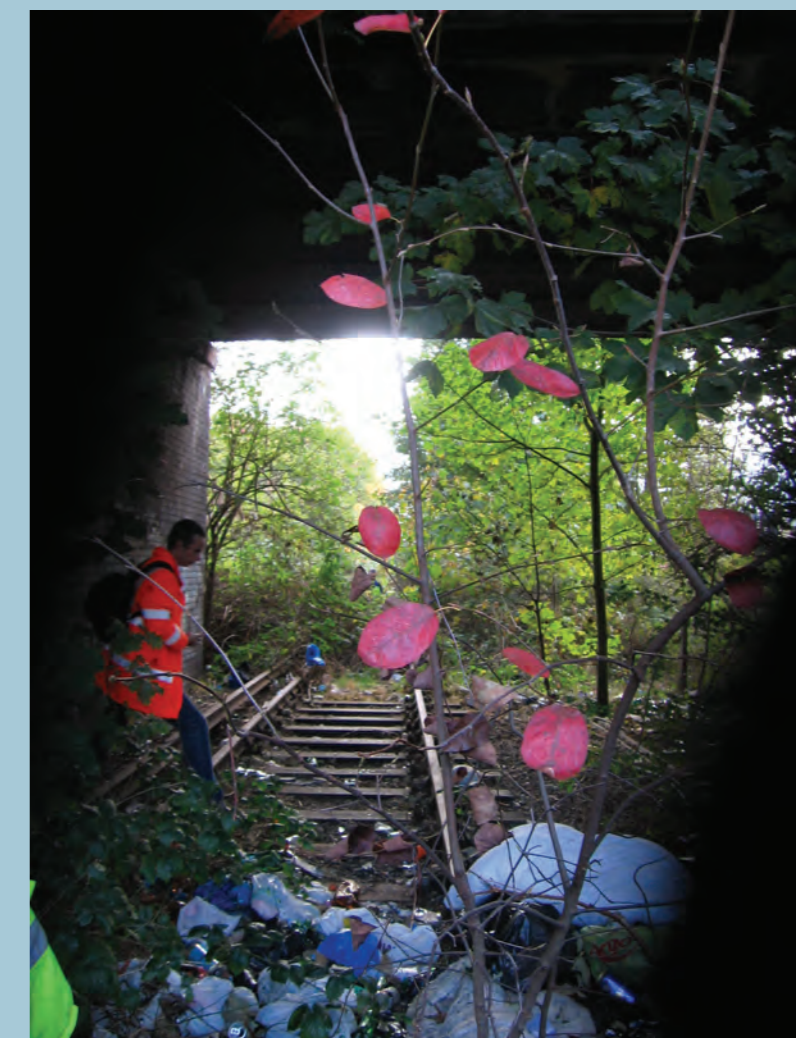
# ENVIRONMENT



## Environmental Impact Assessment Process

The proposed scheme is subject to a process of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The purpose of the EIA is to ensure that potentially significant effects of the rail link on the environment are identified and assessed, and that mitigation measures to avoid, reduce or remedy those impacts are identified and evaluated. The results of the EIA will be published in an Environmental Statement (ES) and submitted as part of the Transport and Works Order application.

The assessment and proposed mitigation measures published in the ES serve two principal purposes:



- they form an essential part of the information taken into account by the Secretary of State when deciding if the proposed scheme should be approved for implementation
- they provide an explanation of the anticipated environmental implications of the proposed scheme in order to inform statutory consultees and members of the public who may wish to comment on the application.

What to expect within the ES:

- a description of the proposed development, comprising information on the site, design and size of the project
- an assessment of the likely significant effects which the proposed development is to have on the environment
- a description of the measures envisaged in order to avoid, reduce and, if possible, remedy significant adverse impacts
- a consideration of alternatives
- a non-technical summary of the main findings

The different topic areas covered by the EIA are as follows:



- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources and Heritage
- Ecology and Nature Conservation
- Geology, Soils and Contaminated Land
- Landscape Character and Visual Context
- Noise and Vibration
- Surface Water, Flood Risk and Drainage
- Traffic and Transport
- Community and Socio-economic Effects
- Cumulative Effects