

## **Historic Environment – Approach to Assessment**

Following discussion with representatives of Kirklees Council and in response to the issues raised in the Council's Statement of Case. The following sets out the approach taken to the assessment for impacts on the historic environment as a result of The Network Rail (Huddersfield to Westtown (Dewsbury) Improvements) Order.

Full and thorough, detailed and strategic assessments of the impact of the Scheme proposals and the historic environment has been undertaken. This is both in terms of the Scheme being subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which is reported in the Environment Statement (ES), and also to detailed assessment of the impact on those individual Listed Buildings where Listed Building Consent will be required to deliver the Scheme proposals, in the form of Heritage Assessments produced to accompany the Listed Building Consent applications.

The overarching strategic assessment of the impact of the Scheme proposals on the historic environment is contained within Chapter 6 Historic Environment in Volume 2i of the Scheme Wide Environmental Statement (ES). This includes identification of those heritage assets which have been assessed to be subject to significant effects as a result of the Scheme proposals. This also includes identification of scheme-wide impacts on the historic environment.

A detailed assessment of the impacts on the historic environment of the Scheme in each of the six Route Sections is provided in the six Chapter 6 Historic Environment sections of Volume 2ii of the ES, supported by impact tables included in Appendix 6-4 of Volume 3 of the ES.

For each of the nine Listed Building Consent applications, a Heritage Assessment has been produced which identifies the impacts of the design proposal on the significance of the structure, in particular the degree of harm to significance in each case and whether that harm is substantial or less than substantial. This is also weighed against a consideration of the public benefits to be gained from the design proposals in each Heritage Assessment as well as the overall public benefits of the scheme. Further, there has been extensive engagement with Kirklees Councils in relation to the intervention required on each Listed Building.

The assessment identified above as part of both the EIA process and within the Heritage Assessments supporting the Listed Building Consent applications have been conducted in line with current national planning policy within Section 16: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (paragraphs 189 to 208)<sup>1</sup> and the statutory guidance of Historic England, including:

- Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: managing significance in decision-taking in the historic environment (2015)
- Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The setting of heritage assets (revised 2017)
- Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (2008)
- Preserving Archaeological Remains Decision-Taking for Sites Under Development (2016); and

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that NPPF was updated in July 2021. At the time of writing the assessment, the paragraphs in question were 184 to 202.

- Understanding Historic Buildings, A Guide to Good Recording Practice (revised 2016).

The methodology adopted for the assessment within the ES was agreed with both Kirklees Council and Historic England, as well as in consultation with other stakeholders including West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service (WYAAS), following Scoping Opinion responses to the Environmental Scoping Report (ESR). Kirklees Council, Historic England and WYAAS all provided Scoping Opinion responses; these were received in July 2019 from both Historic England and Kirklees Council, with the Scoping Opinion of WYAAS received in November 2019.