

Impact of work on the local community and environment

Before starting the Leeds Station Capacity Project, we reviewed the impacts that it would have on the local community and environment. This includes:

Community Impacts:

We have used our Community Impact Assessment tool to identify the anticipated impacts on the local community from the project including the temporary construction compound. Once completed the assessment provides a ranking and recommendations for themes which should be considered. These themes include: being a caring neighbour, communities and the environment, creating engaged employees, creating positive industry partnerships, inspiring tomorrow's workforce, keeping communities safe, making rail a great experience, making travel accessible, respecting rail heritage and supporting Britain's development.

Inclusivity and accessibility:

We have followed our Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) process to identify potentially negative impacts of our work on people with protected characteristics, we have consulted with the Built Environment Accessibility Panel and identified an action plan to deliver positive impacts and address any potentially negative impacts. We have looked at impact the project has on connectivity in and around the station and are developing measures to mitigate any negative impacts during construction.

Social Value:

We have undertaken a social and economic impact assessment and identified the following measures to enhance social value around Leeds:

- We will engage with local pupils/students through our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) volunteering activities.
- We will enhance the health and enjoyment of users of the project e.g. provide publicly accessible drinking water (to allow bottle refill).
- Our design will aim to reduce opportunities for crime and enhance the perception of safety within our scope of works.
- Deliver volunteering activities that are aligned with local needs for example litter picks in the vicinity of the project and supporting the Leeds Food Bank.

Pollution:

We have identified the following potential impacts during construction:

- Temporary dust and particulate matter from the construction activities;
- Potential for temporary noise and vibration effects from construction activities.
- Additional vehicle trips are anticipated and therefore increases in noise are considered likely on sensitive receptors along haulage routes to / from the Site, although these additional trips are considered to be a low proportion of the overall traffic flows (<10%)
- Temporary increase in disturbance / nuisance associated with light spill and glare.

Pollution impacts during construction will be managed through control mechanisms. This will include dust avoidance/suppression, measures that minimise noise generation from plant and equipment and best practice measures to reduce light spill from temporary lighting. Impacts will be monitored and managed throughout the construction phase.

No significant residual environmental impacts were identified; however, measures will be taken to minimise any operational impacts e.g. permanent lighting will be in accordance with relevant guidance and standards.