

4 DEVELOPMENT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEME

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The Croxley Rail Link has been under development for many years, and during this period a number of alignments and alternative options have been considered to meet the scheme's objectives. These have included using different modes and variations in the scope and design of the preferred option as set out in Section 10 of this Statement.

4.2 Historical position

4.2.1 Watford Junction station opened in 1837 on the main line route to Birmingham. A local route serving Rickmansworth via Watford High Street opened in 1862 and this was later incorporated within the London & North Western Railway (LNWR), which opened a branch line to Croxley Green in 1912, with an intermediate station on Tolpits Lane named Watford West.

4.2.2 The Metropolitan Railway (MR) proposed to construct a branch from its main line to the west to access the heart of Watford but opposition from local landowners and town council resulted in the terminus station being provided on the south side of Cassiobury Park - a considerable distance from the town centre - when the line opened in 1925.

Figure 1: Originally proposed route for Metropolitan Railway 1912

