

From: [REDACTED] - Oxfordshire County Council

<G[REDACTED]k>

Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 4:59 PM

To: OxfordshireSRFI <OxfordshireSRFI@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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Subject: Host Authority submission for Procedural Deadline A- 15/09/2026

Dear Case Team,

Procedural Deadline A Submission

Please find attached the joint submission of Cherwell District Council (CDC) and Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) in response to Procedural Deadline A. Unless otherwise specified the Councils will be submitting joint responses into the examination and will be known collectively as the 'Host Authorities'.

However, being as Relevant Representations were submitted separately by each Council, Cherwell District Council will be providing a separate summary of their Relevant Representation.

Attendance at hearings w/c 28th September

Both Authorities have completed the online form indicating our attendance at the hearings on the w/c 28th September but for clarity and the avoidance of doubt attendance is outlined below:

Preliminary Meeting

Both OCC and CDC would like to attend and speak at the Preliminary meeting on the 29th of September. It is likely that two officers from each Council will be present.

ISH1 and ISH2

Both OCC and CDC would like to attend and speak at ISH1 and ISH2. We will not be able to confirm the attendees until we have received a detailed agenda but it is likely that multiple officers from each Authority would need to attend.

CAH1

OCC would like to attend and speak at the CAH1. It is likely that there will be two officers in attendance in person and two more dialling in remotely.

Please do reach out for any clarifications in relation to the above.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

Lead Strategic Planner (NSIPs)

Strategic Planning

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OXFORDSHIRE STRATEGIC RAILFREIGHT INTERCHANGE

HOST AUTHORITIES (HA) RESPONSES FOR PROCEEDURAL DEADLINE A | 15 SEPTEMBER 2026

- Oxfordshire County Council
- Cherwell District Council

Host Authorities (HA)

Oxfordshire Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (TR050008)

HOST AUTHORITIES

RESPONSES FOR PROCEDURAL DEADLINE A

The Host Authorities (the “**HA**”) are comprised of the following host authorities who are working collaboratively to represent constituents on key issues during this Examination and assist the Examining Authority (“**ExA**”) with the Examination’s smooth running:

- Cherwell District Council (“CDC”)
- Oxfordshire County Council (“OCC”)

In these submissions, the Host Authorities may be referred to variously as the HA, the Host Authorities or the Councils.

Purpose of this Submission

The purpose of this submission is to provide the information requested by the Examining Authority in Annex E of the Rule 6 Letter dated 24 August 2026 to be submitted by Procedural Deadline A. In this instance the Councils wish to provide information in relation to the follow aspects of the deadline:

- written submissions on the examination procedure and information set out in the rule 6 letter and annexes
- summaries of all relevant representations (RR) exceeding 1500 words
- comments on RR

Examination Procedure and information set out in the rule 6 letter and annexes

1. Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (‘IAP’) (Annex C)

- 1.1. The Councils are broadly content that the IAP encompasses the majority of the significant issues in relation to the application.
- 1.2. However, the Councils consider that ‘Climate Change/Resilience’ should be considered a principal issue. Both Councils in their RR [**RR-024 and RR-109**] have outlined concerns over the reliance on renewable generation rather than demand reduction in the overall climate strategy of the scheme. In addition, a significant proportion of operational emissions arise

Host Authorities (HA)

Oxfordshire Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (TR050008)

from unregulated energy use associated with future occupiers and there remains uncertainty regarding how long-term operational carbon performance will be secured and monitored

- 1.3. The Councils also remain concerned over the lack of infrastructure to support the transition to zero carbon freight vehicles which the Councils consider to be a significant issue given the use of the proposed development. This seems out of step with both local and national targets and ambitions in relation to transport based emissions.
- 1.4. These topics will be expanded on further in the Councils' Local Impact Report.
- 1.5. For this reason, the Councils consider that Climate Change/Climate Resilience should form a Principal Issue within the examination.

Summary of RR exceeding 1500 words

2. Cherwell District Council RR [RR-024]

- 2.1. Cherwell District Council will provide a written summary of their Relevant Representation in a separate submission.

3. Oxfordshire County Council [RR-109]

- 3.1. Oxfordshire County Council provided a summary as part of their Relevant Representation

Responses to Relevant Representations

4. Response to Dorchester Living RR [RR-037]

- 4.1. At Section 5 of [RR-037], Dorchester state '*Technical representations have been made by our consultants, SLC Rail, on earlier rounds of consultation and the issues raised are presently unresolved*'.
- 4.2. For the avoidance of doubt, SLC Projects (formerly SLC Rail) have been commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council to review the OxSRFI submission documents and provide advice in relation to interactions with the Chiltern Main Line and the delivery of a future Ardley Station.
- 4.3. SLC Projects will continue to provide support exclusively to the Council throughout the Examination on these topics.
- 4.4. SLC Projects have previously provided advice to Dorchester Living of the topic of Ardley Station. That work was undertaken at an earlier stage and was based on the information available at that time.

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5. Response to MCNP RR [RR-098]

- 5.1. In their RR MCNP state *'After advice from Oxfordshire County Council, MCNP original application; reference registration identification number FA09CB9EC as an interested party, based on our concerns about demographics and socio-economics is now superseded by this representation.'*
- 5.2. OCC and CDC met with MCNP in June 2026 to better understand the MCNP's concerns in relation to the proposed development. During this meeting both Councils were clear that it is not for the Councils to determine what should form part of MCNP's submissions. OCC therefore contends the assertion that MCNP made changes to their submissions 'after advice from Oxfordshire County Council'.
- 5.3. For the avoidance of doubt, MCNPs submissions are their own and are not produced in collaboration with the Councils.