

Application by Oxfordshire Railfreight Limited for an order granting development consent for the Oxfordshire Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (OxSRFI)

Agenda for issue specific hearing 1 (ISH1): on the principle and scope of proposed development, the need for the proposed development and alternatives considered by the applicant

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
Issue specific hearing 1	Tuesday 29 September 2026 Hearing starts at 2.00pm Registration and seating available at venue from 1.30pm and virtual registration process from 1.30pm	Bicester Hotel Golf and Spa, Green Lane, Chesterton, Bicester, Oxfordshire, OX26 1TE and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams

Agenda

1.	Welcome and arrangements for the hearing
2.	Purpose of the hearing and introductions
3.	Overview of the proposed development The Examining Authority (ExA) requests the applicant provide an overview of the proposed development, with a focus on: • explanation of the individual components of the proposed development and how they would operate/interrelate • overview of the construction programme, including the intended approach to the phasing of construction, commencement of operation and any influence market forces might have on timescales • detail of principal mitigation measures and programme for delivery To help the ExA fully understand the nature and scale of the proposed development, the applicant should also cover: • justification for the location, what alternatives were considered and why they were discounted • justification for the amount of floorspace proposed • timescale for the completion of the rail infrastructure

	• relationship with surrounding developments, including former Ardley Station • comparisons with other SRFIs within the UK • any details of potential users of OxSRFI and occupiers of the buildings • suitability of Chiltern main line to support the proposed development
4.	Review of actions
5.	Any other business
6.	Closing

Purpose of ISH1

For the applicant to explain to the ExA the nature of the proposed development and its various parts and to explain how the SRFI would operate. The ExA will ask questions and invite comments from interested parties on aspects of the proposed development.

Attendees

The ExA would find it helpful if the following parties could attend this hearing:

- Applicant
- Cherwell District Council
- Oxfordshire County Council
- Network Rail

However, this does not indicate that other parties will not be able to contribute. All interested parties (IP) are invited to attend and make oral representations on the matters set out in the agenda, subject to the ExA's ability to control the hearing.

The ExA has sought to provide sufficient detail to assist the parties to prepare for the hearing. The details set out above are indicative and the ExA may find it necessary to include additional agenda items or to amend the order in which the items are dealt with.

Anyone wishing to attend the hearing in person, who has not already advised the case team of this, should do so as soon as possible.

The event will be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website closer to the hearing date. IPs and members of the public who wish to observe the hearing can therefore view and listen to the hearing using the livestream, or view and listen to the recording, after it has concluded.

Registration process

Parties who have registered to speak (both in person and virtually) will receive a joining instruction email shortly before the hearing which will include a link to the virtual event on Microsoft Teams, and a telephone number should they need to participate by telephone. To enable the hearing to start on time at **2.00pm** those attending virtually should join promptly at **1.30pm** to ensure that all virtual attendees can complete the registration process in good time.

Procedure at ISH

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provides that it is for the ExA to probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questions of persons making oral representations at hearings. Questioning at the hearing will be led by the ExA. Cross questioning of a person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that an IP has had a fair chance to put its case.