Planning Inspectorate

Application by Oxfordshire Railfreight Limited for Oxfordshire Strategic Rail Freight Interchange

Case reference: TR0500008

Examining Authority's note of access required and unaccompanied site inspection (USI) to which the application or specified matters relates on 9 November 2026

Examining Inspectors Adrian Hunter (Panel Lead), Alex Oyebade and Guy Rigby (the panel appointed as the Examining Authority (ExA) for the application for Oxfordshire Strategic Rail Freight Interchange) undertook the inspection on 9 November 2026.

The inspection was undertaken on foot using public roads and footpaths, with a private car to travel between locations. The route was planned having regard to the application documents, along with issues raised in relevant representations. Stops were made at regular intervals to observe the site, its surroundings and any receptors, including residential properties.

Access required site inspection – Land at former Ardley Station

The ExA was met at 1.00pm at the entrance to the former Ardley Station by representatives of Network Rail, who unlocked the gate and escorted the ExA to a safe location to park.

Following a safety briefing, the ExA walked around the former Ardley Station area, observing the following:

- the Chiltern Main Line, associated rail infrastructure and nearby railway bridges
- existing access arrangements and relationship with Station Road
- the area of the former Ardley station
- the nature of surrounding land, in particular to the north and south

The site inspection finished at 1.45pm.

Unaccompanied site inspection (USI)

Following exit from the former station, the ExA drove through the village of Ardley via Church Road and Somerton Road to Quarry Cottages.

The ExA walked, via the public footpath, through Ardley Wood to view the Chiltern Main Line. The ExA then walked back to Quarry Cottages to observe the Chiltern Main Line and the application site from the Quarry Cottages railway bridge.

The ExA drove along past Quarry Cottages and back through the village of Ardley via Somerton Road and Church Road, and parked close to the junction of Station Road and Church Road. The ExA crossed Church Road and proceeded to walk along the public footpath, accessed from Church View. The ExA walked along the public footpath around the field to the rear of Church View to view the line of the proposed Ardley Bypass.

The ExA returned via the same route and the USI was completed at 3.35pm.