



Preliminary Environmental Information  
(Work in Progress) Report (PEIR)

Draft Environmental Statement

**Chapter 1:** Introduction

On behalf of  
Oxfordshire Railfreight Limited

Prepared by Oxalis Planning Ltd  
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## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This Preliminary Environmental Information (Work in Progress) Report (PEIR) comprises a collection of draft chapters for the Environmental Statement (ES) that will be submitted with the DCO application in due course. The chapters are at varying stages of preparation and do not yet represent a full environmental assessment of the scheme. Work on all the chapters is ongoing and the attached collection is very much work in progress pending a full scheme fix and further assessment work.
- 1.1.2 There is no legal requirement to consult upon any environmental information at this stage in the project. Nonetheless, this report is being published for the purposes of the first consultation to inform those interested in understanding the environmental assessment work carried out to date. The initial consultation is being held at a relatively early stage in the formulation of the scheme to enable early views to be obtained and considered during the process of finalising the scheme. For that reason, the content of the draft chapters in this report must be considered provisional and is subject to change.
- 1.1.3 There will be a second, statutory, consultation, currently planned for Autumn 2022. The relevant regulations require that preliminary environmental information be available at the time of that statutory consultation, and, at that time, this report will be updated with the further advanced chapters.

## 1.2 SCOPE AND STRUCTURE OF THE PEIR REPORT

- 1.2.1 As referred to above, the PEIR report consists of a number of draft ES chapters. These drafts are topic specific and final versions will be submitted as part of the application in due course. The ES was formally 'scoped' with the Planning Inspectorate, and the ongoing assessment work is being carried out in accordance with the Scoping Opinion provided to the Applicant in July 2021.
- 1.2.2 The table below sets out the topics covered by the individual draft ES Chapters which comprise the PEIR (work in progress) report:

<b><u>Chapter number</u></b>	<b><u>Author</u></b>	<b><u>Environmental Statement Topic/Heading</u></b>
1	Oxalis Planning	Introduction
2	Oxalis Planning	Description of Development and Alternatives
3	ADC Infrastructure	Transport
4	BWB	Air Quality (including Human Health and Odour)
5	Vanguardia	Noise and Vibration (including Human Health)

6	FPCR	Ecology including Arboriculture
7	FPCR	Landscape and visual effects
8	Design For Lighting	Lighting
9	BWB	Water Environment (including Flood-Risk, Drainage & Water Quality)
10	RPS	Heritage (built and archaeology)
11	BWB	Ground Conditions
12	Hatch	Socio-economic (including Human Health)
13	BWB	Waste
14	Land Research Associates	Agricultural land
15	BWB	Climate Change

1.2.3 Each draft topic specific ES Chapter includes a statement of competence regarding the author’s experience and any relevant credentials.

### 1.3 METHODOLOGY FOR THE ONGOING ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT ASSESSMENTS

1.3.1 An assessment of each topic and its associated impacts has been prepared and presented within the ES. The assessment methodology for each topic area will reflect best practice and established guidance specific to that topic, where relevant, and each topic specific chapter explains the proposed methodology being applied.

1.3.2 However, the methodology across the ES topics will broadly involve the following process and stages:

- Description of existing baseline environmental conditions formulated by site visits, surveys and collected information, including desk-based data.
- Introduction and adoption of appropriate criteria and methods to enable the significance of change to the environment to be assessed.
- Reasoned prediction of the nature and significance of likely changes to the local environment as a consequence of the construction and operational activities of the proposed development.
- Identification of mitigation measures, if and where appropriate, which would eliminate or minimise identified likely significant effects – this includes regard to ‘embedded’ mitigation which forms part of the emerging proposals as assessed.

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- Reference to the likely residual effects after proposed mitigation has been implemented.
- 1.3.3 As referred to in the introduction above, given the preliminary draft and ‘work in progress’ nature of these chapters, the draft chapters are at varying stages of preparation and do not all represent a full draft environmental assessment.
- 1.3.4 Further advanced drafts of the ES Chapters will be shared a part of the second (statutory) consultation stage planned for later in 2022.