



The Planning Act 2008

Application for Development Consent for the Portishead Branch Line – MetroWest Phase 1

Case Ref: TR040011

The Examining Authority's Note of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection

Background

The Examining Authority ('the ExA') undertook an unaccompanied site inspection to support the examination of an application for development consent for the proposed Portishead Branch Line ('the application') on Friday 16 April 2021. The inspection commenced at 08:30 and finished at approximately 10:30.

The original Examination Timetable [Annex A, PD-009] reserved dates for an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) for the week commencing the 1 March 2021. However, in order to comply with the most recent government advice regarding social distancing in relation to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Planning Inspectorate have advised that where possible all ASI's should be undertaken on an unaccompanied basis or through arrangements that would allow the ExA to access the site in a way that avoids or minimises social contact.

As a consequence, and with the agreement of the Applicant, the Local Authorities, relevant landowners and Interested Parties, all of whom had indicated that they would attend an ASI, the ExA carried out a second inspection of the proposed route on an unaccompanied basis. The list of the locations is attached in Annex A.

The site inspection was undertaken in order to view the examples of footbridges put forward by the Applicant and North Somerset District Council.

Particulars of the Site Visit

The visit was undertaken by: Jo Dowling and Susan Hunt and they were accompanied by the Case Manager, Bart Bartkowiak and Case Officer, Lily Robbins.

The visit was undertaken by car and by foot. Weather conditions were dry and sunny with a temperature circa nine degrees centigrade. Weather conditions were at all times adequate to appreciate long range views.



The Planning
Inspectorate

Annex A: List of locations visited on the Unaccompanied Site Inspection

The ExA undertook a site inspection at the following locations.

The ExA visited the footbridge at Stapleton Road railway station in Bristol. They walked across the bridge and viewed its structure, the privacy panels and its proximity to nearby dwellings.

The ExA then visited the footbridge at Worle Moor Road in Worle, Weston-super-Mare. They walked across the bridge and viewed its structure and colour, and its proximity to nearby dwellings. The ExA also noted the location of the housing estate within the wider area and the surrounding road network.