

## Road Safety Audit Stage 1 – Design Team Response

This document serves as the Designer’s Response to the Stage 1 Road Safety Audit (RSA) associated with the proposed access arrangements to serve residential development on land off Fritwell Road in Somerton, Oxfordshire.

The RSA was undertaken by Tutum Consulting dated 23 January 2026 (ref: 2026/058/0647-02). The qualified auditors were:

Audit Team Leader: Simon Prescott  
MIHE, National Highways Certificate of Competence

Audit team Member: Priya Thompson  
Affiliate Institute of Highways Engineers

The audit team undertook a site visit on Wednesday 21 January 2026 between the hours of 13:00 and 14:15.

The following section sets out the ‘Problems’ identified in the RSA, the auditor’s recommendations and Stomor’s response as Designer.

### RSA Safety Issues Raised

#### *Problem 1*

**Location:** Proposed footpath connection from the development site to Fritwell Road at its junction with Ardley Road

**Summary:** Potential risk to pedestrian safety due to steps and proximity to carriageway.

The proposed 1.8m permissive footpath is intended to facilitate pedestrian connectivity between the development site and the wider village, extending from the northwestern corner of the site to Fritwell Road. At the western end of the footpath, a series of steps are proposed to address the existing level difference between Fritwell Road carriageway and the adjacent field. The introduction of steps may present significant accessibility challenges for mobility impaired users, wheelchair users, and those with pushchairs that could result in trips and injuries sustained consistent with a fall.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the design be reviewed to provide an alternative to a stepped access, such as a ramped access. If site constraints prevent such, then awareness of the steps should be provided and a design consistent with Inclusivity mobility guidance adhered to.

**Designer’s Response:** Partially Accepted. Appropriate signage will be provided to warn users of the steps along the permissive footpath and detailed as part of the Section 278 Works related to the crossing point. Provision of ramps along the permissive footpath would result in significant earthworks and the requirement for retaining, which would be disproportionate to the scale of footpath connection proposed. Whilst it is acknowledged that the steps will restrict access for some users, provision of the footpath will connect the application site with the existing footway provision along Fritwell Road. It should be noted that Oxfordshire County Council, as local highway authority, provided pre-application advice on the proposed permissive

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footpath and crossing point stating that *“Oxfordshire County Council welcomes this proposal, recognising it as an opportunity to improve site connectivity and deliver a valuable benefit to the local community. That said, the permissive path is wholly on private property and OCC would not find interest in requiring its compliance to adoptable standards. However, this shall need to meet practical standards for use. The 1.5m width as stated in the Cover Letter and the compacted gravel for surfacing is considered appropriate.”*

Stomor Ltd  
3 February 2026