

From: [REDACTED]
To: [West Midlands Interchange](#)
Subject: TR050005 - West Midlands Interchange. My reference: 20013174
Date: 14 June 2019 08:23:34

Dear Sir,

I still have great concerns regarding the size of this proposal and therefore the mass destruction of green belt land as I am still unclear how alternative sites for a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) have been discounted by the Applicant:

For example: Rugeley Power Station is 374 acres of land that is ready to be developed.

Currently there is an Outline Planning Application (application number CH/19/201) being considered by the Council for housing, shops, school etc... on this site. This site borders the railway line (Rugeley Trent Valley Station) and on the other side there is the A51 which also has access to existing industrial units within an industrial estate and a business park including a large distribution centre for Amazon. There are already freight trains regularly using this railway line travelling through the Rugeley Trent Valley station.

My query is how has this site been discounted by the applicant for a West Midlands SRFI? If we apply the WMI proposals regarding the amount of land that they say is needed to ensure there is a viable development then this Rugeley site is over half of the land required and is non-green belt land?

One argument that was advised by the applicant during public consultations of not choosing this site was that the road network is not sufficient in that area – I am sure these can be built can't they and then this 'smarter' road system would also benefit the general public too, rather than trying to add more traffic to an existing road network that (certainly around the WMI proposal) is already a difficult challenge to existing road users?

I would rather see existing non-green belt sites developed for a SRFI in order to reduce the amount of destruction of green belt land. The issue is that once concreted over it will not come back – we have seen repeatedly over the years where shops/warehouses become abandoned/neglected when no longer needed and we all must be accountable/responsible for reducing/minimising the destruction of our green belt land to safe keep for future generations.

Kind regards

Helen Didlock