

### Cultural Heritage

The applicant severely underestimates the significance of various important heritage assets and the impact on them of the proposed Northampton Gateway RFI.

- Re the failure to mention Grade 11 listed **Woodleys Farmhouse Day Nursery** (item 11 in my earlier representation) I should add that it is particularly inexcusable because the omission of Woodleys has been pointed out by various respondents since the Scoping Opinion stage.
- The importance of the setting of **Hyde Farm House and the associated separately listed Dovecote** (now at Dovecote Farm not Hyde Farm) cannot be said to make *only a minor contribution to the overall significance of the heritage assets*. The effects of the proposed development on these assets would be Major rather than Minor Adverse considering their closeness to the bypass and the adverse effects of noise and vibration 24/7 plus light pollution as well as visual impacts. The alteration of the associated bridleway to go under the bypass would be to the disbenefit of all who use it.
- **Courteenhall War Memorial**: the proposed alterations including creation of a footway west of the Memorial certainly would pose *material harm to the asset* as the inscriptions on it face the road and would not be visible from the new footpath.
- **The effects on Milton Malsor and Collingtree Conservation Areas and Courteenhall RPG, Courteenhall House etc** have all been underestimated.
- **Blisworth Conservation Area** is not considered but its character would be severely affected by increased traffic, pollution and rat-running.
- **Road Aqueduct**: The impact of the Bypass on the Aqueduct and surrounding area would be Major rather than Minor Adverse. The setting of the Aqueduct would be transformed not only by the road and traffic but by a large modern bridge of unknown design next to it. It is unacceptable that the applicant has failed to provide any illustrations of the bridge. Local residents would suffer from air pollution, noise and vibration as well as light pollution. The Aqueduct and proposed bridge site are within a Site of Special Scientific Interest which would also be damaged by the development.
- **Archaeology - inadequate investigations**: An inadequate amount of trial trenching was carried out on the Main Site too late for results to be included in pre-application consultations. Trial trenching was not done on the Bypass Site. The applicant's proposal to carry out further archaeological works on both sites including more trial trenching if consent is given is unacceptable as the nature of the project is such that if important archaeological remains were to be identified it would be extremely difficult to preserve them in situ. The outstanding assessments should form part of the applicant's submission.

### Cumulative effects underassessed

- **The Northampton South Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)**: The likely cumulative effects of the NGRFI and the approved Northampton South SUE on the Milton Malsor and Collingtree Conservation Areas would not be minor or negligible. In fact the cumulative adverse effects on those villages would be totally unacceptable.
- **The emerging Rail Central Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) next to the proposed NGRFI**: The cumulative effects of Rail Central, the SUE and the NGRFI on the surrounding area would be catastrophic.

### Suitable alternative sites not considered

The applicant has not assessed alternative sites across the UK, contending that only one other is suitable, the adjoining Rail Central site. In fact other potential sites exist, for example, the *Northern Powerhouse* along HS2's planned route and sites near M1 J13, and at ports with existing appropriate infrastructures. This is a serious failure of compliance.

6 November 2018