

National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay
1 Friary
Redcliffe
Bristol
BS1 6AE

Date: 5 September 2023
My Ref:
Your ref: TR050007
Contact: Julie Thomas
Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@leics.gov.uk

hinckleySRFI@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Hinckley NRFI Case Team

Re: Application for the Development Consent Order for the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange submitted by Tritax Symmetry (Hinckley) Ltd.

Having written to you on 3 August expressing concern regarding the lack of agreement in relation to several highways matters, I now wish to provide this supplementary letter to Procedural Deadline A, following the issue of your 'Rule 6 Letter' dated 11 August 2023.

My previous correspondence highlighted several issues, most notably, key information which will enable meaningful and constructive engagement during the Examination, not having been made available to Leicestershire County Council's Highway Authority by the Applicant. I would now specifically like to draw your attention to the following matters;

- With reference to the Draft Examination Timetable at Appendix E it is noted that a deadline for the submission of additional or updated drawings by the Applicant is the 5 September 2023. It is unclear if this deadline relates solely to drawing submissions or also allows for the Applicant to submit missing or additional information or make amendments to previously submitted information.
- Assuming that the deadline of 5 September allows for submission of updated information, even if that information is only amended drawings, the subsequent deadline of 10 October for submission of Written Representations and Local Impact Report would not allow sufficient time to give due consideration of additional information. It is anticipated that the additional information submitted for highways and transport in particular will be significant given that:
 - There is an acknowledgement in the submitted Transport Assessment that information is missing from the submission and that a Transport Addendum, Road Safety Audits, and further modelling is to be submitted. In addition, we have highlighted to the Applicant team that other information is missing including in relation to access infrastructure and off-site mitigation
 - We have highlighted to the Applicant team that some of the submitted information is out of date, inaccurately reported, and will need to be updated. For example, Personal Injury Collision data is only included up to 2019 (available information

Chief Executive's Department
Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire LE3 8RA
Telephone: 0116 232 3232 Fax: 0116 305 6260 Minicom: 0116 305 6160

John Sinnott, CBE, MA, Dipl. PA, Chief Executive
Tom Purnell, MSc, Dipl. PLM, Assistant Chief Executive

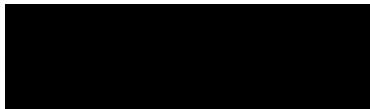
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for the latest 5-year period to 2023 should be submitted) and Tables within the submitted Transport Assessment do not accurately reflect the analysis.

- There are several discrepancies between documents submitted in support of the Application, and information does not appear to marry. We have advised the Applicant team of examples which include discrepancies between drawing submissions and between the drawing submissions and the DCO etc.
- There have been no discussions on s106 Heads of Terms to date. Based on the above, it is difficult for these matters to be agreed given the significance of the missing, incomplete or inaccurate information submitted to date and uncertainty in respect of what information may or may not be submitted by the Applicant on 5 September. The above also means that it is been very difficult for the County Council to meaningfully consider the draft DCO and requirements.
- As a consequence of the above there are a significant number of highway and transportation matters that remain outstanding. The Draft Examination Timetable currently has only one day scheduled for an Issue Specific Hearing on Traffic and Transport (31 October 2023). We respectfully request that the Examining Authority consider if a one-day hearing on Traffic and Transport matters is likely to be sufficient.

I hope that these matters can be resolved urgently to limit confusion during debate and enabling the County Council to provide adequate assistance to the Examining Authority in understanding the transport considerations of this application.

Kind regards



Julie Thomas

Head of Planning, Historic and Natural Environment



**Leicestershire
County Council**

National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Date: 3rd August 2023
My Ref:
Your ref: Hinckley SRI
Contact: Julie Thomas
Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@leics.gov.uk

hinckleySRI@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Bart, Katie and Emily

Re: Application for the Development Consent Order for the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange submitted by Tritax Symmetry (Hinckley) Ltd.

Further to recent email communication with your office, I am writing to formally confirm that Leicestershire County Council wish to submit the following concerns to Procedural Deadline A in respect of the above application.

Having completed our initial review of the documents submitted by the Applicant, we highlighted key issues in our Relevant Representations for your consideration, many of which are echoed by others, including National Highways.

Fundamentally, at this stage key information has still not been made available by the Applicant, the absence of which will significantly hinder our ability to engage in a meaningful and constructive way during the Examination.

Most specifically, there remains a current lack of agreement to the baseline data used in calculating trip generation figures, the design of access infrastructure, issues with over capacity of the strategic road network, HGV routing and proposed mitigation strategies, all of which requires greater clarity from the Applicant, which has been sought but not responded to.

Given these concerns and uncertainties over the actual documentation, and those documents still to be provided, particularly the timeline for the additional addendum to the Transport Assessment that the Applicant has identified needs to be submitted, we wish to place on record our position in relation to these matters.

The missing information, which includes additional transport modelling and critically Road Safety Audits, is key for the Local Highway Authorities and National Highways to be able to adequately assess the application and could also have implications for the red line boundary of the application. Any changes to the submitted highway and transport information would influence the content of both our Written Representations and the Local Impact Report as well as the draft Development Consent Order and the draft section 106 agreement.

Chief Executive's Department

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Being mindful of tight deadlines and the urgent need to progress matters as highlighted the current position is concerning, especially when we are not assured that the evidence being presented is robust (and indeed has been acknowledged by the Applicant as being incomplete and subject to change, as per paragraph 2.26 of the submitted Transport Assessment) and fundamental information is not being made available.

This is highly likely to detrimentally impact the County Council's position during the Examination, take up unnecessary time and/or lead to confusion during debate and reduce the assistance we can provide to the Examining Authority in understanding the transport considerations of this application.

Kind regards



Julie Thomas
Head of Planning, Historic and Natural Environment