

I am a resident of Hinckley. I have many objections to the proposed Hinckley National Railfreight Infrastructure (HNRFI) project; however, this note highlights my three main areas of concern. I regret that I am out of the country during the examination period and will not be able to attend the meetings.

I consider the HNRFI planning application to be flawed, since the developers have not given enough thought or information to the impact of the proposed project upon Hinckley traffic. I live quite close to the 600-metre section of the A5 between Dodwell's Roundabout (intersection of the A5, the northbound A47, and Coventry Road) and the Longshoot Junction (connecting the A5 to the southbound A47). This section of road is a bottleneck and has not been fit for purpose for several years. The railway bridge, 750 metres to the southeast of Dodwell's Roundabout, is frequently struck by overheight heavy goods vehicles, causing severe congestion throughout Hinckley. This dreadful traffic congestion will almost certainly worsen in the near future, with ongoing development projects on the A47 (Hollycroft Grange) and throughout a 2.5 kilometre stretch of the A5 between the Longshoot and Horiba Mira Ltd. With projected HNRFI traffic levels of up to 9,000 HGV movements, 8,400 staff commuting journeys and many service and maintenance vehicle trips each day, the HNRFI developers have been remiss in not indicating what proportion of this project associated traffic will utilise the A47, creating additional travel misery for me and fellow Hinckley residents.

The UK's comprehensive "State of Nature" report was published only two weeks ago. This document stresses that studied species have, on average, declined by 19% since 1970, with one in six species at risk of being lost. The report also states that the reasons for the UK's huge biodiversity losses include development and loss of habitat. I am a keen walker and frequently walk the fields and footpaths to the northeast of Burbage Common. I gain great pleasure, during these walks, from the occasional glimpse of a hare or lapwing, or the sound of a skylark floating above; all of these are declining species. The prospect of losing so much pristine wildlife and countryside to concrete, steel and tarmac is quite shocking. Apart from the proposal to plant a few hundred saplings, the developers have not indicated how they intend to mitigate this proposed obliteration of habitat.

Finally, I am very concerned about the loss of local amenity. Burbage Common is a well loved, local country park. It provides a welcome green space, away from the urban and industrial landscapes that are a consequence of the current development mania in this area, and the park afforded welcome space for local people, including me, to exercise bodies and minds during recent Coronavirus epidemics. Now we are presented with proposals to despoil the common's backdrop with massive warehouses which will dominate its northern skyline. I fail to understand why I and local residents should lose the amenity of this local treasure.