



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr. Robert Jackson
Lead Member of the Examining Authority
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

10th October 2023

Dear Mr. Jackson,

Re: Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange

Joint Written Representation from Alberto Costa MP and Dr Luke Evans MP

Executive Summary

As the two MPs whose constituencies are the most affected by the proposed development of the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI) we stand together to oppose these plans which we believe will have substantial, material, and negative impacts for our constituents both in the construction and ongoing operation of the interchange. Any positive impact of these proposals is negligible. We have serious concerns about the application across many areas including but not limited to:

- The definitive lack of community support in Bosworth and South Leicestershire for these proposals: Approximately 18,000 surveys were sent to Bosworth and to South Leicestershire constituents – jointly responses showed that of the 2,721 respondents 95% were opposed to the HNRFI.
- The significant lack of information shared by the applicant with local councils and decision makers.
- Problematic and confused public engagement between the applicant and wider communities – resulting in formal complaints being raised by both MPs due to poor information. Constituents who attended public engagement sessions have also raised concerns about poor information and a lack of confidence in the process.
- The destructive environmental impact of these proposals across both constituencies, particularly the negative consequences for Burbage Common and the Fosse Villages.
- The tangible negative impact of the HNRFI on local infrastructure including roads and traffic flow.
- Detrimental impact on Narborough Level Crossing barrier down time and we reject the accuracy of the applicant's long-term modelling of this issue.
- The number of major developments damaging the identity and character of the Hinckley and Bosworth and South Leicestershire and local areas.
- The number of other nearby rail freight interchanges within a 45-mile radius of proposed HNRFI site.

Accompanied Site Visits

Whilst this Written Submission seeks to capture the key points and concerns raised by the MPs, other political leaders and constituents, we are minded that the impact of the proposed HNRFI may need to be considered via an accompanying site visit with the MPs.

The relationship between this proposed major development and current infrastructure – such as the road network around Narborough Level Crossing and station, or Burbage Common and Woods – should be seen in real time, and as the MPs, we would like to request site visits on 16th November 2023. To arrange times please contact:

- [REDACTED]@parliament.uk
- [REDACTED]@parliament.uk

The specific sites which Dr Evans MP invites the Planning Inspectorate to view are:

- The site on Leicester Road (B4668) where the link road is proposed to join, at rush hour
- The A5/M69 Junction at rush hour
- Burbage Common and woods

The specific site Mr. Costa MP invites the Planning Inspectorate to view is:

- Narborough Level Crossing (at times to be agreed during rush hour)
- Traffic pinch points of concern (during rush hour): Stoney Stanton (where Huncote Road and Occupation Road meet; where Long Street and New Road meet), Sapcote (where Hinckley Road and Leicester Road meet), and Sharnford (Leicester Road).

We kindly ask that the 16th November 2023 slot is given preference for the MPs to attend a site visit so as to avoid clashing with their parliamentary duties (typically Monday-Wednesday).

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Alberto Costa
Member of Parliament for South Leicestershire

[REDACTED]

Dr Luke Evans
Member of Parliament for Bosworth