

## **Written Statement of Oral Case presented by the Stoney Stanton Action Group at OFH2**

### **Alternative Option for Rail Freight in the Area**

Given the unsolvable traffic problems that HNRFI would cause if it were allowed to go ahead, and given the complete devastation of the rural nature of the area in question that it would cause, wouldn't a better solution for the country be to distribute the demand for rail freight we have been told about around existing nearby RFIs by increasing their respective capacities accordingly? Here we are thinking about the East Midlands Gateway (EMG), Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal (DIRFT), Birch Coppice, Northampton SRFI and the West Midlands Gateway, all of which in combination have better direct access to sea ports than HNRFI would have.

### **Proposed mitigations for traffic in Stoney Stanton and Sapcote**

The applicant has recognised, after comments during the consultation from our group and others, that there will be traffic problems within Stoney Stanton and Sapcote caused by HNRFI. At a late stage they have proposed some mitigations which consist of (those affecting Stoney Stanton): Traffic lights at the B4669 / Stanton Lane junction (listed as B2 in Table 8.28 of APP-117 ES Chapter 8); traffic lights with signals at the Hinckley Road / Station Road / New road junction in Stoney Stanton (listed as B1 in Table 8.28); but interestingly no mitigations proposed for the Long Street / New Road junction in Stoney Stanton (APP-138 ES Appendix 8.1 Junction 38) because it is not possible to do anything. The public and in particular residents of Stoney Stanton, have not been informed of these or consulted about them. Our feeling is that the traffic lights in the centre of Stoney Stanton (B1) would cause severe problems for the nearby school, the doctors' surgery, nearby churches and for motorists in general. Hinckley Road already has problems with queues due to legitimate resident parking which causes problems for HGVs. The addition of traffic lights will add to the build-up of traffic and cause very long queues which could cause grid-lock. This may well cause nearby residential areas to be used as rat-runs. These mitigations, especially B1, have not been properly considered and should not be allowed as they will have undesired consequences.