

Tritax Symmetry (Hinckley) Limited

## **HINCKLEY NATIONAL RAIL FREIGHT INTERCHANGE**

---

### **The Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange Development Consent Order**

Project reference TR050007

### **Written Statement of Oral Case ISH3 [Appendix E - Biodiversity Note on Nitrogen Deposition and sHRA]**

Document reference: 18.7.5

Revision: 1

**14 November 2023**

---

Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009  
Regulation 5(2)(q)

# Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI)

## ISH3 Biodiversity Note

### edp3267\_r067

QA: MNe/GCr\_GLe/CTi\_131123

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Biodiversity Note has been produced in response to a request from the Examining Authority (ExA) during *ISH3, Agenda item 3: Air Quality* and *Agenda item 4c: Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment*. The ExA specifically requested a note to provide clarity in respect of nitrogen deposition on Freeholt Wood Ancient and Semi-natural Woodland (ASNW) and in respect of the shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment (sHRA) methodology.

### **ISH3, Agenda Item 3 - Nitrogen Deposition on Freeholt Wood**

1.2 The assessment of the air quality effects on Freeholt Wood ASNW are set out within Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 9: Air Quality (document reference: 6.1.9, APP-118) and ES Chapter 12: Ecology and Biodiversity (document reference: 6.1.12, APP-121). The relationship between the Proposed Development and Freeholt Wood ASNW is depicted on the Illustrative Landscape Strategy (Figure 11.20, document reference: 6.3.11.20).

1.3 As noted by the ExA, the topography of the site means Freeholt Wood ASNW sits on higher ground, relative to the farmland to the north. As such, pollution run-off into the woodland as a result of farming is less likely to be an issue. However, artificial fertiliser and animal manure lead to airborne pollutants, which can then be influenced by wind direction and by farming activities (such as ploughing). To clarify, it can be assumed that the removal of such potential pollutant pathways from within the site would likely have a beneficial effect on Freeholt Wood ASNW.

1.4 Currently, there is a hard transition from the northern boundary of Freeholt Wood ASNW to farmland. The Development Proposals will result in the cessation of farming practices on the northern boundary, and, as part of the proposed mitigation, include woodland screen planting on the northern edge of Freeholt Wood ASNW, which will further ecotone into scrub and grassland (as part of the overall buffer provision).

### **ISH3 Agenda Item 4c: Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment**

1.5 The sHRA (document reference: 6.2.12.3, APP-199) states at paragraph 1.30:

*“Evidence gathering and consultation, including the collation of baseline data on pertinent qualifying features within the Proposed Development’s Zol, is an integral part of Stage 1*

*Screening. Desk and field-based investigations have been undertaken, to provide robust baseline information.”*

- 1.6 The desk-based investigations include the screening of relevant European/international designated sites through mapping ([magic.gov.uk](http://magic.gov.uk)), in addition to sourcing the relevant site citations, conservation objectives and Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) where appropriate.
- 1.7 The field-based surveys include the suite of ecological survey work undertaken at the site between 2017 and 2021. These surveys help the applicant to put the site within the correct context in relation to possible Likely Significant Effects (LSEs), prior to understanding the potential sensitivities of relevant European/international designated sites.
- 1.8 Information on the field-based survey work is provided at:
  - Appendix 12.1: Ecology Baseline (document reference: 6.2.12.1, APP-197); and
  - ES Chapter 12: Ecology and Biodiversity (document reference: 6.1.12, APP-121).