

8th January 2024

Examining Authority
Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange
Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

ID 20038407

Dear Sirs

**Narborough Parish Council comments on deadline 3 submission by Tritax
regarding Narborough Level Crossing**

Narborough Parish Council notes the applicant's paper on downtime at Narborough level crossing submitted at deadline 3. However, in its experience the average barrier downtime (i.e. the period that the road is closed to traffic) is, in reality, around 4 minutes.

The Council also does not agree with the applicant's interpretation of that data. Whilst the increased number of minutes projected with the additional trains may only add minutes to the downtime, overall on a daily basis these represent around 15% additional downtime which can hardly be described as insignificant. Neither can the additional impacts in terms of increased frequency of traffic queues, increased congestion and reductions in air quality be regarded as insignificant.

Additionally, the earliest projected date when the rail interchange facility is likely to be fully operational is 2036. Narborough Parish Council believes that the projections should be remodelled on a worst case scenario basis as with other traffic modelling exercises for the road network to take into account the cumulative impacts from other proposed developments that will take place in the intervening period including over 1,300 additional homes already identified as reasonable sites for inclusion in the next Blaby local plan in this Parish and a recently announced intention to double passenger services on the Birmingham to Leicester line.

Finally, the applicants have drawn comfort from a Network Rail policy that states a level crossing would need to be down for 45 minutes in an hour before any intervention was considered. The Secretary of State may wish to consider whether this is reasonable in the circumstances when at less than half that downtime, local traffic can on occasions tail back to and onto the Leicester to Coventry main road and also if the additional downtime and impacts from this development in combination with other proposals are acceptable given the impacts on community cohesion.

Yours faithfully

J Whitehouse

Julie Whitehouse
Parish Clerk