

Comments for 9-1-2024 deadline

During the examination the applicant has confirmed (Doc 18.6.2 dated 14-11-2023) :-

Plans for the storage of initially 4,200 TEU, then 6,800 TEU. Later construction of the "returns area" adds another 4,900 TEU storage ? Not dependant on the number of trains ? A plan for container storage rather than delivery and return ?

Applicant's presentation indicating plans for container "marshalling" - the sorting and further onward rail movement requiring at least two rail paths to get from A to B, which may be convenient for a particular operator, but is wasteful use of the limited capacity on this East to West rail sector when the priority is to increase the proportion of total container movement by rail. Within the desired 20 mile radius, I would suggest the best rail site for such "marshalling" is in Leicester. "Humberstone Rd Sidings" is the title on the current Network Rail System.

The applicant still has varying responses to the question of the 517mm pipeline (ST) going along and across the mainline railtrack within the proposed site boundaries. It is not a watermain. Away from the actual rail crossing the likely existing ground cover of 1.5 metres includes areas now planned for 6 metre excavation. I have seen no confirmation this pipeline is to be diverted before the earthworks start ?

The applicants responses during the consultation exercise and subsequent examination have failed to recognise the responsibility involved in placing a major commercial project within a conserved rural location.

At the simplest level this would be an outer ring of landscaped buildings, rear elevations, with the work and transport noise elements screened on the inside.

The site chosen, with 30 metre level changes (20 metre after suggested earthworks) is an expensive solution, with construction risks. The proposed plans for the sidings, cranes and access roads has little or no effective noise screening for close neighbours - people or wildlife. The intention for BNG is desirable, but the loss of hedgerows with mature trees, particularly oaks, cannot be quickly replaced locally or further away.