

Tritax Symmetry (Hinckley) Limited

# **HINCKLEY NATIONAL RAIL FREIGHT INTERCHANGE**

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

Project reference TR050007

## **Applicant's response to ExA Written Questions [Appendix C - Landscape Technical Note Relating to the Application of the GLVIA to ES Chapter 11]**

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Planning Act 2008

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

# **Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange Landscape Technical Note Relating to the Application of the Guidelines for Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA) to ES Chapter 11 edp3267\_r069a**

**QA: FMc/BCo\_SCh/MWI\_080124**

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **Methodology**

- 1.1 The approach to and methodology for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is derived from Guidance for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, third edition (GLVIA3) - the nationally accepted guidance on undertaking LVIAs, published by the Landscape Institute (LI) and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA).
- 1.2 In accordance with GLVIA3, the methodology was discussed and agreed with the local authorities. Initially, the EDP methodology and scope of work was agreed in consultation with Leicestershire County Council (LCC), Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) and Blaby District Council (BDC) in 2018 as part of the ES Scoping exercise. As noted at paragraph 11.33 in the ES Chapter *“The EIA process has also been informed by further consultation with HBBC Case Officer and LCC Landscape Architect (advisor to BDC) in January – February 2019, in January 2021 to agree the photoviewpoint selection and methodology and in 2022 following submission of the PEIR for consultation”*.

## **2 LANDSCAPE BASELINE**

### **Assessment of Landscape Value**

- 2.1 The approach to assessing the value of the site and surrounding landscapes is derived from GLVIA3 - the nationally accepted guidance on undertaking LVIAs, published by the LI and the IEMA - at paragraph 5.28 and as set out in paragraphs 1.107 and 1.108 of the baseline assessment.
- 2.2 Box 5.1 from GLVIA3 has been used as the basis for assessing the value of the landscape areas within the DCO Site as there are no landscape designations or other evidence bases to indicate landscape value. The set of factors contained in Box 5.1 were used at the outset of the assessment process in 2019. It is noted that, although broadly the same, a slightly amended set of factors has been produced as a means of assessing landscape value in Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 02/21 Assessing Landscape Value

Outside National Designations. While this document has been considered, it is not intended to replace GLVIA3 and as such, the assessment completed in this Environmental Statement (ES) is considered robust.

- 2.3 Consultation with local communities to understand how they use the local landscape and to gain a better understanding of local value was undertaken as advised in paragraph 5.32.

### **Predicting and Describing Landscape Effects**

- 2.4 The effects have been described in accordance with the two-step process at paragraph 5.34 of GLVIA3:

- Firstly, the landscape receptors were identified – categorised as the different character areas as identified in the published assessment as well as separate receptors across the DCO Site, which comprised the Main HNRFI Site, the A47 Link Road Corridor and the M69 Junction 2 and Other Highways Works Locations. Effects upon each of these landscape receptors are described in terms of overall character and loss of individual features such as hedgerows and trees; and
- Secondly, the effects were described across the two key stages of the development, the construction phase, and the operational phase.

### **Assessing the Significance of Landscape Effects**

- 2.5 The assessment process has followed EDP's methodology which follows the principles set out in GLVIA3 paragraphs 5.38 to 5.57 with an assessment of susceptibility to change from the proposed development type combined with the value of the landscape receptor to establish the overall landscape sensitivity of each receptor.
- 2.6 In the case of each receptor, a judgement is made against the criteria set out in Tables A1.1, A1.2 and A1.3 in Annex 1.0 of Appendix 11.1.
- 2.7 The judgements are described in paragraphs 11.65 -11.78 of the ES for the DCO Site. For the published landscape character areas, the stated sensitivity for each area is used for the purposes of this assessment.
- 2.8 With regard to magnitude of change, a judgement has been made as set out in Appendices 11.5 and 11.6, assessed against the criteria described in the methodology in Tables A1.5 and A1.6 and paragraph A1.20 in Annex 1.0 of Appendix 11.1.
- 2.9 For the final stage, assessing the overall significance of landscape effects, the judgements above have been combined as set out in the Level of Effects Matrix in Table A1.7 in Annex 1.0 of Appendix 11.1 in accordance with good practice set out in GLVIA3, noting there is no standard approach.

### **3 VISUAL BASELINE**

#### **Mapping Visibility**

- 3.1 Zones of Theoretical Visibility Mapping was undertaken in accordance with GLVIA3 advice as a starting point for the visual baseline assessment as illustrated in Figures 11.7 and 11.8.
- 3.2 These were then used to inform the field assessment as described in GLVIA3 paragraphs 6.10-6.11.

#### **Receptors of Visual Effects/Viewpoints and Views**

- 3.3 A range of representative views were selected and consulted on, ensuring the views were representative of a range of different receptors and locations, including private residential views as noted within GLVIA3 paragraphs 6.13-6.20. Additional views were added following consultation with the local authorities and members of the public who highlighted certain locations such as Hinckley Golf Course and the recreation ground in Elmesthorpe.
- 3.4 The visual baseline at night was also considered as advised in GLVIA3 paragraph 6.12 (as set out in paragraphs 1.192 – 1.202 of Appendix 11.1 and at paragraph 11.172 of ES Chapter 11) with reference to CPRE’s Dark Skies Mapping in relation to the night-time field assessment to better understand existing light sources within and in the vicinity of the DCO Site.

#### **Predicting and Describing Visual Effects**

- 3.5 The effects have been described and assessed across the seasons in accordance with advice in paragraph 6.28, with the assessment considering seasonality, including the worst-case winter scenario when the majority of the vegetation is not in leaf and the majority of the photography taken in winter conditions as set out in paragraph 11.20.

#### **Assessing the Significance of Visual Effects**

- 3.6 The assessment process has broadly followed the methodology set out in paragraphs 6.31 to 6.37 with an assessment of susceptibility to change from the proposed development considered. In the case of this assessment, private views from residential receptors were also considered and assessed using judgements based on desk-top assessment and availability of views from nearby public vantage points.
- 3.7 Heritage views were also included following a combined consultation with the County Archaeologist and the LCC landscape officer, with an additional view added from the churchyard at St Mary’s Church, Elmesthorpe (PVP53) – see Figure 11.9 (document reference 6.3.11.9).
- 3.8 In the case of each visual receptor, a judgement is made against the sensitivity criteria set out in Table A1.4 in Annex 1.0 of Appendix 11.1.

- 3.9 With regard to magnitude of change to visual amenity, a judgement has been made as set out in Appendices 11.5 and 11.6, assessed against the criteria described in the methodology in Tables A1.5 and A1.6 in Annex 1.0 of Appendix 11.1.
- 3.10 For the final stage, assessing the overall significance of visual effects, the judgements above have been combined as set out in the Level of Effects Matrix in Table A1.7 in Annex 1.0 of Appendix 11.1 in accordance with good practice set out in GLVIA3, noting there is no standard approach. The methodology was agreed in consultation with LCC, HBBC and BDC and as part of the ES Scoping exercise.