



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Louise Haigh MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

25 July 2024

Dear Louise,

**Re: The proposed Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange**

We are writing regarding the proposed Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (Hinckley NRFI), following the recent submission to your office of a Recommendation Report by the Planning Inspectorate.

As Members of Parliament for the constituencies which would be most impacted by the proposed development of the Hinckley NRFI we have stood together to reiterate our constituents concerns on the substantial and material impact this development would have on our area.

On 8th July the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, stated that she will

*“ask the Secretaries of State for Transport and Energy Security and Net Zero to prioritise decisions on infrastructure projects that have been sitting unresolved for far too long.”*

In light of these comments, and the considerable concern within our communities regarding this Application, we seek your assurance that your determination of this application will follow due process and that the views of our constituents will not be overridden.

The proposed Hinckley NRFI would have a lasting detrimental impression on our infrastructure due to increased pressure on local road networks, creating even further congestion in our villages which are used as rat runs by lorries to access a number of large freight projects already situated in our area. There are already several Rail Freight Interchanges within a short distance of the proposed site, and the need for another in South Leicestershire has not been demonstrated.

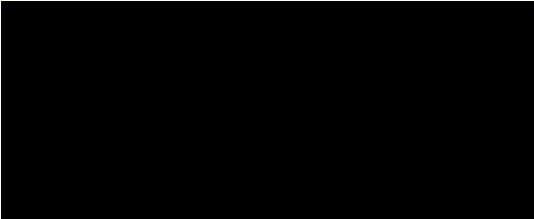
Of considerable concern to people across Hinckley and Bosworth and South Leicestershire is the damage this would cause to our environment. We share apprehensions about the proposal’s destructive impact on Burbage Common and Woods, which is a place where friends meet, families explore and people exercise. It is unique in our area and cannot be recreated.

Since the Application was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, numerous deficits have been raised with our offices by Leicestershire County Council, Blaby District Council, Rugby Council, Warwickshire County Council, and National Highways in their own assessments of the applicant’s proposal. All organisations raised concerns over missing or deficient transport documents and statements of common ground.

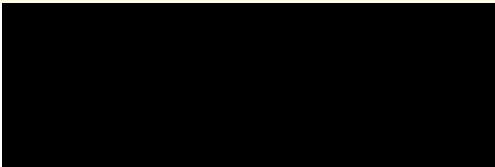
Over the past few years we have submitted various complaints to the Applicant about the issue-ridden public engagement process, lack of communication with local stakeholders and the frequent delays in supplying key information to statutory consultees. All of this risks the proposal, and your imminent decision, being based on a false premise. As such, we also ask that your decision on the proposed Hinckley NRFI takes the Developer's conduct and the resulting local concern regarding future behaviour into account.

We look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Luke Evans  
**Member of Parliament for Hinckley and Bosworth**



Alberto Costa  
**Member of Parliament for South Leicestershire**

CC. Rt Hon Louise Haigh MP, Secretary of State for Transport