

From:



Subject:

Re: Opposition to the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI)

Date:

06 February 2025 20:08:37

Dear Secretary of State for Transport,

Re: Opposition to the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI)

As a resident of Elmesthorpe living in close proximity to the railway, I am deeply troubled by the devastating effects this project will have on my home, my community, and my quality of life. The proposed Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI) poses a serious threat to the well-being of those of us who reside nearby, bringing relentless disruption and a dramatic deterioration of our environment.

How This Project Will Harm My Home and Community

Having lived near the railway for years, I understand the background noise that comes with it, but what is being proposed far exceeds anything we have ever experienced. Constant, round-the-clock freight train operations will create an unbearable living environment. This is not just a minor inconvenience; it is an intrusion on the daily lives.

Major Concerns:

- **Excessive Noise Pollution:** The non-stop movement of freight trains will eliminate any sense of peace.
- **Severe Light Pollution:** The floodlighting required for 24-hour operations will strip away natural night darkness.
- **Structural Impact from Vibrations:** The sheer volume of freight movement raises concerns about potential damage to the structural stability of nearby homes.
- **Loss of Access to Green Spaces:** The project will sever our connection to the countryside, restricting our ability to enjoy nature in areas like Burbage Common, which I use on a regular basis.

Traffic and Infrastructure Failures

This development will further strain an already overburdened road network, making everyday travel increasingly difficult and dangerous:

- The M1 J21/M69 Junction is already congested, and adding nearly 5% more traffic will create chronic gridlock, worsening commuting conditions.
- The roads through Sapcote are hazardous, and an influx of HGVs will greatly heighten the risk of accidents, particularly near schools.
- Local roads will become overrun with heavy goods vehicles, worsening pollution, noise, and general road deterioration, particularly in the early years before infrastructure improvements are fully in place.

Misleading Promises of Economic and Environmental Gains

The developers insist that this project will generate jobs and economic benefits, yet there is little evidence that the local community will actually benefit. Meanwhile, the environmental damage it will cause is being severely downplayed.

- The destruction of open green space is permanent, and the 'replacement' areas

offered are inadequate.

- Wildlife, farmland, and air quality will suffer irreparable harm, disrupting fragile ecosystems.
- There is no confirmed business interest in the site, meaning the projected economic benefits are largely speculative.

An Urgent Call to Protect Our Community

I urge you to consider the real and lasting consequences of approving this project. This is not just another infrastructure decision—it will drastically alter the lives of those of us who call Elmesthorpe home.

The proposal is flawed at its core. The levels of noise, traffic, pollution, and destruction it will bring are far beyond what is acceptable. I ask you to listen to the voices of those directly affected and reject this application.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns.

Steven Bass

Resident of Elmesthorpe

