

From:

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Subject:

Re: Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI)

Date:

06 February 2025 19:59:08

Dear Secretary of State for Transport,

Re: Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI)

I am writing to you as a resident of Elmesthorpe who lives in close proximity to the existing rail line, and I am deeply concerned about the irreversible damage this project will cause to my home, my community, and my way of life. The Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI) threatens to bring unrelenting disruption, making daily life unbearable for those of us who live nearby.

The Devastating Impact on My Home and Community

Living near the railway line, I am already accustomed to some level of noise, but the scale of what is being proposed is beyond comprehension. The constant, 24-hour noise from freight operations will be impossible to escape. This is not just a nuisance—it is a threat to the health, well-being, and peace of mind of myself and my family.

Key concerns include:

Unbearable noise levels: Freight trains running at all hours will mean I will never have a moment of quiet. I fear for my sleep, my concentration, and my general well-being.

Light pollution: The introduction of massive industrial lighting for 24-hour operations will rob my home of natural darkness, disrupting sleep patterns and quality of life.

Vibrations and structural impact: With the sheer volume of freight movement, I worry about the potential for vibrations to affect the structural integrity of my home.

Severance from the surrounding countryside: One of the greatest joys of living here is easy access to Burbage Common and local footpaths. The plans for the site will effectively sever this connection, limiting my ability to enjoy outdoor spaces.

A Deeply Flawed Traffic and Infrastructure Plan

My daily travel will also be significantly impacted. I already deal with congestion on local roads, but this project will bring even more disruption:

The M1 J21/M69 junction is already at capacity, and adding an additional 4.9% of vehicle traffic will create near-permanent gridlock, making commuting a nightmare.

The road through Sapcote is dangerous as it is, and adding more HGV traffic will increase the likelihood of accidents, particularly in an area with young children and schools.

HGVs will flood local roads, especially in the early years of the project before adequate infrastructure is in place. This will cause increased pollution, noise, and road degradation.

False Promises of Economic and Environmental Benefits

The developers claim that this project will bring jobs, but there is no guarantee that these jobs will benefit local residents. Meanwhile, the environmental consequences are being severely downplayed.

The loss of open green space will be permanent, and the 'replacement' areas do not come close to making up for what we will lose.

The impact on local wildlife, farmland, and air quality has not been properly addressed. The disruption to existing ecosystems will be devastating.

There is no firm commitment from businesses to occupy this site, making the claimed economic benefits entirely speculative.

A Plea to Protect Our Homes and Way of Life

As someone whose home will be directly impacted by this development, I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of allowing this project to go ahead. This is not just a policy decision—it is a decision that will fundamentally and permanently change the lives of real people, including myself and my neighbours.

This project is fundamentally flawed. The noise, traffic, pollution, and disruption will be unbearable for those of us who live here. I implore you to stand with the residents of Elmesthorpe and reject this application.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Catherine Bass

Resident of Elmesthorpe