

National Infrastructure Planning
The Planning Inspectorate
Via email:
wminterchange@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Your Ref

Our Ref CRTR-IPP-01002-07

Thursday 24 September 2026

Dear Sir or Madam,

Proposal: Proposed non-material change to the West Midlands Rail Freight Interchange Order 2020

Project Name: West Midlands Freight Interchange

Waterways: Gailey & Calf Heath Feeder; Calf Heath Reservoir; Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal

The Canal & River Trust ("the Trust") is the charity which cares for and manages over 2,000 miles of inland waterways across England and Wales. The Trust is a statutory undertaker and prescribed consultee in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects process, with operational land, infrastructure and other interests associated with the above waterways.

The Trust has reviewed the submitted application, including the proposed amendments to Article 44 and to Requirements 25, 34 and 35(b) of the West Midlands Rail Freight Interchange Order 2020 (as amended). The application primarily seeks amendments relating to:

- clarification of the relationship between future planning permissions and the Development Consent Order following the *Hillside* judgment;
- amendments to the trigger points governing the delivery of the rail freight terminal;
- consequential amendments to notification requirements; and
- updates to highway infrastructure trigger points associated with the delivery and occupation of development at the site.

We note that the proposed changes do not alter the overall scale, nature or location of the authorised development and do not propose any amendments to the canal corridor, canal infrastructure, canal crossings or previously approved canal-related works.

Having reviewed the submitted documentation, the Trust is satisfied that the proposals do not introduce any new matters affecting:

- our waterways and associated infrastructure;
- Trust landholdings;
- canal-side landscaping or mitigation proposals; or
- the existing Protective Provisions for the Trust contained within the Order.

The Trust further notes the applicant's conclusion that the proposed non-material change would not result in any materially new or materially different environmental effects compared with those previously assessed through the Development Consent Order process.

Accordingly, the Canal & River Trust has **no comment** on the application.

Canal & River Trust Spatial Planning Team

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Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries you may have.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted]

Area Planner

[Redacted]

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/specialist-teams/planning-and-design>

Canal & River Trust Spatial Planning Team

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Patron: King Charles III. Canal & River Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 7807276 and registered charity number 1146792, Registered office address National Waterways Museum Ellesmere Port, South Pier Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 4FW