

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

██████████ Clerk to Blisworth Parish Council

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Date: 10/06/2025

**For the Attention of: Planning Inspectorate**

**RE: Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange project – Non-Material Change TR050006  
OBJECTION**

**By Email to:** [NorthamptonGateway@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:NorthamptonGateway@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Dear Team

The proposed increase in mezzanine floor space is reported to increase the off-site vehicle trips by 105 two-way trips in the morning peak hour, 128 two-way vehicle trips in the evening peak hour and 1,601 vehicle trips over a 24-hour period. This equates to a 10% increase in off-site traffic as a result of the proposals.

However, we note that the Local Highway Authority (LHA) report clearly states that ‘these numbers are based on the application of a 50% reduction factor which has not been suitably justified.’

Additionally, we would like a response from the Planning Inspectorate explaining why they would be willing to agree to an amendment, when the Local Highway Authority has still not received, to date, much of the information they have requested of the applicant.

We would strongly suggest that if the Local Highway Authority is not able to make a judgement, due to lack of updated data and due to missing information, then how can the Planning Inspectorate consider reaching a decision without supporting the Local Highway Authority and insisting that the applicant provides the data/information requested by the Local Highway Authority.

The Local Highway Authority report also states that the movement of traffic refers only to the site access and M1 Junction only and there needs to be better understanding of the potential wider network implications of the proposal before a decision can be made.

Blisworth Parish Council is concerned about changes to the DCO that will result in increased traffic through our narrow village roads. We note the “non material changes” being proposed will:

- Increase the workforce engaged at the affected warehouse. We are concerned that this will increase worker commuter traffic, particularly on Courteenhall Road (passing a busy school).
- The increased workforce will increase the throughput of goods. We are concerned that this will, in turn, lead to increased levels of goods vehicle movements to and from the site.

We note that SEGRO refers to “minor” changes to the site access to accommodate “slight” increases of traffic. We consider this claim needs to be justified by examination of an undated traffic assessment.

In addition, Blisworth Parish Council is concerned that residents frequently note violations of the 7.5T weight limit on Knock Lane and Courteenhall Road. Blisworth Parish Council would ask that as a mitigation, the DCO amendment should require SEGRO to install CCTV monitoring of traffic on these roads with a view to identifying violations of the weight limit associated with operation of the site.

Finally, since the installation of road signage on the new A508 roundabouts, traffic is being directed through Blisworth village as a through route. Blisworth Parish Council have requested repeatedly, that the signage be amended to say, "Local traffic only - Not suitable for heavy goods vehicles", this would at least be consistent with the signage to the village of Roade. Before the bypass, there was no sign to Blisworth from Roade. There was a route onto Knock Lane, a narrow back road, via Hyde End, but there was no sign, and the route was only used by minimal local traffic. Now traffic travelling north on the A508 encounters a sign pointing to Blisworth down Knock Lane along a narrow country lane that has already been shown to be entirely unsuitable to the volume and weight of traffic. Our primary concern is that this traffic enters Blisworth via Stoke Road which, within Blisworth, where the road becomes even narrower, with very narrow - or in places non-existent - footways.

This signage to Knock Lane from the new roundabout has been severely damaged again via a road traffic accident, highlighting the excessive speeds along the A508 and the speeds of the traffic now being signposted via Knock Lane. As the sign is now lying on the ground, there is an opportunity to replace this signage with a more suitable alternative "Local traffic only - Not suitable for heavy goods vehicles".

We hope that you will consider carefully the concerns of the residents of Blisworth Parish and act to safeguard their safety.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the clerk.

Clerk to Blisworth Parish Council on behalf of Blisworth Parish Council