

UPDATED RAIL CENTRAL PLANS PUBLISHED

Updated plans and visualisations for the proposed Rail Central Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) in Northamptonshire have been published as part of the ongoing community consultation process.

Ashfield Land has published updated illustrative plans and new visual material for the proposed Rail Central SRFI in Northamptonshire. These will help local residents to see what the scheme could look like.

The visuals, which were developed in accordance with professional guidelines, are based on perspectives of the site from specific locations. Local residents and other interested parties will be able to view the visualisations and provide feedback on them as part of Phase One consultation. The deadline for feedback for Phase One consultation is 30 September 2016.

Ashfield Land has also published an updated version of the draft illustrative Masterplan which is based on more advanced and complete technical information and more in-depth survey work that is continuing to be undertaken.

Some changes to the plans based on feedback to date include:

- Confirmation that no development is now proposed on land west of the A43 – which had been considered for potential additional commercial or leisure use.
- Staff / visitors and HGVs will not be able to access the site from Northampton Road and will all use the proposed new junction on the A43. There will be pedestrian / cycle access and when required emergency (controlled via gates) access from Northampton Road.
- Better defined public rights of way (PROW) and footpaths through, around and alongside the site, including new routes to ensure that circular routes are maintained, especially along the eastern side of the Northampton Loop to link the existing footpath route back into Milton Malsor.
- More detailed landscaping features and designs to provide screening as well as meet environmental principles.
- Proposed field edge hedgerow and rerouted PROW to the east of the Northampton Loop Line will encourage views out to adjacent open countryside

Work will continue on the masterplan throughout 2016 as survey work is progressed and more detailed plans will be published for consultation in 2017.

James Digby from Rail Central said: “Rail Central is determined to keep local communities well informed about the proposed development, and as such are pleased to be publishing more detailed plans which show the results of additional technical work and how we are responding to feedback. We hope these will help local residents and others to understand more about how the development could look. We’re grateful for the feedback to date which is valuable in shaping the plans.”

Through this consultation – which is technically known as the Section 47 (community) consultation – Ashfield Land is inviting comments on the proposals. In line with the planning process for nationally

significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs), the project will have regard to the feedback received as the final planning proposals are developed.

Ashfield Land intends to submit a planning application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINs) in the first quarter of 2017. If approved, Rail Central would deliver 8,000 jobs as part of a new logistics and distribution hub.

Further information can be found on the project website, www.railcentral.com.

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Notes to editors

Rail Central is a proposal for a SRFI at a key strategic location where the West Coast Main Line meets the Northampton Loop Line adjacent to the A43 and within 2 miles of the M1.

It is in line with Government policy for investment and expansion in rail freight capability and would see approximately 8,000 jobs created.

Subject to permission being granted to build Rail Central, the earliest potential start of construction would be in 2019

For media enquiries, please contact Ben Copithorne or Will Scawn at Camargue on 020 7636 7366 / railcentral@camargue.uk