

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 2014-15

High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill

Against the Bill – on Merits – Praying to be heard by counsel, etc.

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Parliament assembled.

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF DR PATRICIA FLORENCE JACKSON AND DR MATTHEW CHARLES JACKSON

SHEWETH as follows:

1. A Bill (hereinafter referred to as “the Bill”) has been introduced and is now pending in your honourable House entitled “A Bill to make provision for a railway between Euston in London and a junction with the West Coast Main Line at Handsacre in Staffordshire, with a spur from Old Oak Common in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham to a junction with the Channel Tunnel Rail Link at York Way in the London Borough of Islington and a spur from Water Orton in Warwickshire to Curzon Street in Birmingham; and for connected purposes.”

2. The Bill is presented by Secretary Patrick McLoughlin supported by the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, Secretary Theresa May, Secretary Vince Cable, Secretary Iain Duncan Smith, Secretary Eric Pickles, Secretary Owen Paterson, Secretary Edward Davey, Mr Robert Goodwill.

3. Clauses 1 to 36 set out the Bill's objectives in relation to the construction and operation of the railway mentioned in paragraph 1 above. They include provision for deregulation in connection with, inter alia, environmental matters, including noise control. Clauses 37 to 52 deal with railway matters, nominated and statutory undertakers, regeneration and reinstatement and further high speed rail works. Clauses 53 to 65 contain miscellaneous and general provisions.

4. The nominated undertaker (defined in the Bill and hereinafter referred to as "the nominated undertaker") is authorised by the Bill to construct and maintain the works specified in Schedule 1 to the Bill being works for the construction of Phase One of High Speed 2 and works consequent on or incidental to such works. These works are called "the scheduled works".

5. Your Petitioners Dr Patricia Jackson(20.10.63) and Dr Matthew Jackson(18/03/63) (hereinafter referred to as "the Petitioner") live at 43 Ellesborough Road, Wendover with their three children: Kathryn Jackson, Thomas Jackson and William Jackson. They have lived with their children in this property in Wendover for 11 years.

The Bill would authorise the construction and operation of the railway through and near Wendover. The proposed line would run within 300 metres of your Petitioner's property.

6. Your Petitioner and their interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons, amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

7. Your Petitioner's property is shown in map reference: LV-03-037 and SV-05-020

8. Your Petitioner has been the recipient of letters and information in the post from HS2 Ltd, including Notice No: C272/001215 and C272/001214.

9. Objection is taken to both the construction and operation of certain of the scheduled works proposed to be undertaken in and near Wendover between Little Missenden and Stoke Mandeville. These works consist mainly of an embankment between Hartley Farm and Road Barn Farm; Small Dean viaduct; and an embankment between the northern end of the Small Dean viaduct and the southern end of the Wendover green tunnel.

10. Your Petitioner's main objective is to persuade your Honourable House to take such steps as are necessary to preserve their right to 7 hours undisturbed sleep at night while the line is both constructed and operated and to correct the visual blight

Problems caused by the construction process of the scheduled works.

11. Your Petitioner avers that during construction of the scheduled works there could be the following serious effects on their health, and that their enjoyment of the present peaceful environment of Wendover at night will be ruined.

Noise from machines digging the green tunnel, moving spoil, constructing embankments and viaducts and traffic connected therewith, leading to inability to sleep at night and, additionally loss of enjoyment of the garden and peaceful day time environment of Wendover, both of which are generally beneficial to her health. The medically recommended necessary amount of undisturbed sleep is 7 hours nightly. The Hybrid Bill proposes the setting aside of sensible regulations which currently and for very good medical reasons, ban night time construction noise. Sleep deprivation is a serious hazard to health leading to a greater incidence of cardiovascular accidents and damage to intelligence among many other well documented effects. It is also a fact that intermittent noise such as is expected from the construction and from train operation has very much worse health effects than continuous road noise.

12. Your Petitioner avers that the permitted working hours for all matters relating to construction are absolutely limited to 7am to 10pm.

13. That noise levels be monitored on a frequent and regular basis by an independent organisation, with the result of such monitoring be immediately made public.

14. That artificial lighting at construction areas is limited to working hours (7am to 10pm).

15. Your Petitioner avers that the beautiful vista from 43 Ellesborough Road across Aylesbury Vale will be lost. 43 Ellesborough Road faces the work camp and construction site. The visual blight will be intolerable

16. Your Petitioner avers that the temporary road diversion of Ellesborough Road will cause traffic congestion and make access to and from 43 Ellesborough Road difficult. Dr Matthew Jackson works on call from home and requires quick access to High Wycombe Hospital for the administration of clot-busting drugs for stroke victims. Dr Patricia Jackson works on call from home as a Forensic Medical Examiner for Thames valley police and requires quick access to High Wycombe and Aylesbury Police Custodies. Traffic congestion on the A413 and B4009 will impact their duration of travel. In addition, Your Petitioner walks to the High Street on an almost daily basis and her children walk to the bus stop and this will be unsafe or impossible.

17. A serious strain would be placed on local community services such as the Wendover Health Centre, at which it is already very difficult to obtain a prompt appointment, and at which your Petitioner are patients; and to the police, caused by the rising crime rates associated with an influx of construction workers.

18. Your Petitioner are keen runners in the surrounding public footpaths(WEN/13A,WEN/6, WEN/11,WEN/14) and their enjoyment and participation in this activity will be seriously impaired for safety reasons (increase in crime caused by the influx of workers) and because the paths will be closed.

19. Your petitioner avers that there will be power supply disruption and loss of utilities to 43, Ellesborough Road during the construction of the temporary road linkage.

20. Your Petitioner avers that the dust caused by the construction work will dirty the rendering and windows of 43, Ellesborough Road. Also, your Petitioner hangs laundry outside on an almost daily basis and this will be impossible.

21. Your Petitioner avers the loss of Wendover Cricket Ground will impact their enjoyment and participation in this activity. The Petitioner's children train at the cricket nets and play for Wendover Cricket Club.

22. Your Petitioner attends St Mary's Church as a regular place of worship. The Petitioner's worship, meditation and reflection at St Mary's Church will be impaired by the noise and disruption caused by construction.

23. Your petitioner avers there will be disturbance to endangered wildlife, about which the petitioner, feels very strongly.

24. Your Petitioner avers possible water pollution by runoff from balancing ponds... the drinking water is presently some of the best in the UK.

25. Your Petitioner avers there should be full compensation for damage to property or loss in property value, or costs of property insulation against sound nuisance caused by construction of the scheduled works be available to all those who suffer such nuisance, loss or costs

Problems caused by the operation of HS2

26. Your Petitioner avers that the operation of HS2 following the completion of the proposed scheduled works would have the following permanent effects:

27. The noise from these trains on the Small Dean Viaduct and embankment and entering and exiting a green tunnel for 19 hours per day would cause an intolerable strain upon your Petitioner's ability to sleep uninterruptedly for 7 hours a night.

28. The value of your Petitioner's house has already been adversely affected, and will continue to be so on a permanent basis, by the blight caused to the AONB and particularly to Wendover.

29. Visual blight, the Petitioner enjoys spectacular views across the Aylesbury Vale and this will be lost.

30. Your Petitioner proposes a variety of solutions to the noise blight that is of greatest concern to them.

A) That part of the scheduled works be replaced by a fully-bored tunnel from Little Missenden to the end of the AONB to the north of Wendover. This would avoid most of the general blight to Wendover, most of the problems described in paragraph 11-29, as well as those to other members of the community who are petitioning separately. Wendover is the worst affected community of such a size along the route.

B) In the event that a fully bored tunnel is rejected there is still **scope to compromise and have a shorter tunnel under Coombe Hill and thus move the exit and entry point further from the town than those of the proposed green tunnel.** No-one yet appears to have considered this suggestion. Although it is said these lines should be straight it is very obviously curved fairly sharply into the inside of our village boundary, (one presumes to avoid the cost of even a short tunnel, under the hill shown as Bacombe Hill and Coombe Hill in online Map 24 at HS2 website) As things stand the proposed line wipes out the cricket pitch and the hospice memorial garden; further it totally wrecks the lovely environment of our church, of the special needs school, of a long section of the 2000 year old Ridgeway, and of our main parks....in fact making the church unusable why this bend if it needs to be "as straight as possible" for safety? Have the consequences of a train jumping the track on this bend **inside** the village been considered? No, they have not.

C) . That no night time construction tasks whatsoever be permitted ie that noise regulations not be set aside by the Hybrid Bill, and that the maximum operating time for trains be amended to 17 hours a day not 19 hours, as knowingly allowing someone only 5 hours sleep constitutes sleep deprivation .

D) That provision be therefore made to extend the compensation scheme to pay far more grants for secondary double glazing of bedrooms to a much wider number of properties than the very few currently (around 60) proposed by HS2 Ltd, and that this be put in place prior to construction's beginning, for properties up to 500m away.

31. For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioner respectfully submits that, unless the Bill is amended in such a way as particularly to preserve the human right to 7 hours undisturbed

healthy sleep, and also to reduce the blight on the entire AONB, then the Bill should not be allowed to pass into law.

Mitigation for construction of a fully-bored tunnel

32. If a fully-bored tunnel is included in the Bill, your Petitioner proposes that at least the following mitigation be adopted for its construction:

33. That the permitted working hours for all matters relating to construction be absolutely limited to 7am to 10pm .

34. That noise levels be monitored on a frequent and regular basis by an independent organisation, with the result of such monitoring be immediately made public.

35. That artificial lighting at construction areas is limited to working hours 7am to 10pm.

36. That funding be made available to Wendover Health Centre and local hospitals for the provision of such extra facilities as are needed to cope with increased health problems, such as respiratory illness and hypertension, and including those caused by traffic emissions and dust created by the construction of the scheduled works.

37. That funding is made available to the local police force for increased staffing likely to be required due to the advent of a substantial construction workforce.

38. That full compensation for damage to property or loss in property value, or costs of property insulation against sound nuisance caused by construction of the scheduled works be available to all those who suffer such nuisance, loss or costs.

Mitigation for construction of the present proposal

39. However, if the proposal for a fully-bored tunnel is rejected your Petitioner proposes the following mitigation:-

40. That the existing proposed green tunnel be extended to the south to protect St Mary's Church, and to the north of Wendover as far as is consistent with treating the worst affected Wendover and Stoke Mandeville residents equally.

41. That the mitigations proposed in paragraphs 32-38 above be adopted, and as a minimum, those concerning the right to sleep for seven hours undisturbed every night.

YOUR PETITIONER therefore prays your Honourable House that the Bill may not be allowed to pass into law as it now stands and that she may be heard by Counsel, Agent and witnesses in support of the allegations of this Petition against such of the clauses and provisions of the Bill as affect the rights and interests of your Petitioner and in support of such other clauses, amendments or provisions as may be necessary or expedient for their protection, or that such other relief may be given to your Petitioner as your Honourable House may deem meet.

AND your Petitioner will ever pray, etc.

13/5/14

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BACKSHEET

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SESSION 2014-15

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON TO WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION OF DR PATRICIA JACKSON AND DR MATTHEW JACKSON

Against the Bill – on merits – by Counsel, etc.

Contact details:

Address:

Tel:

Email:

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