

0728

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 2013–14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS)

PETITION

Against the Bill – Praying to be heard by counsel, &c.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COMMONS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF JOHN ARTHUR DONOVAN and others

SHEWETH as follows:-

- 1 A Bill (hereinafter called “the Bill”) has been introduced into and is now pending in your honourable House intituled “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 Mr Secretary 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, and 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 the construction of works, highways and road traffic matters, the compulsory acquisition of land and other provisions relating to the use of land, planning permission, heritage issues, trees and noise. They include clauses which would disapply and modify various enactments relating to special categories of land including burial grounds, consecrated land, commons and open spaces, and other matters, including overhead lines, water, building regulations and party walls, street works and the use of lorries.
- 4 Clauses 37 to 42 of the Bill deal with the regulatory regime for the railway.

5 Clauses 43 to 65 of the Bill set out a number of miscellaneous and general provisions, including provision for the appointment of a nominated undertaker ("the Nominated Undertaker") to exercise the powers under the Bill, transfer schemes, provisions relating to statutory undertakers and the Crown, provision about the compulsory acquisition of land for regeneration, reinstatement works and provision about further high speed railway works. Provision is also made about the application of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.

6 The works proposed to be authorised by the Bill ("Phase One of HS2") are specified in clauses 1 and 2 of and Schedules 1 and 2 to the Bill. They consist of scheduled works, which are described in Schedule 1 to the Bill and other works, which are described in clause 2 of and Schedules 2 and 3 to the Bill.

7 Your Petitioners are the owners of the following properties which are located in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

- 3 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JD
- 4 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JD
- 5 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JD
- 6 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JD
- 7 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JD
- 11 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JD
- 14 Farm Close, Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JB
- 19 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JD
- 20 Farm Close, Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JB
- 21 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JB
- 24 Farm Close, Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JB
- 25 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JD
- 27 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JD
- 28 Farm Close, Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JB
- 29 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JD
- 32 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JD
- 33 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JD
- 34 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JD
- 37 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JF
- 39 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JF
- 40 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JF
- 42 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JD
- 48 Woodland Close, Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JE
- 49 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JF
- 52 Woodland Close, Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JF
- 61 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JF
- 67 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JF
- 72 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JF

75 Field Close, Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JQ
80 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JF
81 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JC
82 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JF
91 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JG
94 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JG
102 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JG
104 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JG
106 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JG
116 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JG
120 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JG
122 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JG
126 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JG
126a Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JH
130 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JH
136 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JH
138 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JH
140 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JH
142 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JH
144 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JJ
146 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JJ
150 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JJ
152 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JJ
154 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JJ
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185 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JJ
186 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JJ
188 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JL
189 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JJ

190 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JL
191 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JJ
193 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JJ
196 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JL
197 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JL
200 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JL
206 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JL
207 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JL
210 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JL
211 The Mead, Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JN
214 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JL
219 The Mead, Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JN
223 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JL
226 Hoylake Crescent, Ickenham, UB10 8JW

8. Your Petitioners allege that they and their property, rights and interests would be injuriously and prejudicially affected by the provisions of the Bill if passed into law in their present form and they accordingly object to the Bill for the reasons, amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

Introductory

9. Your petitioners oppose the Bill in principle. Whilst your petitioners acknowledge that the principle of the Bill is established at second reading, your petitioners' views on the subject are so strong, they must be recorded in this petition.
10. Your petitioners consider that the Environmental Statement did not adequately assess the impacts on Ickenham roads, schools, employment, ecology, air quality, local services, emergency services, drainage and flooding. It was prepared with great haste and the most adverse effects were never discussed at Community Forums.
11. HS2 Ltd refused to engage in discussion to mitigate the adverse impacts on Ickenham. Even with the intervention of our local MP in September 2013 HS2 Ltd refused to meet with your petitioners to discuss extending the tunnel beyond West Ruislip.
12. There are many matters which cause great concern to your petitioners, arising from the proposals in the Bill. Your petitioners are hopeful that many of their concerns can be met by agreement with the promoter of the Bill.

General Concerns

- 13 As residents of Ickenham your petitioners have identified several specific significant concerns which are set out below. This list is by no means exhaustive, and due to the inadequacy and inaccuracies of the Environmental Statement prepared by HS2, it is inevitable that the construction of HS2 will disrupt the lives of your petitioners in ways which are not yet known.

Colne Valley Tunnel

- 14 Your petitioners respectfully submit that the proposal to carry the railway overground through the area between Ruislip and the M25 will give rise to many community, health, business and environmental impacts. In your petitioners' respectful submission the cumulative effects of all these adverse impacts requires that a bored tunnel should be constructed instead of an overland route across Ickenham and the Colne Valley.
- 15 Given all the concerns and issues arising from the overland route in Ickenham and the Colne Valley your petitioners believe that the additional costs of an extension of the London tunnelling would be justified. The following paragraphs set out in more details your petitioners' justification for a tunnel and they also explain the remedies that your petitioners seek as a minimum in respect of the matters that are covered, should your honourable House not find in favour of a tunnel.

Specific Concerns

Noise and visual impact

- 16 Your petitioners understand from the Environmental Statement that there will be significant adverse noise impacts as a direct result of the overground high speed railway in Ickenham and during the construction of the works. Your petitioners in Hoylake Crescent will suffer adverse effects from construction works and the construction site for a period of ten years. Your petitioners in Hoylake Crescent, which includes families with children and elderly homeowners, will be forced to endure up to 10 years of continuous noise, air pollution, light pollution, sleep deprivation, and in addition, for many living in closer proximity to the line, ground vibration during construction, if, as currently proposed, the construction work takes place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Your petitioners would therefore request your honourable House to require the nominated undertaker to limit work to the hours of 8.30am – 5 pm, Monday to Friday in order for residents to be given some respite from construction being carried out over so many years, to expect otherwise is unjust and unreasonable.

- 17 If the high speed railway line becomes operational, your petitioners and their families will be subject to noise from the operation of trains travelling at high speed in both directions. The noise will consist of vibration to the track ahead of the trains, air displacement ahead and behind the trains, from the motors and from the overhead cables. This noise would be continuous, if as planned, trains are running at 18 per hour in each direction, 36 trains an hour in total. In addition the visual impact especially as the track starts to rise onto a viaduct would be intrusive on what is at present an open aspect.
- 18 Your petitioners wish to ensure that the nominated undertaker should provide a detailed site specific noise mitigation plan along with the provision of appropriate and adequate compensation measures, especially for those petitioners living within 1,000m from the high speed railway line.
- 19 Your petitioners contend that Hoylake Crescent is especially adversely affected by the proposed high speed railway line due to the large number of homes sited so close to the line and therefore your petitioners would request your honourable House to require that the zones proposed for compensation must be expanded to include more homes in each zone.

Construction Traffic

- 20 Your petitioners are gravely concerned about the inadequacy of measures proposed to mitigate the effects of construction traffic throughout Ickenham. The siting of three construction sites in Ickenham for a period up to 10 years with other constructions sites in nearby Harefield will cause significant disruption and congestion to Ickenham suburban roads by HGV traffic which are already heavily congested by local traffic and through traffic from commuters across North West London. Breakspear Road South, Harvil Road, Swakeleys Road, Ickenham High Road are already heavily congested during morning and evening peak times. A number of side roads such as Copthall Road West, St Georges Drive, Greenacres Avenue, Thornhill Road, Ivy House Road, Warren Road are already affected by 'rat running'. Your petitioners in Hoylake Crescent, part of which is already congested all day by commuters using it as a car park, are concerned that they will be adversely affected by further congestion especially when parents are taking their children to Breakspear schools. This results in vehicles, commuters cars and parents dropping of or picking up their children parked on both sides of the road, this leaves space for only one vehicle able to move down the centre of the road, and therefore entering or leaving Hoylake Crescent onto Swakeleys Road which will be carrying large numbers of H.G.V. construction vehicles will become even more time consuming and difficult than at present.
- 21 Your petitioners would request your honourable House to require that the nominated undertaker mitigate by amending the Code of Construction Practice to strictly enforce the measures such as but not restricted to the following:-

- (a) Restricting HGV movements inside peak hours throughout Ickenham and prohibiting HGV movements near school routes for at least 30 minutes before and after the start and end of the school day (during term time). No H.G.V. vehicle movements should be permitted between 8.30am – 9.15 am and between 3.15pm. – 4pm.
- (b) Operating a low emissions shuttle bus system for construction workers from key public transport interchanges to avoid providing parking for contractors at the construction compounds.

Health and Welfare

- 22 Your petitioners are gravely concerned that the emergency services will be unable to provide timely support to their families and property due to road congestion during the construction period. The roads in Ickenham provide access to Harefield Hospital dedicated Heart Attack Centre which is used for emergencies from outer north-west London; according to the Trust speed of treatment has shown to be crucial to survival in these cases. The roads in Ickenham are also used by all Emergency Services which would be severely restricted in their response times due to congestion during the construction period.
- 23 Your petitioners would request your honourable House to require that the nominated undertaker will at all times during the construction works maintain adequate access through Ickenham for emergency services, by working closely with the emergency services and accepting whatever proposals those services require without reservation.

Environment and Local Facilities

- 24 Your petitioners make extensive use of the recreational facilities afforded by the London Borough of Hillingdon and the Colne Valley and are very concerned about the following impacts of the high speed railway:
- a) Diversions of public rights of way are so lengthy and in some cases diverted onto busy roads, e.g. Breakspear Road South, with no footways representing a danger to the public's lives.
 - b) The loss of the Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre which provides leisure and educational facilities for your petitioners and their families.
 - c) The impacts on Uxbridge and Ruislip Golf courses which may require their temporary or permanent closure.
 - d) Adverse effects on the ecology in particular on the bat and owl populations.
 - e) The loss of woodlands, trees and hedges along open spaces and footpaths used by residents.
 - f) The use of the green belt areas of Ickenham between Harvil Road and Breakspear Road South as spoil dumps.
- 25 Your petitioners contend that the only practicable mitigation for all these impacts is the Colne Valley tunnel as requested above.

'Sustainable Placement Areas'

- 26 Your petitioners are concerned about the vast quantity of spoil that is to be dispersed in Ickenham. Your petitioners consider that the areas that have been selected for the 'Sustainable Placement' of material have not been properly assessed. Your petitioners request your honourable House to require that the nominated undertaker re evaluate the areas identified for the deposit of spoil in terms of their suitability and prepare, alongside the Local Authority and Residents' Associations, alternative proposals for consultation. An alternative to dumping spoil in the proposed area would be to use the excavated soil in the building of flood defences, or being used to infill the local gravel pits and landscape the areas around them, thereby creating new parkland and open areas for local residents to enjoy.

Local Transport Services

- 27 Your petitioners are concerned that the proposals for HS2 will cause significant disruption to existing bus, rail and underground services. The U1, U9 and U10 bus routes are vital links for many of the older Ickenham residents and these services will be greatly impacted by the increased traffic congestion levels. The extensive construction works and railhead required at West Ruislip are a particular cause for concern as the LT Central Line, the Chiltern railway and London Transport buses are used by your petitioners and their families to travel to their places of work. Your petitioners request your honourable House to require the nominated undertaker to provide assurances that your petitioner's transport services will not be disrupted during construction works.

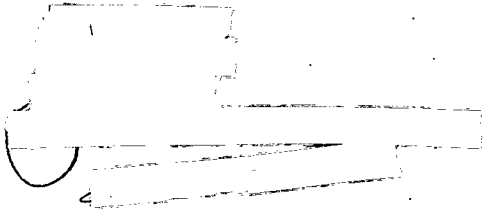
Landscape

- 28 Your petitioners understand from the Environmental Statement that there will be significant adverse impacts on their landscape both during the ten year construction phase and from the dumping of excavated materials. Your petitioners believe that as the Bill stands it makes no provision to protect the landscape character of their area. Your petitioners would request your honourable House to require that the nominated undertaker undertakes the development of, and maintenance of, a detailed exemplar landscape design for the area in full consultation with local communities and that this initiative is adequately resourced.

YOUR PETITIONERS therefore humbly pray your Honourable House that the Bill may not be allowed to pass into law as it now stands and that they may be heard by their Counsel, Agents and witnesses in support of the allegations of this Petition against so much of the Bill as affects the property, rights and interests of your Petitioners and in support of such other clauses and provisions as may be necessary or expedient for their protection, or that such other relief may be given to your Petitioner in the premises as your Honourable House shall deem meet.

AND your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

John Arthur Donovan



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AGAINST, By Counsel, & c

John Arthur Donovan