

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 MS EILEEN M ROBINSON

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 compulsory acquisition, the extinction and exclusion of rights over land, the temporary possession and use of land, planning permission and deregulation in connection with, inter alia, heritage and environmental matters. 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 petitioner (hereinafter referred to as “the Petitioner”) lives at 52 Manor Crescent, Wendover, HP22 6HJ.

6. Your Petitioner has lived in this property in Wendover for 28 years, and is 73 years of age.

7. Your Petitioner’s property is shown on map CT-05-038 in ES 3.2.2.10.

8. Objection is taken to both the construction and operation of certain of the scheduled works proposed to be undertaken in Wendover. As a resident of Wendover, objection is also taken to other works proposed to be undertaken in and near Wendover between Little Missenden and Stoke Mandeville including a green tunnel running underneath Ellesborough Road, Wendover, 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. They include ancillary works such as satellite compounds, transformer stations, balancing ponds and portal buildings.

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

10. Your Petitioner has been the recipient of letters and information from HS2 Ltd, which indicate that it considers that her property is affected by the Bill.

11. Your Petitioner’s main objective is to persuade your Honourable House to lower the line into a fully-bored tunnel as it passes through Wendover.

Problems caused by the construction process of the scheduled works

12. Your Petitioner avers that during construction of the scheduled works there would be the following effects:

13. Noise and vibration from the construction works and from HGVs using the B4009 close to St Mary’s Church, which would not only disturb worship at the church, but would also make concerts impossible to hear.

14. Vibration from the construction works would cause structural damage to the church, which has recently been renovated to provide both a place of worship and a venue for cultural events such as concerts.

15. Pressure on local health and emergency services due to the influx of large numbers of construction workers.

16. Disruption of traffic and substantial delays along the approaches to your Petitioner’s property during the whole of the construction phase. Your Petitioner is already affected by

school traffic accessing the campus which is the location of three schools. Construction traffic will severely exacerbate this situation.

17. Potential disruption to power supplies caused by the need to move the electricity pylons near the line.

18. Potential disruption to other utilities.

Mitigation for the problems caused by construction of HS2

19. Appropriate control should be imposed as put forward in the petitions submitted by Wendover HS2 and others.

20. Additional financial resources should be provided for local health and emergency services to ensure that local residents continue to receive the service they need throughout the construction period.

Problems caused by the operation of HS2

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

22. Your Petitioner is on the electoral roll of St Mary's Church, Wendover and attends the church services and social events in the Church. St Mary's Church, a building of heritage value, was recently renovated and its interior designed to seat a large audience for secular musical events. The Church has a large following for both secular and religious events which your Petitioner attends. People from Wendover and surrounding villages and from Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire form part of the audience. The music performed there provides opportunities for young musicians and graduates, providing a platform outside of London for international soloists and groups to perform to a wide audience.

23. Your Petitioner avers that the noise level, speed and frequency of the trains will not only make concerts impossible to hear, but will in all probability damage the structure of the newly renovated Church.

24. Your Petitioner is a qualified social worker (33 years and PG Dip stress management) working mainly within the field of child care. This experience raises serious concerns about the needs of both children and teachers in the Wendover Campus of the Chiltern Hills Federation, a school for children with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties, which is situated adjacent to the Church. The noise, dust and disruption during construction will have the effect of disrupting concentration, damaging the children's education and causing additional stress for the staff.

Mitigation for the problems caused by the operation of HS2

25. Your Petitioner proposes 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 disadvantages set out in paragraphs 12- 18 above and would reduce all the disadvantages set out in paragraphs 22-24 above.

26. Chiltern Ridges Action Group has proposed such a fully-bored tunnel in a report by Peter Brett Associates, and HS2 Ltd has confirmed that from an engineering and construction point of view it is feasible.

27. HS2 Ltd has said that such a tunnel would cost £330 million more than the present proposal. However, it has refused to divulge any detail of this figure, or even the tender documents on which it was based, and there is considerable evidence that the figure is seriously exaggerated.

28. Moreover, it seems that HS2 Ltd has not taken into account the value of the benefits which a fully-bored tunnel would bring, such as the money saved by not having to compulsorily purchase properties and land, or move electricity pylons, and not damaging the environment. These benefits are valued at over £500 million.

29. Additional financial resources should be provided for local health and emergency services to ensure that local residents continue to receive the service they need.

30. For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioner respectfully submits that, unless the Bill is amended by the inclusion of a fully-bored tunnel from Little Missenden to the end of the AONB to the north of Wendover then the Bill should not be allowed to pass into law.

Mitigation for construction of a fully-bored tunnel

31. If a fully-bored tunnel is included in the Bill, your Petitioner proposes that appropriate mitigation measures, as set out in the Petition submitted by Wendover HS2 and others, should be legally enforceable to reduce the damaging impact on residents throughout Wendover and its surrounding communities.

Mitigation for construction of the present proposal

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

33. The existing proposed green tunnel should be extended to the south and north of Wendover.

34. Your Petitioner fully endorses the Petitions submitted by Wendover HS2, Wendover Parish Council, Chilterns Conservation Board and the Chiltern Society.

35. That the mitigation as set out in the Petition submitted by Wendover HS2 and others, should be legally enforceable to reduce the damaging impact on residents throughout Wendover and its surrounding communities.

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 her 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.

Petitioner

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SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION OF MS EILEEN M ROBINSON of (

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Against the Bill – On Merits – By Counsel &c

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