

IN PARLIAMENT  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
SESSION 2013-14

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 Rachel Garver

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 23 Chiltern Road, Wendover, HP22 6DB. She has owned and lived in this property for 16 years. She moved to Wendover because her husband is a keen Rambler. She is 62 years of age and will want to move to a smaller house within the next few years. Neither she nor her children own cars, so she lives close to the station to make family visits easier. The Bill would authorise the construction and operation of the railway through and near Wendover. The proposed line would run about 300 metres from your Petitioner’s property and even closer to the bungalows in Thornton Crescent which would otherwise be her ideal location and which will bear the full brunt of construction noise and dust.

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

7. Your Petitioner has been the recipient of letters and information in the post from HS2 Ltd, which indicate that it considers that she is affected by the Bill.

8. 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 with another viaduct over the existing railway line and the Wendover bypass. They include ancillary works such as satellite compounds, auto-transformer stations, balancing ponds and portal buildings.

9. 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**

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

11. Disruption of traffic and substantial delays along all local roads, caused by around 300 HGVs per day, especially the B4009 which your Petitioner uses regularly and which is to be diverted along South Street, making your Petitioner’s motorcycle journey to her work in Princes Risborough both longer and more hazardous, South Street being too narrow to take the additional traffic.

12. A serious strain on local community services such as the Wendover Health Centre, where your Petitioner is a patient, and the police, caused by an influx of construction workers.

13. Dust caused by chalk and soil from construction and excavation, leading to the exacerbation of my respiratory problems. On storage chalk dries out, creating dust, the

effect of which will be made worse by the prevailing south-west wind, which blows directly onto your Petitioner's property in Chiltern Road.

14. Substantial damage to this part of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) with its exceptional natural beauty.

15. Substantial damage to the local cultural heritage, including St Mary's Church. Your Petitioner currently enjoys concerts in the Church and peaceful recuperation in its grounds and the neighbouring open spaces which will be seriously affected by noise from half-mile-long trains passing over the proposed 100m-long viaduct above the Chiltern Line and the bypass, up to 36 times in an hour. Your Petitioner notes that no assessment has been made of the potential noise impact of trains passing over the viaduct in both directions at the same time, or of the impact of the prevailing westerly wind carrying the sound towards the Church.

16. Disruption to power supplies caused by the need to move the electricity pylons near the line.

#### **Problems caused by the operation of HS2**

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

18. Your petitioner would be unable to enjoy concerts in the St. Mary's Church and peaceful repose in the open spaces around it.

19. The value of your Petitioner's house has already been adversely affected, and will continue to be so on a permanent basis. The damage to local facilities would be substantial: not only the peace of the Church and its surroundings, but other community assets such as the cricket ground would be destroyed, and many local walking routes would be subject to noise from the trains. The combined effect of this damage would make Wendover less attractive to visitors and potential residents, and therefore depress the value of all property, residential or commercial, including mine.

#### **The benefits of a fully-bored tunnel**

20. 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 11-15 above and all the disadvantages set out in paragraphs 17-19 above.

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. 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**

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

26. That the operation of construction traffic on the A413 and the B4009 only be permitted during the agreed working hours, excluding rush hour (7-9am and 5-7pm) on weekdays.

27. That the number of construction vehicles using local roads be limited, and at all times be such as not to inconvenience other road users.

28. That the removed spoil should not be permitted to be dumped in the Chilterns AONB, and that all spoil should be removed by rail, not road.

29. That a traffic management plan be agreed before construction starts with the local county, district and parish councils, such plan to go to arbitration if agreement cannot be reached.

30. That the permitted working hours for all matters relating to construction be strictly limited to 8am to 6pm on weekdays, 8am to 1pm on Saturdays and not at all on Sundays, with an hour before and after for start-up and close down.

31. That acceptable noise levels be agreed before construction starts with the local county, district and parish councils, such noise levels to go to arbitration if agreement cannot be reached.

32. 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.

33. That artificial lighting at construction areas be limited to working hours.
34. That the maximum level of toxic traffic emissions from construction traffic be agreed before construction starts with the local county, district and parish councils, such emission level to go to arbitration if agreement cannot be reached.
35. That funding be made available to Wendover Health Centre and local hospitals for the provision of any necessary additional facilities to cope with increased health problems, such as sleep disturbance, respiratory illness and hypertension, and including those caused by traffic emissions and dust created by the construction of the scheduled works.
36. That funding be made available to the local police force for increased staffing likely to be required due to the advent of a substantial construction workforce.
37. That full compensation for damage to property or loss in property value caused by construction of the scheduled works be available to all those who suffer such loss.
38. That the maintenance loop at present proposed to be located to the north of Wendover be moved to an area where there are much larger permanent works scheduled.
39. That the Code of Construction Practice, and regulations and agreements dealing with all the above matters in paragraphs 33 to 43, be legally enforceable both at criminal and civil law, with civil law breaches being first dealt with by an Ombudsman, and the local county council having the right to bring both criminal and civil proceedings.

#### **Mitigation for construction of the present proposal**

40. However, if the proposal for a fully-bored tunnel is rejected your Petitioner proposes the following mitigation:-
41. That the existing proposed green tunnel be extended to the south and north of Wendover, taking the new line underneath the Chiltern Railway.
42. If the viaduct over the railway is retained, that it be fitted with quality sound barriers on both sides, not just one as currently proposed, to reduce the impact on the area around the Church.
43. That the Small Dean viaduct be fitted with quality sound barriers on both sides, to reduce the level of noise echoing off the hills behind it across the whole area.
44. That a substitute cricket pitch be provided, that is acceptable to the users of the existing pitch.

45. That the mitigation proposed in paragraphs 33 to 44 above be adopted.

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 in the premises as your Honourable House may deem meet.

AND your Petitioner will ever pray, etc.



**BACKSHEET**

**IN PARLIAMENT  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
SESSION 2014-15**

**HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON TO WEST MIDLANDS) BILL  
PETITION OF**

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

**Contact details: Rachel Garver**

**Ms Rachel Garver**

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