

IN PARLIAMENT  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
SESSION 2013 or 2014 depending on HS2 legislative progress

**HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL**

Against – on Merits – 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 Denham Green Lane, Denham Green, residents as below  
Paul and Margaret Pennifer, Cherry Trees Denham Green Lane, Denham UB95LG (resident here for 28 years)

Paul and Paula Sage 87 Denham Green Lane, Denham UB95LG (resident here for 34 years)

Robert and Monica Young, 75 Denham Green Lane, Denham, UB95LG (resident here for 38 years)

SHEWETH as follows:-

- 1 A Bill (hereinafter referred to as “the Bill”) has been introduced 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 ("the Authorised Works") are specified in clauses 1 and 2 of and Schedule 1 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 the Bill.
- 7 Your petitioners are all long term (average 33 years) residents of Denham Green Lane, Denham, UB95LG as listed below and each is each the freehold owner of the properties listed.  
Paul and Margaret Pennifer, Cherry Trees, Denham Green Lane,  
Paul and Paula Sage 87 Denham Green Lane,  
Robert and Monica Young, Limbo 75 Denham Green Lane,  
All these properties are in Denham Green, postcode UB95LG
- 8 Your Petitioners rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
- 9 All of the above properties are within close proximity of the construction of the HS2 line and the routes for construction traffic. The specific points we wish to raise are listed below.

**Loss of Local Amenity – Colne Valley Regional Park**

Your petitioners, as Denham residents, walk on a weekly basis through the local area of the Colne Valley Regional Park. During the proposed seven year construction phase of the Colne Valley viaduct for HS2, as members of the public, we are concerned that our access to the Park is likely to be curtailed. For the construction of the HS2 viaduct, across the Park there will be the following:

- Five main construction compounds
- Seven satellite compounds
- Two worker accommodation sites
- Five electricity stations
- Six diverted public rights of way
- Sixteen stockpiles of materials

After completion of the viaduct, when HS2 is running, because of the noise of the trains and the visual blight, the Regional Park will undoubtedly be a place we would wish to avoid as an environment for a countryside walk. The viaduct will have a fundamental, detrimental impact on our enjoyment of the current landscape, country views, biodiversity, wildlife, use of footpaths, and the peace of the countryside will be replaced by loud noise from the trains travelling on the two mile long viaduct.

Your petitioners request that the Colne Valley viaduct is replaced with a tunnel to prevent all the detrimental effects in the Colne Valley Regional Park, as detailed above.

#### Protection of Local Public Water Supplies

Your petitioners are very concerned that here in Denham, the construction of the HS2 viaduct will result in disruption to our local water supplies, particularly as in the Hybrid Bill, Clause 31 and schedule 20, there are powers which override key legal safeguards that protect public water supplies.

There is an assessment that a "very high value" public water source (TH 177), under the two mile long HS2 viaduct in the Colne Valley, which, when disturbed, could cause a "very large effect to consumers" over a wide area, and the impact is described as "major" and the duration is "permanent".

The Environment Agency and our local water company, Affinity Water, have not announced how alternative drinking water supplies would be provided for consumers. As Denham residents, we are therefore very worried about permanent disruption of our water supply and any possible risks to our health.

Your petitioners ask that HS2 Ltd, the Environment Agency and Affinity Water are requested to have an independent water resources assessment carried out, and subsequently provide full details of how drinking water is to be distributed to us, if water supplies are to be permanently disrupted

#### Chalk streams

Your petitioner is concerned about the impact of construction works on chalk streams, specifically those associated with the River Misbourne. Chalk streams are globally rare habitats and therefore special measures should be put in place to protect them. Your petitioners regularly visit the Misbourne River for recreational purposes and enjoy the unique ecology and habitats in this area.

Your petitioners ask that surveys be carried out to establish the ecological nature of these habitats and that this surveying continues during construction. If adverse impacts are identified construction in the area should be stopped until the cause is identified and negative impacts rectified immediately before irreparable damage is caused. These surveys should be carried out at the expense of the nominated undertaker and the survey method should be agreed with the relevant stakeholders.

Noise, dust pollution and disruption for many years during construction work  
For background information we wish to point out that petitioners Mr and Mrs Young have first-hand experience of the impact railway construction can have on communities. This is because your petitioners spend a few months a year in a rural area of France where a high speed rail link is being constructed (Tours – Bordeaux). We have witnessed the countryside and habitat destruction, traffic jams, route deviations, delays, noise, pollution, dust, mountains of building materials and the loss of visual amenity. In your petitioners' opinion, this experience informs accurately the impact that the construction of the HS2 viaduct is likely to have on the Colne Valley area.

The Colne Valley at Denham is a unique recreation and conservation area consisting

of lakes, rivers, a canal and bridleways. It is also home to thousands of people with all the supporting infrastructure of roads, shops, schools etc. Being close to the motorway network, new businesses have moved into the area, joining older established businesses. Under normal circumstances the Colne Valley can become very congested through normal daily business activities and it is impossible to imagine how the busy Colne Valley and its inhabitants will cope with the additional difficulties through the construction of a railway viaduct over the next few years.

In addition, the Colne Valley is located close to a section of the M25 which is a vital connecting route between the motorways M1, M40, M4 and M3 and also Heathrow. When the M25 blocks, as it frequently does between the M1 and the M3 junctions and particularly in the Maple Cross region, traffic uses the A412 as an alternative route through the Colne Valley. When this occurs, the congestion problems above are compounded and the Colne Valley road network through and around Denham can become gridlocked for hours.

The construction of a Colne Valley viaduct will exacerbate the traffic problems identified above as the viaduct has to bridge all roads through the valley and this is bound to place an additional burden on the road system. We think it likely that the planners and designers will have taken a simplistic view of the Colne Valley – i.e. “there is a valley – lets bridge it with a viaduct” and are probably unaware of specific local problems. We think the Colne Valley area will be a miserable place to live for many years, with traffic frequently grinding to a halt, creating additional difficulties for everyone going about their everyday business.

Your petitioners believe the remedy to this would be to construct the Colne Valley section of the line in a tunnel and we trust you will give consideration to this suggestion.

- 10 There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your Petitioners and their rights, interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioners.

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.

Signatures of petitioners

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HIGH SPEED RAIL  
(LONDON-WEST MIDLANDS)  
BILL

PETITION OF  
Paul and Margaret Pennifer

Robert and Monica Young

Paul and Paula Sage

AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.  
Name of petitioner in person

AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.