

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 2013-2014

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 MADELINE ELEANOR and GERALD RAYMOND HARRIS

SHEWITH as follows:

1. A Bill [herewith referred to as ‘the Bill] 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 in the London Borough of Islington and a spur from Water Eaton in Warwickshire to Curzon Street; and for connection purposes.’
2. The Bill is presented by Secretary Patric McLoughlan 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 Patterson, Secretary Edward Davey, Mr Robert Goodwill.
3. Clauses 1-36 set out in 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 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 37-57 deal with railway matters, nominated and statutory undertakings, regeneration and reinstatement and further high speed rail works. Clauses 53-65 contain miscellaneous and general provisions.
4. The nominated undertaker [defined in the Bill and 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 or incidental to such works. These works are called ‘the scheduled works’.

5. Your petitioners will be adversely affected by HS2. Therefore they object to the Bill for reasons outlined below.

ABOUT YOUR PETITIONERS

6. Your Petitioners [referred to as 'Your Petitioners'] live at 'Malvern', London Road, Wendover, Buckinghamshire, HP22 6PN. They have lived at this property, their home, since 8th March 2010, eight days before the announcement by the government of the day that HS2 was to be built. Details of this announcement were subject to an embargo and were not available to Your Petitioners' solicitor in his search. Gerald Harris is 76 years old and his wife Madeline is 75, and they are the sole occupants. Gerald Harris suffers from severe psoriatic arthritis which may progress. In addition he has been diagnosed as a type 2 diabetic for which condition he receives medication. Madeline had a hip replacement in August 2013, and suffers from osteo- arthritis in her spine, a condition which seems unlikely to improve. If HS2 is built and is completed by 2027 they will be 89 and 88 respectively. They will be affected both during the construction phase and subsequently by the operation of HS2.

7. HS2 will run near to their home. The local Member of Parliament the Right Honourable David Lidington has described your petitioner's home together with 23 neighbouring properties [known as Wendover Dean] as being 'ONE OF THE WORST AFFECTED AREAS OF THE ENTIRE PHASE ONE ROUTE' in his response to the Environmental Statement. The line will run on a 6metre embankment topped by 6 metre gantries in front of their home [350 metres away] rising to a higher viaduct, still within clear sight to the South East.

8. Your Petitioners have been active within a neighbourhood group representing the interests and concerns of the residents on the London Road and Rocky Lane and defined by the post code HP22 6PN 23. This group has held meetings with HS2 Ltd, County and District Councillors and others. They are disturbed by the proposal to build HS2 but have attempted, with others, to take a constructive position and attitude. However it is difficult to see any benefits of the proposed line to them or to County of Buckinghamshire. Two examples of the spirit of co-operation taken by your petitioners, with others, are the response of the neighbourhood group to the proposed Compensation Scheme, and a response to the Environmental statement.

9, Your Petitioners may at some time in the not too distant future wish to sell their home in order to move into a flat or sheltered accommodation. Also they are concerned that when one of them is widowed the other would be unable to continue independent living in their present home. Neighbours of your petitioners have received letters and information in the post from HS2 Ltd, which indicate that it considered that they are affected by the bill.

ABOUT YOUR PETITIONERS' HOME

10. Their home is shown in maps including 'CT05 037 and CT06 037 of the Environmental Statement'. These can be used during the hearing of their petition. These are entitled the Significantly Affected Viewpoints during Operational and Construction phases.

11. Photographs, which include rural views from neighbouring properties, of the area can be seen in the Environmental Statement Volume CFA10 Landscape and Visual Assessment and are numbered: 101.2.004 [view East from dwellings on Small Dean Lane] and 101.2.006 [view from North West from dwellings on London Road, Small Dean].

12. The line will be on an embankment between Hartley Farm and Road Barn Farm, a viaduct near to Small Dean, and an embankment between the Northern end of the Small Dean viaduct and the Southern end of the Southern end of the Wendover green tunnel. They will include [as outlined on maps already referred to] include ancillary works including satellite compounds, auto-transformer stations, balancing ponds and portal buildings. Your petitioners' home, their financial and environmental enjoyment of it will be adversely affected by the inevitable noise and traffic disruption caused by this work near to their home.

YOUR PETITIONERS' OBJECTIVES

13. Your Petitioners propose three possible solutions to their plight, in descending order of preference. Each of these proposals will not only help your petitioners, but should be attractive to HS2Ltd.

14. Your Petitioners seek to have their home included in the compulsory or voluntary purchase arrangements. At present these arrangements are defined by distance from the proposed line, however it is the opinion that this definition is unrealistic and unfair. The proposal to build HS2 has blighted Your Petitioners' home since the initial announcement to build was made, and it will do so during the construction phase due to matters referred to above; then when HS2 is completed with a train passing every 2 minutes at 225mph on a 6 metre high embankment 350 metres away, the blight will continue.

15. The second proposal is that HS2 should be in a fully bored tunnel, or a green tunnel or a deep cutting throughout the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Any of these solutions will minimise the blight on your petitioners' home.

16. The third proposal is that there should be a relief road built from the Southern end of the Wendover bypass, running to the North East of the HS2 line

and re-connecting with the A 413 south of the Small Dean viaduct. This relief road should be used by HS2Ltd for construction traffic and for access for spoil delivery vehicles during the construction phase, but should be built to public highway standard so that it can become an extension to the Wendover bypass and part of the A413 thereafter.

THE BENEFITS OF YOUR PETITIONERS' PROPOSALS

17. The benefits of these three proposals to both your petitioners and to HS2 Ltd are outlined below.

18. During the construction of HS2 at Wendover Dean the works to build a 6 metre high embankment, topped with 6 metre gantries as well as two very large viaducts will create a great deal of dust, noise and smell pollution. Inevitably this will cause disputes between HS2 LTD and local residents, some of which may lead to civil, or criminal actions. In turn this will not only lead to delays for HS2Ltd, it will also divert management from its primary purpose of managing

19. During the construction phase the A413 will inevitably be subjected to extensive disruption and congestion. [HS2Ltd foresees an increase of 30 % in traffic in its own documentation]. Already congestion is frequent when there is a minor accident or simply because a farm vehicle needs to make a journey during rush hour. Indeed due to a major accident on the road in March 2014 the tail back extended into and beyond Aylesbury [6 miles away] and clogged up the A41 and other roads into and out of the town. The addition to normal traffic referred to in HS2 Ltd's own documentation makes an increase in such congestion inevitable. This will inconvenience Your Petitioners, as well as the general public significantly. It will also cause delays to HS2Ltd. Furthermore there is genuine concern about emergency services, especially ambulances. Aside from the fact that the A413 is used as a general route for ambulances taking casualties and sick people to Stoke Mandeville hospital, the road is also used to transfer emergency cardiac patients from Stoke Mandeville to the specialist cardiac car unit at High Wycombe hospital. It is not inconceivable that a patient will die due to delays caused by HS2 construction traffic.

20. Any of the three proposals in this petition will relieve these potential problems.

21. Once the Line is built and in operation the blight on Your Petitioners' home will continue. It is proposed by HS2Ltd that there will be 18 trains per hour running in each direction [more than one every two minutes]. Nobody knows how much noise will be generated by trains running at 225mph, since there are no such examples in existence. However it is reasonable to suppose that the sound levels will exceed those of HS1, but at much greater frequency. This will severely impair Your Petitioners' enjoyment of their home and garden, indeed it may even impair their health. It will certainly affect their mental health.

Already one of your petitioners has had to consult his GP and has is receiving treatment for the consequences of stress caused by uncertainty due to HS2.

22, Also the presence of the Line together with the frequency of trains will adversely affect the value of their home permanently.

22. YOUR PETITIONERS therefore 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 Counsel, Agent and witnesses in support of the allegations of this petition against the clauses and provisions of the Bill as affects the rights and interests of your petitioners and in support of such clauses, amendments or provisions as may be necessary or expedient for their protection, or that such other relief may be given to your Petitioners as your Honourable House may deem meet.

AND your Petitioners will ever pray etc.

[signed]

Agent for the above-named Petitioners

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS SESSION 2013-2014

HIGH SPEED RAIL [LONDON - -WEST MIDLANDS] BILL

PETITION OF MADELINE ELEANOR HARRIS { 1 } AND GERALD RAYMOND
HARRIS { 2 }

Against the bill – On Merits - By Counsel &c

CONTACT DETAILS OF AGENT

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