

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 Patricia Mead

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”) owns and lives at ‘Aveley House’, Rocky Lane, Wendover HP22 6PR.
6. Your Petitioner and his interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons, amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

6.1 She has lived in this property/in Wendover for 26 years. She is 80 years of age.

6.2 Your Petitioner's property is shown in the Zone of Theoretical Visibility in LV-036 and in map CT-10-020.

6.3 Your Petitioner has received letters and information in the post from HS2 which indicate that it considers she is affected by the Bill.

6.4 The Bill would authorise the construction and operation of the railway through the whole of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The proposed line would run over-ground for approximately 1.5 miles and within 250 metres of your Petitioner's property (to the SSE/E and NNW).

6.5 Your Petitioner objects to the proposed works including two viaducts at Wendover Dean and Small Dean, a bridge over Rocky Lane, lowering by 3metres of the road beneath the aforesaid and embankments 10metres high, plus gantries. Ancillary works include satellite compounds (Rocky Lane, Wendover Dean, Road Barn Farm and Small Dean main compound), auto-transformer Station (Rocky Lane), balancing ponds (Rocky Lane and E of A413).

6.6 Your Petitioner avers that the proposed works will change forever the rural character of this area and agrees with The Council for Rural England that the only acceptable option is for a fully bored tunnel throughout the Chilterns AONB.

6.7 Your Petitioner proposes that, instead of the over-ground construction proposals listed at 6.5 above, a fully bored tunnel should start at the southern boundary of the Chilterns AONB and run continuously to the boundary of the AONB at Stoke Mandeville. This would avoid the high cost of building viaducts, bridge under-pass, embankment work, compulsory purchase of farm buildings, loss of hedges, trees, farm land and purchase of nearby properties

6.8 The proposal of a bored tunnel would reduce the construction work and therefore the number of heavy goods vehicles using the A413, which is already a busy arterial road used by emergency services between High Wycombe Hospital and Stoke Mandeville Hospital. It would avoid the complete transformation of Rocky Lane from a quiet area to a full scale construction site.

6.9 If a bored-tunnel is rejected by your Honourable House your Petitioner requests that the water main in Rocky Lane be removed to the south side before work on construction begins as heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) will eventually cause bursts and flooding in the area due to their weight and the age of the existing fragile system.

6.10 The lowering by 3metres of the Rocky Lane under-bridge tunnel will need sufficient drainage to cope with excess surface water. At present the junction of Rocky Lane with the A413 often floods after heavy rain.

6.11 All balancing ponds for railway and embankment drainage should have soakaways to underground reservoirs.

6.12 Your Petitioner avers that during construction work she will be seriously affected by disruption of traffic in the area, compounded by an extra 300 HGVs each day on already busy routes, i.e. the A413, B4009 and the A41. There would also be a large increase in traffic on Rocky Lane where the Petitioner's property is situated.

6.13 Exiting the Petitioner's property using a vehicle and turning right onto the A413 will be a serious traffic hazard. This will affect shopping times, accessing the Health Centre, Church, Graveyard, Station and visiting friends in the locality and cause considerable additional stress.

6.14 Your Petitioner, as an elderly person whose home has been blighted for the last 4 years due to HS2s proposals, is already adversely affected by stress. When work commences the constant noise as viaducts, bridge, road re-alignment, auto-transformer station, hard-standing and balancing ponds are constructed will result in anxiety and loss of sleep. This will be exacerbated by the continual flow of HGVs and cars to the satellite compound.

6.15 Dust from the vast pile of spoil at Hunts Green Farm and other construction works will result in loss of quiet enjoyment of your Petitioner's home and garden. It could also lead to respiratory problems being experienced due to the nature of the material being excavated.

6.16 Your Petitioner is concerned regarding a changing workforce and consequent loss of security. The code of construction practice should be independently monitored to ensure that construction times and excessive light pollution and noise levels do not exceed acceptable limits.

6.17 Your Petitioner avers that on completion of construction this area of the Chilterns AONB will be unrecognisable and its present appeal lost to future generations of cyclists, walkers and lovers of the countryside for ever.

6.18 Trains running every 2 minutes, 400m in length at speeds of up to 240MPH will destroy the enjoyment of the area. The noise, constant from early morning till night, light pollution and toxic waste will all add to feeling cut off from normal day-to-day activities.

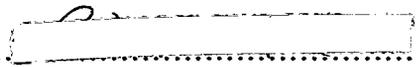
6.19 Your Petitioner avers that the current proposals of HS2 for compensation are unacceptable. A scheme of this magnitude should offer those extremely adversely affected purchase of their homes at 100% market value before work commences in 2017.

6.20. 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.

7. In conclusion Your Petitioner avers that the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty must therefore be tunnelled throughout.

YOUR PETITIONER therefore prays your Honourable House that the Bill may not be allowed to pass into law as it now stands and that he 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 his 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.

Signature of Petitioner ... 

[Mrs Patricia Mead]

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PETITION OF PATRICIA MEAD

Against the Bill - On Merits - By Counsel &c

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