

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013-14

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 PETER ANTONY STANWORTH and
JANET MARSALI STANWORTH

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 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 PETER ANTONY STANWORTH and JANET MARSALI STANWORTH. Our property is LONG MEADOW FARM, HOB LANE, BURTON GREEN, KENILWORTH, CV8 1QB. It is a Grade II listed building. We have lived in the property for 29 years. We chose the property as it is placed in a quiet rural setting and yet gives easy access to the City of Coventry. The property has a frontage on Hob Lane. It is proposed by HS2 Limited that Hob Lane should be used as a designated route for contractors vehicles during the construction phase.
- 8 Your Petitioners and their rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
- 9 Your petitioners assert that we are unreasonably and unnecessarily affected during the construction phase of the proposed the HS2 railway current design, as described in the Bill and in the supporting documents including the Environmental Statement.
- 10 Hob Lane is a narrow lane extending for 1½ miles between Burton Green and Balsall Common. It has a footpath on one side of the lane which is 600 yards long at the Burton Green end of the lane. It is a very narrow lane so that for example a car has to mount the verge to allow a farm vehicle to pass. The lane has 4 curves between the Burton Green end and the half way point with high hedges which completely block visibility. There are 2 fairly steep gradients in this section. There is no street lighting. There is currently a 40mph speed restriction through out its length. Pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists as well as farm vehicles use the lane. It is thus currently a dangerous lane with a high risk of an accident causing injury or death to the road users. If Hob Lane is to be used for construction traffic for HS2 Limited it would become unacceptably dangerous and prove even more difficult to use in the presence of construction vehicles.
- 11 The proposed construction traffic will unacceptably cause noise, dust and vibration in what is currently a quiet rural setting. It will destroy the environment and one of the reasons for us choosing to live in Burton Green.
- 12 The pond adjacent to Hob Lane on our property contains Greater Crested Newts. These are an endangered species. The increase in construction traffic will put the species at further risk.
- 13 Long Meadow Farm is a series of Grade II listed buildings. It is a farm house with connected adjacent buildings. It is partly of brick and partly of timber frame construction. The original buildings are over 300 years old. They have poor foundations and are not of strong construction as compared to buildings that are built to current regulations. The buildings are thus at increased risk from the vibration of heavy construction traffic.
- 14 Burton Green Church of England Primary School is adjacent to our property on Hob Lane. Although the footpath extends past the school the proposed construction traffic will add increased risk of an accident to the Primary School children passing our house going to and from school.
- 15 Because of the adverse effects of the construction phase spoiling the amenities your petitioners may wish to move home. No compensation will be provided under current regulations.
- 16 The problems outlined above could be completely removed by:
 1. Not using Hob Lane as a route for HS2 construction traffic. The route could possibly follow the proposed track of the railway line.
 2. Using a deep bored tunnel under Burton Green (Option F within HS2 documents).
 3. Offering financial compensation for a possible home move.

17 For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioners respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, the Bill so far as affecting your Petitioners, should not be allowed to pass into law.

18 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.

Signed

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P.A. & J.M. Stanworth

