

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 2014-15

1002

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 RONALD FISHER AND PATRICIA FISHER OF 49 PERRY STREET IN THE VILLAGE OF WENDOVER, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

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 Petitioners (hereinafter referred to as "the Petitioners") live in Perry Street, Wendover and have lived in Wendover for 19 years.

The Bill would authorise the construction and operation of the railway through and near Wendover. The proposed line would run close to your Petitioner's property.

6. Your Petitioners are injuriously affected by the Bill and urge the House to give full and sympathetic consideration to amending the Bill to mitigate the considerable damage done to their personal circumstances, property and environment.

7. Your Petitioners properties are shown in Map SV-05-019. They have been recipients of letters and information in the post from HS2 Ltd which indicate that the company considers they are affected by the Bill.

8. Your Petitioners object to both the construction and operation of certain works presently proposed by HS2 Ltd between Little Missenden and Stoke Mandeville. These works comprise an embankment between Harley 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. They include ancillary works such as satellite compounds, auto-transformer stations, balancing ponds and portal buildings.

9. Your Petitioners' main objective is to persuade your Honourable House to lower the line into a fully bored tunnel as it passes through Wendover.

10. During the construction phase of the HS2 line through Wendover your Petitioners would be affected by:

i) the serious disruption of traffic and substantial delays on local roads, especially the A413 and the B4009. These roads are regularly used by your Petitioners.

ii) the strong possibility of serious disruption to the services of Chiltern Railway train services along the line from Aylesbury to London Marylebone. These services are regularly used by your Petitioners.

iii) serious strains on local community services such as the Wendover Health Centre and Stoke Mandeville Hospital caused by the temporary influx of construction workers.

iv) dust caused by excavation and construction. This would exacerbate the respiratory problems of a number of ageing Petitioners.

v) substantial visual damage to this part of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Your Petitioners chose to live in Wendover because of the beauty of the surrounding landscape.

vi) substantial damage to the environment of St Mary's Church, which we attend for religious services and for various cultural activities.

vii) disruption to footpaths in the Chiltern hills, many of which are used regularly by your Petitioners for walking and general recreation.

viii) significant noise from construction machinery and associated traffic.

11. Following the completion of HS2 your Petitioners would be particularly affected:

i) your Petitioners' view of the Chiltern Hills AONB would be permanently scarred by the obtrusive viaduct and embankment. The line would be clearly visible from numerous viewpoints in the locality and many of the roads and footpaths regularly used by them for travel and recreation. It would become an overbearing, dominant aspect of the landscape.

ii) there will be a significant increase in noise levels in and around the village, with anticipated train frequencies of up to two minute intervals. HS2 Ltd estimate that the noise levels in Perry Street would substantially increase. This is estimated to be increased between 3 and 5 decibels although this cannot be accurately assessed until the actual train specification is disclosed and the speeds at which they will travel through the village have been confirmed. The primary source of this increased noise will be the passage of trains over the viaduct and the embankment leading from this to the green tunnel.

iii) there will be a permanent reduction in the values of your Petitioners properties. These have already been significantly depressed since the announcement of the planned route.

iv) there will be substantial damage to local facilities, especially St Mary's Church and the Wendover cricket club.

12. Your Petitioners respectfully propose that part of the scheduled works be replaced by the construction of a fully-bored tunnel from Little Missenden to the end of the AONB north of Wendover. This would substantially mitigate many of your Petitioners' concerns. This has been proposed by the Chiltern Ridges Action Group and its feasibility, in respect of engineering and construction, has been confirmed by HS2 Ltd. It is the view of your Petitioners that the increased cost of construction would be substantially, if not wholly, offset by savings associated with the compulsory purchase of properties and land, movement of electricity pylons and avoidance of damage to the environment.

YOUR PETITIONERS therefore pray your Honourable House that the Bill may not be passed 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 such of the clauses and provisions of the Bill as affect the rights and interests of your Petitioners and in support of such other 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

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Contact details:

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