

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION (2013-2014)

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 Rosamund Elizabeth Wood

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 petitioner is the freehold owner of a property in the settlement of Dunsmore, Nr. Wendover. Your Petitioner has lived in Dunsmore since 1978. Prior to this your Petitioner, on marriage, moved to Amersham. This was in 1952. Your Petitioner has chosen to live in The Chilterns for the last 62 years because of the natural beauty, peace, tranquillity, and the wild life. The Petitioner is a member of The Dunsmore Village Hall Association and The Dunsmore Society. These organisations have engaged with HS2 Ltd. in Bilateral and Forum meetings. Your Petitioner is also a Trustee of the Church of the Resurrection, in Dunsmore.
- 8 Your Petitioner’s rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
- 9 Your Petitioner avers that she will be severely affected in the construction and operation phases of the proposed HS2 railway.

Construction and Operation phases will be injurious to your Petitioner.

Dunsmore is a unique place immediately south of Wendover and on the western ridge of the Misbourne Valley. At approximately 850 ft above sea level it is the highest settlement in the Chilterns. It is a haven of beauty, peace, and tranquillity. This will be destroyed by HS2. The impacts that will injuriously affect your Petitioner in terms of her quality of life are related to noise and visual impact the desecration of the protected landscape, the countryside and wildlife. Your Petitioner walks her dog for 2 miles each day before breakfast and this is currently a therapeutic experience. HS2 will destroy this simple pleasure.

As a Trustee of The Church of the Resurrection your Petitioner shares responsibility, with the other Trustees, for the maintenance and the up keep of the fabric of the Church. Funds are raised in a variety of ways but one of the most important is the Sunday Cream Teas. Local people provide homemade cakes and donate them to the Church. Volunteers prepare and serve the teas. Your Petitioner is greatly concerned that Church income will be reduced because of the degradation of the Environment, in construction and in operation. Currently people come to the teas from some distance away, on foot, on bikes and in cars. It will no longer be a desirable place to come. The Church, which is independent and ecumenical, has to be self-supportive and this is at risk. It's a vital asset to the Dunsmore community.

Your Petitioner drives only short distances. Dunsmore has no shops and consequentially she relies on her regular visits to Wendover for provisions etc. Your Petitioner opines that Wendover shops and businesses will be seriously impacted by the HS2 construction phase and avers that there will be a reduction in the amenities available to her in Wendover.

Your Petitioner will experience considerable traffic delays for several years caused by the daily addition of 300 HGV's envisaged by HS2Ltd using the A413, B4009 and the A41 during construction.

The proposed closure of Smalldene Lane will mean that all vehicles will have to use the Dunsmore Lane junction with the A413. This junction was not given special analysis by HS2Ltd during the Environmental Statement despite comments in response that the traffic flows asserted by them are completely wrong. The closure of Smalldene Lane will force your Petitioner when returning from Wendover to use the A413 and to stop and make a right turn to get home, crossing continuous and heavy traffic with limited visibility putting your petitioners and others at risk.

The Petitioner has had to make use of both the ambulance and fire emergency services whilst living in Dunsmore. Any delay in emergency service response times could be significantly injurious to the Petitioner and/or her property.

HS2 Ltd noise assessment has not taken into account the topography of the valley or the tranquility levels. HS2Ltd. HS2 Ltd would prefer to pretend places like Dunsmore do not exist and by doing so seem to believe their problems will go away. HS2Ltd has admitted that, as our settlement is located above the line we would experience serious aural and visual disturbance, yet have not produced any solution to this problem.

The settlement of Dunsmore, is detrimentally affected by the monstrous construction of two viaducts with heights ranging from 10 to 18 metres and the associated catenary above, and a huge embankment. This is undoubtedly the gravest section of the line in the Chilterns AONB. The gross nature of which has been underplayed by a succession of Transport Ministers. The line would be visible from many viewpoints around Dunsmore. The cumulative effect would be overpowering and would destroy what is a nationally protected landscape The Dunsmore area and the AoNB will be irrevocably vandalised. The CPRE described this section of the proposed line as the iconic scar on The Chilterns.

Remedies

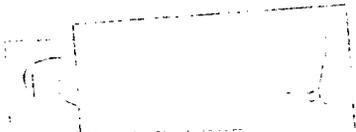
- In the light of all the issues above your Petitioner asserts that the only acceptable form of mitigation in this area would be a fully bored tunnel throughout the AoNB. HS2 Ltd. has acknowledged that this is technically feasible.
- Failing the above, the 2 viaducts and embankment should be totally enclosed as per ARUP concept. Screening must be with mature trees.
- There should be a legally binding Code of Construction Practice.

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 PETITIONER 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 Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

Signature of Petitioner in person,



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BILL

PETITION

AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.
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