

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 Patricia Riley-Page

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 lives at Old Fields, Aylesbury Road, Wendover, Bucks, HP22 6AP. Your Petitioner, a retired solicitor, has lived in Wendover almost continuously since the age of 21 years. Your Petitioner lives within the CF10 forum area and has responded to HS2 Ltd Consultations. The Petitioner's home, is situated at the Aylesbury end of the Historic town of Wendover. The home lies east of the proposed line and within relatively close proximity to the proposed Wendover Green tunnel and the northern tunnel portal. The green tunnel is at maximum, a 20 metre deep covered cutting.

The Historic town of Wendover, and consequently your Petitioner's home are framed by the Chilterns AONB. Immediately South of Wendover HS2 would run on two 500 metre viaducts to a maximum height with catenary of 26 metres and an adjoining huge embankment. In the local AONB there will be balancing ponds feeder stations.

- 8 Your Petitioner's rights, interests and home are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing. Furthermore their enjoyment of their property and environment will be seriously reduced during construction and operation.
- 9 Your Petitioner avers that she will be seriously and adversely affected during both the construction phase and then during operation. Problems caused by Construction and Operation phases of proposed HS2 injuriously impacting on your Petitioner are broad terms the following:

9.1 The total desecration of the locality, including the delightful historic market town of Wendover, the Misbourne Valley, and the AONB adversely impacts your Petitioner and it will seriously reduce her quality of life and the amenity value of her home and environment. Your Petitioner believes that her Human Rights under Article 1 of the First Protocol are being breached.

In the destruction of the AONB, a protected landscape, I believe that Government is failing their duty under the CROW ACT 2000 Section 85.

9.2 The chalk dust, in particular during the excavation of the cutting for the Green tunnel, will be a health hazard and great nuisance, as the prevailing winds are South Westerly. It is inconceivable that the whole construction area can be kept damp to prevent the dust being carried from the site. Your Petitioner is asthmatic and dust exacerbates her condition. The dust will increase the volume of housework required, as was experienced during the construction of the by-pass.

9.3 Noise from construction and operation will destroy the tranquility of the area. The Petitioner is a regular attendee of St Mary's Church, Wendover. I attends this listed beautiful Church as a parishioner/worshiper, a member of U3A, and musical events many of which she helps to arrange, mostly for Charities including Multiple Sclerosis, PACE, Help for Heroes. The Church has the only large concert facility in Wendover.

The proposed HS2 line crosses the A413 on a 500 metre viaduct close to St Mary's Church. This Petitioner asserts that St Mary's Church may well become obsolete and not fit for purpose. This despite a recent costly refurbishment. This will adversely affect this Petitioner.

HS2 Ltd noise assessment has not taken into account the topography of the valley or the location of the Church, or existing tranquility levels.

Your Petitioner has an allotment on Aylesbury Rd had her enjoyment of this will be marred by noise, visual and dust disturbance thus impacting her quality of life.

9.4 During construction there will be serious disruption of traffic and substantial delays caused by the daily addition of 300 HGV's envisaged by HS2Ltd using the A413, B4009 and the A41. This additional traffic your Petitioner avers will have a serious and negative affect on her life.

Firstly the congestion will have a detrimental effect on the delivery of Emergency Services to Wendover and local area, this inevitably causes concern. It is certain that all local journey times will become longer and less predictable because of traffic and road disruption. Your Petitioner opines this will detrimentally affect her on almost a daily basis. She has grandchildren living in Aylesbury and Stoke Mandeville. She has a permanent commitment to collect them from school and to look after them in their and her home.

9.5 Your Petitioners view of The Chilterns AONB would be permanently and irrevocably scarred by the construction of two viaducts each 500 metres long and maximum height with catenary of 26 metres, and a line on top of a high embankment. The cumulative effect would be overpowering and would destroy what is a nationally protected landscape, and the historic town of Wendover.

The effect of a maximum 36 x 400 meter trains per hour will totally destroy the tranquility of the AoNB and also, despite the green tunnel, Wendover. The issue of night-time maintenance and track grinding is also an area of great concern to your Petitioner.

Remedial Measures:

A fully bored tunnel to the end of the AoNB would solve most of the problems for the Petitioner.

The construction above ground of HS2 in the AoNB would be an act of irreversible vandalism that few would wish to include in their legacy. The Petitioner has great concerns that there are other matters she cannot foresee, and therefore cannot comment on.

There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill, which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your Petitioner and his rights, interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioner.

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

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