

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 2013–14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION

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 Alan David Spear and Jane Kathryn Spear

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 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 are specified in clauses 1 and 2 of and Schedules 1 and 2 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 and Schedules 2 and 3 to the Bill.
7. Your Petitioners live at 5 Chestnut Close, Handsacre, WS15 4TH; there are two of us in the property and we have lived there for 23 years. Your Petitioner, Alan David Spear, is semi-retired and Your Petitioner, Jane Kathryn Spear, works full time. The impact of HS2 on Your Petitioner's lives will be considerably as, although our property will not be demolished as a result of the Bill, it is located within 150 metres of the line. The Bill has already had a dramatic effect on property prices within our area which, although average prices are showing an upward trend in other parts of the UK, is keeping our property prices below their rightful level. The Bill will also cause disruption to road journeys around the Handsacre area for many years which will make journeys to and from place of work longer and slower.
8. Your Petitioners and their rights, interests and/or property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
9. Your Petitioners main concerns are as follows:

The Bill includes powers for the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker to carry out construction works which are estimated to take 10 years to complete and will include lorry movements, the creation of dust and noise, poor air quality and 24 hour working, all of which will cause significant disruption the village of Handsacre.

Your Petitioners have already have their lives blighted once by the widening of the West Coast Main Line; having just recovered from that we are now targeted again.

Your Petitioners property will lose considerable value, before, during and after completion of the HS2 works and this point alone makes us directly and specially affected by the Bill.

Routes for construction traffic are planned by creating a permanent access road off Spode Avenue/Tuppenhurst Lane, passing the gates of Hayes Meadow Primary School. This is a permanent feature and will remain after construction is completed. In addition, a construction compound on Old Road on the South side of the railway bridge, with construction access turning out by Carthy's store. Also, a permanent access road is planned off the B5014 Lichfield Road just beyond Rowan Drive/Chestnut Close to service the balancing pond beside the track. The beforementioned routes will impact directly on your Petitioners.

HS2 will increase the amount of noise pollution, again impacting your Petitioners property prices.

The local landscape and ecology will be dramatically affected both during construction, due to temporary compounds for soil storage, etc, and afterwards, as many roads will be diverted/built as permanent fixtures.

There has been a lack of consultation with ourselves as residents of Handsacre.

Inadequacy of compensation.

10. Your Petitioners object to the powers that are proposed to be provided by the Bill to the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker and respectfully submit that the Bill should be amended or undertakings should be required so that HS2 Limited, the Secretary of State and/or the Nominated Undertaker must review the construction strategy for the project and its related works by considering their cumulative impacts on communities. And they need to suggest necessary changes from the results of that review before works design and construction strategies have been finalised or construction contractors employed. Amongst the issues raised in (9) above Your Petitioners would comment as follows:

Consideration should be given to routing construction traffic around the village of Handsacre, where possible, and not through it. There should be no work at night close to residential property which would cause noise and light pollution. The spraying of water onto roads, etc, should be a priority in order to keep dust levels down.

The access road proposed near Hayes Meadow School should not be used between 8.00am-9.00am and 3.00pm-4.00pm in term time.

The construction compound on Old Road and the permanent access road off the B5014 are likely to be potential threats to life, being position on or near bends in the road.

Your Petitioners require compensation for the affect this Bill will have on the sale price of their property.

Reduce the proposed speed of HS2 through this area which would allow for greater routing options and a lower carbon footprint.

There should be a time limit on reverting compounds/temporary site areas back to what they were originally.

11. For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioners respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, so far affecting your Petitioners, should not be allowed to pass into law.
12. 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 Petitioners in the premises as your Honourable House shall deem meet.

AND your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signed:





IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

Against the Bill – On Merits – By Counsel &c

Agent Contact Details:

[Redacted]