

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 Nick Phillips, Orchard Bend, Dunsmore, Bucks, HP22 6QH

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 Nicholas Phillips, his wife and children of Orchard End Dunsmore HP22 6QH objects to the Bill proposed by HS2 Ltd as the Phillips family will be negatively impacted in their day to day life during construction as, Mrs Rosie Phillips, (same address) head teacher in a school some 8 miles east will have considerable time added to her journey of potentially an 200 hours traveling per year when she will not be productively educating children and have added stress caused by the development of HS2. Each of my children will similarly face extended delays of up to 200 hours per year and I will also have at least that time added. As a family HS2 construction will cause us all to lose 200 hours of wasted traveling time that is 25 working days lost per person.

Remedy:

Construct a fully Bored Tunnel through the Chilterns AONB.

- 8 Your Petitionedr Nick Phillips and his family has the right to the quiet enjoyment of their property. Choosing to move to a rural and measurably tranquil location, the development and the ongoing running of HS2 will disrupt that basic right to quiet enjoyment of their day to day life. The impact of this disruption is significantly extenuated by the difference between the ambient noise levels now and proposed. It is understood that the noise mapping is so great an impact that there is no train operating today that comes close to the expected noise levels. The life of Nick Phillips and his family will be negatively impacted by the building of and running of HS2.

Remedy:

Construct a fully Bored Tunnel through the Chilterns AONB.

- 9 Your Petitioner is an insomniac and moved to the location in question partly for the quiet nights the study **The Interdepartmental Group on Costs and Benefits Noise Subject Group (IGCB(N))** found that:

“evidence was found between noise and other health effects, including annoyance, mental health, hypertension (high blood pressure), sleep disturbance, cognitive development in children and hearing impairment.”

Clearly your petitioners life will be negatively affected and even reduced by HS2 construction and running.

Remedy:

Construct a fully Bored Tunnel through the Chilterns AONB.

10. The Chilterns is a natural landscape formed during the ice age. It is unique and has been recognised by government to have AONB status. This is the same status as given to National Parks. HS2 will damage and destroy that landscape. Your petitioner, on behalf of future generations wants recognition that the impact of HS2 on the natural environment will deprive all future generations of the enjoyment of the natural landscape that exists today.

Remedy:

Construct a fully Bored Tunnel through the Chilterns AONB.

12. The people and businesses in the Chilterns will be economically disadvantaged by the HS2 both in construction and in the future.

Businesses grow by raising capital and most capital is raised against the value of the property asset. HS2 will reduce the ability for local businesses to grow as their capital will be reduced in value by HS2 causing noise and traffic congestion during construction. Tourism industry in the Chilterns, that employs thousands of people will be negatively impacted by the lack of visitors either dissuaded by the noise of HS2 or by the visual damage to the beauty of the AONB Chilterns.

Remedy:

Construct a fully Bored Tunnel through the Chilterns AONB.

In Summary The Phillips Family of Orchard Bend will be affected because:

1. Impact on daily life by increased noise, pollution and transport delays.
2. Health impacted by loss of sleep caused by lighting and noise from construction and running of HS2
3. Loss of value of family asset – home estimated to fall in value by 20 -30%
4. Loss of quality of life by losing the tranquility of the AONB Chilterns.
5. Local economy will suffer as construction, noise and draw of beauty of AONB will put of visitors.
6. Local economy will suffer as businesses will not expand and grow as asset depreciation, transport difficulties and loss of tourism and domestic custom will cause businesses to contract or fail.

Issues of concern arising from Operation.

- 1) This project once completed, will be disaster in perpetuity, this may well be a statement of the obvious, however, the desecration caused will never be one that can ever be recovered. The damage is irreversible and it shows that the legal protection provided to other protected landscapes throughout the Country are deluded if they think that they have a truly protected status. Therefore unless a proven business can be established then the operation cannot be allowed to destroy protected landscapes.
- 2) Unlike other infrastructure projects such as motorways, this railway has no benefit to those most affected by its construction and operation as there is no access. As such we have” no gain only pain “. The project is City connection based and the rural environment is left to suffer the ill effects with no compensation or minimal mitigation.

3) Once in operation the visual, aural impact will still be starkly evident to everyone in this valley and especially those living on the ridges along the crests. The environment of Dunsmore will have been destroyed for the residents and most importantly for future generations, this was the reason for the legal protection offered to specialist landscapes. This disregard for local sensitivities is best evidenced by the proposed "sustainable placement site" at Hunt's Green, this is in effect a waste dump, 1.3 km by 450 mts by 9 mts high. This shows a complete disregard for the concept of a protected unique landscape. For the benefit of the Committee this equates to at least 100 football pitches in length by 10 pitches wide and the height of over 2 double decker buses high!!!! (At least Double Decker buses might be of use to the local community)!

This will change the appearance of the Misbourne Valley completely in perpetuity.

4) NIBY's is a term used by HS2 Ltd and others to diminish and disregard the comments of people affected. Yet those people have an important role, they are, as in this case, the best informed and educated in the detail of the proposal. Well informed NIMBY's statements far from being disregarded should carry the greatest weight. Today it may be our back yard but every parent must understand that Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty exist for their grandchildren's enjoyment and once lost are lost to all generations where ever they live.

Remedies:

A fully bored tunnel of the entire AONB Chilterns is necessary to preserve the integrity of the countryside for future generations.

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.

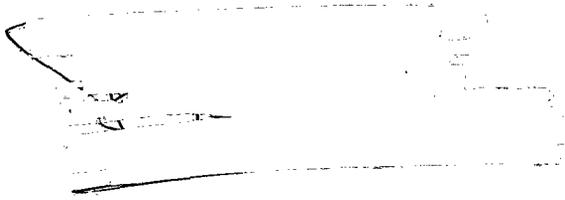
YOUR PETITIONERS therefore humbly pray your Honourable House that the Bill may not be allowed to pass into law as it now stands and that they may be heard by their Counsel, Agents and witnesses in support of the allegations of this Petition against so much of the Bill as affects the property, rights 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.



Signature of Petitioner.



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BILL

PETITIONER Nick Phillips

AGAINST

