

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION

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 JOHN AND CAROLE DAVIS

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 own and reside at Old Forge, Hill Road, Lower Boddington, Northamptonshire NN11 6YB. We have lived here for 27 years and we are both in our 60s. Your Petitioners are both semi retired and at a stage where there is a need to downsize in terms of both size of home and size of garden to maintain. Lower Boddington is a small rural village and Your Petitioners property is located within a few metres of the junction key through road to the village. This road is the one all construction traffic will use. A works depot is also to be sited in the village. The property is over 400 years old, has no foundations, single glass windows and Your Petitioners are very worried at the damage a constant flow of construction traffic will cause, necessitating repairs to the house and the dirt and dust will be difficult to keep in check.

8. Your Petitioners and their rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
9. The Bill includes powers for the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker to do 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. This will inevitably lead to severe sleep deprivation and considerable health concerns as one of Your Petitioners has asthma and respiratory problems as a result of Pulmonary Disease. Constant heavy goods vehicle and heavy plant traffic could have a very detrimental impact on a property without foundations and Your Petitioners will find it very difficult to maintain the fabric and interior of the property.
10. Your Petitioners respectfully submit that powers should be provided for in the Bill so that HS2 Ltd, the Secretary of State and or the Nominated Undertaker should purchase our property to enable their management to use the accommodation during the construction works. There would be no overall cost to HS2 Ltd as the property remains an asset that can be sold when the construction work is completed. For Your Petitioners it would mean being able to move into full retirement without the fear of what is going to happen in their lives at a time when a life time of hard work should be finally at a relaxed end and something to be looked forward to.
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 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 such of the clauses and provisions of the Bill as affect the property, rights and interests of your Petitioner 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.



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PETITION OF MR JOHN JEFFREY DAVIS and MRS CAROLE ANN DAVIS

Against the Bill - On Merits - By Counsel &c

Mr and Mrs J J Davis

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