

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 Mr Colin George Noble and Mrs Kim Patricia Noble

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 are a married couple who live $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the HS2 Phase 2 proposed line and a mile north of the proposed Kings Bromley spur. At 1, Mavesyn Close, Hill Ridware, Rugeley, Staffordshire WS15 3RA. We live in a residential cul-de-sac just off the main road, we have lived here for 22 years and planned to sell our property in the next few years realise the equity and retire to a smaller house in the north. However now as we will be in an area of high development for HS2 we believe the blight on our property price will make our lifetime plans much less likely.
8. Your Petitioners and their 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 disruption on our village roads and affect our ability to travel and care for our elderly disabled parents in Colton, another affected village 3 miles North West.

Road traffic through the village of Hill Ridware: Our concerns are heavy construction traffic travelling through the main street of Hill Ridware during the construction phase will cause major disruption and potential accidents. The road has a number of bends and is only 5 metres wide with a pavement on one side of the road only for most of its length. This pavement in places narrows to as little as one metre wide.

Your Petitioners are concerned that the phase one spur at Kings Bromley points directly along the current proposed phase 2 route through the Ridware villages making it inevitable that phase 2 will pass through the Ridwares, yet the residents have not yet been afforded proper consultation on phase 2, both the line and the proposed maintenance loop.

Your Petitioners are concerned on the effects on ecology during construction the area is subject to flooding and heavy construction work can only make the situation worse.

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 our community. They need to consider necessary changes from the results of that review before works design and construction strategies have been finalised or construction contractors employed.

Your Petitioners would propose the following solutions for consideration: Severely restricting the size of construction vehicles travelling through the villages and the hours of use from 24 hours per day to hours excluding commuter and school peak times and restricting the journeys during the hours of darkness. In addition construction traffic should be banned from local single track lanes. All spoil should be dampened to reduce dust and air pollution.

The Kings Bromley spur should be abandoned until proper consultation has been granted for phase 2.

Proper studies carried out on the local ecology to establish the real impact on the flood plain.

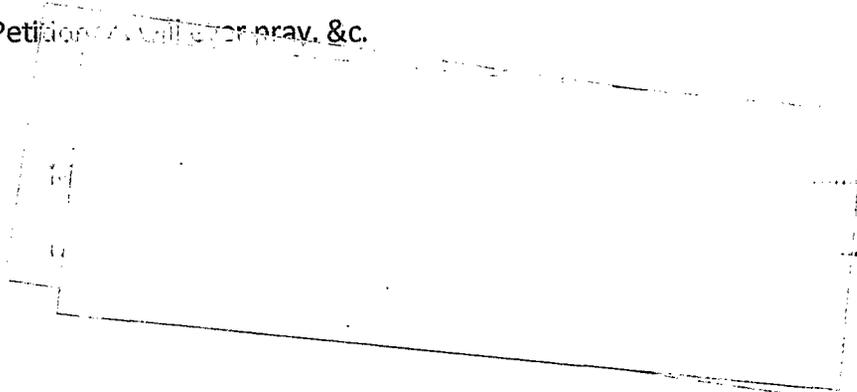
11. For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioners respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, so far affecting your Petitioners, should not be allowed to pass into law.

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:



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in draft - 8; Counsel &c

21.00.00