

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 John Baker and Deborah Carol Baker.

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. Alan John Baker and Deborah Carol Baker, of 67 Moorfield Road, Denham Green, Bucks UB9 5NE (hereinafter called the petitioner(s)) have lived here for 20 years. We live on a residential road. We moved here because of the rural nature and location of the house opposite a farmers field and close proximity to the M40/M25 motorways and Chiltern rail network and bus routes. We are within 200 metres of a shopping parade.
8. Your Petitioner(s) are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner(s) object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
9. We are concerned about the effect that construction traffic will have on our property bringing with it intolerable disruption, noise and dust pollution on a major scale with the potential disruption for 24 hours a day lasting several years. We would be severely affected by noise due to our close proximity to the construction work/traffic.
10. We have two children, a daughter aged 22 and a son aged 18 who have lived here virtually all their lives. We live in a rural area and are fortunate to have a field opposite our house which is close to the River Colne. Whilst our property would not be demolished under the scheme, the viaduct will be located approximately 300

metres from our property crossing Broadwater and Savay fishing lakes. It is inevitable that we will be adversely affected by the construction traffic, noise, dust pollution etc whilst the building work is carried out.

11. We are close to the Denham Country Park which is part of the The Colne Valley Park Visitor Centre and is the central information point for the whole of the Colne Valley Regional Park. We believe that the huge scale of this project will massively impact on our daily lives. 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.
12. 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.
13. Your Petitioner requests that the local authority should be provided with funding to undertake responsibility, compliance and enforcement for the monitoring, of air quality in accordance with these binding mitigation plans and that the results of monitoring are made publicly available.
14. Should we find the construction project intolerable and we are forced to move, we would expect to be offered the full market value of our property by HS2 as it would be very difficult to sell our house once the project is underway. In addition we would ask that the local authority consider reducing the speed limit on this road to ensure that site vehicles cause less disruption. Alternatively as we are in close proximity to an area designated a SSI we would request that consideration is given to provide a tunnel instead of a viaduct to reduce the severe impact on the area and nature.
15. For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioner(s) respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, so far affecting your Petitioner(s), should not be allowed to pass into law.
16. There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your Petitioner(s) and their rights, interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioner(s).

17. Your Petitioner(s) 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 Petitioner(s) 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(s) in the premises as your Honourable House shall deem meet.

AND your Petitioner(s) will ever pray, &c.

Signed Alan John Baker and Deborah Carol Baker

Signed:-

Dated: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014

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PETITION OF Alan John Baker & Deborah Carol Baker of 67 Moorfield Road, Denham  
Green, Bucks UB9 5NE - 07979 451759, bakdeb@aol.com

Signed:



Against the Bill – On Merits – By Counsel &c