

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF
COMMONS
SESSION
2013 - 2014

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON TO 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 *Arthur Daily Trips, 73 Iver Lane, Cowley, Uxbridge, UB8 2JE*
(*passenger boat, operating on Grand Union canal, Denham Country Park*).

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 is concerned that the construction and operation of the high speed railway and associated development at **the Colne Valley, Denham Country Park** poses a risk to the commercial and employment activities undertaken by **Arthur Daily Trips**. The current plans for HS2 mean activities will be significantly disrupted due to **interference with navigation of Grand Union Canal, this will limit passenger journeys on our trip boat Arthur. Planned closure of the tow path between bridges 182 and 180 will reduce stopping and mooring of Arthur within Denham Country Park and limit passenger activities within the Country Park. Construction of access roads, demolition of trees and destruction of wildlife habitats will impact negatively on passenger experience. Arthur Daily Trips currently attracts passengers into the first real taste of countryside West of London. Air pollution and noise from the construction of HS2 will be detrimental to our business, deter passengers and reduce beauty and value of passenger experience. HS2 plans to store significant amount of spoil and top soil in the area adjacent to the Grand Union canal, for long periods, thus reducing the beauty and tranquillity. Large quantities of dust will impact air quality. Air and water quality will be impacted adversely and this will impact the health of skipper, crew and passengers. One of the main attractions of our canal trips is the close proximity to nature and wildlife, HS2 plans to cut across the main wildlife corridor to the west of London. The construction and operation of HS2 will seriously affect the habitats and movement of mammals, insects, amphibians and birds in the Colne Valley and will be a great loss to visitors and passengers. In light of the above the route alignment of HS2 in the Colne Valley should be changed to a tunnel from a surface route.** This petition is made on behalf of **Arthur Daily Trips, Sarah Green and Josephine Asher.**
8. Your Petitioner is concerned about the impact of the construction and operation of a high speed railway and its associated development including but not limited to construction compounds, storage compounds, overhead cranes the use of overhead cranes, construction compounds at **Denham Country Park, Colne Valley.**

Your Petitioner requests that the nominated undertaker is subject to binding mitigation measures to mitigate the impacts of the works. These binding mitigation measures should include but not be limited to restrictions on noise, dust, vibration construction hours, vehicle movements, operating hours, design of structures to ensure the **Arthur Daily Trips** can continue to function after the construction of HS2 commences.

Your petitioner submits that the nominated undertaker has no incentive to minimize harmful environmental impacts arising from the construction and operation of the high-speed railway and submits that measures designed to ensure effective monitoring of compliance with these restrictions and enforcement of these restrictions be introduced to the Bill. The nominated undertake should also mitigate the impact of noise, noise, dust, vibration and impacts on visual amenity through measures such as noise insulation and barriers, sheeting of haulage vehicles, hand piling, and sympathetic design in keeping with the surrounding area.

9. In light of the above, the Petitioner reserves the right to raise the above matters and any further matters of concern relating to the substance of the Bill and this Petition that may arise from continuing discussions, the preparation and publication of reports, any possible revisions that may be made to current work site proposals or any other matters relevant to our expressed concerns that may occur in due course and prior to our representation before the Select Committee.
10. For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioner respectfully submits that, unless clauses of the Bill are removed or amended, then the Bill should not be allowed to pass into law.
11. There are other clauses and provisions in the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your Petitioner and their rights, (including their human rights) interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioner and other clauses and provisions necessary for their protection and benefit are omitted therefrom.

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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