

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 ALEXANDER SEARLE and NOVA FELTON

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 Alexander Searle and Nova Felton (hereinafter referred to as 'Your Petitioners'), the owner occupiers of 2, Pipewood, Blithbury, Rugeley, Staffordshire, WS15 3JF. We have lived in Blithbury for approaching 2 years with the family pets. Your Petitioners work locally at Palletways, Wood End Lane, Fradley Park and on renovating the property respectively and believe the work on HS2 will impact on their family life as a result of works and ensuing traffic.
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. **Traffic Volume**

9.1. Your Petitioners are concerned about construction traffic on Wood End Lane. This lane is not even classified as a B road, it is most unsuitable for any truck let alone the additional 1250 trucks a day it will be expected to carry for a period of 3 years. This lane already suffers from reasonably heavy traffic use as a result of the distribution centres based at Fradley Park, this traffic already causes significant damage to verges and kerbing as it is too narrow in most places for trucks to safely pass at anything other than a crawl.

9.1.1. Your petitioners are concerned about the safety issues and additional journey time that the proposed 1250 trucks will cause in addition to planned construction work (specifically on the Tesco RDC roundabout) Your Petitioners already work long hours and the extra volume of LGV vehicles on the lane will

seriously affect the ability to get to and from work in a timely manner, which will result in a loss of family life.

- 9.2. Your Petitioners suggest the building of new temporary infrastructure to meet the needs of HS2's construction traffic or the upgrading of the existing lane to a suitable width to cope with the sustained heavy use it will receive, in addition to this the implementation of a temporary speed limit for the duration of the work and a commitment to keep truck movements outside peak commuter hours.

10. Quality of Life

- 10.1. Your Petitioners are concerned about both the permanent and temporary closure of roads and rights of way in the area and resulting diversions. These will not only affect routes to work (50% increase in commute time using nearest alternate route) but also access to local towns and facilities. This will not only cost more time and money for extra fuel but will be stressful for Your Petitioners, friends, family and service providers trying to get in and out of the area. This will have a direct impact on Your Petitioners family life as more time will be spent on getting to these facilities with an associated rise in costs.
- 10.2. Your Petitioners suggest a commitment to minimise road closures and that all works (where practicable) take place at the same time in order to minimise the length of disruption. Furthermore, compensation for additional fuel costs.

11. Localised Flooding

- 11.1. Your Petitioners are concerned about the danger of localised flooding, along with the pollution of watercourses as a result of run-off. A number of roads in the vicinity already flood quickly with any heavy or sustained rainfall; this is as a result of poorly maintained drains that are often blocked with dirt, we believe this risk will be increased as a result of the heavy amount of construction traffic.
- 11.2. Your Petitioners request that there should be a requirement for HS2 Limited to maintain the drains on roads during periods of heavy construction traffic, to ensure facilities are in place for the cleaning of all construction traffic before it returns to public roads and to sweep roads where necessary. In addition the sampling of watercourses at locations surrounding construction sites after periods of heavy or prolonged rainfall with the Environment Agency to advise on upgrades to current drainage systems to alleviate any problems caused.

12. 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.

13. 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.



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