

PETITION against the

High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill

THE PETITION OF Sulgrave Parish Council

Declares that:

1. The petitioner is specially and directly adversely affected by the whole Bill.
2. *Your petitioner*

The petitioner is Sulgrave Parish Council who represent the residents of Sulgrave Village. Sulgrave is located approximately one mile from the line of route. Residents of Sulgrave will experience high levels of traffic and disruption to key access roads to the village during the construction of HS2 as a result of predicted levels of HGV construction traffic.

3. *Your petitioner's concerns*

Sulgrave Parish Council has serious safety concerns relating to the impact of construction traffic on the Residents of the Parish as a consequence of the construction of HS2. We have recently received a copy of drawing C222-ATK-CL-DPL-020-300517-PET000000 Revision P00.1 which has alerted the Parish Council to the predicted volume of construction related traffic in the Sulgrave area and in particular HGV traffic on the main access routes to the village. These routes consist of country roads of varying width and quality on which traffic is generally light and consists of small vehicles.

These traffic volumes will cause a significant and detrimental impact on the residents of Sulgrave for whom the routes affected are the prime access to the village.

The specific areas of concerns are:

Issues Relating to The B4525 Welsh Road and Banbury Road Junction

C222-ATK-CL-DPL-020-300517-PET000000 Revision P00.1 shows it is predicted that up to 521 HGV lorries per day will pass in each direction along Banbury Road (locations G and H on that drawing). These vehicles will require to navigate the junction with the B4525 Welsh Road.

At this location there is a tight blind bend on Banbury Road immediately in advance of the junction that we believe to be inadequate for the safe passage of this volume of traffic. When HGV lorries occasionally use this route currently they are forced into the centre of the road to negotiate the bend. With the volume of traffic predicted we believe there will be a significant safety risk resulting from this occurrence.

In addition, as a result of being required to cross the centre line of the road we do not believe that HGV vehicles will be able to pass in opposite directions at this location resulting in severe congestion whilst vehicles wait for access. The volumes of traffic mean that this will be in almost constant issue.

A second concern resulting from vehicles not been able to immediately negotiate this bend is that vehicles turning from B4525 Welsh Road onto Banbury Road will end up

stopping just off B4525 Welsh Road. The visibility at this junction is poor and there is a high likelihood that subsequent vehicles turning onto Banbury Road will collide with the back of stationary traffic or back up onto the B4525 Welsh Road.

An additional risk is that on the B4525 Welsh Road there is a blind crest immediately east of the junction. It is our opinion that this crest results in an unsafe situation for slow vehicles exiting Banbury Road onto B4525 Welsh Road leading to a high likelihood of collision. It should be noted that a speed camera is currently located on the B4525 Welsh Road near this junction indicating that there is a recognised safety issue at this location.

We request that HS2 undertake a thorough assessment of the risks at this junction and implement appropriate junction upgrades at this location to mitigate the risks highlighted above. We do not believe that the installation of traffic lights would be an appropriate solution as with the volumes of traffic anticipated these would cause a significant increase in journey times for residents on the main access route from the village to Banbury / M40 motorway. Both frequent destinations for commuting residents.

Issues Relating to Banbury Road East of Thorpe Mandeville

We also wish to highlight that the existing Banbury Road in the vicinity of letters E and F on the above drawing is of poor horizontal and vertical geometry and whilst two HGVs may just be able to pass each other in opposite directions that enhancement of the road locally is required to ensure safety given the volumes of traffic predicted. Again, any delay to passage of the freight traffic due to difficulties negotiating the junction will cause significant disruption to Sulgrave residents travelling to or from the village.

Potential Alternative Freight Routes

In order to try and reduce traffic movements on Banbury Road We request that HS2 investigate the use of the shorter route from Sulgrave Road to the B4525 Welsh Road (points C and D on drawing C222-ATK-CL-DPL-020-300517-PET000000 Revision P00.1) as an alternative routing for some or all HGV vehicles currently planned to use Banbury Road. We anticipate this would require using the haul road indicated between Banbury Road and Sulgrave Road to cross from Banbury Road to Sulgrave Road. This route avoids the issues present on the Banbury Road and also residential properties on this route.

We believe that enhancements would be needed to the Sulgrave Road / B4525 Welsh Road Junction to facilitate safe operation of the volumes of traffic predicted due to poor visibility but feel that this is a better traffic solution than the proposed use of Banbury Road. Should this alternative proposal be adopted we again do not feel that traffic lights would be an appropriate mitigation at this location.

Potential Closure of Sulgrave Road During Construction

Sulgrave Road is a primary access route to and from Sulgrave for residents heading east from the Village towards the A43 road.

The notes on drawing C222-ATK-CL-DPL-020-300517-PET000000 Revision P00.1 indicate that a closure of Sulgrave Road is planned during construction. This differs from previous information that we received stating that this road would remain open, via a localised diversion, throughout construction. We seek the assurance of HS2 that Sulgrave Road will remain passible to traffic throughout the construction of HS2.

4. *The prayer*

The petitioner therefore asks the House of Lords that he, or someone representing him in accordance with the rules and Standing Orders of the House, be given an opportunity to give evidence on all or some of the issues raised in this petition to the Select Committee which considers this Bill.

AND the petitioner remains, etc.

Graham Roberts
Roll B Agent
Sulgrave Parish Council
15th April 2016