



Set text relating to ancient woodland

14 May 2014

Your Petitioner is concerned about the impact of the HS2 scheme on ancient woodland. Ancient woodland is an irreplaceable national resource of great importance for its wildlife, soils, recreational uses, cultural value, history and the contribution it makes to our diverse landscapes. Your Petitioner is particularly concerned about the extent of loss of ancient woodland and harm to biodiversity that will result from the Bill as currently proposed and the impacts of the construction of works and other proposed activities on ancient woodland.

Your Petitioner asks that the Bill should not become law unless proposals are brought forward by HS2 which significantly reduce the extent of loss of ancient woodland. Because ancient woodland is irreplaceable, its loss cannot be mitigated, only compensated for. Your Petitioner is very concerned that the compensation measures proposed by the Promoters are inadequate. Where limited loss is inevitable greater compensation should be provided and it should be guaranteed for the future.

Your Petitioner is also concerned about indirect effects on ancient woodland from the construction of HS2 including adverse impacts from noise, light and air pollution, and working within and adjacent to ancient woodland. Further mitigation of these impacts, such as large buffers and relocation of working sites, should be provided if the scheme goes ahead.

Your Petitioner is particularly concerned about adverse impacts of the Bill on *[name particular ancient woodlands] [ancient woodlands in the area]. [Mention any specific concerns in relation to particular local woods eg if wood will be fragmented or if there will be impacts eg on particular species in that wood.]*

Your Petitioner is also concerned about the impact of the Bill's proposals on public access to and enjoyment of woodlands particularly on access to and enjoyment of *[name publicly accessible woodlands in relevant vicinity]. [For petitions by individuals] - Your Petitioner enjoys walking in [name of particular publicly accessible ancient woods] and believes that your Petitioner's enjoyment of those woods will be diminished by HS2 works and construction activities affecting the woods.*