

1. Petitioner information

In the box below, give the name and address of each individual, business or organisation submitting the petition. Please note that addresses here will be provided to the Bill's promoter, but will be redacted in the version of the petition published on the Parliamentary Website.

Professor Ben Harker; Radhika Dass; Clare and Gwendoline Kirkbright; Simon Christian; John Townsend and Ken Valente; Jill Taylor; Les Thompson; Edwina Dyson; Kate Sutton.

In the box below, give a description of the petitioners. For example, "We are the owners/tenants of the addresses above"; "My company has offices at the address above"; "Our organisation represents the interests of..."; "We are the parish council of...".

We are residents of Blackburn Gardens, a small development of town houses situated in West Didsbury, Manchester, directly above the proposed tunnel.

2. Objections to the Second Additional Provision to the Bill

In the box below, write your objections to the Second Additional Provision to the Bill and why your property or other interests are **directly and specially affected**. Please number each paragraph.

Only objections outlined in this petition can be presented when giving evidence to the Committee. You will not be entitled to be heard by the Committee on new matters not included in your written petition.

We are enthusiastic about the potential benefits of Hs2 to our city, but object to the proposed location of the tunnel vent shaft behind Mersey Meadows, and the re-routing of Hs2 involved, on the following grounds:

1. Community relations. We object that South Manchester's Muslim community is disproportionately affected by AP2. AP2 endangers the viability of the Islamic Girls' School (due to open September 2023). AP2 will seriously impede access to Didsbury Mosque (1000 worshippers) for religious and community use during the scheduled construction period (over 4 years). We object that AP2 will potentially impact the health and well-being of West Didsbury residents with the long-term sealing-off of scarce, well-used green spaces along the river Mersey.
2. Flood risk. We object that the concerns previously raised about increased flood risk that led to the rejection of the former vent shaft site (Withington Golf Club) have not been addressed in AP2. We object that Hs2 has conducted only desk-top studies on the site of the proposed vent location, which remains in the flood-zone (area 3b).
3. Environmental damage. We object that the environmental concerns that led to the rejection of the previous site have not been addressed in AP2. The proposed site is riverside woodland. No environmental analysis has been undertaken. AP2's assumption that the new site does not contain significant flora and fauna, or share protected wildlife—including great crested newts and bats (see SES2 and AP2ES, 3.2.10, 3.2.11)—with the former Withington Gold Club site is open to question.
4. Geology. Hs2 has been unable to provide reliable information regarding the noise and / or vibration disturbance that can be expected during either the building or operational stage. No geological study or assessment has been carried out.

3. What do you want to be done in response?

In the box below, tell us what you think should be done in response to your objections to the Second Additional Provision to the Bill. You do not have to complete this box if you do not want to.

You can include this information in your response to section 3 'Objections to the Second Additional Provision to the Bill' if you prefer. Please number each paragraph.

1. Community relations. HS2 should consult extensively and appropriately with religious groups, community groups and civil society, including Manchester Islamic Education Trust, to develop sensitive arrangements for this stage of the project.
2. Flood risk. HS2 should exercise due diligence, in close consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority and Environment Agency, to formulate safe proposals for the vent-shaft location. Hs2 should also consider an alternative design for the vent shaft, as this would make possible the use of smaller sites outside the flood zone.
3. Environmental damage. HS2's track record in accurately assessing the environmental impact has been called into question by organisations including the Wildlife Trusts (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-64558664>). Hs2 should exercise due diligence to protect biodiversity, flora and fauna, especially in the proposed vent shaft location behind Mersey Meadows.
4. Geology. Hs2 should conduct appropriate geological and environmental assessments, and share the findings with all stakeholders, before a decision is taken regarding AP2.