

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013–14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

Against – on Merits – 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 Stuart John Smith

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 Teresa 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 of the Bill set out how Phase 1 of the proposed high speed railway known as HS2 will be constructed. In particular, these sections of the Bill provide for powers to carry out the works required for the construction of the railway line, for the compulsory acquisition of required land, for the exclusion of rights over land and for deregulation. The remainder of the Bill deals with regulatory and miscellaneous issues raised by the Bill including railways matters, further works and statutory undertakers.
- 4 The Scheduled Works proposed by the Bill are set out at Schedule 1 to the Bill. These works may only be carried out by nominated undertakers (as defined in the Bill). Further works authorised under the Bill are set out at Schedule 2. These works together are known as the Associated Works.
- 5 Your Petitioner is Stuart John Smith, Wheatsheaf Cottage, Browns Road, Hyde End, Great Missenden, Bucks, HP16 0RQ. The Bill would authorise the construction of a railway above ground through the Chilterns AONB 750 metres from Wheatsheaf Cottage. Your Petitioner

and its rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

General objection to construction through the Chilterns:

- 6 Objection is taken to the works proposed to be undertaken in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty ("AONB"). These works include the building of the railway line, the construction of tunnels, cutting, viaducts and access roads, the diversion of existing roads, the removal of woodland and the demolition of listed buildings.
- 7 Your Petitioner supports the petition made by Conserve the Chilterns and Countryside ("CCC") regarding the damage that will be caused to the AONB by the Bill. In particular, your Petitioner is concerned about the effect of the construction and operation of HS2 on the landscape, ecology, economy and cultural heritage of the Chilterns AONB as well as the noise, traffic and segregation of the local area which will arise.

If you or your property will be affected by the proposals

- 8 Wheatsheaf Cottage a freehold property is situated on Hyde Heath Road which is intended as a main route for significant construction traffic movements resulting in major disruption and disturbance. The value of the property is significantly reduced. The railway segregates the property from Great Missenden and with construction traffic and ancillary works congestion would have a major impact on the ability to lead a normal life.
- 9 **Mitigation**
- 10 Your Petitioner supports the CCC Petition and argues that the only acceptable form of mitigation to the issues outlined above is a full tunnel under the Chilterns AONB.
- 11 In the absence of a full tunnel your Petitioner concludes that the harmful effects of the works cannot adequately be mitigated.
- 12 For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioner respectfully submits that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, Schedule 1: Scheduled Works [related to works in the Chilterns], so far affecting your Petitioner, 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 Petitioner and its rights, interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioner.

YOUR PETITIONER therefore humbly prays your Honourable House that the Bill may not be allowed to pass into law as it now stands and that it 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 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.

AND your Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

[Signature of the Agent for the Petitioner or the Petitioner, if Petitioner is lodging]

BACKSHEET:

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Stuart John Smith,

Tel. No.