



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 EVAN GEORGE BAZZARD

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 Petitioner resides at Manor Farm House, Little Missenden, Buckinghamshire HP7 0QZ having lived there continuously since the late 1960's and prior to that, apart from a few short periods away, having lived in Little Missenden since his birth in 1942.

For the majority of his working life he has worked as a solicitor in the nearby town of Old Amersham until his retirement in 2011.

With such history your Petitioner has known and enjoyed the River Misbourne from its source in Great Missenden to Old Amersham for the majority of his life.

Since the mid 1970's your petitioner has owned the freehold of Shardeloes Lake, Amersham and a capital lease of fishing rights upstream from that property to Little Missenden and also a share in the water meadows upstream from Little Missenden church to Suffolks Bridge which incorporates approximately ¼ mile of the bed of the River Misbourne

The current proposed route of the railway mentioned in para 1 above goes through a tunnel crossing under your Petitioner's land at the upstream end of Shardeloes Lake which tunnel also passes under a considerable stretch of the chalk aquifer in the close vicinity of the rest of your Petitioner's property below Little Missenden which is

likely to have an adverse impact on the flow of the River Misbourne and water levels in Shardeloes Lake

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

9. Where the proposed tunnel crosses under the bed of Shardeloes Lake and the River Misbourne it is at a relatively shallow depth and the hydrological report by Haydon Bailey BSc, PhD, C.Geol, FGS commissioned by the Chiltern Society in its conclusion, inter alia, states –

“This geological history has directly impacted onto the underlying rock succession which is a critically important but vulnerable aquifer in an area of high and still growing population density. The HS2 construction will cut through this underlying foundation, whichever route is followed.

All the routes indicated will require extensive construction via tunnels and deep cuttings in order to cross the Chilterns and access the Vale of Aylesbury to the north. It will be impossible to do this without :-

**Potentially causing long term damage to the chalk aquifer system (this applies to all three proposed routes).*

**Causing pollution of the main water supply system for the north western Home Counties area and potentially further into North London – with the subsequent need to source water from other, much more distant parts of the country.*

**Run the risk of serious ground collapse in areas with deep sections of weathered chalk.*

**Depressing the water table in the Misbourne valley, resulting in –*

..The total loss of surface flow in the Misbourne River system and the destruction of the adjacent habitats.

..and the aesthetic loss of the Misbourne River and its replacement by a dry valley”

Your Petitioner’s interest is particularly affected by the likely loss of flow of water in the River Misbourne and consequential loss of habitat.

This will result in the loss of the visual amenity enjoyed by your Petitioner and the general public, the destruction of the wildlife existing in this environment and the trout fishing that your Petitioner and his friends and others have enjoyed for decades.

10. Your Petitioner respectfully submits that the route of the proposed railway (through tunnels and cuttings) be varied so as not to directly impact on the vulnerable aquifer

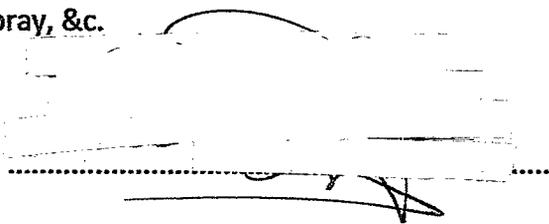
supporting the River Misbourne and Shardeloes Lake and the proposals for tunnelling should be extended throughout the whole of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (an area enjoyed by your Petitioner and other residents, as well as the thousands of visitors, for its beauty and diverse natural environment). The extension of the tunnelling opens up many more options for the varying of the route to avoid the aquifer and follow the higher ground within the area.

11. For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioner respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, so far affecting your Petitioner, should not be allowed to pass into law.
12. There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your Petitioner and their 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 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 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.

Signed **Evan George Bazzard**



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