

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 POLLY BUSTON

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 Theresa May, Secretary Vince Cable, Secretary Iain Duncan Smith, Secretary Eric Pickles, Secretary Owen Paterson, Secretary Edward Davey, Mr Robert Goodwill.
- 3 Objection is taken to the works to be undertaken within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and in particular to **works 2.13 to 2.27** (listed in Schedule 1 of the bill) in the parishes of Little Missenden, Great Missenden, Chartridge and The Lee, and to the clauses of the bill which would authorise these works.

- 4 Your Petitioner resides in Little Missenden within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (hereinafter referred to as "the AONB").
- 5 Your Petitioner and their rights, property and interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

Objections and Proposed Mitigations

- 6 Your petitioner is very concerned that the vibration from the construction of the tunnel and the Piper's Wood vent shaft and transformer station at Little Missenden would cause settlement to her house, 3 Mill End Cottages. This is a sixteenth century grade II listed brick and timber cottage, which has no foundations, but contains WALL PAINTINGS dated 1598 which are of national importance. Your petitioner requests that her house be given a conditions report before and after any construction work carried out by HS2, and is strongly of the opinion that HS2 should be constructed well away from Little Missenden with its many listed buildings.
- 7 As one of many riparian owners of the RIVER MISBOURNE in Little Missenden which runs at the bottom of her garden, your petitioner is horrified by the fact that the river will inevitably be polluted by construction work at the vent shaft and transformer station at Piper's Wood, as blatantly stated in the draft environment report. This is utterly unacceptable. The River Misbourne is one of only five chalk rivers in England where RAINBOW TROUT breed naturally, and is therefore of national importance. The current proposals for monitoring the state of the river are utterly inadequate. Your petitioner requests that continuous monitoring is performed preventative measures are taken. For example, the ventilation shaft site should be contained so that no pollution reaches the river. Generally, prevention of pollution to the river must be undertaken, whatever the cost. HS2 should ideally be constructed well aware from this rare river, which is fed by aquifers which would also be polluted and disturbed by this construction work.
- 8 Your petitioner, who has lived in Little Missenden for 41 years, suffers from BRONCHIECTASIS and is a patient of Professor Robert Wilson of the Brompton Hospital. Your petitioner and others will be adversely affected by the DUST AND POLLUTION which would be caused by the construction of the tunnel and the vent shaft at Piper's wood, work on which is scheduled to last for four years. The solution to this would be to construct HS2, if an economical case can be made for it at all, well away from human habitation. A fully bored tunnel under the whole AONB as described below would also provide effective mitigation, if engineered correctly.

- 9 Your petitioner finds it unjust that land a few metres from her house has been COMPULSORILY PURCHASED, along the verge of the A413 where the village road hits the A413 at the Amersham end of the village of Little Missenden, without a reason for this purchase being made. This should be illegal. Land owners should always be told why their land has been compulsorily purchased, and such information should be made available to anyone likely to be directly affected. She wishes to be told the purpose to which this strip of land adjacent to her property is to be put, and feel she has a right to know, as do its owners.
- 10 Your petitioner wishes to complain about the poor provision of information. She has written repeatedly to HS2, receiving either anodyne replies or no replies at all. She sent a letter, signed by all the riparian owners of the river Misbourne where it runs through village gardens, to 24 recipients, asking how the river would be protected, and received only 2 acknowledgements and absolutely NO INFORMATION. She has written letters requesting reassurance about the River Misbourne, of which she is a riparian owner, and about her house and has received NO REPLY. Your Petitioners requests that the operators act with proper transparency and respond promptly and fully to the very real concerns of those that are directly affected by proposed construction.
- 11 Your petitioner is concerned about the design of the ventilation shaft and transformer station at Little Missenden which will ruin the view from the from the village for its inhabitants and for the hundreds of walkers who enjoy walking along the Misbourne valley and up the surrounding lanes. The solution is for the DESIGN OF THE VENTILLATION 'SHAFT' to be sympathetic to the surrounding countryside, or preferably constructed well away from this beautiful valley which has been inhabited since the stone age. We have no right to be the generation responsible for its destruction.
- 12 Your petitioner requests that the AONB be protected from these effects by ensuring that the line passes throughout the AONB in a bored tunnel, either as proposed by **Chiltern District Council**¹, or as proposed by the **CRAG T 2 Tunnel**², the latter having been accepted by HS2 Ltd in the Environmental Statement as both feasible and environmentally preferable to the proposal in the Bill. This would substantially mitigate the adverse effects objected to in this petition, and the need for the less effective remedies proposed below.

¹ High Speed Rail in the Chilterns: Feasibility Study of Alternative Tunnelling Options. Peter Brett with OTB Engineering Ltd and Beazley Sharpe (Railwise) Ltd. April 2014

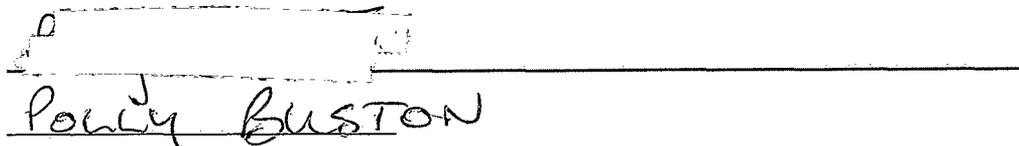
² <http://www.thelee.org.uk/HS2%20storage/Proposals%20for%20the%20Chilterns%20Tunnel%20Extension%20Dec%202013.pdf>

- 13 Your petitioner observes that the **South Heath Chilterns Tunnel Extension**³ between Mantles Wood and Nr Leather Lane would address the environmental issues in the South Heath/Potter Row area and at no greater cost than the Proposer's scheme. It avoids the loss of several homes, parts of three ancient woodlands, extensive construction and permanent noise impacts and also the need for a spoil site at Hunts Green. If Parliament is unprepared to require a fully bored tunnel throughout the AONB, then there should be at minimum a 4km tunnel extension from Mantles Wood to Leather Lane, as this is environmentally superior and costs no more than the Proposer's scheme .
- 14 Your Petitioner contends that a bored tunnel throughout the AONB would be a cost effective means of avoiding long term environmental damage, and severe construction disruption, as the problems itemised below will otherwise need to be addressed at considerable cost but with a less satisfactory environmental outcome.
- 15 For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioners respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above (to remove the works noted in paragraph 3 from the schedule) so far affecting your Petitioners, should not be allowed to pass into law.
- 16 There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your Petitioners and their rights, property and interests and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioners.

YOUR PETITIONERS therefore humbly pray 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 Petitioners 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 Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signature of Petitioner in person,


Polly BUSTON

³<http://www.repahs2.org.uk>

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PETITION OF POLLY BUSTON

AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

Mrs Polly Buston

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