

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013/2014

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

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 David John Crofts
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, 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 ("the Authorised Works") are specified in clauses 1 and 2 of and Schedule 1 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 the Bill
- 7 Your Petitioner is the freehold owner and occupier of Corner Hall, Old Uxbridge Road, Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 9YA and has lived in this Grade 2 listed building (which requires continuous repair and maintenance) since 1975. Your petitioner is aged 74 and his wife 70. The property has wide country views to the South, West and North and was constructed in the late 16th and late 17th centuries.
The HS2 track will run just over 400 Metres west of the property and will be on an embankment some 15 metres higher than the property. The limit of the safeguarded area is less than 100 Metres from the property.
- 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 The line itself and the construction work will destroy the rural nature of the area which is adjacent to the Colne Valley Park and is in the Green Belt.

The noise level from the trains will be intolerable in a listed building for which double glazing applications have been refused. In addition the Southern exit of the Chiltern Tunnel is in direct line of sight along the track and no recognition in the plans has been made of the shock wave sound level which will accompany trains leaving the tunnel. Vibration will also be a problem for our listed building which is largely wood framed, has no foundations and already vibrates from passing vehicular traffic.
The noise level from the construction work will also be considerable.

Local traffic will be dramatically affected during the construction and there will be closures and rerouting of roads making things hard for residents and the emergency services.

Flooding is already a problem and the 2 properties East of Corner Hall have had to be vacated for months whilst flood damage is repaired. Construction work will add to the risk.

10 Your petitioners suggest that the Bill should be amended to build this section of the line underground so as to protect the Green Belt and the Colne Valley Park as well as the petitioners and other local residents who will be affected by construction and operation of the Railway.

Your Petitioners also suggest that the compensation arrangements are inadequate. Property values have already been affected and we and many others are relying on our property value to fund our downsizing and probable nursing home requirements. The Hardship Compensation Scheme is too onerous and will take too long to access when needed.

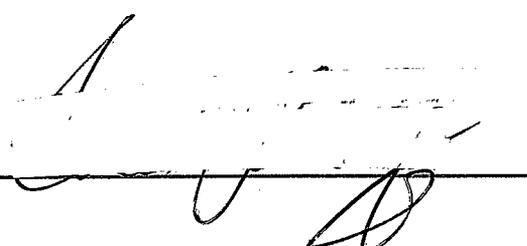
Compensation for property damage during construction and operation is not available.

Your Petitioners request that compensation arrangements are improved and make provision for older people and older houses.

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, interests and property 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.

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HIGH SPEED RAIL
(LONDON-WEST MIDLANDS)
BILL

PETITION OF

David John Crofts

AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

David John Crofts

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