

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 CHRISTINE MARGARET PHILP

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 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 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 is Christine Margaret Philp of 10 Beverley Close, Balsall Common, Coventry, CV7 7GA. I have lived here since October 1972, my husband's company having appointed him to Birmingham. We chose to live here because the (then much smaller) village had a community spirit and was surrounded by countryside, which, because I am Somerset borne and bread, is very important. My husband died in 1988, and I have lived alone since then. My life is focused on Berkswell Church, the countryside and wildlife, gardening, the community and the Arts. I have served the church as Sidesperson, Magazine Editor, PCC Secretary, Intercessor, in turn and recently retired from 13 years as Churchwarden. I still head a team of Pastoral Carers. In the community I am a member of Berkswell History Group, The Berkswell Society, Balsall Horticultural, Berkswell Trefoil and Hampton In Arden Advanced Painting and was Governor of Berkswell Primary School. All these years we have fought against the destruction of the "Meriden Gap" especially devoting years of energy time and money in fighting against the threatened coal mine. Every day I am thankful that the fields and hedgerows over which I look from my garden are still there, I really feel they are vital to my survival. In the world of the Arts I sang with The City of Birmingham Choir for eighteen years and the St Michael Singers, Coventry Cathedral, for ten years. I go frequently to Warwick Arts Centre and the

RSC of which I am a member. I cannot think of anywhere else I could possibly live and no amount of money could compensate me for what I could lose.

8. Your Petitioner and her rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
9. Apart from HS2 itself fracturing the Parish of Berkswell and separating what will be left of the village of Berkswell from Balsall Common, the two being "grafted" together, the destruction of the farmland and closure of many roads during the years of construction will completely dismantle two vibrant communities. How shall we get a) from Balsall Common to Berkswell for Primary School, Church, meetings of organisations, recreational activities and wonderful walks. b) from Berkswell to the Heart of England Senior School, Post Office, shops and three churches. c) Warwick University and the Arts Centre. Traffic congestion on the roads will be enormous.
10. Your Petitioner objects to the powers that are proposed to be provided by the Bill to the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker and respectfully submit that the Bill should be amended or undertakings should be required so that HS2 Limited, the Secretary of State and/or the Nominated Undertaker change the solution for our area to a Tunnel.
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.

Hscba\liwfbWIEGFVA FVBWKE.F

ASDNMB CSPGVJJHEBF

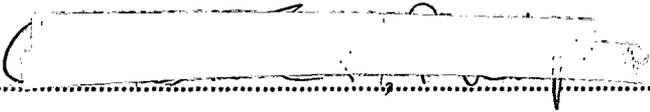
ASNDBALSGJVKJGF

YOUR PETITIONER 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 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.

2014/11/20 10:10

AND your Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

Signed

..........

Hscba\liwfbWIEGFVA FVBWKE.F

ASDNMB CSPGVJJHEBF

ASNDBALSGJVKJGF

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION OF Christine Margaret Philp

Against the Bill – On Merits – By Counsel &c

Christine Margaret Philp

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]