

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 MRS JOYCE PATRICIA HUGHES-FREELAND

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. I am Joyce Patricia Hughes-Freeland and I live at Old Orchard, Little Missenden, Amersham, Bucks HP7 0QX. I have lived here with my late husband for 28 years..
8. Your Petitioner and their rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
- 9 My house is in a designated conservation area that will be affected by close proximity to construction sites on both sides, the Little Missenden vent shaft to the east and the tunnel portal exit in Mantles Wood to the west proposed to be used under the bill. Therefore my house will be subject to intolerable noise, dust and light pollution for the rest of my likely life. I am a regular user of the A 413 road for all my local services and in particular access of ambulances from the village to the nearest A&E hospital at Stoke Manderville. This road is proposed to be used as a construction route during the period of the construction of the works authorised by the bill.
- 10 Your petitioner is aware that the Select Committee of your honourable house is unable to consider cases which object to the principle of the bill, your petitioner wish to express her objection to the route chosen as she is seriously concerned over the devastating impact and indelible scar on the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Beauty (now

referred to the AONB), some of the most beautiful countryside in England, so close to London where she has enjoyed walking in the hills, valleys and the River Misbourne that will no longer be possible during the construction of the proposed railway.

11. The most practical solution would be to tunnel under the whole of the AONB as has been proposed and even agreed as practical. This would limit the irreplaceable damage which it is going to do to our countryside and reduce traffic on the A413.

12. In addition the bill should restrict the times that construction traffic should be limited to use the A 413 road to outside rush hours only and to be prohibited from accessing the at all times.

13. 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.

14. 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 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.

AND your Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

Signed

JOYCE PATRICIA HUGHES-FREELAND

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