

**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 JANET MARGUERITE WHITTOW

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 has lived at Concord, Kings Ash, Great Missenden HP16 9NP in the county of Buckinghamshire, for almost thirty years. She chose the property after much searching for its peaceful, secluded location surrounded by unspoilt countryside. During her time here she has given great thought and attention to enhancing these qualities, with sympathetic planting and non-interventionist encouragement of wildlife. There is a public footpath which crosses the property and your petitioner has tried always to be welcoming and sympathetic to people using it. It has been a good experience to learn of the pleasure being given to people. Most of the users come from greater London – this is the only AONB reachable on an Oyster card – and they always comment on the deep peace here. There is no transport noise except for the occasional aeroplane and this seems to be the thing that impresses them most. Many of these visitors – mostly walkers and cyclists – appear to be of fairly modest means able to enjoy a day trip but probably only infrequent longer stays. The relaxation and recuperation that visits to this part of the world offer them is, your Petitioner believes, a true outcome of the AONB philosophy. The noise levels and visual appearance if the Bill is passed in its current form would destroy this amenity. Your Petitioner and her husband are now in their seventies and realise that they cannot live here for ever. They have been advised that the Bill in its current form would prevent them selling the property for a fair price in the years to come, and this is causing them anxiety as they plan for the future.
8. Your Petitioner and her rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons, hereinafter appearing. Your petitioner will look to the promoters for compensation for all injuries should the Bill pass in its present form.

9. From a personal point of view and a more general respect for the countryside as a resource for many the only effective remedy is a fully bored tunnel through this part of the Chilterns. Your petitioner believes this would greatly improve the potential quality of life for local residents and visitor alike.
10. For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioner respectfully submits that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, so far affecting your Petitioner, should not be allowed to pass into law.
11. There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your Petitioner and his 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 by your Petitioner JANET MARGUERITE WHITTOW

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Against the Bill – On Merits – By Counsel &c

Janet Marguerite WHITTOW

By Counsel

*AGENT :*

Barnaby H D USBORNE  
Garden Cottage  
Cherry Tree Lane  
Lee Common  
Great Missenden  
Buckinghamshire  
HP16 9LB