

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013–14

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 Steeple Claydon Parish Council in the County Of Buckinghamshire

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 Parish Council of Steeple Claydon in the district of Aylesbury Vale in Buckinghamshire. Having published the requisite section 239 notice in the Buckingham and Winslow Advertiser your Petitioner did, in council assembled on 4 March 2014 carry a motion to oppose the Bill by a majority of seven to nil (unanimous).

Your Petitioner represents a parish of over 800 households and an adult population of over 2000. The Bill would authorise the building of an Infrastructure Maintenance Depot (IMD) within our parish which will result in the compulsory acquisition of approximately 400 acres of agricultural land belonging to members of our parish; nine households would be directly affected by the Bill with loss of property or demolition of dwellings and four public rights of way would be affected. We are also concerned about the local roads within the Parish as a result of the increased traffic by workers as they travel to the IMD. The area, for which your petitioners are a local authority, will be injuriously affected by the provisions of the Bill, and your petitioners accordingly object thereto for these reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

- 8 Your Petitioner is within the site of the proposed Infrastructure Maintenance Depot (IMD) that stretches from Calvert to Queen Catherine Road, approximately a distance of 1.9 miles, which will be utilised in the building of the HS2 line and the repository of material excavated in London and the surrounding areas along the line during the building period. Your petitioner avers that the building of the IMD site and its use during the construction of HS2 will have a major negative impact on the village of Steeple Claydon and its environs.
- 9 Your Petitioner is gravely concerned about the pressure the significant number of proposed construction and worker vehicles used in the construction of the IMD site will have on our local infrastructure, particularly roads which are already in a poor and failing state of repair.

Your Petitioner would ask your honourable House to require the Promoters to ensure that a station is provided (either by building it or funding it) on the East West Rail line at Steeple Claydon, to serve the IMD during the construction phase and to serve Steeple Claydon and the surrounding communities during the construction and thereafter.

Your Petitioner notes that the promoter's framework travel plan provides that "construction workforce travel plan documents will be produced ..[and] will encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport to reduce the impact of workforce travel on local residents and businesses". Your Petitioner considers that the provision of the station would be consistent with this aim, helping to provide a long-term sustainable mode of transport which would have an enduring, positive impact for local residents and businesses. Your Petitioner is keen to discuss their proposals with the promoter at the earliest opportunity. Your Petitioner proposed a halt/station during the community forum process in 2012 and despite support from the community, were disappointed to see its omission from the ES.

- 10 Your Petitioner is particularly concerned about the inadequate and unsuitable local roads that will be further compromised if used as the identified 'haul routes' during the construction of HS2. Your petitioners request that the Bill include provision for bringing the haul routes and other affected roads up to an agreed standard before construction on HS2 begins and that HS2 work with Buckinghamshire County Council and local authorities to ensure that the roads are able to carry this traffic safely and reliably.
- 11 Your Petitioner is concerned about the diverted traffic coming through Steeple Claydon as a result of the two-year closure of the bridge at Calvert School Hill Road. Your Petitioner requests the promoters ensure it is built offline to the existing bridge instead.
- 12 Your Petitioner is concerned with a proposed second bridge closure on West Street which the Promoters propose to mitigate by using the existing Perry Hill road. Your Petitioner does not think this is satisfactory because of the fragile nature, blind summit and local flooding on the Perry Hill Road. Your Petitioner requests that the Promoters build offline to the existing bridge or ensure that construction occurs only once the new realigned Perry Road is complete.
- 13 Your Petitioner also requests that the haul routes are closely monitored during construction for damage and that any commitments made by HS2 to control the traffic are monitored. A hotline should be set up allowing road users to report any damage to the road, and the highway authority should have access to all reports, to ensure these are addressed within a reasonable length of time.

Visual Impact

- 14 The size of the IMD site to be constructed will be approximately 14,300 square metres with various sheds being built to a height of 13 metres. It will be overbearing and dominant in the landscape, destroying what is now described as a 'cohesive agricultural landscape with attractive historic settlements'. Your Petitioner requests that the Bill include provisos that the Promoters work with the local community to ensure that the visual impact of the IMD is in keeping with a rural location and that the promoter work with the Parish of Steeple Claydon to find a suitable solution.
- 15 The spoil dump, which will be housed in the same location, is expected to retain 1.7 million cubic metres of material on Shepherd Furze Farm, a grade II listed dwelling set for demolition. Your Petitioner requests that the Promoter disclose plans to be agreed by the community for its sympathetic incorporation into the local landscape.

Noise and Disturbance

- 15 Your Petitioner avers that there will be substantial interference from noise, vibration and increased activity in the vicinity of the IMD during the construction period which will be working 24 hours per day. Your Petitioners request that the loading of goods onto trains at the IMD only takes place during day time operations between 8.00 a.m. and 4.00 pm.

Light Pollution

- 16 Your Petitioner is concerned about the lighting associated with the IMD. The parish enjoys relatively 'dark skies' in keeping with its rural nature and environment. Your Petitioner is concerned about the impact of light on local residents and wildlife including the Calvert Jubilee Local Wildlife Site which our Parishoners visit and enjoy. This is an area of high tranquility, and any increase in lighting will be significant.

Your Petitioner requests that the nominated undertaker provides sophisticated low impact solutions at the IMD to minimise the impact of lighting in this area.

Safe Pathways for Cyclists and Walkers

- 17 Your Petitioner is concerned about the high volume of traffic and large vehicles on the roads connecting the villages of Calvert, Calvert Green and Steeple Claydon during the construction of HS2 and beyond.

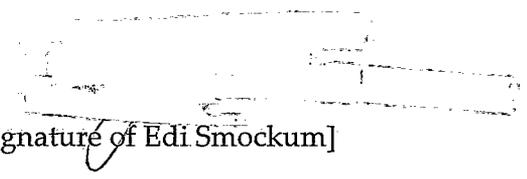
Your Petitioner requests that the nominated undertaker provide a cycleway/walkway from Calvert Green via Calvert to Steeple Claydon to allow safe passage for petitioners between the affected villages.

18 There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand, will prejudicially affect your Petitioner and the community I represent and their rights, interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioners.

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, Edi Smockum, Vice-Chair authorised to sign on behalf of Steeple Claydon Parish Council



[Signature of Edi Smockum]

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PETITION OF STEEPLE CLAYDON
PARISH COUNCIL

AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

Edi Smockum

