

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

E. G. HANCOCK  
R. MACHESON

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.

7. Your petitioners are Mrs. Elaine Hancock, pensioner and widow residing at 29, WELSH RD WEST, SOUTHAM, CV47 0JW for 42 YEARS and Mr. Richard Macpherson pensioner and widower residing at the above address for 10 years.

Your petitioners property will not be demolished as a result of the Bill but will be affected by noise as there is a south-westerly prevailing wind in the area.

We spend a large amount of time working and relaxing in the garden

Your petitioners property is also on a residential road which runs from the town of Southam, past a Secondary College, a Primary School and a swimming pool/leisure centre.

After  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile the road becomes a peaceful rural lane on which it is planned to place a large workers camp. This will be next to a tunnel that will run under the Upton/hongtchington Wood. This wood is mentioned in the Domesday Book and should be treated as Ancient, so hopefully protected as such.

Any construction traffic will cause chaos, as at busy times the road is congested with school buses and parents picking up the children.

There will also be dirt/dust on the road and accompanying noise especially over the speed reducing humps.

#### 8. Your Petitioners and their rights, interests and property

are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

9. The Bill includes powers for the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertakers to do construction works which are estimated to take up to ten years to complete. This will include up to 2,000 lorry movements per day causing the creation of problems on the roads i.e. dust/mud, noise and poor air quality and congestion up to 24 hours a day.

It will cause sleep deprivation (especially when the weather requires open windows). There will also be a great amount of STRESS to your petitioners as they have finally left work, so wish to relax for the most part at 29, Welsh Rd West and the surrounding area.

10. We your petitioners would ask that considerable thought will be taken concerning the following points.

That the Upton/Long Itchington Woods/wildlife are well protected along with the graveyard and have through said woods.

The planned bridge for the train over Welsh Rd West and the Grand Union Canal are sympathetically designed so as to blend with the beautiful scenery.

Scuttham is a small market town which is at the cross-roads of the main A423 Banbury to Coventry road.

The Banbury road will be badly affected along with the football/Bowls club and the Cricket Club.

The B4451 Kineton Rd which it also affects includes the Industrial estate and the Rugby Club.

The main road to Leamington A425 is to be moved onto the Polo ground and Codemasters destroyed.

The Welsh Rd West (an ancient drovers road) leading to Kenilworth will have major work.

This will mean that 4 of the 7 roads will be having construction work done to them.

A considerable amount of care needs to be taken if the long years of construction work is to allow the area to function normally and continue to move around the roads freely.

The consultations which we attended did not answer many questions and did not give us any confidence to believe that this would happen, nor that they would care  
5 about how the area was treated.

11. For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioners 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 Petitioners 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.

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