

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 MARGARET COTTON

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 is one of a married couple of Paddock Barn, Nash Lee Road , Terrick, Bucks HP17 0TQ . The front external wall of the house is approximately ten feet from the roadway. We have lived here for almost ten years and are both nearing 70 .

Our house is about 600-700 metres from the centre of the proposed route of HS2 so we are ineligible for any compensation but the peaceful enjoyment of our home will be severely affected both during the construction phase and permanently once the line is in operation.

During construction our road, which is a country lane with very restricted narrow access at one end, has been designated as a major construction access route. There will also for about 7 years be a construction satellite compound about half a mile further along the road.

Once the line is operating we shall be within 700 metres of a 1-Km long, double width track loop maintenance depot with night lighting, access roads on both sides and car parking for staff. It will operate at night once the trains have stopped running.

8. Your petitioner and their rights, interests and property will be injuriously affected by the Bill , to which your Petitioner objects for the reasons hereinafter appearing:

9. The Bill includes powers for the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker to do construction works which are estimated to take 10 years to complete and will include lorry movements within 10 feet of our house for 7 days a week, the creation of dust and noise, poor air quality, and up to 24 hour working. This will inevitably lead to severe loss of enjoyment of our house and garden and severe sleep deprivation for both of us who will be well over 80 by the time work is completed.

During construction we shall be subjected to continuous noise and nuisance by virtue of construction access traffic close to our house.

Once the line is in operation we shall, in addition to the noise of the line itself, be affected by the overnight operation of the track maintenance depot with overhead lighting, night-long noise and the added disturbance of staff driving in and out along our road. This area will be in operation 365 days a year.

The proposed permanent diversion of the A4010 at Stoke Mandeville will in effect make B4010 Nash Lee Road the default link between A4010 and A413, thus perpetuating traffic overload.

10. Your Petitioner objectst to the powers that are proposed to be provided by the Bill to the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker and respectfully submits that the Bill should be amended or undertakings should be required so that HS2 Limited, the Secretary of State and/or the Nominated Undertaker must review the construction strategy for the project and its related works by considering their cumulative impacts on communities. And they need to suggest necessary changes from the results of that review before works design and construction strategies have been finalised or construction contractors employed

Specifically I request that, as Bucks County Council have already suggested, the road B4010, Nash Lee Road, be permanently diverted to the north from the A4010 at a point north of the Terrick roundabout, to rejoin the B4010 Nash Lee Road at a point further east and closer to the track; this would avoid the majority of housing on the road and would minimise the impact of construction traffic for the majority of residents along its length. This applies both during construction and once the line is open.

I also submit that more extensive works be undertaken to dampen the noise and screen the nightly light pollution from the maintenance loop area, namely by the use of higher embankments and more trees

11. 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.
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.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Margaret Cotton', written in dark ink on a light background.

MARGARET COTTON

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