

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 DOCTOR GEOFFREY LUCAS EXTON
AND DOCTOR WENDY ROWENA EXTON

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 Patterson, 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 Petitioners are Dr Geoffrey Lucas Exton and Dr Wendy Rowena Exton residents of 12 Sixpence Close, Westwood Heath, Coventry and would be adversely affected by this project as there would be a significant deterioration of the safety of the Kenilworth Greenway over most of its route thereby destroying a haven for healthy outdoor pursuits particularly for our children and grandchildren who need safely to be able to acquire the skills to control their scooters and bicycles. Wheelchair users and those with impaired mobility would be deprived of the facility for healthy outdoor activity.

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.

which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

9 Your petitioners aver that the planned permanent diversion of the Greenway to be a significant impairment of an off-road recreational with educational benefits. This would destroy part of our local heritage which has been handed down for generations. We are proud of our custodial duties and together with our neighbours feel that our heritage and that of our progeny would be more safely entrusted to UKIP. Your petitioners would like to remind you that you were all elected to protect our land and interests and not those of a few self-serving individuals.

10 Your petitioners specifically request that full consideration is given to one of the bored Tunnel proposals, for which that described as 'Option F' within HS2 documents would solve all of our individual concerns and of course those of many others in both this village and the wider area.

11 Your petitioners appreciate that this option would cost more in the short-term, but, in the long term, the damage to our heritage by not using a deep bore tunnel would be irreparable. Your Petitioners aver that the rape of our land could not be healed. Once something has been destroyed by such cavalier action, it can never be replaced and your Petitioners would like to remind you that the species on our planet which have been endangered or rendered extinct has usually be the result of the activity of greedy humans fully aware of the consequences of their actions but who are motivated by personal gain.

12 For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioners respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, the Bill so far as affecting your Petitioners, should not be allowed to pass into law.

13 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 Petitioners.

YOUR PETITIONERS 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 Petitioners 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 Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

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AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

DR G L EXTON & DR W R EXTON