

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013-2014

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 GEOFFREY HOWARD RAYMOND HARTLEY

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 Geoffrey Howard Raymond Hartley is the freehold owner of, and residents at, Lower Bassibones Farm, Ballinger Road, Lee Common, Great Missenden HP16 9LA.
- 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.

Your Petitioner is a voluntary driver for the charity Age UK and regularly drives older people in the Age UK minibus to various functions throughout the Amersham, Great Missenden, Prestwood and Wendover areas. He lives in Ballinger Road at Lee Common and his voluntary work within the construction area of HS2 (The Chilterns AONB) will be adversely affected. Furthermore, your Petitioner's life will also be adversely affected by the need for him to travel from Lee Common to Great Missenden on a daily basis, crossing the HS2 construction site en route.

9.

A) Disruption and additional expense for Charity workers.

Your Petitioner carries out voluntary work as a driver for Age UK, a registered charity concerned with the welfare of older people. Your petitioner drives the Age UK minibus, collecting older people from their homes and taking them to various functions but particularly to their Lunch Club in Great Missenden village. Your Petitioner collects an average of 18 older people, some able bodied and others requiring walking aids and wheelchairs. To collect all his passengers your Petitioner has to make several journeys throughout the Amersham, Great Missenden, Chesham and Wendover areas. The average journey time for each trip is approximately 40 minutes, so the first passenger to be collected can be sitting in the minibus for that whole period. The routes taken by your Petitioner to collect all his passengers involves crossing the A413 several times on both the outward and homeward journeys. The disruption of road closures, diversions, HGVs and additional construction traffic along the routes will inevitably incur longer journey times, more fuel consumption and in consequence more expense to the charity Age UK and added stress and frustration to a job that already requires infinite patience dealing with older, confused and disabled people.

Your petitioner is also one of a team of drivers for the charity Contact the Elderly and collects and delivers older people in the community for various social functions throughout the area. His work in this capacity will also be hindered by having to repeatedly cross the HS2 construction site with his elderly passengers, once again resulting in longer journey times, more expense and more stress and frustration.

B) Longer journey times, more stress, expense and frustration for residents and farmers.

Your petitioner lives on a farm in the Ballinger Road at Lee Common and in order to access the nearest village of Great Missenden for essential needs such as: the bank, the post office, shops, the library, the train station, local garage, barber, schools, doctors and dentists surgeries, pubs, restaurants and the nearest A & E department at Stoke Mandeville Hospital - he must cross the HS2 construction site with its diversions, road closures, HGV traffic and general disruption that will be inflicted on residents in The Chilterns AONB for years during the construction of the HS2 project.

Furthermore your Petitioner will have to take the same blighted route to transport his livestock from his farm for slaughter or to visit the local vet's surgery .

Your Petitioner also works in The Lee Village Shop which is run on a voluntary basis and is an essential local facility, especially for those residents who cannot access Great Missenden due to the lack of public transport in the area. The shop focuses on stocking local produce and those suppliers will have to cross the HS2 construction site in order to access the village shop to deliver their supplies .

C) Mitigation

To mitigate the disruption, waste of time and expense to the communities in Amersham, Great Missenden, South Heath, Chesham and Wendover caused by the construction and operating of the HS2 project your Petitioner requests that a bored tunnel be constructed beneath the entire AONB in The Chilterns such as the CRAG T2 Tunnel.

If this request is refused, the South Heath Chiltern tunnel (known as the REPA tunnel in Vol. 2 CFA 9 Environmental Statement) should be built and the highest quality mitigation measures should be incorporated to the surface section of the line from the northern portal of REPA's tunnel to north of Wendover, including deeper cuttings, 4 metre high sound barrier fencing on both side of the track, sound absorption foundations for the tracks to be laid.

10 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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GEOFFREY HOWARD RAYMOND
HARTLEY

AGAINST, By Counsel, &C.

AGENT: JOHN SIMON THRALE MORRIS

