

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013–14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION

Against – on merits – Praying to be heard in Person

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Parliament assembled.

THE HUMBLE PETITION of Dr JULIA CHAPMAN

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 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 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. Schedule 5 of the Bill (Volume II) lists each land ownership parcel shown on the deposited plans which is to be acquired for particular purposes as set out in the schedule. The land can be acquired for the stated purpose in the schedule but it is expressly not limited to the stated purpose, therefore land may be acquired for any purpose provided that the land is numbered on the deposited plans and listed in Schedule 5.
8. Your petitioner is the owner 58 King Henrys Road, London NW3 3RP ("my Property"), a 4 bedroom town house which forms a terrace of 11 houses built in the 1970s. I have lived in this Property for over 20 years and raised my young son since the birth 6 years ago. I am particularly attached to this property because my husband and I lived here very happily before he died.
9. Despite my Property being approximately 300m away from the safeguarded route of the HS2 tunnel your Petitioner is directly and specifically affected by the Bill.
10. My Property is numbered 405 on the deposited plans (sheet 1-07) and listed in Schedule 5 of the Bill (p182 of Volume 2). The parcel of land numbered 405 is the entirety of the land which I own between the front wall of my house and the back line of the public pavement. This land parcel includes my off street parking space, bin store, and the path to my front door and lightwell for my basement front bedroom. If land parcel 405 is compulsorily acquired by HS2, I would have to trespass over the acquired land in order to enter or leave my house, and would not own the land in which the lightwell and window for my front basement bedroom look onto. I may be asked to block off this window, rendering the front basement bedroom windowless which would mean this room would no longer be habitable thus substantially devaluing my home. I am a single parent (widow) and work as a doctor for london transport. I have an au pair so I can work , (child care), and if I no longer have a habitable room I may not be able to attract an au pair and may need to give up work to look after my son. This would cause my son and I unnecessary suffering, and may mean that I need to apply for state benefits wheras at

present I do not rely on the state for support, as I am able to work, with help with the care of my son.

11. My Property is part of a run of 11 similar parcels of land (numbered 401 to 411) which are all listed together in Schedule 5. These land parcels cover the entirety of land between our terrace of 11 houses and the public pavement. If this land is acquired and a construction hoarding was erected around the land then it would be impossible to enter any of the houses in the terrace.
12. Under schedule 5 the purpose for which the land numbered 401 to 411 may be acquired or used is "Diversion of, or works to, utilities apparatus." The use of the land is not limited to this stated purpose as noted in paragraph 7 above.
13. Your petitioner has reviewed the Environmental Statement (ES) to fully understand the reason for the acquisition of land parcels 401 to 411. CFA Volume 2 – Map Book defines the land numbered 401 to 411 in a pink outline which the key on the map states is "**land potentially required during construction**".
14. While the ES states that the land is "**potentially**" required during construction schedule 5 of the Bill does not make any provision for an outcome which might not require compulsory acquisition of land 401 to 411 on a permanent basis.

There is clearly a contradiction between the ES and the Bill, both cannot be correct and your petitioner respectfully asks that the mistake *be corrected on* the appropriate document before this Bill is approved by the House and potentially an unnecessary loss is inflicted on the owners of land parcels 401 to 411 including your petitioner at 405.

15. CFA3 has no specific information on 401 to 411 or indeed on King Henrys Road. There is only very brief and vague information on utility diversions in CFA3 where paragraph 2.3.8 states:

"...Utility works not linked to vent shaft sites that will involve intrusive works requiring excavation in roads include: the A4201 Parkway water mains; the Middle Level No.2 Sewer¹⁷ in the Gloucester Avenue area; the sewer replacement between Princess Road and St Mark's Square and a water main diversion at B507 Abbey Road."

Your petitioners have found a further mistake in the ES: footnote ¹⁷ in clause 2.3.8 above is not correct because there are no further details provided in clause 13 regarding the Middle Level No.2 Sewer.

King Henry's Road is not mentioned at all in the paragraph 2.3.8 above and yet my Property and the entire terrace of 11 houses are all to have their front yards acquired under compulsory purchase powers (CPO) in

order to divert utilities. King Henry's Road is mentioned in visual assessments but not in relation to the CPO powers being imposed on our houses. There is simply no justification or explanation in any HS2 documents of why CPO under schedule A (permanent acquisition of land) is required for our terrace of 11 houses.

16. My neighbour Amit Green requested further information (as the published data was clearly insufficient) from the HS2 Enquiries team. He has been provided with the following response on an email dated 6th December 2013:

Dear Mr. Green,

Thank you for your email.

I forwarded your email to one of our senior engineers and he has come back with the following replies to your questions:

1. Does HS2 require the land on a permanent or a temporary basis? HS2 Ltd response: Temporary basis.
 - a. If on a temporary basis will the land be returned back to its original owner once completed? HS2 Ltd response: Yes
2. Will HS2 instruct its contractors to allow access to the house (numbered 58c King Henry's Road) if possible during the "diversion or installation of, or works to, utilities apparatus"? HS2 Ltd response: These works are likely to be relatively minor works within the footpath which could prevent vehicular access to the forecourt on a short term basis. However, pedestrian access to the house will be maintained.

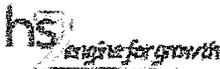
I trust that you have found these answers satisfactory.

Kind regards,

Echomo

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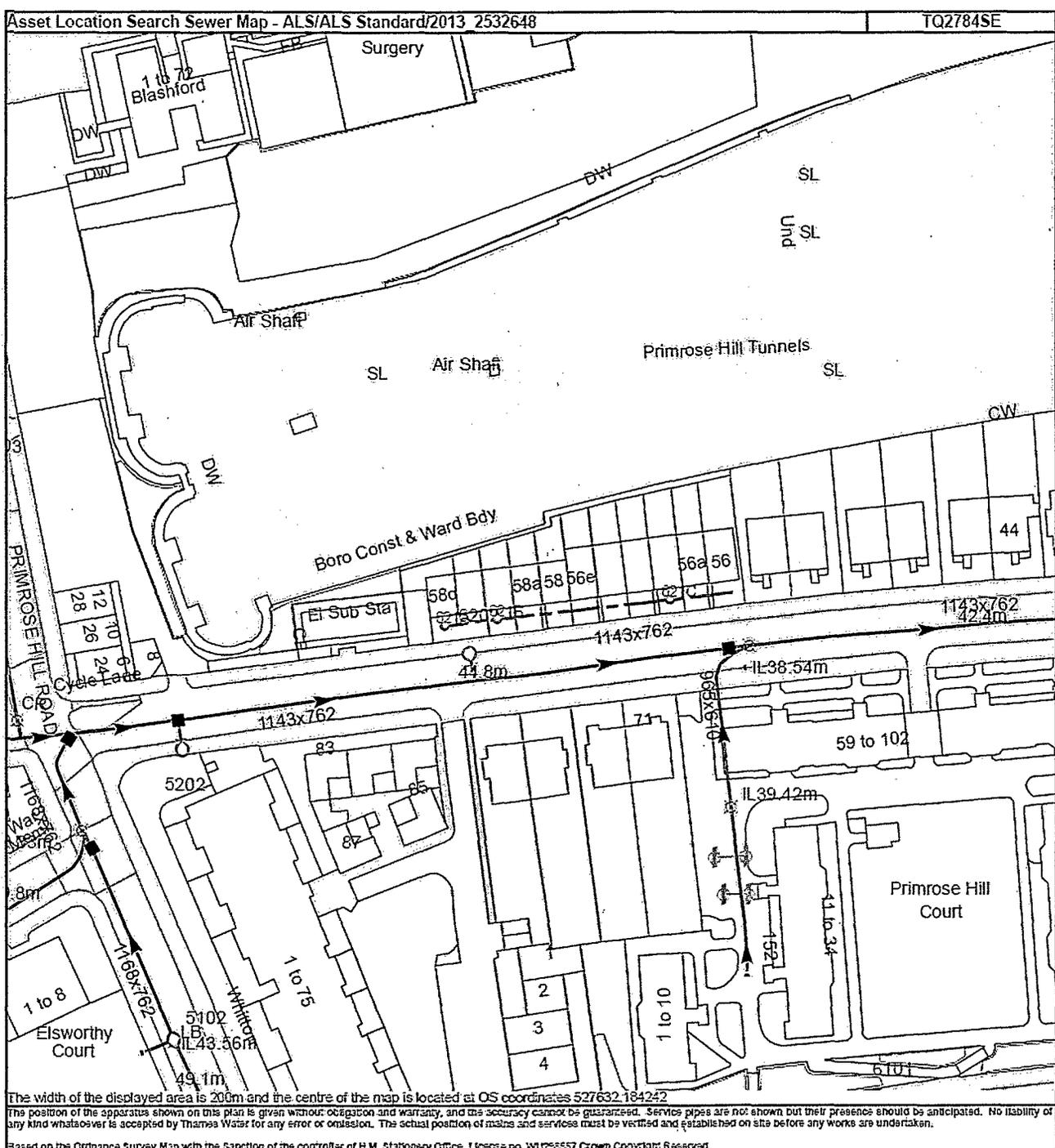


17. Further detailed information has been provided by an HS2 engineer at a local meeting on CFA3 to explain the proposed works:

HS2 require CCTV Surveys of all the adopted drains on King Henry's Road in order to establish if they are vulnerable to cracking from earth movement / shrinkage brought about by the subterranean tunnelling works some 300m away. The engineer went on to explain that if the survey results showed that the drains were susceptible to cracking then the most likely outcome would be that the drains would be sleeved. This sleeving work could be done below ground without intrusive works to the surface.

The above information was provided verbally at a public meeting and HS2 have not provided this level of detail officially in writing.

18. It is plainly not necessary to compulsory acquire land parcels 401 to 411 (including our Property) in order to carry out a CCTV survey of the publicly acquired drains on King Henry's Road.
19. It is not necessary to compulsory purchase land parcels 401 to 411 (including our Property) in order to perform non intrusive works including the insertion of a sleeve into the existing adopted drains.
20. Thames Water have adopted the drains in front of our Property and the entire terrace (see map below). Thames Water have the statutory right to carry out any works necessary to their adopted drains including CCTV surveys and the sleeving of drains and any other repairs or replace the work to their adopted drains.



21. It would be perfectly reasonable for HS2 to indemnify Thames Water and to pay for works on their drains.
22. Alternatively HS2 could compulsory purchase the Thames water drains instead of our Property or any of the other land parcels numbered 401 to 411.
23. Schedule 15 of the Bill relates to "Temporary possession and use of land", your petitioners suggest that the works described by the HS2 engineer in paragraph 16 and 17 would not require permanent possession of land parcel 405 or indeed of the entire terrace numbered 401 to 411. It would make more sense and cause much less suffering and loss to the owners of these properties if land parcels 402 (indeed and all the land numbered 401 to 411) were compulsory acquired under rights for temporary possession and use of land as opposed to the permanent acquisition as currently set out in the bill.
24. Since the detail plans of my Property has been specifically identified in the Bill a potential re mortgage and or sale of my property has been severely hampered to the point of being practically impossible. This is because the compulsory purchase of land parcel 405 in its entirety would render it impossible to enter or leave our Property. Consequently my solicitor is unable to confirm a clear title to any prospective mortgage lender while land parcel 405 is specified in the Bill for compulsory purchase (the wording of the Bill carrying more weight than an explanatory email from HS2 engineers as per paragraphs 16 and 17 above).

Your petitioner would be therefore unable to obtain any further mortgage funding on my property and furthermore if I decided to to sell my Property I would only be able to do so to a cash buyers (mortgage funding being unavailable to a property without a clean and mortgagable title).

25. The above is equally applicable to all 11 houses in the terrace with land parcels numbered 401 to 411. All these terraced houses are affected by blight as a result of the Bill and they are all circa 300m from the safeguarded tunnelling route, the land is not specifically required for the construction of the tunnel or its enablement.
26. What is to happen to the land forming our front drives once the utilities have been diverted? If HS2 have acquired our land under CPO powers then there does not seem to be anything in the Bill which requires that this land specifically must be put back to its original condition and handed back to its original owner. If HS2 owns the land once the utility diversions are completed then HS2 would most likely be required to sell the land for best value and not necessarily to its original owner - this will potentially mean that I am not able to purchase my front drive back.
27. If the existing utilities in the land being CPO'ed are to be diverted then this is no reason to require a permanent CPO of the land containing those utilities – the utilities will be adopted when the diversion works are completed and it

would be inappropriate to use CPO powers simply for the purpose of adopting newly diverted utilities.

28. The acquisition of my Property is a waste of public funds because the same goal can be achieved without acquiring My Property. CPO of 401 to 411 adds to the cost of the Bill unnecessarily.
29. Your Petitioners object to the powers that are proposed to be provided by the Bill to the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker and respectfully submit that the Bill should be amended or undertakings should be required to be given so that HS2 Limited, the Secretary of State and/or the Nominated Undertaker must:
 - a. Clarify the exact reason land 401 to 411 has been included in the bill.
 - b. Confirm if land 401 to 411 is required on a permanent or a temporary basis.
 - c. If the land numbered 401-411 is only required temporarily then your petitioners respectfully submit that the Bill should be amended to list the land numbered 401 to 411 under schedule F (Temporary possession of land) and not Schedule A (unlimited compulsory acquisition).
 - d. The Bill is amended so that the Thames Water adopted drains are compulsory purchased rather than the private land numbered 401 to 411 in which the adopted drains sit.
 - e. HS2 and the nominated undertaker consider an alternative approach whereby works to the Thames Water drains are undertaken by Thames Water with an indemnity for costs and compensation certified by HS2. Such an arrangement between HS2 and Thames Water would be much more appropriate than compulsory purchasing the land on which the adopted drains lie.

30. There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your Petitioner and my 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 Themselves 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 my protection, or that such other relief may be given to your Petitioner in the premise as your Honourable House shall deem meet.

AND your Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

Signed Julia Chapman.....  22/5/14

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AGAINST &c.

Julia Chapman

