

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 Mrs Gillian M Stockdale

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 resides at 18 Oaklands Close, Hill Ridware, Rugeley, Staffordshire WS15 3RJ, having moved to this small, rural community with her late husband in 1999. She now lives there alone and is Secretary of the local Mavesyn Ridware Village Hall and also Vice Chair of the Governing body of Henry Chadwick Community Primary School in Hill Ridware. She is a retired secondary school Head of English and continues to work part time as a political researcher while also caring for her grandchildren, one of whom attends Henry Chadwick School. Your Petitioner's property is in a quiet residential close approximately 50 yards from the main road through the village which will experience heavy use by lorries, dust, noise, vibration and light pollution during the construction phase of the Scheme.
8. Your Petitioner and her rights, interests and/or property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, 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, the creation of dust and noise, light pollution, poor air quality, and 24 hour working. This will inevitably lead to:

9.1 issues of a personal nature, affecting your Petitioner's daily life, work and leisure pursuits. Dust, vibration and noise generated by the potential 1200 lorry movements per day along the main road through Hill Ridware, Uttoxeter Road, from the roadway from Wade Lane to the word on the West Coast Main Line will severely affect her routine of pushing her grandchildren in their buggy through the village to the play area, local rural lanes and bridleways. Her walking route from Hill Ridware to the neighbouring hamlet of Mavesyn Ridware, in which churchyard her husband is buried, will be severely affected by road closures and the potential siting of a work camp for the works on the upgrading of the WCML near Handsacre. Road closures between Seedy Mill, Handsacre and Lichfield will affect her route to work, to her gym and to see her family in Lichfield and in Brereton, Rugeley.

9.2 issues affecting Henry Chadwick Primary School, of which your Petitioner is Vice Chair of the Governing body. Your Petitioner avers that the school children, most of whom reside in Hill Ridware and therefore walk or cycle to and from school, will be adversely affected by the dust, noise and vibration of the projected lorry movements referred to above. This village has no pedestrian crossing across its main road and therefore the safety of children on their way to and from school will be severely adversely affected by heavy lorries potentially working 24 hours per day.

9.3 issues arising from the lack of consultation on the proposed works to upgrade and extend the WCML as Phase 1 of the Scheme from the end of the Handsacre spur via Rugeley Trent Valley, Colwich and ultimately to Crewe. Your Petitioner avers that, notwithstanding the powers conferred on the Nominated Undertaker by Clause 50 of the Bill, it is against the terms of the Human Rights Act 1998 that there has been no consultation on these works, including the construction of a roadway from Wade Lane, Hill Ridware, to the WCML between Handsacre and Armitage. These works will cause dust, noise, vibration, light pollution and danger to pedestrians in Hill Ridware, including your Petitioner, during the construction phase of the Scheme.

9.4 issues arising from the use of her taxes to support the Scheme. As a taxpayer, your Petitioner objects to the use of her and other taxpayers' money to fund a Scheme which has a declining cost/benefit ratio, has a business case which fails to include the costs of the rolling stock, the electricity supply and of full and fair compensation to all affected parties, and which cannot currently publish a final figure for costs.

10. Your Petitioner objects to the powers that are proposed to be provided by the Bill to the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker and respectfully requests that:

10.1 the Bill should be amended or undertakings should be required that, under the terms of the Human Rights Act 1998, HS2 Ltd, the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker must consult on the construction strategy for the Scheme and its related works on the WCML / Phase 1 section near Handsacre and in doing so consider its cumulative impacts on this community and the local environment. Necessary changes arising from that consultation should be made before works design and construction strategies have been finalised or construction contractors employed;

10.2 assurances are obtained from HS2 Ltd and the Nominated Undertaker, and subsequently enforced, that the hours of work for the lorries during the construction phase should be limited, avoiding the times at which school children would be expected to be on their way to and from school;

10.3 assurances are obtained from HS2 Ltd and the Nominated Undertaker, and subsequently enforced, that proper assessments are made of the impacts of noise, dust, vibration, light pollution, road closures and diversions, and construction camp locations. As a result of such assessments, your Petitioner requests that full and effective mitigations are put in place to minimize the considerable and acknowledged impacts of the Scheme on this small rural community which, for example, will be doubled in size by the influx of construction workers;

10.4 assurances are obtained from HS2 Ltd and the Nominated Undertaker, and subsequently enforced, that road diversions and closures between Hill Ridware, Seedy Mill, Handsacre and Lichfield will be as limited in duration and scope as possible and will not continue for the proposed 10 year long construction phase;

10.5 assurances are obtained from HS2 Ltd and the Nominated Undertaker, and subsequently enforced, that the use of the proposed access road between Wade Lane, Hill Ridware, and the WCML works between Handsacre and Armitage will not result in all the consequent heavy lorry traffic being funnelled southeastwards along the B5014 as is currently in the Scheme. Your Petitioner requests that the traffic generated by these works:

- a. be also sent northwestwards from Hill Ridware along the B5014 towards Rugeley, or
- b. be also transported southwards from the proposed site of the works and across the River Trent via a southerly extension of the proposed access road, to a new junction with the A513 between the

Hawkesyard Estate and the village of Armitage, and thence eastwards along the A513 towards Lichfield.

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 her 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:

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PETITION OF Mrs Gillian M Stockdale

Against the Bill – On Merits – By Counsel &c

Name:

G M Stockdale

Tel:

Mobile:

Email:

g.m.stockdale