

IN PARLIAMENT

1726

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

SHEWETH as follows:-

J. D. SILVERWOOD / C.H.A.D.S.
(COMBINED HANDICAPPED AND DISABLED SOCIETY)
REG CHARITY 700374

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... works and the use of lorries.

4. Clauses 27 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. C.H.A.S.S. (Countryside Heritage and Access Society) was founded in 1997. I am a founder member. I have dedicated my life, as a volunteer, to wildlife, and nature conservation. The Society (CHASS) has been the conduit for my aspirations; acquiring land of 60 acres, from British Coal in the Trent valley north of A13 in 1998, known as Trentside Meadows; then land and buildings, formerly Armitage Football Club, to the south of A13, now known as CHASS, and CHASS NATURE CENTRE. Being in the flood plain, the Society assumed that work to revert the land to traditional meadows would be free from development measures. Using rare breed cattle, and the expertise of Society members for 20 years, the site Trentside Meadows has been declared a site of biological importance granted by Highfield District Council. It has attracted many awards and its success has resulted in the return of orchids and other rare plants as well as woodcock, ~~motacilla~~ birds, e barn owl, hawking, skylark. This beautiful area is made accessible to all including access for education and for the ben able.

8. Your Petitioner and their rights, interests and/or property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

9. Getting people (old/young/semi-mobilitant/ in wheel chair) access from CHADS. Four Seasons Nature Centre buildings and car park, to Trentside meadows presents the Society with health and safety issues. The projected increase in heavy construction traffic, over a 10 year period between Handsacre and Kings Bromley along the A513 (Phase I) is of major concern to your Petitioner. If the proposed route for H.S.2 Phase I is accepted, then the whole of Trentside meadows will be irrevocably destroyed during the construction of the viaduct - its subsequent use by high speed trains will make the site untenable in the future for the present schedule I birds, our rare breeds cattle, and the accessible visitors too.

10.

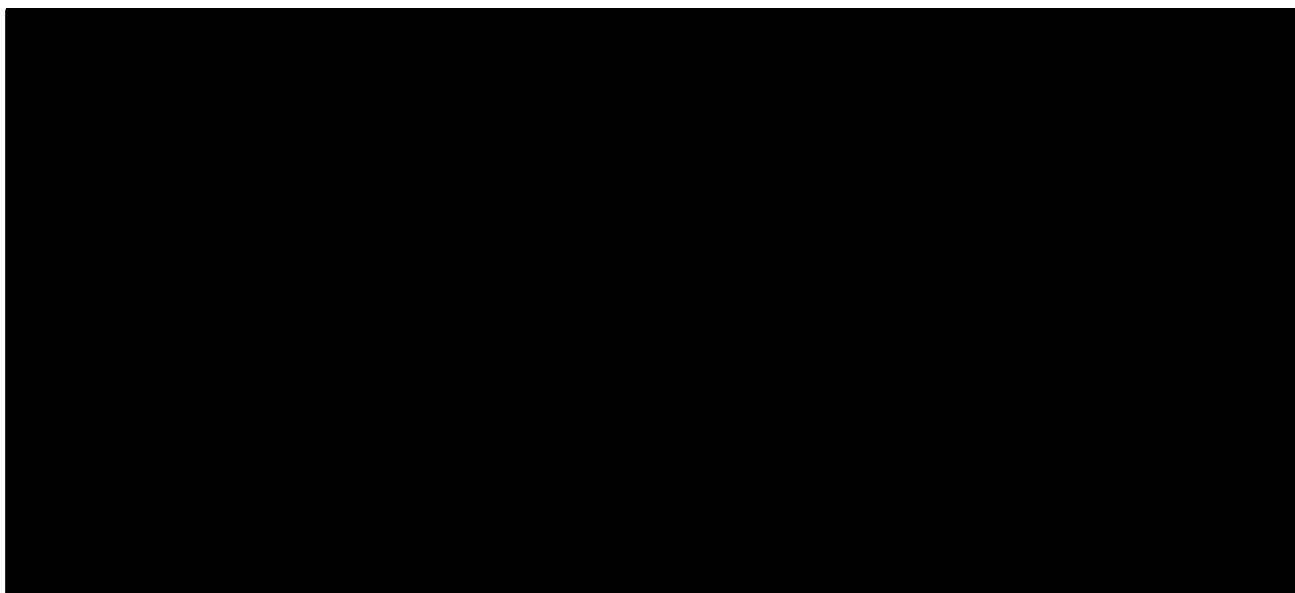
Your Petitioner object to the powers that are proposed to be provided by the Bill to the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker and respectfully submit that the Bill should be amended or undertakings should be required so that H.S.2 Ltd, the Secretary of State and/or the Nominated Undertaker must review the construction strategy for the project and its related works considering their cumulative impacts on our Society, the wildlife which is dependant on our management, and the beneficiaries from the community, be they children benefitting through education; the elderly, who enjoy the countryside; or the less able who might seldom have an opportunity such as the Society is able to provide to experience the outdoors.

They need to suggest necessary changes from the result of that review before work design and construction strategies have been finalised.

~~10.~~ For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioner(s) respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, so far affecting your Petitioner(s), should not be allowed to pass into law.

~~11.~~ 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.



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