

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 MR AND MRS TREVOR ELLIS

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 Petitioners, Trevor and Julie Ellis of Goldhayfields Farm, Blithbury ,Staffs , WS15 3JJ, have resided in the property for the last 13 years, raising 2 children and restoring and renovating the house over that time.
Your Petitioners have enjoyed the peace and quiet afforded by its location and enjoy walking their dogs in the area and observing the local wildlife.
An important factor in the purchase of the house was its elevated position and the spectacular views of the surrounding Staffordshire country side. The rural position however means that there are restricted routes for your petitioners to reach their business in Birmingham over 25 miles away, which they have built over the time they have resided in the house.
8. Your Petitioners and their rights and interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which Your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
9. Your Petitioners feel directly and specially affected by the proposal for the following reasons:
Your Petitioners are extremely concerned over the lack of proper consultation in the local area. The impact on the area will be massive and at no point have Your Petitioners opinions appear to been taken into consideration. Your Petitioners feel that

their Human Rights have been breached, as they have seen no evidence of a fair balance between the proposal and Your Petitioners interests.

This is exemplified by the inevitable traffic disruption, noise, dust, pollution, stress and danger to life caused by major movements of heavy construction vehicles on unsuitable roads.

This will cause Your Petitioners increased daily stress in the simple act of trying to get from home to their place of work, adding inevitable, but as yet incalculable extra time to a journey which can already take up to one and a half hours. This would have to be endured, not be for weeks or months, but years.

The quiet enjoyment of Your Petitioners property will be affected by the proposals with changes to the landscape, denial of previous tranquillity and freedom of movement should the proposal pass un-amended.

Your Petitioners are also concerned that no proper Environment Impact Assessment has been made only an Appraisal of Sustainability. This again demonstrates what some might see as a seeming disregard for the local population.

10. Your Petitioners respectfully submit that the proposal should be re-assessed to address all the legitimate concerns laid out above, for example:

Alternate roadways should be sought or built parallel to the proposed track, to move construction traffic away from unsuitable roadways as was the case with elements of the widening of the west coast main line.

Restrictions on, and minimisations of road closures and restricting the times of days HGV's will be allowed to work on the proposed construction.

Reducing the visual and audible impact of the proposal by lowering the track, reducing proposed train speed, using cuttings as much as possible, even diverting the route to reduce impact on communities and generally listening more to the local populations that will be most affected by the proposed work to be done, in their name and using their taxpayers money.

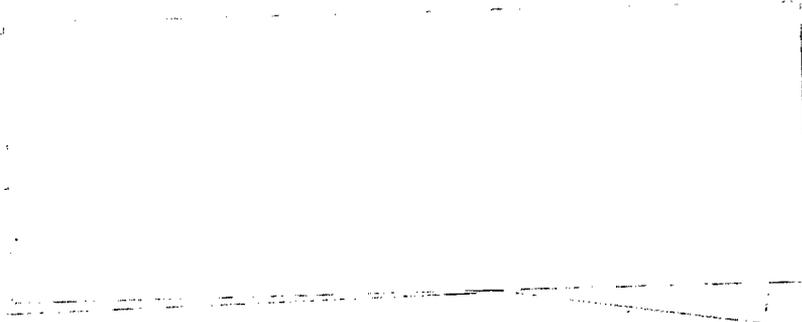
11. For the foregoing and connected reasons Your Petitioners respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, so far affecting your Petitioners, should not be allowed to pass into law.

12. There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your 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 Petitioners in the premises as your Honourable House shall deem meet.

AND

Sign



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