

IN PARLIAMENT  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
SESSION 2013–14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION

Against the Bill– 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 Andrew John Watts for himself and for John Watts Farms

SHEWETH as follows:-

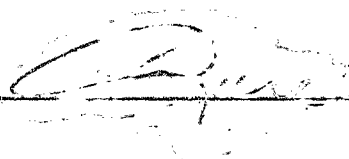
- 1 A Bill (hereinafter referred to as “the bill”) has been introduced and is now pending in your honourable House intituled “A bill to make provision for a railway between Euston in London and a junction with the West Coast Main Line at Handsacre in Staffordshire, with a spur from Old Oak Common in 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.
- 3 Clauses 1 to 18 of the bill set out the objectives and intentions in relation to the construction of the railway transport system and include provision for compulsory acquisition, temporary possession and compensation matters. Clauses 19 to 52 relate to existing regulations and the alteration thereof in order to allow the necessary works and use of the railway transport system with Clauses 57 to 65 dealing with miscellaneous and general provisions.
- 4 The Schedules contained within the Bill being from numbers 1 to 31 provide for the works to be required in the various locations.
- 5 Your Petitioner is Andrew John Watts owner and occupier of agricultural property in and around the village of Wishaw, Sutton Coldfield which is directly and specifically affected by the Bill.
- 6 Your Petitioner does not object in principle to the decision to construct Phase 1 of High Speed 2 but does object to the design and location of works to be

carried out as referred to below.

- 7 Your Petitioner and his rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
- 8 Referring to Notice No: C273/002240 (also Notice No. C273/002967), Sheet No.'s 3-44, 3-45, 3-48 and 3-49 show various works and land takes relating to Your Petitioners property in the Parishes of Wishaw, Middleton and Curdworth, Your Petitioners object to the works outlined below
- 9 The construction works and the final line will remove an irrigation reservoir of approximately 2.5 million gallons from the farm which serves approximately 170 acres of arable and potato land and for which no alternative has been proposed.
- 10 The spring feed for the above reservoir will be severed for which no proposals have been suggested to avoid flooding issues.
- 11 Your Petitioners respectfully point out that drainage running from east to west across the line and which serves in excess of 2,000 acres will be severed for which no mitigation proposals have been suggested either for the drainage of the land or the continued flow of the water across the line.
- 12 Your Petitioners land will be severed by the construction and the final line with access shown to the severed land via the property known as Cuttle Mill Fishery. This is a restricted access of approximately 3 metres and would not allow movement of large farm machinery.
- 13 The proposed Cuttle Mill underbridge lying to the east of Cuttle Mill Fishery must be of a size and height to accommodate the movement of modern farm machinery
- 14 Your Petitioner avers that the tree planting shown at Sheet No. 3-48 property No. 13, is excessive for the losses suffered on their land and will remove good agricultural land from production.
- 15 For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioner respectfully submits that, unless the Bill is amended to take account of the issues raised above with regards to the specifics relating to accommodation works and construction affecting the land then the Bill should not be allowed to pass into law.
- 16 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 Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Andrew John Watts', is written above a horizontal line.

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Authorised Agent for and on behalf of Andrew John Watts

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PETITION OF Andrew John Watts

Against The Bill-on Merits-By Counsel, &c.

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