

Organisation details

Organisation name

West Midland Bird Club

Details of individual in organisation

First name(s)

David

Last name

Jackson

Address line 1

11 Hyperion Drive

Address line 2

Penn, Wolverhampton, West Midlands

Post Code

WV45QW

Country

England

Email

jacksongrus@talktalk.net

Check this box to receive updates from the High Speed Rail (West Midlands to Crewe) Bill Committee?

Phone

07940826671

Who should be contacted about this petition?

Individual above

Another contact

If another contact, complete the 'main contact's details' section.

Main contact's details

First name(s)

Last name

Address line 1

Address line 2

Post Code

Country

Email

As above

Check this box to receive updates from the High Speed Rail (West Midlands to Crewe) Bill Committee?

Phone

As above

Terms and conditions

Personal information

A copy of this petition and information provided in the online form will be:

- kept in the Private Bill Office and as a record in the Parliamentary Archives.
- sent to the Department for Transport and High Speed Two (HS2) Limited after the petition has been received by the Private Bill Office.

We will publish your petition on UK Parliament's website. This will include your name and address.

The personal information you have provided may be kept in a database by both Private Bill Offices.

Communications

Private Bill Office staff may call or email any of the people named in the petition to verify the information provided.

Communications may be stored in databases to keep track of information you have given or received. This information may be shared between the Private Bill Offices.

Consent and confirmation

The information you have provided in the petition and online form is accurate.

If you have completed the form on behalf of an individual, a group of individuals, an organisation, or a group of organisations, you have been authorised to do so.

Check this box if you agree to the terms and conditions

Hybrid Bill Petition

House of Commons

Session 2017-19

Second Additional Provision (AP2) to the High Speed Rail (West Midlands to Crewe) Bill February 2019

Do not include any images or graphics in your petition. There will be an opportunity to present these later if you give evidence to the committee.

Your bill petition does not need to be signed.

Expand the size of the text boxes as you need.

1. Petitioner information

In the box below, give the name and address of each individual, business or organisation(s) submitting the petition.

David Jackson
Conservation Officer on behalf of
West Midland Bird Club
Registered Charity Number: 213311

In the box below, give a description of the petitioners. For example, "we are the owners/tenants of the addresses above"; "my company has offices at the address above"; "our organisation represents the interests of..."; "we are the parish council of...".

The West Midland Bird Club manage and carry out conservation initiatives for the bird reserve at Blithfield Reservoir, Staffordshire

The Bird Club currently has circa.1850 members and we will celebrate our 90th Anniversary in November 2019. The Club is a regional organisation dedicated to the study and conservation of wild birds in Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and the West Midlands.

The well known TV personality and birder W. E. "Bill" Oddie O.B.E is the Club's President.

We Lease and manage other bird reserves at Belvide Reservoir in Staffordshire, at Harborne near Birmingham and Ladywalk in Warwickshire.

We publish a comprehensive Annual Report of the birds of the Region, compiled from records submitted by our members. Our Report is the major historical source of information on the avifauna of our four counties and is used as a recording and monitoring tool for any noted increase or, or has been seen nationally in the past two decades the serious decline of regional bird species particularly on intensively farmed land. Our annual Bird Report enables the club

to plan and manage conservation projects.

Club publications also include the book 'Birds of the West Midlands'(2005)

Blithfield Reservoir covers some 324 ha and is owned by South Staffordshire Water plc. who lease the right to birdwatch at the site to the Bird Club. A Bird Club Management Team act in an advisory capacity in connection to the bird-watching and conservation projects of the site.

Blithfield Reservoir is regarded as one of the Midland region's best bird-watching sites that provides year round interest. The reservoir and much of the surrounding woodland is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) under the stewardship of Natural England. The woodland and surrounding mixed farmland add a diverse mixture of habitat that, along with the reservoir, its exposed shoreline and reed-beds, plays host to an equally diverse mixture of bird species. The physical expanse of the water is an attraction to large numbers of waterfowl and migrating wading birds, while spring and autumn passage would not be complete without the appearance of an Osprey or two, as these magnificent birds pass through and individuals may linger for several weeks in the autumn.

Large bird species such as Swans, Geese, Ducks, Gulls, Cormorants, Egrets, and birds of prey use the valley below the Reservoir Dam as a flyway and feeding area. A flock of varying size usually comprising several Whooper Swans and 30 plus Mute Swans feed, each winter/spring, in meadows in the Blythe valley directly below the path of the proposed pylons and overhead lines. Swifts numbering in their hundreds, linger around and beyond the reservoir dam, after they arrive from Africa each Spring, and their flocks range widely over the Blythe valley before they disperse to breed.

The area designated as the proposed route for the power lines is also shown on Hs2 Ltd Drawings nod. CT-05-INDEX-CA1 and CT-05-INDEX-CA1 both dated 15/01/19.

Plots referenced consecutively from CT-06-207 to CT-06-207- R6 and R7 refer to the proposed route of the power lines as shown on these Plans.

2. Objections to the Second Additional Provision (AP2) to the Bill

In the box below, write your objections to the Second Additional Provision (AP2) to the Bill and why your property or other interests are [specially and directly affected](#). Please number each paragraph.

Only objections outlined in this petition can be presented when giving evidence to the committee. You will not be entitled to be heard on new matters.

1. West Midland Bird Club object to the proposed location of the power line route proposed to run from Newlands Lane, Colton, Staffordshire to Parkgate-Newborough, which would also run in close proximity to Orange Lane and Glass Lane, as shown on a plan titled 'Parkgate GSP Connection', as in the Club's view the overhead le route is too close to Blithfield Reservoir Dam, and we are extremely concerned and would strongly maintain that there will be the risk of bird strike(s) to overhead power lines along the proposed overhead line route, particularly in the Blythe valley area.

The grounds for our objection are that in flight, birds can collide into the cables of power lines, because the cables are difficult to perceive as obstacles. In most cases the impact of collision leads to immediate death or to fatal injuries and mutilations, which cannot be survived.

There is also a risk of electrocution when birds sitting on power poles, cross arms and / or conducting cables are killed if they cause short circuits (short circuit between phases, or short-to-ground). In particular, "bad engineering" practised on medium-voltage power pole constructions has resulted in an enormous risk for numerous medium-sized and large birds, which use power poles as perching, roosting sites , and even nesting sites. Newly erected power poles and larger technical hardware have to be constructed to exclude the possibility of bird electrocution.

Many species of large birds suffer heavy losses and local populations can be decimated by electrocution.

3. What do you want to be done in response?

In the box below, tell us what you think should be done in response to your objections. You do not have to complete this box if you do not want to.

The committee cannot reject the Bill outright or propose amendments which conflict with the principle of the Bill. But it can require changes to the Government's plans in response to petitioners' concerns, which can take the form of amendments to the Bill or commitments by HS2 Ltd.

You can include this information in your response to section two 'Objections to the Second Additional Provision (AP2) to the Bill' if you prefer. Please number each paragraph.

2. The Bird Club requests that if the route of the proposed GSP cannot be moved to an alternative location, or the route moved further away from the reservoir dam, full consideration as to a costs comparison of overhead power supply versus underground cabling of power supply be made public, bearing in

mind the perceived detrimental effect on the birds of the Blythe valley. Habitat quality in breeding, staging and wintering areas, mainly when above ground power lines cut across open landscapes and habitats (flyways, wetlands, meadows etc.) have a negative effect on breeding and passage birds.

3. The Bird Club recommend that the power cables be buried underground on the whole (or part of the proposed route particularly the Newlands Lane to Orange Lane section) of the Grid Supply Point (GSP) connection.

4. Undertakings comprising written commitments must be given by Hs2 Ltd and National Grid that, if constructed, any overhead power lines are to be fitted with '**highly visible bird deflectors**' along the whole length of any overhead power lines from the proposed Auto Transformer Feeder Station at Newlands Lane, Colton through to the Parkgate/Newborough Grid Supply Point.(GSP)

5. Undertakings comprising written commitments must be given by Hs2 Ltd and National Grid that any cross-arms, insulators and other parts of low/high voltage powerlines shall be constructed so that birds find no opportunity to perch near energized power lines that might be hazardous.

6.Undertakings comprising written commitments must be given by Hs2 that all Ecological Assessments carried out on behalf of Hs2 Ltd will include measures to mitigate against any damage to bird habitats along the proposed Newlands to Parkgate Grid Supply Point – Newborough connection route.

If you have already petitioned against the High Speed Rail (West Midlands to Crewe) Bill, please give your petition number.

Next steps

Once you have completed your petition template, save it and either email it to prbohoc@parliament.uk, post to Hybrid Bills Office, Houses of Parliament, London, SW1A 0AA, or call 020 7219 3250 to arrange a time to deliver it in person.