



### CHAPTER xxviii

An Act to authorise a variation of the works authorised by the Cheshire and Lancashire County Councils (Runcorn-Widnes Bridge &c.) Act 1947 to amend that Act in certain respects and for other purposes.

[21st December 1955.]

**W**HEREAS—

(1) By the Cheshire and Lancashire County Councils (Runcorn-Widnes Bridge &c.) Act 1947 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act of 1947”) the county council of the administrative county of the county palatine of Chester and the county council of the administrative county of the county palatine of Lancaster were authorised to construct a bridge for vehicular and pedestrian traffic over the river Mersey and the Manchester Ship Canal between the borough of Widnes in the county of Lancaster and the urban district of Runcorn in the county of Chester:

(2) It would be of public and local advantage that the bridge to be constructed should be of a type of construction different from that authorised by the Act of 1947 and it is accordingly expedient that the said county councils should be empowered to construct the bridge (Work No. 2A) by this Act authorised in substitution for the bridge authorised by the Act of 1947:

(3) It is expedient that the said county councils should be empowered to acquire lands and easements for the purposes of or in connection with the said Work No. 2A and to acquire for purposes of the Act of 1947 and this Act the additional lands described in this Act:

(4) It is expedient that the other provisions in this Act contained be enacted:

(5) Estimates have been prepared for and in connection with the following purposes:—

(a) The purchase of land and easements for the purposes of the bridge (Work No. 2A) authorised by this Act	... ..	£35,000
(b) The construction of the bridge (Work No. 2A) authorised by this Act	... ..	£932,000
(c) The additional cost of the provision of housing accommodation authorised by the Act of 1947	... ..	£9,700

(6) The several works included in such estimates respectively are permanent works and it is expedient that the said county councils should be empowered to borrow money for those purposes as provided by this Act:

(7) Plans and sections showing the lines and levels of the bridge (Work No. 2A) authorised by this Act (such plans also showing the lands required or which may be taken for the purposes of the said bridge or for other purposes under the powers of this Act) and a book of reference to the said plans containing the names of the owners or reputed owners and lessees or reputed lessees and of the occupiers of the said lands were duly deposited with the clerk of the county council of the administrative county of the county palatine of Chester and with the clerk of the county council of the administrative county of the county palatine of Lancaster which plans sections and book of reference are in this Act respectively referred to as the deposited plans sections and book of reference:

(8) The purposes of this Act cannot be effected without the authority of Parliament:

(9) In relation to the promotion of the Bill for this Act the said county councils have observed the requirements of Part XIII of the Local Government Act 1933:

May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted and be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows:—

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Runcorn-Widnes Bridge Act 1955.

Interpretation.

2.—(1) In this Act except as otherwise expressly provided or unless the subject or context otherwise requires—

“the Act of 1947” means the Cheshire and Lancashire County Councils (Runcorn-Widnes Bridge &c.) Act 1947;

“ the Lands Clauses Acts ” means the Lands Clauses Acts as modified by the Acquisition of Land (Assessment of Compensation) Act 1919 by Part V of the Town and Country Planning Act 1947 by the Lands Tribunal Act 1949 by the Town and Country Planning Act 1954 and by this Act ;

“ the Minister ” means the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation.

(2) Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Act or unless the subject or context otherwise requires words and expressions to which meanings are assigned by the Act of 1947 or by the Acts wholly or partly incorporated therewith or with this Act have in relation to the relative subject matter the same respective meanings.

(3) Any reference in this Act to any enactment shall be construed as a reference to that enactment as applied extended amended or varied by or by virtue of any subsequent enactment including this Act.

3.—(1) The following Acts and parts of Acts (so far as the same are applicable for the purposes and are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act) are hereby incorporated with this Act (namely):—

(a) The Lands Clauses Acts (except section 92 and sections 127 to 131 and section 133 of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act 1845) ;

(b) The provisions of the Railways Clauses Consolidation Act 1845 as amended by the Mines (Working Facilities and Support) Act 1923 with respect to—

the temporary occupation of lands near the railway during the construction thereof ;

the crossing of roads or other interference therewith ;

works for the accommodation of lands adjoining the railway ; and

mines lying under or near the railway :

Provided that for the purposes of section 78 of the provisions substituted by Part II of the Mines (Working Facilities and Support) Act 1923 for sections 78 to 85 of the Railways Clauses Consolidation Act 1845 relating to minerals under railways the area of protection for the bridge (Work No. 2A) by this Act authorised in relation to any seam of minerals shall be the area comprising any railway or works of the company and such a lateral distance therefrom on all or both sides thereof as is equal at each point along the railway to one-half

of the depth of the seam below the surface of the ground or the bed of the river Mersey (as the case may be) or forty yards whichever be the greater and subsection (5) of the said substituted section 78 shall be read and have effect accordingly.

(2) For the purposes of this Act the expressions "the promoters of the undertaking" and "the company" in the said Acts shall be construed to mean the Councils the bond required by section 85 of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act 1845 shall be sufficient without the addition of the sureties mentioned in that section the expression "the railway" in the Railways Clauses Consolidation Act 1845 shall be construed to mean the work by this Act authorised and the expression "the centre of the railway" in the said Act shall be construed to mean any part of the said work.

Power to construct work and take lands.

4. Subject to the provisions of this Act the Councils may in the lines or situations and within the limits of deviation shown on the deposited plans and according to the levels shown on the deposited sections execute the following work and may enter upon take and use all or any of the lands delineated on the deposited plans and described in the deposited book of reference which they may require for the purposes of or in connection with the said work (that is to say):—

In the counties palatine of Chester and Lancaster—

Work No. 2A. A bridge over the Manchester Ship Canal and the river Mersey (in substitution for Work No. 2 authorised by the Act of 1947) commencing by a junction with Work No. 1 authorised by that Act at a point in Hope Street in the urban district of Runcorn in the county palatine of Chester and terminating in the borough of Widnes in the county palatine of Lancaster at the commencement of Work No. 3 authorised by the Act of 1947.

Abandonment of certain authorised works.

5.—(1) The Councils shall abandon the construction of Work No. 2 authorised by the Act of 1947.

(2) The Cheshire Council shall abandon the construction of so much of Work No. 1 authorised by the Act of 1947 as lies between the commencement of Work No. 2A by this Act authorised and the termination of the said Work No. 1.

Power to acquire additional lands.

6. Subject to the provisions of this Act the Councils may enter upon and take the lands in the borough of Widnes in the county palatine of Lancaster described in the schedule to this Act which are delineated on the deposited plans and described in the deposited book of reference and may hold and use the said lands for any purposes of or in connection with the Act of 1947 or this Act.

7.—(1) (a) The following provisions of the Act of 1947 shall apply and have effect for the purposes of or in connection with the construction of the work by this Act authorised and the acquisition of lands under the powers of this Act and for other purposes of this Act as if the said provisions were in terms re-enacted in this Act (that is to say):—

Application  
of certain  
provisions of  
Act of 1947.

- Section 8 (Works affecting river Mersey and Manchester Ship Canal);
- Section 9 (Power to construct bridges etc. and to execute temporary works on railways and canals);
- Section 10 (Power to deviate);
- Section 11 (Stopping up of highways);
- Section 12 (Power temporarily to stop up or interfere with streets etc.);
- Section 13 (Underpinning of houses near works);
- Section 14 (Power to pump water and use sewers for removing water);
- Section 15 (Power to alter sewers and drains);
- Section 16 (Alteration of position of water gas and other pipes);
- Section 17 (Power to alter steps areas etc. and execute protective works);
- Section 18 (Laying out and repair of carriageways and footways);
- Section 19 (Lighting etc. of bridge works);
- Section 20 (Bridge works to form public streets);
- Section 21 (County boundary for purposes of Act);
- Section 22 (Agreements with government departments and others);
- Section 23 (As to closing bridge works);
- Section 24 (No mains or pipes to be laid in bridge);
- Section 25 (Power to sell materials);
- Section 28 (Bridge works to be exempt from rates);
- Section 31 (As to taking parts of certain properties);
- Section 32 (Power to enter upon property for survey and valuation);
- Section 33 (Further powers of entry);
- Section 34 (Benefits to be set off against compensation);
- Section 35 (Acquisition of easements compulsorily);
- Section 37 (Extinction of private rights of way);
- Section 38 (Compensation in case of recently acquired interest);
- Section 39 (Errors in plans and book of reference);
- Section 40 (Persons under disability may grant easements);
- Section 41 (Agreements with owners of property);
- Section 42 (Retention and disposal of lands);
- Section 45 (Power to lay out streets etc.);

- Section 57 (Crown rights);  
Section 58 (Crown minerals);  
Section 59 (Saving rights of the Duchy of Lancaster);  
Section 60 (For protection of Postmaster-General);  
Section 61 (For further protection of Postmaster-General);  
Section 62 (Works below high-water mark to be subject to approval of Minister);  
Section 63 (Lights on works during construction);  
Section 64 (Permanent lights on works);  
Section 65 (Survey of works by Minister);  
Section 66 (Abatement of work abandoned or decayed);  
Section 67 (Provision against danger to navigation);  
Section 69 (For protection of the Manchester Ship Canal Company);  
Section 70 (For protection of Upper Mersey Navigation Commissioners);  
Section 71 (For protection of entrance to docks etc. at Widnes and elsewhere);  
Section 72 (For protection of London Midland and Scottish Railway Company);  
Section 74 (For protection of the Mersey Power Company Limited);  
Section 75 (For protection of Imperial Chemical Industries Limited and others);

The First Schedule.

(b) Any references in the said applied provisions to "the bridge" shall be construed as references to the bridge (Work No. 2A) by this Act authorised and any references to "the bridge works" shall have effect as if the said bridge (Work No. 2A) by this Act authorised had formed part of the works authorised by the Act of 1947 in substitution for the bridge (Work No. 2) authorised by that Act.

(c) Any references in the said applied provisions to "the deposited plans" or "the deposited sections" shall be construed as references to the deposited plans or the deposited sections as defined in this Act.

(d) The said sections 14 and 15 shall have effect as if the British Transport Commission were referred to therein instead of a railway company or railway joint committee.

(e) In relation to lands taken under the powers of section 6 (Power to acquire additional lands) of this Act the said section 38 shall have effect as if the words "twentieth day of November nineteen hundred and fifty-four" were substituted therein for the words "twentieth day of November one thousand nine hundred and forty-six".

(f) The said sections 42 and 45 shall have effect as if the Minister of Housing and Local Government were referred to therein instead of the Minister of Health.

(g) The said section 61 shall have effect subject to the following modification (that is to say):—

In subsection (2) of the said section for the words “three feet wide by two feet deep in the footway of the bridge works or of such other dimensions affording a cross-sectional area of not less than six square feet” there shall be substituted the words “two feet wide by one foot deep in the footway of the bridge works or of such other dimensions affording a cross-sectional area of not less than two square feet”.

(h) The said section 72 shall have effect as if the British Transport Commission were therein referred to instead of the London Midland and Scottish Railway Company.

(i) The said section 74 shall have effect as if the Central Electricity Authority and the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board were therein referred to instead of the Mersey Power Company Limited.

(2) (a) The following provisions of the Act of 1947 namely:—

Section 29 (Removal of existing transporter bridge);

Section 46 (Acquisition of land for relocation of population or industry);

Section 47 (Power to develop lands);

Section 48 (Provision for persons dispossessed);

Section 49 (Payment of allowances to certain persons displaced);

Part IV—Finance;

Part VII—Miscellaneous;

shall have effect as if the powers conferred by this Act had been conferred by the Act of 1947 and as if the bridge (Work No. 2A) by this Act authorised had formed part of the works authorised by the Act of 1947 in substitution for the bridge (Work No. 2) authorised by that Act.

(b) The expression “this Act” where used in any of the provisions referred to in this subsection shall unless the context otherwise requires be construed as including this Act.

(c) Section 53 (Contributions by Councils) of the Act of 1947 shall have effect as if at the end of subsection (1) there were added the following proviso:—

“Provided that the cost of the purchase of lands and easements for the purposes of the bridge shall be borne by the Cheshire Council so far as such lands and easements are in the county palatine of Chester and by the Lancashire Council so far as such lands and easements are in the county palatine of Lancaster.”

Period for compulsory purchase of lands.

**8.**—(1) The powers granted by this Act for the compulsory purchase of lands shall cease on the thirty-first day of December nineteen hundred and fifty-eight.

(2) The provisions of subsections (2) and (3) of section 3 of the Runcorn-Widnes Bridge Act 1953 empowering the Minister to extend by order the period for the compulsory purchase of lands for the purposes of the Act of 1947 shall apply to the compulsory purchase of lands for the purposes of this Act.

Increase of borrowing powers under Act of 1947.

**9.** The powers of the Councils to borrow money under the Act of 1947 for the purposes (b) and (d) mentioned in subsection (1) of section 52 (Power to borrow) of the said Act shall be increased to (b) the sum of nine hundred and thirty-two thousand pounds and (d) the sum of four hundred and ninety-two thousand pounds respectively.

For protection of Widnes Corporation.

**10.** The Councils may take into consideration any representation which may be made to them by the Widnes Corporation with regard to the cost to be incurred by the Widnes Corporation in complying with the provisions of section 29 (Removal of existing transporter bridge) of the Act of 1947 and may pay to the Widnes Corporation in equal proportions such sum (if any) as may be agreed between the Councils by way of a contribution towards such cost.

For protection of Hutchinson Estate and Dock Company (Widnes) Limited.

**11.** For the protection of the Hutchinson Estate and Dock Company (Widnes) Limited (in this section referred to as "the company") the following provisions shall unless otherwise agreed in writing between the company and the Councils have effect:—

- (1) If at any time during or after the construction of the bridge the entrance channel or approach from the main low-water channel in the upper estuary of the river Mersey to the West Bank Dock at Widnes shall be impeded or obstructed or rendered less deep than before the date on which the construction of the bridge is commenced and the company are reasonably of the opinion or it is determined by an arbitrator as herein-after provided that such impediment or obstruction or reduction of depth is in consequence of the construction or maintenance of the bridge and constitutes an obstruction or danger to navigation the Councils if so requested by the company (and as soon as reasonably practicable after the receipt by the Councils of such request) shall at their own expense execute such works as may be reasonably required by the company to remove or remedy such impediment or obstruction or to deepen the said entrance channel or approach or either of them by dredging or otherwise:



- (2) If any question arises between the Councils and the company under the provisions of this section such question shall be referred to and determined by an arbitrator to be appointed in default of agreement by the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers upon the application of either party and the provisions of the Arbitration Act 1950 shall apply to any such reference and determination.

**12.** This Act shall be deemed to be an enactment passed before and in force at the passing of the Town and Country Planning Act 1947 for the purposes of subsection (4) of section 13 and subsection (1) of section 118 of that Act. Saving for town and country planning.

**13.** The costs charges and expenses preliminary to and of and incidental to the preparing applying for obtaining and passing of this Act as taxed by the taxing officer of the House of Lords or of the House of Commons shall be borne by the Councils in equal shares and shall be paid out of their respective county funds or out of moneys to be borrowed under the Act of 1947. Costs of Act.

## SCHEDULE

DESCRIPTION OF ADDITIONAL LANDS  
TO BE ACQUIRED

Lands in the borough of Widnes in the county palatine of Lancaster being the properties respectively numbered on the deposited plans 100A 102A and 102B in the said borough.

*Table of Statutes referred to in this Act*

Short title	Session and chapter
Lands Clauses Consolidation Act 1845 ...	8 & 9 Vict. c. 18.
Railways Clauses Consolidation Act 1845 ...	8 & 9 Vict. c. 20.
Acquisition of Land (Assessment of Compensation) Act 1919 ...	9 & 10 Geo. 5. c. 57.
Mines (Working Facilities and Support) Act 1923 ...	13 & 14 Geo. 5. c. 20.
Local Government Act 1933 ...	23 & 24 Geo. 5. c. 51.
Town and Country Planning Act 1947 ...	10 & 11 Geo. 6. c. 51.
Cheshire and Lancashire County Councils (Runcorn-Widnes Bridge &c.) Act 1947 ...	10 & 11 Geo. 6. c. xxix.
Lands Tribunal Act 1949 ...	12 13 & 14 Geo. 6. c. 42.
Arbitration Act 1950 ...	14 Geo. 6. c. 27.
Runcorn-Widnes Bridge Act 1953 ...	1 & 2 Eliz. 2. c. xxvi.
Town and Country Planning Act 1954 ...	2 & 3 Eliz. 2. c. 72.

PRINTED BY JOHN ROUGHTON SIMPSON, C.B.

Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office and Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament

LONDON : PUBLISHED BY HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

Price 9d. net

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN

(38933)

# Runcorn-Widnes Bridge Act, 1955

4 ELIZ. 2 Ch. xxviii

---

## ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

### Section

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Incorporation of Acts.
4. Power to construct work and take lands.
5. Abandonment of certain authorised works.
6. Power to acquire additional lands.
7. Application of certain provisions of Act of 1947.
8. Period for compulsory purchase of lands.
9. Increase of borrowing powers under Act of 1947.
10. For protection of Widnes Corporation.
11. For protection of Hutchinson Estate and Dock Company (Widnes) Limited.
12. Saving for town and country planning.
13. Costs of Act.

### SCHEDULE—

Description of additional lands to be acquired.

