

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 **MR NIGEL TAYLOR** and **MRS ANN TAYLOR**

SHEWETH as follows:

1. A Bill (hereinafter called “the Bill”) has been introduced into and is now pending in your honourable House entitled “ High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill - 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 Secretary Patrick 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 ("the Authorised Works") are specified in clauses 1 and 2 of and Schedule 1 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 the Bill.
7. Your petitioner is the freeholder and occupier of **Washbrook Farm, Aston-le-Walls, Daventry** which is an equestrian and sporting holding in Northamptonshire; your Petitioner is an equestrian business with an International Reputation for running of events of all stages and training to Olympic standard. The business is located on the Greatworth to Lower Boddington stretch of the proposed line (Ref. CFA15(23)). Your petitioner has

established over the last 20 years a truly significant equestrian business based around the running and training of three day eventing horses. The significance of this business is duly noted within HS2's own draft Environmental Statements. The facilities are unique within the discipline and have hosted several international Olympic three day eventing teams in recent years.

8. It is proposed by the Bill to authorise the compulsory acquisition of certain interests in land or property of your Petitioner and in accordance with the standing orders of your honourable House notice has been served on your Petitioners of the intention to seek such compulsory powers. Your Petitioner's property will be severed by the proposed railway line which will run through their holding between the villages of Aston Le Walls and Lower Boddington. Your Petitioner's eventing course will largely be acquired by the scheme and due to the injurious affection (particularly noise during the construction phase) it will not be possible to continue this business unless additional adjacent land can be acquired in advance and significant mitigation works implemented.
9. Your Petitioner and its rights, interests and property will be injuriously affected by the provisions of the Bill, and your Petitioner accordingly objects thereto for the reasons, amongst others, hereinafter appearing:

Land Acquisition:

Despite Your Petitioner's business being extensively identified within the draft environmental statements as being of such significance and assurances that all efforts would be made to mitigate the impact of the scheme on your Petitioner's business there has been no progress by HS2 since initial meetings with their representatives – at first HS2 said they couldn't engage due to an inability to look at design aspects on the land and then engagement was delayed further due to HS2 not having funds to look at adjacent land purchases in advance.

Your Petitioner's have put forward a proposal to slightly change the design of the scheme by altering the location of a balancing pond and then acquiring some adjacent land to enable them to continue with their equestrian eventing business.

This was proposed initially in a letter dated 14th June 2013 but with no progress to date has been made. Timing to enable both the land acquisition and mitigation works are crucial in this respect.

Mitigation:

Your Petitioner's would need some alterations to the existing proposals and specifically the balancing pond within the land edged red on the attached plan; Your Petitioner's would also need to do significant tree planting along the line of the route to the north.

Timescales:

Your Petitioner's ability to continue their business is absolutely dependent upon the ability to construct their new cross country course and infrastructure (roads, water, spectator banks etc) as soon as possible to ensure that this is up and running and approved by the sport's governing bodies before the commencement of works. In order to do this land has to be acquired, planning consents gained and then physical works completed – Your Petitioner's already feel that timelines are extremely tight to complete this and have advised HS2 that this is the case.

The landscaping and tree planting works also need to start as soon as possible if this is to be viable and this business is to continue.

Severance:

Your Petitioner's land is severed by the proposal and there is no detail within the Environmental Statement as to how access is to be maintained to the land which is severed and this needs to be addressed.

In summary Your Petitioners wish to do everything possible to continue their business and whilst this is recognised by HS2 the action on the ground and the within the timescales identified has not been forthcoming and this needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAY

your Honourable House that the Bill may not pass into law as it now stands and that they be heard by themselves, 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 amendments as may be necessary and proper for their protection and benefit.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS will ever pray, &c.



Agents for Mr Nigel Taylor and
Mrs Ann Taylor.

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AGAINST,

BY COUNSEL, &c.

