

IN PARLIAMENT  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
SESSION 2013 – 2014

**HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL**

PETITION OF George Thame and Robert Thame, Trading as F Thame & Son

Against the Bill – on Merits – Praying to be heard by Counsel. &c.

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### **PETITION**

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To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Parliament assembled.

THE HUMBLE PETITION of George Thame and Robert Thame

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, 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 together with Schedules 1-26 set out the Bill’s objectives in relation to the construction and operation of the railway system mentioned in paragraph 1 above. They include provision for the construction and maintenance 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 and street works and the use of lorries.
4. Clauses 37 to 42 of the Bill, together with Schedules 27-28 deal with the regulatory regime for the railway.
5. Clauses 43 to 65 of the Bill together with Schedules 29-31 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 Petitioners are George Thame and Robert Thame whose address is Trafford House Farm, Chipping Warden, Banbury, Oxfordshire OX17 1AH, trading as F Thame & Son. Collectively your Petitioners own and farm some 420 acres on the edge of Chipping Warden. The estate includes Trafford Farm House and three further residential properties, farm buildings, stables and agricultural land.
8. Your Petitioner’s rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others hereinafter appearing.
9. Your Petitioner’s have listed below their serious concerns regarding the operation of the rail line for reasons relating to noise and visual blight, the loss of valuable agricultural land and injurious affection to their freehold interest.
  - 9.1 **Noise** - Your Petitioners are extremely concerned about the substantial interference from noise and vibration that the rail line will have on Trafford Farm House, the other residential properties and the subsequent quality of life. The noise and vibration will significantly and negatively impact on your Petitioners quality of life which is likely to cause stress, sleep deprivation and subsequent health issues. Your Petitioners respectfully request the rail line is moved further from your Petitioners property.
  - 9.2 **Visual Blight** – Your Petitioners are also extremely concerned about the visual impact the rail line will have on their estate. This will permanently blight the rural character of your Petitioner’s Estate and this will, in addition, forever reduce the value of the Petitioner’s freehold interest and their quality of life. Your Petitioners respectfully request the rail line is moved further from your Petitioners property
  - 9.3 **The unnecessary loss of agricultural land** – All references to plan number relate to those within the Environmental Statement.
    - 9.3.1 With regard to plan number CT-05-074; the construction phase drawing within the Environmental Statement illustrates the route of construction traffic is along the road known as Welsh Road which passes the end of your Petitioners drive. This will have an impact on your Petitioners traffic movements in and out of the holding and also those of the other residential properties. Your Petitioners have requested details, if any, of the traffic management provisions that will be in place but to date have not received this information from the Promoters.
    - 9.3.2 Your Petitioners note from Section 12.4.15 of the Environmental Report that Wardington Road will be closed for a period of two years during construction. This will cause a significant impact to both the agricultural movements of your Petitioners as well as additional expense and inconvenience to both them and other residents on a daily basis – with no particular reasoning why this road will be closed.

- 9.3.3 Your Petitioner, in conjunction with Natural England, has gone to great lengths to improve the holding for the breeding of wading birds and wildfowl and the prospect of the rail line being close to this site is going to affect the bird population. Your Petitioners have noticed from Plan CT-06-074 that there is a lack of environmental mitigation planned along the route nearest your Petitioners holding to mitigate this effect and they respectfully ask that the wetland waders and wildfowl population be carefully considered in terms of further mitigation.
- 9.3.4 Your Petitioners holding and the residential properties are not on mains water and are fed by springs. Your Petitioners would like to raise concerns that there appears to be no procedures in place to ensure that their water supply is not affected during the construction. The reduction in this supply would be catastrophic to your Petitioners business as well as their living arrangements. Your Petitioners have requested copies of any provisions that will be put in place from the Promoters but have not received any information.
- 9.3.5 There appears to be no provisions in place for the control of rain water during or after construction which is currently dealt with by field drains. Your Petitioners land is subject to flooding at present and there is no assurance from the Promoters that all disturbed field drains will be replaced. Your Petitioners have respectfully requested this information from the Promoter's but none has been forthcoming. Your Petitioners are concerned that the presence of HS2 will only worsen the flooding situation they currently face potentially causing further loss of income due to flooding.
- 9.4 Your Petitioner's would respectfully record their disappointment at the need to petition against the Bill but this is due to the inadequacy of the Promoter's efforts to properly consider an adequate mitigation plan with your Petitioner's before the Bill was deposited. Your Petitioner's have engaged with the Promoters a number of times in good faith to identify various solutions that seriously impact on their Estate.
- 9.5 Your Petitioner's feel dismayed and frustrated at the lack of consideration shown to them by the Promoters.
10. For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioner's respectfully submit that unless those clauses of the Bill referring to the proposed construction of HS2 as it affects F Thame & Son are removed or amended then the Bill should not be allowed to pass into law.
11. There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill which if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your Petitioner's and their rights, interests and property for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioners.

YOUR PETITIONER'S therefore humbly pray your Honourable House that the Bill may not be allowed to pass into law as it now stands and that he 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 your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Agent

