

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

Against – 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 Lord N C J Rothschild, Lord N C J Rothschild as Partner of Lower Blackgrove Farms Ltd, Lord N C J Rothschild as owner of The Waddesdon Estate and Lord N C J Rothschild as Chair of Trustees of The Rothschild Foundation

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 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 and 2 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 and Schedules 2 and 3 to the Bill.
- 7 Your petitioners are the freehold owner of The Waddesdon Estate which extends to circa 5,500 acres of arable, grass and woodland owned by Lord N C J Rothschild, Lord N C J Rothschild as Partner of Lower Blackgrove Farms Ltd, Lord N C J Rothschild as owner of The Waddesdon Estate and Lord N C J Rothschild as Chair of Trustees of The Rothschild Foundation which is a registered charity (no 1138145) whose objectives are focussed on the preservation and enhancement of The Waddesdon Manor, its surroundings and environment. The objectives of your petitioners has always been to maintain their ownership to the highest standard for the benefit of all. Your petitioner's property is within the limits of land to be acquired and used as shown on the plans deposited with the Bill, and part of the property is therefore liable to compulsory acquisition under the Bill. Consequently the proposed route for the HS2 will sever approximately 300 acres of land from the Estate's core on the north eastern side of the Estate.
- 8 Your petitioners are concerned that it has numerous employees and visitors, many of whom live or work in the area that will be affected by the construction and operation of the railway authorised by the Bill and your petitioner's responsibilities extend to that area.
- 9 Your petitioner's property that is proposed to be used under the Bill will be injuriously affected and subject to intolerable noise/dust/visual impact/vibrations for the duration of construction and when the HS2 is in operation.
- 10 Your petitioner's property is located adjacent to the A41 which is proposed to be used under the Bill as a route for construction traffic of the HS2. High numbers of your petitioners staff and tenants use the A41 on a daily basis to commute to work, transport children to school and access local services. Therefore restricted use of this road and the increased use of construction vehicles will result in the aforementioned being exposed to greater levels of traffic, associated risk of accidents, dust, noise, light pollution and increased travel time.
- 11 The proposed use of access to your petitioners property which is proposed

under the bill will deter visitors from visiting the site due to the increased time and therefore cost to access it, increased isolation from main transport routes resulting in a decreased overall accessibility. Visitors to the site provide a vital source of funding, and therefore an increased level of difficulty in visiting the site will have a detrimental impact of the visitor experience and numbers attending the site. The impact during the construction phase is of particular concern.

- 12 From your petitioner's property, your petitioner enjoys views of The Vale of Aylesbury, and the Chiltern Hills which will be spoilt during the construction phase and once the railway authorised by the Bill is operational.
- 13 The construction and operation of the railway will result in a significant detrimental impact in the character of the area. The intensification of urbanisation will impact on the aesthetics of the area around at the A41/Waddesdon Hill junction by The Grand Lodge gates and to Lower Blackgrove Farm.
- 14 Your petitioners are Lord N C J Rothschild, Lord N C J Rothschild as Partner of Lower Blackgrove Farms Ltd, Lord N C J Rothschild as owner of The Waddesdon Estate and Lord N C J Rothschild as Chair of Trustees of The Rothschild Foundation and their rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which Your petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
- 15 Your petitioners were pleased when they were informed that the A41 road realignment that is proposed in the Bill was to be preferred to the previous proposal for a flyover structure. However your petitioners remain concerned that the existing scheme will have a significant and unacceptable impact on the landscape. We feel that the A41 should cross HS2 along its existing line but its vertical alignment is dropped into a land bridge. The current scheme also does not include sufficient tree screening to protect the views of the Vale of Aylesbury in addition to the original entrance to Waddesdon Manor through Grand Lodge.
- 16 Your petitioners are concerned that the existing scheme provides little mitigation for the impact on Grand Lodge and its surroundings and should be enhanced. The current road configuration will have a negative impact for Grand Lodge and the original entrance to Waddesdon and Your Petitioners recommend this is reconfigured as suggested above.
- 17 Your petitioners are concerned that the proposed overbridge for Bridleway FMA/1 to accommodate public rights of way will stand some 12m above the existing landscape which will be a significant intrusion in the landscape. Your petitioner suggests that the right of way crossing is either diverted or transferred into a tunnel. Currently the proposed route is felt inappropriate and there is little, if any mitigation provided to reduce its impact.

- 18 Your petitioners are concerned that the two areas of wetland habitat creation (to the south of the Putlowes Auto-transformer Station Satellite Compound and to the north of the former layby on the A41 by Blackgrove Farm) in close proximity to a high speed rail link will not allow the development of a balanced ecology and it is not felt that the existing approach is insufficient to mitigate the losses of the scheme and an alternative solution is suggested where ecological offsetting is agreed with the neighbouring landowners as part of their existing land management regime. Your petitioner would need confirmation of how these Wetland Habitat Creation areas will be managed and maintained including landowner responsibility and liabilities agreed in advance of any work being undertaken.
- 19 Your petitioners are concerned that the current approach to the landscaping along the length of the track is not felt adequate or appropriate to mitigate against the long term impact of the HS2 route in the landscape. The proposed planting is focussed in close proximity to the line of the HS2 route and will in time hide sections of the route but in doing so create a broken green line along the route. Within the setting of the Vale this is not regarded as sensitive treatment and additional land should be planted to ensure the impact on the wider landscape is limited for future generations. In this context planting could extend within the boundaries of severed fields to ensure that the integrity of the landscape in the Vale, which has been developed over generations, is maintained as far as possible.
- 20 Your petitioners suggest that increased areas of woodland planting should be contained within the proposals and compensation set out for the land take at the earliest opportunity to allow early planting to be undertaken wherever possible (ideally in the 2014/15) planting season to ensure the HS2 route is screened as soon as possible.
- 21 Your petitioners are concerned with the impact of the A41, it is proposed to downgrade the A41 to an A road however unless the width of the road is narrowed then it will continue to stand out in the landscape.
- 22 Your petitioners are concerned that in the event that an underpass / tunnel cannot be delivered that the existing mitigation around the Bicester A41 Road Bridge is inadequate. It is suggested that additional land is taken, possibly with the requirement of additional earth works to increase the extent of tree planting around the roundabout.
- 23 Your petitioners are concerned that the delivery times of HGVs will not be restricted. On the basis there may be 380 HGV visits per day to some compounds, it is requested that these times are restricted to avoid conflicts with rush hour and the school runs in particular.

- 24 Your petitioners are concerned that there is currently no proposal to prevent noise pollution from the Thame Valley Viaduct to the cluster of residential buildings at Eythrope. It is requested that barriers that deflect and absorb noise are installed on the southern / western side of the track as it is not felt the mitigation is sufficient in an area of open countryside where it is expected that noise will easily carry beyond the shown limits.
- 25 Your petitioners are concerned that there is limited detail on the construction design of the Thame Valley Viaduct which is requested in advance of any work commencing with suitable and sufficient mitigation measures.
- 26 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 Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signature of Petitioner Lord N C J Rothschild, Lord N C J Rothschild as Partner of Lower Blackgrove Farms Ltd, Lord N C J Rothschild as owner of The Waddesdon Estate and Lord N C J Rothschild as Chair of Trustees of The Rothschild Foundation

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BILL

PETITION OF LORD N C J ROTHSCHILD,
LORD N C J ROTHSCHILD AS PARTNER
OF LOWER BLACKGROVE FARMS LTD,
LORD N C J ROTHSCHILD AS OWNER OF
THE WADDES DON ESTATE AND LORD N
C J ROTHSCHILD AS CHAIR OF
TRUSTEES OF THE ROTHSCHILD
FOUNDATION

AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

Name of Petitioner

Lord N C J Rothschild, Lord N C J
Rothschild as Partner of Lower Blackgrove
Farms Ltd, Lord N C J Rothschild as owner
of The Waddesdon Estate and Lord N C J
Rothschild as Chair of Trustees of The
Rothschild Foundation
The Waddesdon Estate Office