

LONDON AND BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY
OPPOSITION MEETING FOR owners and occupiers of lands within the county of
BEDFORD Swan Inn Leighton Buzzard 24th. Jan. 1831 and within the county of
BUCKINGHAM Cock Inn Stony Stratford 25th. Jan. 1831

London and Birmingham Railway.

IT being apprehended that much Injury will be done to the Properties of those Persons through whose Lands the said Railway is intended to pass, a MEETING of the PROPRIETORS and OCCUPIERS of such LANDS within the COUNTRY of BEDFORD, will be holden at the SWAN INN, at LEIGHTON BUZZARD, on MONDAY the 24TH day of JANUARY instant, at Twelve o'clock at noon, in order to consider the subject, and adopt such Measures as may be expedient on the occasion. – Dated the 13th day of January, 1831

P. D. P. DUNCOMBE

JOHN GRANT.

BEDFORDSHIRE MEETING.

London and Birmingham Railway.

AT a numerous and highly respectable MEETING of the OWNERS and OCCUPIERS of LANDS WITHIN the COUNTY of BEDFORD, THROUGH WHICH THIS RAILWAY WILL PASS, held at the SWAN INN, in LEIGHTON BASSARD, on MONDAY the 24th INSTANT, in pursuance of public advertisement, “in order to consider the subject, and adopt such Measures as might be deemed expedient on the occasion,”

PRESENT,

Sir THOMAS COTTON SHEPPARD, Bart.

P. D. P. Duncombe, Esquire

Colonel Gilpin

T. R. Thornton, Esquire

John Grant, Esquire

Robert Clark, Esquire

Rev. J. Wilson

Mr. T. L. Wood

Mr. J. D. Bassett

Mr. Samuel Reeve

Mr. Charles Ridgway

Mr. D. L. Willies

Mr. Josiah Wheeler

Mr. John Morlimer

&c. &c. &c.

JOHN GRANT, Esq. in the Chair.

It was resolved by a very large majority,

That it is the opinion of this Meeting, that the projected Railway from LONDON to BIRMINGHAM will be of GREAT UTILITY TO THE PUBLIC, and is deserving its SANCTION and SUPPORT.

The Chairman having declared the Resolution carried, the thanks of the Meeting were voted to him for his disinterested conduct in the chair.

Leighton Bussard, Jan. 24, 1831

London and Birmingham Railway.

IT being apprehended that much Injury will be done to the Properties of those Persons through whose Lands the said Railway is intended to pass, a MEETING of the PROPRIETORS and OCCUPIERS of such LANDS within the COUNTY of BUCKINGHAM, will be holden at the COCK INN, at STONY STRATFORD, on TUESDAY the 25TH day of JANUARY instant, at Twelve o'clock at noon, in order to consider the Subject, and adopt such Measures as may be expedient on the Occasions. - Dated this 13th day of January, 1831.

P. D. P. DUNCOMBE
WILL. WATTS.

LONDON and BIRMINGHAM
RAILWAY.

AT A MEETING of the PROPRIETORS and OCCUPIERS of LANDS in the COUNTY of BUCKINGHAM, THROUGH WHICH THE PROJECTED LONDON and BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY IS INTENDED TO PASS, holden at the COCK INN, at STONY STRATFORD, on the 25th day of JANUARY, 1831 (pursuant to public Advertisement), for the purpose of considering the subject, and adopting such measures as may be expedient on the occasion -

P. D. P. DUNCOMBE, Esq. in the Chair.

The Resolutions passed at the Towcester Meeting, on the 30th day of December last, having been read,

Resolved,

That the same be adopted by this meeting.

Mr. Thornton, a member of the Towcester Committee, having stated that he has found a very general feeling to exist amongst the Nobility, Gentry, Yeomen, and other persons though whose lands the said railway is intended to pass, that it will be desirable to oppose the same-

Resolved,

That it is the opinion of this meeting that the projected railway will, if carried, be productive of ruin to the best interests of the country by the injury which it cannot fail to produce to agriculture, the basis of its prosperity, - By the destruction of turnpike roads, the sacrifice of the securities created by parliament, upon the faith of which individuals have advanced thousands for the support of such roads, - by the entire

descriptions, - by the depriving of the labouring classes of the community of employment, - by the barrier which it will create between those parts of the country which it will intersect, and by a train of other evils too numerous to particularize.

This meeting do dissent from the proposed measure, and do pledge themselves to use their best exertions to oppose it in every constitutional way within their power, collectively and individually.

Resolved,

That a petition to parliament, founded on the foregoing resolutions, be immediately framed.

That the members for the county of Buckingham be requested to present the same, and support the prayer of it in parliament.

Resolved,

That Mr. Duncombe, Mr. Selby Lowndes, Mr. Watts, Mr. Van Hagen, and Mr. Bailey, be appointed a committee (with power to add to their number), to co-operate with other committees in such opposition.

Resolved,

That a subscription be entered into towards defraying the expense of the said opposition.

That subscriptions be received by Messrs. Oliver, Bankers, Stony Stratford; Messrs. Bartlett & Barrett, Bankers, Buckingham; and Messrs. Praed & Co. London.

Resolved,

That the thanks of this meeting be given to those gentlemen by whom it was convened.

Resolved,

That the thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. Thornton, for his attendance, and the information he has given.

P. D. P. DUNCOMBE, Chairman.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. Duncombe, for his kindness in taking the chair, and his able conduct therein.

ALC/D/098.4

LONDON AND BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY COMPANY

5th. Feb. 1831

OPPOSITION MEETING for proprietors and occupiers of lands between PADDINGTON AND LEIGHTON, held at WATFORD

AT A MEETING of Proprietors and Occupiers of Houses and Lands, and other Persons interested in Property and Estates between PADDINGTON and LEIGHTON, and the Parts adjacent likely to be destroyed or deteriorated by the projected

RAIL-ROAD from LONDON to BIRMINGHAM, holden at the
 ESSEX ARMS, WATFORD, on Friday the 28th of January,
 1831 (pursuant to public Notice), for the Purpose of adopting
 such Means of opposing the same as may be deemed expedient;

PRESENT, in Person, or by Proxy,

<i>The Earl of Clarendon</i>	<i>Thomas Abel Ward,</i>
<i>The Earl of Essex, by</i>	<i>Esq.</i>
<i>John Dickinson, Esq.</i>	<i>Mr. Bailey Smith</i>
<i>his Proxy</i>	<i>Mr. George Howard</i>
<i>The Countess of</i>	<i>Mr. John Griffin</i>
<i>Bridge-</i>	<i>Mr. Thomas Ebberrn</i>
<i>water, by Robert</i>	<i>Mr. George Hatley</i>
<i>Clarke, Esq. her Proxy</i>	<i>Mr. George Smith</i>
<i>The Earl of Harrowby,</i>	<i>Mr. William Pugh</i>
<i>by the Hon. Granville</i>	<i>Mr. Lowis Aubrey</i>
<i>Dudley Ryder, M. P.</i>	<i>Mr. Simeon Child</i>
<i>The Right Hon.</i>	<i>Mr. William Child</i>
<i>Richard Ryder</i>	<i>Mr. John Norris</i>
<i>The Rev. Sir John</i>	<i>Mr. W. H. Pedley</i>
<i>Filmer,</i>	<i>Mr. George Bouron,</i>
<i>Bart. by John Sedg-</i>	<i>for</i>
<i>wick, his Proxy</i>	<i>Mrs. Mary Carly</i>
<i>Sir Astley Paston</i>	<i>Mr. John Weall, by</i>
<i>Cooper,</i>	<i>Benj.</i>
<i>Bart.</i>	<i>Weall</i>
<i>The Hon. & Rev. W.</i>	<i>Mr. Charles Prince</i>
<i>Thellusson</i>	<i>Mr. Benj. Weall</i>
<i>The Rev. J. F. Moore</i>	<i>Mr. Thomas Cole</i>
<i>Halsey</i>	<i>Mr. James Cole</i>
<i>Mr. Sergeant Adams</i>	<i>Mr. John Wilshin</i>
<i>Colonel Bingham, by</i>	<i>Mr. John Bovingdon</i>
<i>the</i>	<i>Mr. Thomas Barnett</i>
<i>Rev. J. F. Moore Hul-</i>	<i>Mr. Robert Newman</i>
<i>sey, his Proxy</i>	<i>Mr. Richard Rackeliff</i>
<i>Astley Paston Cooper,</i>	<i>Mr. James Martin</i>
<i>Esq.</i>	<i>Mr. William Urlwin,</i>
<i>Captain Sullivan</i>	<i>for</i>
<i>John Dickinson, Esq</i>	<i>Mr. Joshua Haldren</i>
<i>Thos. Abbott Green,</i>	<i>Mr. Robt. Fossey</i>
<i>Esq.</i>	<i>Howard</i>
<i>Henry Campbell</i>	<i>Mr. James How</i>
<i>White, Esq.</i>	<i>Mr. George Weedon</i>
<i>The Rev. John Batt</i>	<i>Mr. George Saunders</i>
<i>Bingham</i>	<i>Mr. J. S. Allen</i>
<i>Harry Grover, Esq.</i>	<i>Mr. John Giles</i>
<i>The Rev. Thomas</i>	<i>Mr. John Buckoke</i>
<i>White,</i>	<i>Mr. John Bruton</i>
<i>by John White, Esq.</i>	<i>Mr. Thomas Young</i>
<i>his Proxy</i>	<i>Mr. Francis Cotton</i>
<i>William Smart, Esq.</i>	<i>Mr. George Brown</i>
<i>Frank Moore, Esq.</i>	<i>Mr. Richard West</i>
<i>John White, Esq.</i>	<i>Mr. Joseph Austin—</i>
<i>John Woodcock, Esq.</i>	<i>The Trustees of Box</i>

Dr. Pidcock *Moor,*
Thomas Nicholl, Esq. *by William Smith,*
John Dyson, Esq. *Esq.*

The EARL of CLARENDON, in the Chair;

The Resolutions of a MEETING of Proprietor and Occupiers of Land in the County of Northampton, held at Towcester, on the 30th December last, and Communications from several Proprietors and Occupiers who were not able to attend (concurring in the objects of this Meeting) were read, viz.: LORD NORTHWICK, CHRISTOPHER THOMAS TOWER, Esq. The Rev. JACOB HENRY BROOKE MOUNTAIN, J. TILLENY, Mrs. LONGMORE.

Messrs. GROVER, SMITH, and GROVER reported, that from the result of their own inquiries, and from Communications received from other quarters, it had been ascertained that a very great majority of Land Owners and Occupiers from Coventry to Paddington, dissent from the Measure.

Resolved unanimously,

That this Meeting (which comprises the principal Proprietors of Land, extending a great distance), approve of the Resolutions of the Meeting at Towcester.

That previous to the examination of the Plan, and more particularly the Section of the proposed Rail-road, the assembled Proprietors and Occupiers had no conception, and are convinced that the Public in general can have no conception, of the extent of injury, disfigurement, and destruction of property, that would be occasioned in this highly cultivated and ornamented part of the Country, by a work of this extraordinary nature, requiring enormous embankments in the valleys and low grounds, and corresponding chasms, by deep cutting through the hilly and high grounds, for the purpose of preserving the level, and the straightness of the line.

That the Projectors and Parties concerned appear to have embarked in the scheme with the most vague and inaccurate ideas of the nature of the undertaking, having stated in July last that it would require a Capital of one million five hundred thousand pounds for its completion; in October last, that it would require 2,000,000; and on the 10th of November last it was announced by an Advertisement in the Newspapers that it would require 3,000,000; whereas it has been represented to this Meeting, that by the most moderate estimate of experienced and competent Engineers, the work could not be carried into effect with an expenditure of less than four millions sterling, and probably much more (a fact well known to the Directors of the proposed Railway); and this upon a line of communication already furnished with excellent Roads, and a Canal constructed at an enormous expense.

That the system of Rail-roads, as a general means of Communication, has not been tried and approved by sufficient experience to warrant this undertaking, which has been projected without any local knowledge, and is almost entirely unsupported by local interest; and supposing the money could be raised for its accomplishment, would be attended by no adequate local or public advantage, and no beneficial result to those who sink their money in the speculation.

That upon these and other public grounds, no less than the injurious invasion of their property, and the destruction of their residences and comforts, the Meeting determine to oppose the measure, and agree to the appointment of a Committee to conduct the Opposition.

That the following Gentlemen be Members of the Committee, with power to add to their number, and that any three of them be competent to act, viz.:- Astley Paston Cooper, Esq.; Robert Clarke, Esq.; Thomas Abbott Green, Esq.; John Dickinson, Esq.; Capt. Sullivan, The Rev. John Fitz Moore Halsey, Henry Campbell White, Esq.

That the Committee be authorized to act in conjunction or unite with other Committees appointed by the Land Owners and Occupiers on the proposed line of the Rail-road.

That a Subscription be entered into for defraying the expense already or hereafter to be incurred, and in conducting the Opposition, and such other Matters as may be thought advisable by the Committee.

That Subscriptions be received by Messrs. DORRIEN, MAGENS, & CO. Bankers, London, and by Messrs. GROVER and POLLARD, Bankers at Hemel Hempsted, which shall be under the control of the Committee.

That Messrs. GROVER, SMITH, & GROVER, of Hemel Hempstead, be appointed Solicitors and Agents, to act under the superintendence of the Committee, and with authority to unite with Mr. BURTON, the Solicitor and Agent to the Committee appointed at Towcester on the 30th of December last, in any matter that may be expedient to further the objects of this Meeting.

That the respective County Members of Middlesex, Herts, Bucks, and Beds, be requested to present and support the Petitions to Parliament consequent on these Resolutions.

That these Resolutions be printed and circulated, and advertised in two London Morning Papers, and in The Northampton Mercury, and County Papers for Middlesex, Herts, Bucks, and Beds.

CLARENDON, Chairman.

That all Communications be made to the Solicitors, or to Messrs. GROVER and STUART, 50, Bedford Row.

CLARENDON, Chairman.

That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to THE KARL OF CLARENDON, the Chairman, for his kindness in taking, and his Conduct in the Chair.

At the close of the Meeting a large Sum was immediately subscribed by the Proprietors and Occupiers present.