

HIGH SPEED RAIL IN GREATER MANCHESTER

On behalf of all the team at HS2 Ltd, welcome to this update, which we hope is the start of renewed conversations with everyone along the route of our new national railway.

Not everyone needs an introduction to HS2, so we've split this update into three sections. On this page, we explain what HS2 means for the country as we get ready for construction. Inside, you can read about HS2 activity in your area. On the back page are links to information we hope you find useful, including how to contact us.

We'd welcome your feedback on this update, so please do get in touch.

What is HS2?

HS2 is a new railway that will connect the whole country like never before. When it's complete, this new high speed spine will seamlessly connect to the existing network and support fast, frequent, reliable connections for over 100 cities and towns, including eight of our largest cities.

Why are we building it?

Over the last 20 years, the number of people travelling by train has doubled, and it's growing each year. This puts more and more pressure on the existing rail network and if we don't act, thousands of people will have to endure increasingly overcrowded journeys. And in the Midlands and the North, economic growth has been held back because we haven't invested enough in new, high-quality transport connections.

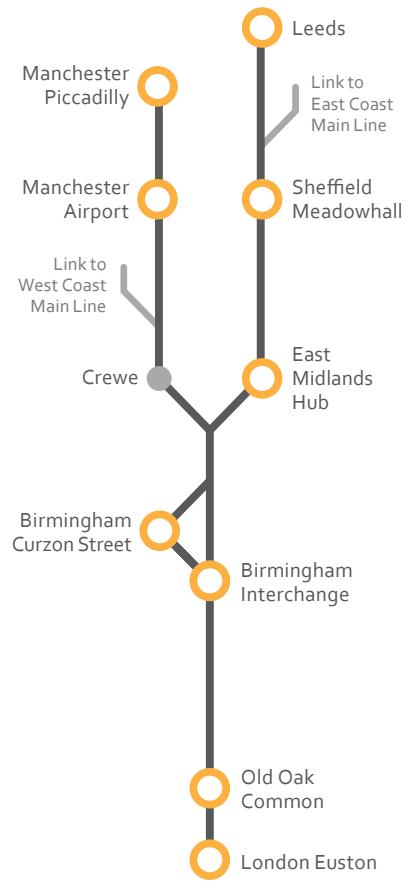
HS2 is designed to solve these issues. It'll ease congestion on important commuter lines, provide extra space for local and regional services, and reduce road traffic. It is a crucial project – and you can expect to feel the benefit even if you never board an HS2 train.

What does it mean for me?

We're extremely aware of the issues that building a new railway presents to those who live nearby, and we take our responsibility to you very seriously. Ultimately, we want to make HS2 mean something positive to everyone, whether it stands for fairness and clarity, better training for current and future engineers, a catalyst for jobs and investment in your area, a world-class railway or simply a new and exciting way to travel.



Manchester Piccadilly departure hall





"We are committed to working in a fair, respectful and transparent way with people who are affected. Living up to this aspiration is critical to the success of the project."

Sir David Higgins, Chairman, HS2 Ltd

DELIVERING HS2

HS2 Ltd was set up by the Government to deal with the design, engineering and technical requirements of building the railway. But we also have an important role in making sure that if you're affected by the Government's plans, you understand what to expect (and when), and how we can help. These pages explain the work we're doing, and what's going on in your area.

HS2 will be built in two phases. It will connect London to Birmingham ('Phase One') from 2026 and then, following a Y-shaped route, to Manchester in the west and Leeds in the east ('Phase Two') from 2033.

Phase One (London-West Midlands)

If you're in a region that's on the Phase One line of route, then the legislation for your part of the project is currently being considered by Parliament – this is how the Government gets permission to build the railway, and ensures everyone's comments are heard. We're expecting formal planning permission, known as Royal Assent, at the end of 2016, but you may see us carrying out surveys or preparing things before then.

Phase Two (Birmingham-Leeds, Manchester and beyond)

We held a public consultation on the Phase Two line of route in 2013. We're still working on the plans, and the Government intends to announce the way forward later in 2015. The plans will follow a similar parliamentary process to Phase One.

GREATER MANCHESTER

A world-leading transport hub for Greater Manchester

Manchester Piccadilly is already the regional hub for rail and tram services, providing quick and easy connections to neighbouring towns and cities such as Altrincham, Bolton and Stockport. Direct HS2 services to London and Birmingham from high speed rail stations at Piccadilly and Manchester Airport will reduce journey times by around 50%, with three extra trains an hour to and from London, and two extra trains to and from Birmingham.



Greater Manchester is the fastest-growing economy outside London and the BBC relocated its HQ to Salford in 2013

Global hub for industry

Greater Manchester has invested £3.5bn building a global hub for creative institutions and their networks – more than any other European city has invested in its media and digital sector. These industries thrive when they have fast, easy access to talent, ideas, skills, clients and the London market, all of which HS2 will provide.

The same applies to other industries. Greater Manchester is the fastest-growing economy outside London; HS2 will allow it to compete with other leading cities by bringing its wide range of businesses and industries closer to the resources they need.



30,000+
regional jobs
supported by HS2

HS2 will provide opportunities for the local economy

Greater Manchester firms are well placed to bid for the £11bn of railway and £7.5bn of rolling stock contracts that will be available soon, 60% of which we expect to go to small and medium-sized businesses. In addition, we expect HS2 to support between 30,000 and 43,000 jobs in the region. The aim is for 95% of the total amount spent on HS2 to go to UK firms.

Leisure and tourism

Manchester City Council has already started identifying how it can take advantage of the opportunities HS2 will bring. It is redeveloping the Mayfield area, with new offices, residential property, retail and urban green spaces, while the expansion of the Metrolink means central Manchester will have easier and quicker access to the Trafford Centre.

Greater Manchester is also a national centre of culture. HS2 will allow many more people to visit attractions such as the Imperial War Museum and Media City in Salford Quays and the National Football Museum and the People's History Museum in Manchester.

Find out more

We are continuing to review and refine our proposals for the Phase Two route to ensure they bring the best solution in terms of sustainability impacts for communities and the environment as well as delivering connectivity and economic growth. The Government intends to announce the way forward on Phase Two later this year.

USEFUL LINKS



The Residents' Charter is our promise to communicate as clearly as we possibly can with people who live along or near the HS2 route. You can read it by visiting:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-charter

We also have an independent Residents' Commissioner whose job is to make sure we keep to the promises we make in the Charter and to keep it under constant review. The first of the Residents' Commissioner's reports is published at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-commissioner-report-1-may-2015

You can contact the Commissioner at residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk



Updates on the project can be found at:

PHASE ONE

www.gov.uk/government/collections/high-speed-rail-london-west-midlands-bill

PHASE TWO

www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-two-from-the-west-midlands-to-leeds-and-manchester

The Select Committee is the group of MPs who are independently considering objections to the Phase One proposals. The Parliament website publishes information about their work here:

www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/high-speed-rail-london-west-midlands-bill-select-committee-commons/



This document may be freely downloaded and translated by individuals or organisations for conversion into other accessible formats. If you have other needs in this regard, please contact HS2 Ltd.



You can find out all about HS2 and properties along the line of route by visiting

www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property

Contact us

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www.gov.uk/hs2

Please send us feedback on this update at:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/HS2_update