

HIGH SPEED RAIL IN BIRMINGHAM AND SOLIHULL

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.

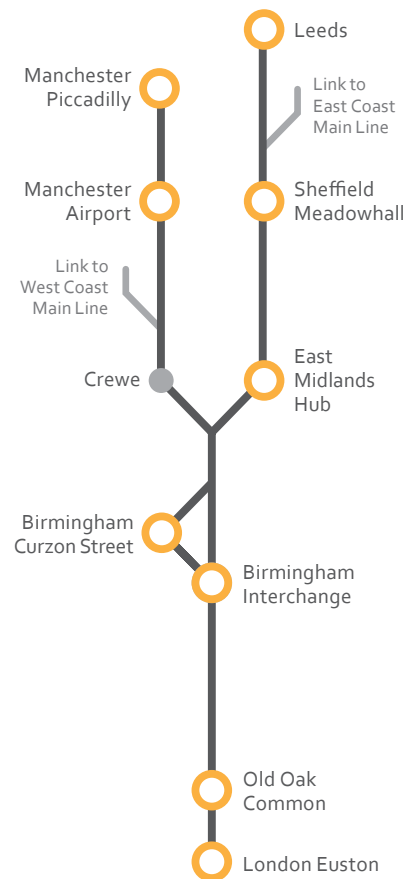
HS2 is designed to solve these issues. It'll ease congestion on important commuter lines, provide extra space for local and regional services, and reduce road traffic. It is a crucial project – and you can expect to feel the benefit even if you never board an HS2 train.

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.



Curzon Street





“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.

BIRMINGHAM AND SOLIHULL

HS2: connectivity and a catalyst for growth

Birmingham and Solihull are at the centre of the HS2 network. The West Midlands already has the highest concentration of businesses outside London, is a hub for high-value industries, houses the construction headquarters for HS2 Ltd, and will be home to the National College for High Speed Rail.

HS2 will further improve connectivity in the region. Journey times to the rest of the country will be significantly quicker and there will be up to 18 services an hour to and from the UK's largest economies.

To make sure the area realises its full potential, Birmingham City Council has set up the Birmingham Curzon Urban Regeneration Company to focus specifically on the opportunities created by HS2 in the city centre. This will include investment in quality office space and retail developments and the expansion of the creative district in Digbeth.

Curzon Street and Interchange stations

We're building two high speed rail stations in the West Midlands. The one in Birmingham city centre will be on the site of the old Curzon Street station, and will be where trains begin and terminate in Birmingham. The one in Solihull will be an interchange station serving the West Midlands, linking to Birmingham Airport, Birmingham International station, the NEC and beyond.

Both stations will be high-quality transport hubs, benefiting transport users, visitors, businesses and the local community. We've designed each station to sit within a 'development zone' that will provide a major focal point for investment and residential communities. Construction jobs will be created whilst we're building the stations, and the businesses, shops and other services that could locate there will also generate thousands more job opportunities. Several international companies have already announced plans to increase or move their workforce to Birmingham as a result of HS2 and this will lead to the long-term transformation of the surrounding areas.

Washwood Heath depot

We're building a new depot at Washwood Heath, which will be used as the control centre for the network. It will also store, service and maintain the fleet of new HS2 trains. The depot will help create up to 500 jobs, with opportunities for people with a mix of skills and abilities.

To view the route in more detail, please take a look at our interactive map at www.gov.uk/hs2



2,000

new homes will be supported by HS2



500

jobs will be created at Washwood Heath



Estimated boost to the local economy

Find out more

We're hosting an information event in **Birmingham City Centre on 29 September**. For further information about this and future events please visit our website and watch out for advertising in the local press.

USEFUL LINKS



The best place to see what the railway looks like is to watch a video of part of the Phase One route, which you can find by going to:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-phase-one-fly-through



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:
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www.gov.uk/hs2
Please send us feedback on this update at:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/HS2_update



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



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

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

You can also find out if you're eligible for compensation at:

www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-if-affected-by-hs2

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