

HIGH SPEED RAIL IN CHESHIRE AND CREWE

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.

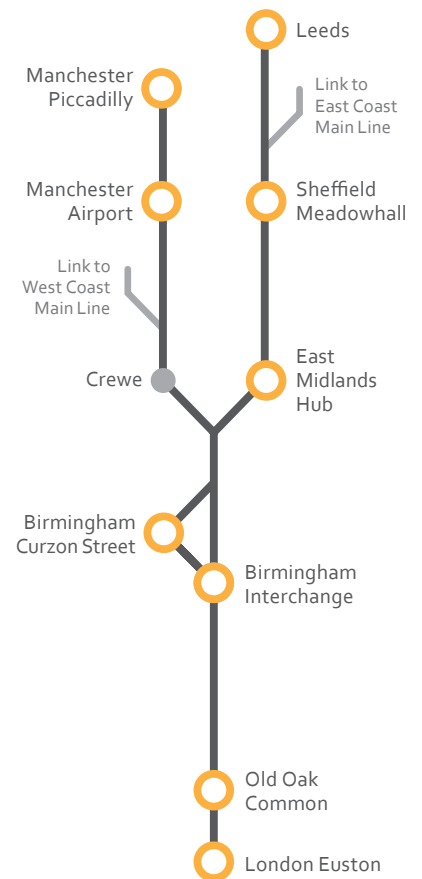
HS2 is designed to solve these issues. It'll ease congestion on important commuter lines, provide extra space for local and regional services, and reduce road traffic. It is a crucial project – and you can expect to feel the benefit even if you never board an HS2 train.

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.



Crewe rail station





“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.

CHESHIRE AND CREWE

Need for a new transport solution

The West Coast Main Line is the busiest mixed-use railway in Europe and is predicted to be full by 2026. HS2 is the transport solution that's needed. It will ensure that all those who travel to, from and within the region are able to do so.

HS2: connectivity and a catalyst for growth

Crewe has the potential to become a strategic transport centre for the rest of the UK. It already has strong rail links, being close to Stafford, Stoke and Chester, and with direct trains to North and South Wales, Scotland, Manchester, Birmingham and London. It's also well connected to the M6 motorway and airports in Liverpool and Manchester.

As a world-leading transport hub, Crewe will bring significant benefit to the North West, North Wales and Merseyside. Journey times to the rest of the country will be quicker and the area will feel more connected – for example, Cheshire will be around an hour away from London. HS2 will put the whole region on the UK's businesses network, with links to seven of the country's biggest and busiest economic centres.

Destination of choice for businesses

Businesses from a range of industries, including automotive, advanced manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and finance, are already based in the North West. We expect several thousand new jobs will be added, as new and existing businesses realise the potential benefits HS2 will bring.

HS2 will provide opportunities for the local economy

HS2 itself will also provide jobs and opportunities as we build the route. Local companies can compete for the £11bn of railway and £7.5bn of rolling stock contracts that will be available soon. The aim is for 95% of the total amount spent on HS2 to go to UK firms, with 60% of supply chain contracts going to small and medium-sized businesses.

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



Residents' Charter and Commissioner

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



Project updates

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/



Accessibility

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Property and compensation

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

HS2 Ltd Community Relations Helpdesk

Tel: 020 7944 4908

Email: hszenquiries@hs2.org.uk

www.gov.uk/hs2

Please send us feedback on this update at:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/HS2_update