

**A GUIDE TO HS2 PHASE 2A:  
WEST MIDLANDS TO CREWE  
WORKING DRAFT  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT REPORT**

This is a short guide to the working draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for HS2 Phase 2a: West Midlands to Crewe.

It provides a background to the latest proposals for the next phase of the HS2 railway, and why we have produced a working draft EIA Report. It sets out the documents that make up the working draft EIA Report, and explains how you can have your say on the information in it.

If you need more information after reading this guide, please get in touch – our contact details are on the back page.

## What are HS2 and Phase 2a?

HS2 is a new high speed railway proposed by the Government to connect major cities in Britain. Phase One of the railway, between London and the West Midlands, is planned to open to the public in 2026.

Phase Two would extend the railway north-west and north-east, to Manchester with connections to the West Coast Main Line, and to Leeds with a connection to the East Coast Main Line.

This working draft EIA Report is about Phase 2a – part of the western leg of Phase Two, from the West Midlands to Crewe. Phase 2a is also referred to here as 'the Proposed Scheme'.

## Why we have produced a working draft EIA Report

The Government intends to deposit a hybrid Bill in Parliament by the end of 2017, seeking powers to build Phase 2a. Parliamentary Standing Orders require the Bill to be accompanied by a formal EIA Report.

This will identify the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Scheme and the proposed measures to avoid, reduce or manage the likely significant adverse effects.

The EIA is in progress. We have produced a working draft EIA Report early in the development of the Phase 2a proposals, based on the current stage of design, so that the public and other interested parties can review and comment on the preliminary environmental information.

## Consultation

**Consulting on the working draft EIA Report at this stage will help to:**

- inform the design and assessment of the Proposed Scheme; and
- engage with people who might be affected by the Proposed Scheme.

There will be another public consultation when the formal EIA Report is deposited in Parliament.



## What is Phase 2a?

The proposed railway between West Midlands and Crewe is approximately 60km (37 miles) in length. It would connect with Phase One near Fradley, to the north-east of Lichfield, and connect to the West Coast Main Line south of Crewe, to provide onward services beyond the HS2 network, to the north-west of England and to Scotland.

Construction would begin in 2020, ahead of the rest of Phase Two, with operation planned to start in 2027, one year after the opening of Phase One.

## Using feedback

Your responses will be analysed by an independent company. Feedback from the consultation will be considered in:

- developing the design;
- collecting data about current environmental conditions;
- assessing the likely significant environmental effects of building and operating the Proposed Scheme;
- enhancing the beneficial effects; and
- avoiding, reducing or managing significant adverse effects.

## What's in the working draft EIA report?

The working draft EIA Report is made up of a number of documents, listed below.

To make it easier for you to find our assessments for a particular area, we have divided the proposed route into five community areas (CAs). The working draft EIA Report also includes a route-wide assessment, which describes impacts likely to occur at a geographical scale greater than the community areas.

If you want an overview of the whole report, the non-technical summary is a useful place to start.

*Non-technical summary* – This provides a summary in non-technical language of the Proposed Scheme, its impacts (and where possible, the likely significant environmental effects) both beneficial and adverse, and the proposed means of avoiding, reducing or managing the likely significant adverse effects.

*Volume 1: Introduction and methodology* – This provides:

- a description of HS2 and Phase 2a, the EIA process and the approach to consultation and engagement;
- details of the permanent features of the Proposed Scheme and generic construction techniques;
- a summary of the scope and methodology for the environmental topics; and
- a summary of the strategic, route-wide and route corridor alternatives to the scheme and local alternatives considered prior to November 2015.

This volume is supported by a glossary and two appendices: an Alternatives Report and a draft Code of Construction Practice.

### *Volume 2: Community area reports*

This consists of five reports, together with maps, which provide a description of the Proposed Scheme, divided into a series of community areas – see the box opposite.

## Community area reports

To make it easier to find information on a particular area, we have divided the proposed route into five community areas, or CAs.

- **CA1:** Fradley to Colton;
- **CA2:** Colwich to Yarlet;
- **CA3:** Stone and Swynnerton;
- **CA4:** Whitmore Heath to Madeley; and
- **CA5:** South Cheshire

Each report provides:

- an overview of the area;
- a description of the construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme within the area, based on the current level of design;
- a summary of the local alternatives considered since November 2015;
- a description of the environmental baseline;
- a description of the environmental impacts of the Proposed Scheme
- the proposed means of avoiding, reducing or managing the likely significant adverse effects.

### Volume 3: Route-wide effects

This describes the impacts and effects that are likely to occur at a geographical scale greater than the community areas described in Volume 2.

## Responding to the consultation

### Where do I find the documents?

You can view the documents online by visiting [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2).

You can also view the documents at a number of public libraries. To find your nearest location, visit our website [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2) or call our helpdesk on 020 7944 4908.

### How do I take part?

You can respond to the consultation:

#### Online

[DraftEnvironmental2a.dialoguebydesign.net](http://DraftEnvironmental2a.dialoguebydesign.net)

#### By email

[DraftEnvironmental2a@dialoguebydesign.co.uk](mailto:DraftEnvironmental2a@dialoguebydesign.co.uk)

#### By post

**FREEPOST DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL 2A**

If you use the FREEPOST address, you do not need to include any further address information and you do not need a stamp.

Please only use the email or postal addresses above when responding to the Working Draft EIA Consultation. We cannot guarantee to include responses sent to any other address.

**This consultation will close at 23:45 on 7th November 2016**

## More information

You can find more information on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

You can also contact the HS2 Helpdesk on 020 7944 4908 or at [hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk)



## Other consultations

A design refinement consultation and a consultation on a working draft Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) Report, also for Phase 2a, are happening in parallel to this consultation.

Further details on all the consultations are available at [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2).

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