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# HS2 Phase Two

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December 2015 update



## High Speed Two: Phase Two update

High Speed Two (HS2) is Britain's new high speed railway. It is being planned in two phases.

Phase One will run between London and Birmingham. Work is expected to begin in 2017, with the line opening in 2026.

Work is expected to start on part of Phase Two, from Birmingham to Crewe, in 2020, with the line opening in 2027. Phase Two is then planned to run from Crewe to Manchester and from Birmingham to Leeds. Work is expected to start there in the mid-2020s, with the line opening in 2033.

Between July 2013 and January 2014, we consulted the public on the proposed route and stations for all of Phase Two.

We are writing to update you because the Government recently confirmed the route between Birmingham and Crewe. It has also provided an update on the rest of Phase Two and will take decisions on this part of the route in 2016.

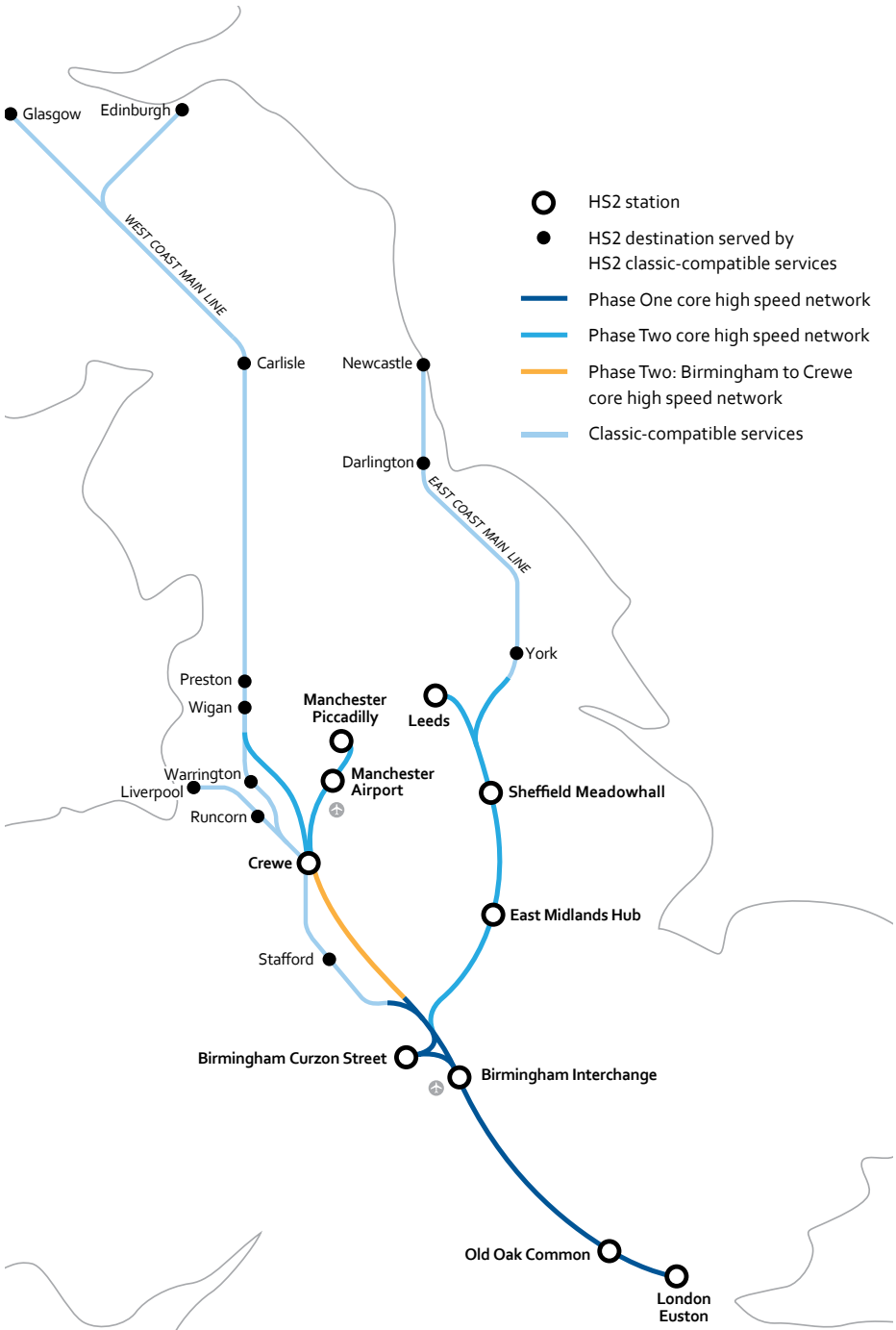
### What do I need to do now?

There is no immediate action you need to take as a result of receiving this leaflet. The following sections provide an update about HS2 and where you can get more information, should you wish to do so.



### Why do we need HS2?

Transport plays a vital role in our economy. HS2 will enable us to meet the huge growth in demand for rail travel, which has seen passenger numbers more than double since privatisation. It will bring cities closer together through better connectivity and journey times, supporting jobs and economic growth. It will free up more space for local services and will be a key part of our rail network, transforming the experience of passengers by improving services and reliability.



## **Phase Two: Birmingham to Crewe**

HS2 Phase Two will now be developed and constructed in two stages.

The route for the first stage – from Birmingham to Crewe – has been confirmed by the Government. We now plan to accelerate this section to open in 2027, six years ahead of the rest of Phase Two. Speeding up progress on this section of the route will bring benefits to the North and Midlands sooner, supporting the Government's plans for better connectivity, jobs and growth.

The Government has sought to address concerns relevant to this section of the route raised through the public consultation we held in 2013-14. This section of the route will be subject to its own legislation, which the Government hopes to bring forward for Parliament to consider in 2017.

The Government has launched a consultation on the plans it has to help people on the Birmingham to Crewe line of route whose properties may be affected. You are welcome to respond – please visit [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2)

## **Phase Two: Crewe to Manchester and Birmingham to Leeds**

The Government has not yet made a decision on the remainder of the Phase Two route. This will be announced in Autumn 2016. We will write to you again after this announcement.

The proposed route was set out for the public consultation in 2013-14. On the western leg it includes a high speed station at Manchester Piccadilly. There would also be a station at Manchester Airport, subject to agreeing appropriate third-party funding. Network Rail are now also developing options for a new hub station at Crewe, a key gateway to the North West. The western leg would reduce journey times between Scotland, cities in the North West, Birmingham and London.

The proposed eastern leg route runs from Birmingham to Leeds with stations at Toton in the East Midlands, Sheffield Meadowhall and Leeds. It would reduce journey times between cities in the North East, Yorkshire and the East Midlands, Birmingham and London.

## More information about Phase Two

As we develop our options for the Phase Two route, you can keep up to date at [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2)

You can also find more details on the Government's recent announcement on the route from Birmingham to Crewe, and an update on the rest of Phase Two.

## Property

You can find the latest information about property, and respond to the West Midlands to Crewe property consultation, by visiting:

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property)

If your property is affected by the plans, we will write to you to let you know and to help you understand your options. When plans for the rest of Phase Two are announced, we expect further consultation on long-term property measures to follow.

## Residents' Charter

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

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-charter](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-charter)

The charter is overseen by an independent Residents' Commissioner, whose job is to make sure we review the charter and keep its promises.

You can read the commissioner's reports at:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-commissioner-report-1-may-2015](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-commissioner-report-1-may-2015)

You can contact the Residents' Commissioner at

[residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk](mailto:residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk)