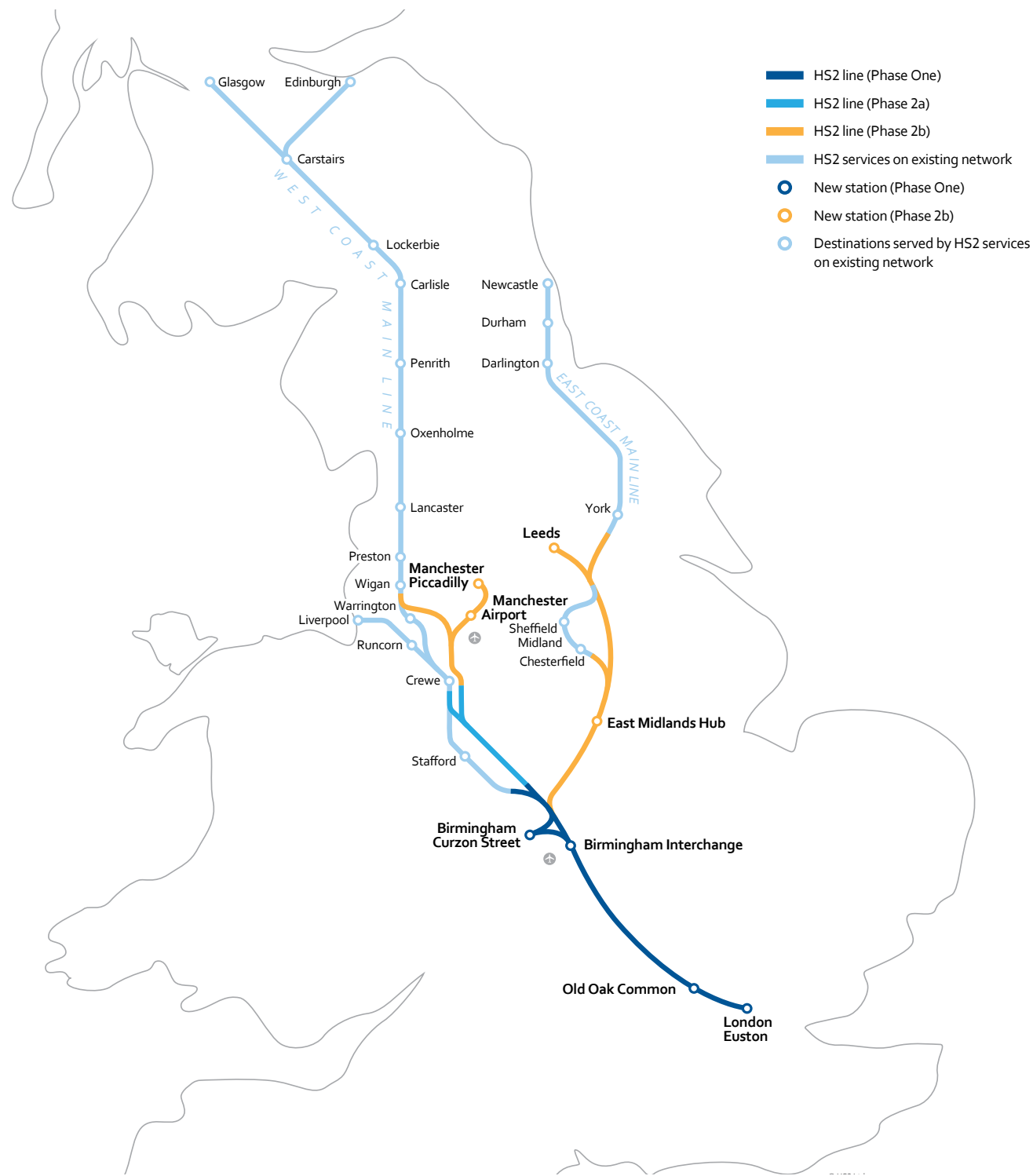


# **A GUIDE TO THE HIGH SPEED RAIL (WEST MIDLANDS - CREWE) ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT**



This is a guide to the Environmental Statement for HS2 Phase 2a and how to have your say on the information in it.

The Environmental Statement accompanies the High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe) Bill that the Government introduced into Parliament in July 2017. The purpose of the Bill is to authorise the next part of the HS2 railway network – known as Phase 2a – to run between Fradley in the West Midlands and Crewe in Cheshire.

The ES reports the environmental impacts of the planned new railway.

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

## What is HS2?

HS2 is the Government’s proposal for a new high speed railway that will become the backbone of our national rail network, increase capacity and help to develop the skills and careers of British workers.

The proposal is being planned in phases. HS2 Phase One will connect London with Birmingham and the West Midlands and is planned to open to the public in 2026. HS2 Phase 2a will continue the route to Crewe. HS2 Phase 2b will extend the route to Manchester, Leeds and beyond.

The High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) Act (2017) gives legal approval for HS2 Phase One to go ahead.

This Environmental Statement is about HS2 Phase 2a, the part of the planned new railway that will run from Fradley to Crewe.

## What is the Environmental Statement?

The Environmental Statement is a suite of documents that set out the environmental effects of building and operating Phase 2a of HS2. They include our proposals for avoiding, reducing or managing these effects – from managing air quality to protecting local wildlife.

During the development of the Phase 2a proposals, we produced a working draft EIA Report so that people could contribute their views on the environmental information. These comments have been considered during the development of the Phase 2a design and the environmental impact assessment reported in this Environmental Statement.

The Government is now running a consultation on the Environmental Statement.

## Why is there a consultation on the Environmental Statement?

Consulting on the Environmental Statement for HS2 Phase 2a helps to:

- get feedback from people who might be affected by the HS2 proposals
- inform the MPs who are considering the Bill in Parliament.

This is a public consultation so we welcome responses from any person or organisation who wants to take part.

You can find out how to take part in the consultation at the end of this guide.

## Do I need to read the Environmental Statement?

The Environmental Statement is a large collection of documents. The chart on the next page shows how the documents fit together. You can use the descriptions in the chart and on page 6 to identify the documents relevant to your area that you might want to read first.



## What is HS2 Phase 2a?

The planned new railway between the West Midlands and Crewe comprises approximately 36 miles (58km) of HS2 main line and two spurs (approximately 4 miles, 6km) south of Crewe that will allow trains to transfer between the HS2 main line and the West Coast Main Line.

Construction would begin in 2020, ahead of the rest of Phase Two, with operation planned to start in 2027.

**Non-technical summary**

Provides a summary of the Proposed Scheme and its likely significant residual effects on the environment. This presents a summary of information included within other volumes of the ES.

**Glossary of terms and list of abbreviations**

Contains terms and abbreviations, including units of measurement used throughout the Environmental Statement (ES).

**Volume 1: Introduction and methodology**

Provides an overview of the Proposed Scheme and the Environmental Impact Assessment process (EIA).

**Volume 3: Route-wide effects**

Sets out the significant effects of the Proposed Scheme that are likely to occur at a geographical scale greater than the community areas described in Volume 2.

**Volume 4: Off-route effects**

Sets out the likely significant effects at locations beyond the Phase 2a route corridor and its local environment.

**Map Book**

**Volume 2: (CA) reports**

Consists of five reports and their associated map books. These reports set out the significant effects of the Proposed Scheme that are likely to occur at a community area level. These reports are shown below.

CA1 Map Book	CA2 Map Book	CA3 Map Book	CA4 Map Book	CA5 Map Book
Fradley to Colton	Colwich to Yarlet	Stone and Swynnerton	Whitmore Heath to Madeley	South Cheshire
CA1 Report	CA2 Report	CA3 Report	CA4 Report	CA5 Report

**Volume 5: Appendices and map books**

The majority of appendices in Volume 5 examine certain topics in detail, either within a community area or more widely. Appendices assessing a particular topic are identified by the reference codes below. Volume 5 also contains supporting documents, such as the draft Code of Construction Practice. The topics which also have map books are noted below.

Map Book	Map Book		Map Book	Map Book	Map Book			Map Book	Map Book		Map Book	Map Book	Map Book	Map Book
Agriculture, forestry and soils	Air quality	Climate change	Community	Cultural heritage	Ecology and biodiversity	Electromagnetic interference	Health	Land quality	Landscape and visual	Major accidents and natural disasters	Socio-economics	Sound, noise and vibration	Traffic and transport	Water resources and flood risk
AG Appendices	AQ Appendices	CL Appendices	CM Appendices	CH Appendices	EC Appendices	EM Appendices	HE Appendices	LQ Appendices	LV Appendices	MA Appendices		SV Appendices	TR Appendices	WR Appendices

- Scope and methodology report
- Scope and methodology addendum
- Alternatives Report
- Draft Code of Construction Practice
- Planning data / committed developments
- Wider effects report
- Working Draft EIA Report Consultation Summary Report
- Borrow pits restoration strategy



## Where do I begin?

The Environmental Statement 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 Environmental Statement 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 Phase 2a route, the likely environmental effects of the new railway, and how we propose to avoid, reduce or manage these effects.

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

- a description of HS2 and Phase 2a, the impact assessment process and our approach to consultation and engagement
- details of the permanent features of the planned new railway and generic construction techniques
- a summary of the scope and methodology for the environmental topics
- a summary of the strategic, route-wide and route corridor alternatives to the planned new railway and local alternatives considered prior to November 2015.

This volume is supported by a glossary to explain terms that appear frequently in the rest of the reports.

### *Volume 2: Community area reports*

This consists of five reports, together with maps, which provide a description of the planned new railway, divided into five community areas – see the box opposite.

### *Volumes 3 and 4: Route-wide and off-route effects*

Volume 3 describes the impacts and effects likely to occur at a geographical scale greater than the community areas in Volume 2.

Volume 4 describes any impacts and effects identified beyond the immediate areas surrounding the proposed line of route. This volume includes a map book that illustrates our proposals in this area.

### *Volume 5: Technical appendices*

This consists of supporting information, and the specific assessments that have been conducted to establish the environmental effects of the route. It includes information organised by environmental topic and by community area, as well as map books relevant to individual reports.

## Volume 2: Community area reports

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

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

Each report describes:

- the features of the area
- how the planned new railway will be built and run in the area
- the local alternatives considered since November 2015
- a description of the environmental baseline
- the environmental impacts of the planned new railway
- how we propose to avoid, reduce or manage these environmental impacts.

## How do I take part?

You can visit the Environmental Statement consultation page at [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2) to look at the documents.

You can also view the documents at a number of public libraries. To find your nearest location, visit our website at [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2) or get in touch with our helpdesk on 08081 434 434 or at [hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk).

There are a number of ways you can take part in the consultation:

### Online

You can comment on the Environmental Statement at <https://ipsos.uk/HS2Phase2aBillES>.

### By email

Alternatively, you can download the response form from [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2) and email your response to: [HS2Phase2aBillES@ipsos.com](mailto:HS2Phase2aBillES@ipsos.com).

### On paper

If you'd like a paper copy of the form, you can contact our helpdesk.

Please post your response to: **FREEPOST HS2 PHASE 2A BILL ES.**

If you use the FREEPOST address, you don't need any further address information and you don't need a stamp.

Responses sent by Freepost will be considered so long as they are sent on or before the closing date. If you'd like to send your response by recorded or special delivery, please call our helpdesk and they will be happy to assist.

Please only use the email or postal addresses above when responding to the Environmental Statement consultation. We cannot guarantee to include responses sent to any other address.

Before you comment, please read the confidentiality and data protection conditions that apply. You can find these on the response form or by calling our helpdesk.

**This consultation will close at 23:45 on 30 September 2017.**



## Other consultations

An HS2-led consultation on the **HS2 Phase 2a Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)**, and a Government-led consultation on the **HS2 Phase 2b Crewe Hub** are happening in parallel to the HS2 Phase 2a ES consultation.

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

## HS2 Phase 2a route refinements

We are also publishing a report on the Phase 2a route refinements, developed with the help of people's responses to our consultation in 2016. See [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2) for more information.

## HS2 Phase 2b route announcement

At the same time, the Government is announcing plans for the HS2 Phase 2b route from Crewe to Manchester and from the West Midlands to Leeds.

See [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2) for more information.

If you have any questions or you'd like to find out more, you can get in touch with our helpdesk (open 24/7):



**TELEPHONE**  
08081 434 434



**EMAIL**  
HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk



**MINICOM**  
08081 456 472

Please get in touch if you'd like a free copy of this leaflet in:

- Large print
- Braille
- Audio
- Easy read

You can also get in touch with us for help and information in a different language.