



Department
for Transport

**This document has been
withdrawn as it is out of date.**

Tech connected

The triangle of London – Cambridge – Oxford is the kernel in the UK of cutting edge high tech industry developments. Government is determined to support this ongoing focus of economic development within the UK economy.

Beyond these central clusters, we are also enhancing and expanding connections to other high tech hubs across the UK, as well as a range of international gateways.

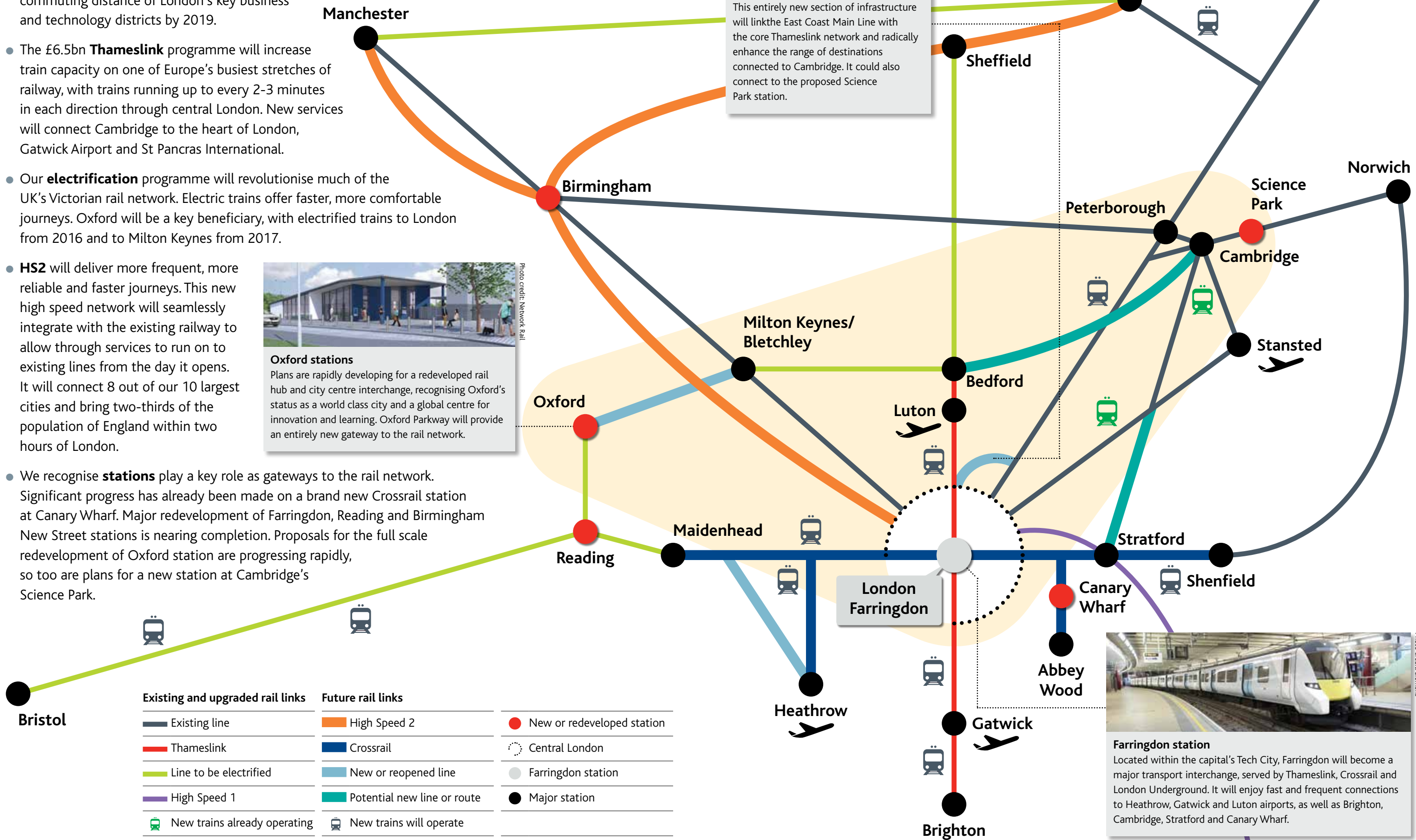
This prospectus articulates the Government's commitment to a national tech community, linked by a modern and growing rail network.



The future of rail

Rail already provides fast and efficient links between the core tech cities and the wider tech community. As the community grows, we are investing in and expanding the rail network.

- **Crossrail** will deliver a high frequency, high capacity service to 38 stations via 21 km of new twin-bore tunnels under central London. This £14.8bn project will bring an additional 1.5 million people within 45 minutes commuting distance of London's key business and technology districts by 2019.
- The £6.5bn **Thameslink** programme will increase train capacity on one of Europe's busiest stretches of railway, with trains running up to every 2-3 minutes in each direction through central London. New services will connect Cambridge to the heart of London, Gatwick Airport and St Pancras International.
- Our **electrification** programme will revolutionise much of the UK's Victorian rail network. Electric trains offer faster, more comfortable journeys. Oxford will be a key beneficiary, with electrified trains to London from 2016 and to Milton Keynes from 2017.
- **HS2** will deliver more frequent, more reliable and faster journeys. This new high speed network will seamlessly integrate with the existing railway to allow through services to run on to existing lines from the day it opens. It will connect 8 out of our 10 largest cities and bring two-thirds of the population of England within two hours of London.
- We recognise **stations** play a key role as gateways to the rail network. Significant progress has already been made on a brand new Crossrail station at Canary Wharf. Major redevelopment of Farringdon, Reading and Birmingham New Street stations is nearing completion. Proposals for the full scale redevelopment of Oxford station are progressing rapidly, so too are plans for a new station at Cambridge's Science Park.



Canal tunnel
This entirely new section of infrastructure will link the East Coast Main Line with the core Thameslink network and radically enhance the range of destinations connected to Cambridge. It could also connect to the proposed Science Park station.



Oxford stations
Plans are rapidly developing for a redeveloped rail hub and city centre interchange, recognising Oxford's status as a world class city and a global centre for innovation and learning. Oxford Parkway will provide an entirely new gateway to the rail network.



Farringdon station
Located within the capital's Tech City, Farringdon will become a major transport interchange, served by Thameslink, Crossrail and London Underground. It will enjoy fast and frequent connections to Heathrow, Gatwick and Luton airports, as well as Brighton, Cambridge, Stratford and Canary Wharf.

Existing and upgraded rail links		Future rail links	
	Existing line		High Speed 2
	Thameslink		Crossrail
	Line to be electrified		New or reopened line
	High Speed 1		Potential new line or route
	New trains already operating		New trains will operate
	New or redeveloped station		Central London
	Farringdon station		Major station

New tech connections

We have bold and fully funded plans to enhance and expand the rail networks which serve the core tech hubs:

- A £500m scheme will provide **western access to Heathrow**, facilitating fast and direct access to the UK's hub airport from the Thames valley, and potentially other key destinations from the early 2020s.
- The **western section of East-West Rail** will re-instate direct services between Oxford and Milton Keynes/ Bedford via Bletchley. Fast electrified services will serve brand new and redeveloped stations from 2017.

Our ambitions for rail are relentless. Subject to affordability and statutory processes, we aim to expand the network even further:

- We are developing bold plans to complete the tech triangle. The **central section of East-West Rail** would connect Bedford with Cambridge, likely including an interchange station where it meets the East Coast Main Line.
- As well as a rapidly developing tech destination in its own right, **Stratford** is an expanding transport hub, with connections to tube lines, High Speed 1 and Crossrail. As soon as 2017, we aim to deliver new infrastructure which will facilitate the introduction of direct connections with Cambridge and the proposed Science Park station.



Photo credit: Network Rail

On board

The UK has one of the youngest rail fleets in Europe. Brand new electric trains already operate between London Liverpool Street and Cambridge. New high capacity trains will be introduced to the Thameslink route and electric services will operate between London and Oxford, both from 2016.

The Government is prioritising roll out of on train communications. New franchises include requirements to provide wifi connections on key business routes. Network Rail is leading an industry task force to improve 3G and 4G signals through new and enhanced track side infrastructure.

Set down

Tech entrepreneurs are busy, their time is valuable. That's why we're supporting a partnership between Brookgate and Central Working to pilot a bespoke 'set down' business lounge on Station Road, Cambridge. This will build on Central Working's well established co-working space in Tech City.

All change at London Bridge



Photo credit: Network Rail

A major redevelopment of London Bridge station commenced in May 2013 and will be completed by 2018. The new station will have more 'through' platforms allowing up to 18 Thameslink services an hour to call at the station, including new direct services to Cambridge and could also connect to the proposed Science Park station. The redevelopment will deliver a radically enlarged concourse and improved access to all platforms.