

HS2 update

West Midlands to Crewe | March 2019

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. This newsletter is about Phase 2a of the railway, which will run from the West Midlands to Crewe, passing through parts of Staffordshire and Cheshire. We recognise that local people may be concerned about the potential impacts of HS2. This newsletter explains the latest plans and the support available.

Latest plans

HS2 will form the new backbone of our country's railway system and be the first North-South railway built in the UK for over a century. It will increase rail capacity and better connect our largest cities, while creating new jobs.

The railway will be built in phases. Phase One will connect the West Midlands to London. Initial work on Phase One has started and will be complete by 2026. Phase 2a, from the West Midlands to Crewe, will open in 2027. It will be followed by Phase 2b which will connect the line with Manchester, Leeds and beyond, by 2033.

We are currently seeking permission from Parliament to build and operate Phase 2a. Our plans are detailed in a hybrid Bill which was submitted to Parliament in 2017. Since then we have updated the plans, following more design work and discussions with affected people. The latest changes are covered in what is known as an 'additional provision' to the Bill, which was submitted on 8 February 2019. They mostly relate to how we affect existing roads and utility networks along the route. We expect the Bill to be approved by Parliament by the end of 2019. Meanwhile, momentum continues to build on the overall project with work underway at sites along the Phase One route. You can find out more about Phase 2a at www.gov.uk/government/collections/high-speed-rail-west-midlands-to-crewe-bill



Key changes

We have updated our plans for Phase 2a in our second 'additional provision' to the Bill. Many of the changes are a result of requests from local people and organisations. They are also the result of design improvements, and more information becoming available, particularly about existing utilities services. The updates include:

- **Highways** – several improvements, including enhancing safety and capacity at key road junctions that will be used by HS2 construction traffic.
- **Viaducts** – lowering the height of the River Trent and Kings Bromley Viaducts in Staffordshire, reducing their impact on the local area.
- **Power supply** – a proposed new electricity supply running between Colton and Newborough in Staffordshire. It would help to power the new railway.
- **Utilities** – changing where we will divert existing utility pipes at various locations along the route.



Upcoming work

Ground investigations

As part of preparations for HS2, we are continuing to investigate ground conditions along the Phase 2a route. The detailed information we get from ground investigations will help us to design and build the railway in the safest and most efficient way. This includes how we design utility diversions, tunnels, embankments, bridges and viaducts.

By understanding ground conditions along the route, we can also plan our earthworks effectively and aim to reduce the amount of material we transport by road. This includes using dedicated transport routes within the construction boundary of the railway instead.

Once the physical works are completed, the samples are sent for testing in specialist laboratories. These tests help us to understand the detailed properties of the ground, such as its strength.

The current phase of our ground investigations programme will include around 2000 individual investigations, such as boreholes, along the route in Staffordshire and Cheshire. We expect this work to continue until December 2019 and will provide more information about works in your area throughout the year.



The investigations involve a range of techniques. They will have a temporary impact on the local area, with the land being returned to its previous condition afterwards. The techniques include:

- Using specialist drilling rigs, which drill beneath the surface and then extract samples of the ground (known as cores) for testing. Drilling in this way also helps to identify the location of ground water.
- Digging small trenches in the ground (known as trial pits) to investigate soil conditions.
- Using a technology called cone penetration testing, which uses sensors to measure ground resistance.
- Identifying the location of existing utility pipes using ground penetrating radar as well as hand dug pits.
- Taking water samples from watercourses, such as rivers, to test for the presence of existing minerals and chemicals.



Information and events

We have a community engagement team who are dedicated to talking to local people and organisations affected by the railway.

They have continued to meet local communities over recent months, including holding a series of major public information events in October last year.

Seven events were held along the route, at local community venues in Mavesyn Ridware, Yarnfield, Abbots Bromley, Crewe, Madeley, Whitmore and Stafford. The events, which were attended by around 1,000 people, provided the opportunity to speak to various HS2 specialists about subjects ranging from our environmental work to our traffic management plans. Importantly, we were able to explain the potential support available to people affected by HS2.

Your local community engagement team will continue to meet local people and organisations as HS2 is planned and built.

- **Terry Stafford** – Senior Community Engagement Manager, Phase 2a
- **Liz Davis** – Community Engagement Manager, from Fradley to Colton
- **Joe Wilson** – Community Engagement Manager, from Colwich to Swynnerton
- **Beckie Lewis** – Community Engagement Manager, from Whitmore to Crewe



Contact us

 **24/7 freephone** 08081 434 434

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 **Email** HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

You can also keep up-to-date with news about HS2 in your area, including events, at

www.hs2instaffs.commonplace.is

www.hs2inCheshire.commonplace.is

Property surgeries

Communities and businesses located near the proposed route could be eligible for one of our various property schemes. They are designed to support people directly impacted by HS2.

For example, you may be able to sell your property to the government at its full, 'un-blighted' market value or receive a lump-sum payment if it's near the proposed route.

As part of our work within local communities, we raise awareness of these schemes and organise appointment-based property surgeries for individual householders to speak to our land and property specialists. For example, we recently held a surgery in Hopton, where we were able to speak to over 20 local residents and explain what might be available to them.

Eligibility for the property schemes depends on various factors, including the location of your property. You can find out more about the support available by visiting www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-if-affected-by-hs2

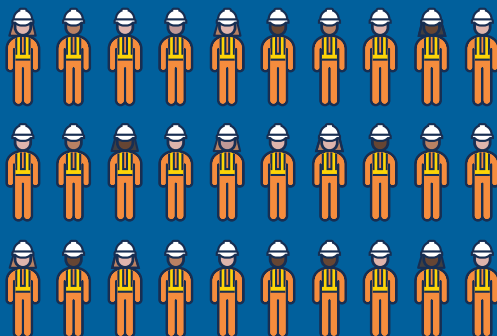
HS2 train services

HS2 trains will be designed to run on the existing railway network as well as the new high speed line. This means that HS2 trains will serve more than 25 stations and will connect eight of Britain's 10 largest cities.

On Phase 2a, HS2 trains are planned to stop at the existing stations at Stafford and Crewe. Our updated proposals for Phase 2a of the railway include plans to extend a platform at Crewe station, enabling HS2 trains to be split and joined. This provides more options to provide HS2 services elsewhere on the existing railway network. However, the train service plans will only be determined in the early 2020s, once the Government has received options from the next operator of West Coast intercity services. That operator will prepare for the introduction of HS2 train services.



We will need 30,000 people to design and build the railway



Jobs and training opportunities

When the construction of HS2 is at its peak, we forecast that we will need 30,000 men and women to design and build the railway, with at least 2,000 apprentices taking the first steps on their career.

To plan ahead for this activity, we launched our Skills, Employment and Education Strategy last year. It sets out our aim to help the next generation develop the technical skills to not only design and build HS2, but leave a lasting skills legacy for the country.

We are working closely with our supply chain and education providers to meet this objective. The National College for High Speed Rail (NCHSR) based in Birmingham and Doncaster, has an industry-led curriculum, and aims to help create the highly-skilled workforce needed for HS2 and the wider rail industry.

Archaeology on HS2

Before we build bridges, tunnels, tracks and stations, an unprecedented amount of archaeological work will take place along the line of route. These investigations have already started on Phase One of the railway from London to the West Midlands. They are a sign of things to come along Phase 2a.

On Phase One alone, HS2's archaeology programme is the largest ever undertaken in the UK, using over 1,000 archaeologists. The work will help us tell the story of 10,000 years of British history at over 60 sites spanning the route.

Investigations along the route are well underway. In Warwickshire, across a 2km stretch of land, we have identified a landscape of multiple ancient settlements possibly dating from the Iron Age (750BC) through to the medieval period. Previously, it was thought that the area was relatively uninhabited.

Once plans for Phase 2a are approved by Parliament, we'll be investigating various sites of historic interest along that section of the route too. This includes prehistoric and Roman settlements across the Trent Valley, as well as Anglo-Saxon and medieval sites. Alongside this, we will be investigating and recording historic buildings ranging from medieval farmsteads to WWII pillboxes, while looking at the history of the landscape the route crosses.

Involving the community is a very important part of our archaeology work, and on Phase One of the route we have already held open days and delivered lectures to groups of local people. This activity will continue to grow as our research and investigations progress.



Keeping you informed

We are committed to keeping you informed about work on HS2. This includes ensuring you know what to expect and when to expect it, as well as how we can help.

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. 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. Find reports at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-ltd-residents-commissioner

You can contact the Commissioner at: residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk

Construction Commissioner

The Construction Commissioner's role is to mediate and monitor the way in which HS2 Ltd manages and responds to construction complaints. You can contact the Construction Commissioner at: complaints@hs2-cc.org.uk

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

Find out if you're eligible for compensation at: www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-if-affected-by-hs2

Holding us to account

If you are unhappy for any reason you can make a complaint via the helpline. For more details on our complaints process, please visit our website: www.hs2.org.uk/how-to-complain

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High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, registered in England and Wales.

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Contact us

If you have any questions about this document, please get in touch.

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