

# HIGH SPEED RAIL IN NORTH WEST LONDON

On behalf of all the team at HS2 Ltd, welcome to this update, which we hope is the start of renewed conversations with everyone along the route of our new national railway.

Not everyone needs an introduction to HS2, so we've split this update into three sections. On this page, we explain what HS2 means for the country as we get ready for construction. Inside, you can read about HS2 activity in your area. On the back page are links to information we hope you find useful, including how to contact us.

We'd welcome your feedback on this update, so please do get in touch.

## What is HS2?

HS2 is a new railway that will connect the whole country like never before. When it's complete, this new high speed spine will seamlessly connect to the existing network and support fast, frequent, reliable connections for over 100 cities and towns, including eight of our largest cities.

## Why are we building it?

Over the last 20 years, the number of people travelling by train has doubled, and it's growing each year. This puts more and more pressure on the existing rail network and if we don't act, thousands of people will have to endure increasingly overcrowded journeys. And in the Midlands and the North, economic growth has been held back because we haven't invested enough in new, high-quality transport connections.

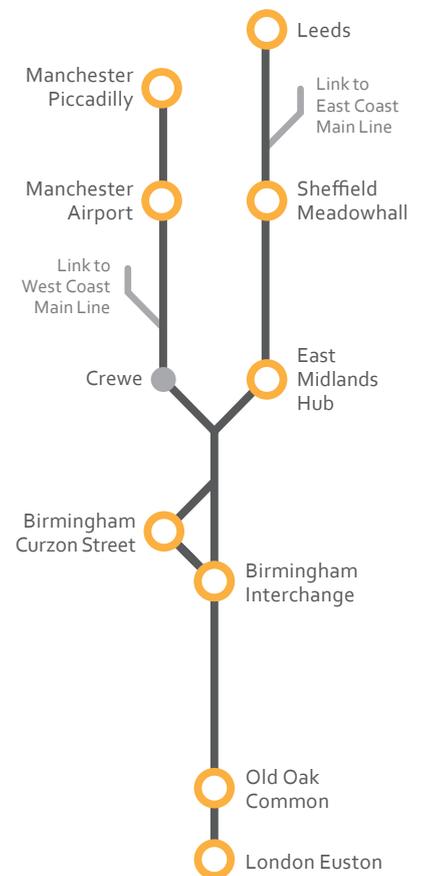
HS2 is designed to solve these issues. It'll ease congestion on important commuter lines, provide extra space for local and regional services, and reduce road traffic. It is a crucial project – and you can expect to feel the benefit even if you never board an HS2 train.

## What does it mean for me?

We're extremely aware of the issues that building a new railway presents to those who live nearby, and we take our responsibility to you very seriously. Ultimately, we want to make HS2 mean something positive to everyone, whether it stands for fairness and clarity, better training for current and future engineers, a catalyst for jobs and investment in your area, a world-class railway or simply a new and exciting way to travel.



A visualisation of the new station at Old Oak Common





“We are committed to working in a fair, respectful and transparent way with people who are affected. Living up to this aspiration is critical to the success of the project.”

*Sir David Higgins, Chairman, HS2 Ltd*

## DELIVERING HS2

HS2 Ltd was set up by the Government to deal with the design, engineering and technical requirements of building the railway. But we also have an important role in making sure that if you're affected by the Government's plans, you understand what to expect (and when), and how we can help. These pages explain the work we're doing, and what's going on in your area.

HS2 will be built in two phases. It will connect London to Birmingham ('Phase One') from 2026 and then, following a Y-shaped route, to Manchester in the west and Leeds in the east ('Phase Two') from 2033.

### Phase One (London-West Midlands)

If you're in a region that's on the Phase One line of route, then the legislation for your part of the project is currently being considered by Parliament – this is how the Government gets permission to build the railway, and ensures everyone's comments are heard. We're expecting formal planning permission, known as Royal Assent, at the end of 2016, but you may see us carrying out surveys or preparing things before then.

### Phase Two (Birmingham-Leeds, Manchester and beyond)

We held a public consultation on the Phase Two line of route in 2013. We're still working on the plans, and the Government intends to announce the way forward later in 2015. The plans will follow a similar parliamentary process to Phase One.

# NORTH WEST LONDON

## HS2 route

Most of the HS2 route in London will run through newly constructed tunnels. Beginning underground at Euston, the route goes to Old Oak Common, before emerging just south of the Ruislip Golf Course in West Ruislip, and then continuing on the surface. The tunnels will be constructed using the latest tunnel boring machines, which limit the disturbance to the surrounding ground.

We believe that the current proposals provide the best balance between route engineering design requirements, cost and the need to minimise environmental impacts. We're contacting those who will be affected by the works, so please let us know if you need more information.

## HS2: connectivity and a catalyst for growth in North West London

Old Oak Common is set to become a world-class transport hub. In April 2015 the Mayor of London set up the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) to make the most of the benefits from the transport investment planned for the area. The OPDC's job is to ensure that the enormous potential in the area is realised as new houses, jobs and leisure facilities.

King's Cross and St. Pancras demonstrate the effect this kind of investment can have on an area. We are confident that the benefits from investment at Old Oak Common will spread to residents in the neighbouring boroughs of Brent, Ealing and Hammersmith & Fulham.

## Old Oak Common station

The station will be one of the four high speed rail stations in Phase One. We're building it on the site of the existing First Great Western and Heathrow Express depots, where it'll handle a predicted 250,000 passengers a day. It will be an interchange between HS2, the Great Western Main Line and Crossrail, providing quick and easy connections to the north and west of England as well as across London.

As with any large construction project, there will be traffic congestion, noise and other disruption while we build the station. Our draft Code of Construction Practice (on our website) explains how we'll carry out the work considerately. When construction starts, we'll also make sure we're keeping you informed of developments.

To view the route in more detail, please take a look at our interactive map at [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2)



Journey time from Old Oak Common to Birmingham



Journey time from Old Oak Common to Canary Wharf

## Find out more

We're hosting information events at various locations this autumn and winter. For further information about these and future events please visit our website and watch out for advertising in the local press.

# USEFUL LINKS



The best place to see what the railway looks like is to watch a video of part of the Phase One route, which you can find by going to:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-phase-one-fly-through](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-phase-one-fly-through)



The Residents' Charter is our promise to communicate as clearly as we possibly can with people who live along or 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)

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. The first of the Residents' Commissioner's reports is published 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 Commissioner at: [residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk](mailto:residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk)

**Contact us**  
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[www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2)  
Please send us feedback on this update at:  
[www.surveymonkey.com/r/HS2\\_update](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HS2_update)



Updates on the project can be found at:

## PHASE ONE

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/high-speed-rail-london-west-midlands-bill](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/high-speed-rail-london-west-midlands-bill)

## PHASE TWO

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-two-from-the-west-midlands-to-leeds-and-manchester](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-two-from-the-west-midlands-to-leeds-and-manchester)

The Select Committee is the group of MPs who are independently considering objections to the Phase One proposals. The Parliament website publishes information about their work here:

[www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/high-speed-rail-london-west-midlands-bill-select-committee-commons](http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/high-speed-rail-london-west-midlands-bill-select-committee-commons)



You can find out all about HS2 and properties along the line of route by visiting:

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

You can also find out if you're eligible for compensation at:

[www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-if-affected-by-hs2](http://www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-if-affected-by-hs2)

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