

HIGH SPEED RAIL IN STAFFORDSHIRE

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.

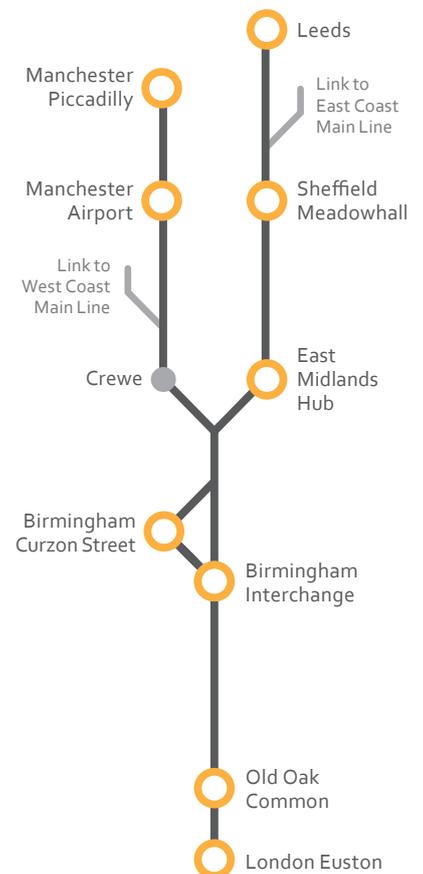
HS2 is designed to solve these issues. It'll ease congestion on important commuter lines, provide extra space for local and regional services, and reduce road traffic. It is a crucial project – and you can expect to feel the benefit even if you never board an HS2 train.

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.



Lichfield Cathedral, Staffordshire





“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.

STAFFORDSHIRE

HS2 route

The HS2 route in Staffordshire covers both Phase One and Phase Two. Trains will run through tunnels, across the surface and over viaducts.

Phase One route

We believe the current proposals are the best balance between route engineering design requirements, cost and the need to minimise environmental impacts. We have tried to avoid environmentally sensitive habitats and have done our best to minimise disruption for the local community. While we may need to establish temporary construction sites in some locations, the land will be returned to its original use once work is complete.

We're contacting landowners who will be affected, so please let us know if you need more information.

High speed rail services to Stafford

HS2 will connect with the existing West Coast Main Line near Handsacre, meaning that from day one HS2 services will be able to serve Stafford. We'll have brand new trains that travel up to 225mph on the high speed line and can move seamlessly to the existing rail network.

And it isn't all about journey times. This increase in connectivity can attract investment from new and existing businesses that want to benefit from improved rail links to the rest of the country.

Amendments to the initial HS2 Phase One scheme

Following discussions with stakeholders we formally submitted amendments to the initial proposals in July. The package of amendments, known as 'Additional Provision 2', included the following additional benefits to Staffordshire:

- Lichfield
The route will now pass under the A38, the West Coast Main Line and the South Staffordshire Line, meaning three bridges proposed at these locations will now be underpasses. This means we're able to reduce the height of the line, and it'll be significantly less visible. One remaining viaduct at Cappers Lane will also be lowered from sixteen to four metres, but is still needed as the area is a flood plain.
- Trent and Mersey canal
There is now only one crossing over the canal (rather than three), which is where the Phase Two route would link to Phase One.

Phase Two route

We are continuing to review and refine our proposals for the Phase Two route to ensure they bring the best solution in terms of sustainability impacts for communities and the environment, as well as deliver connectivity and economic growth. The Government intends to announce the way forward on Phase Two later this year.

To view the route in more detail, please take a look at our interactive map at www.gov.uk/hs2



Length of HS2 Phase One route in Staffordshire

Find out more

We're hosting an information event in **Handsacre on 3 October.**

For further information about these and future events please visit our website and watch out for advertising in the local press.

You can read more about AP2 on our website: www.gov.uk/hs2

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



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

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

You can contact the Commissioner at:
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www.gov.uk/hs2
Please send us feedback on this update at:
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

PHASE TWO

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



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

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

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