

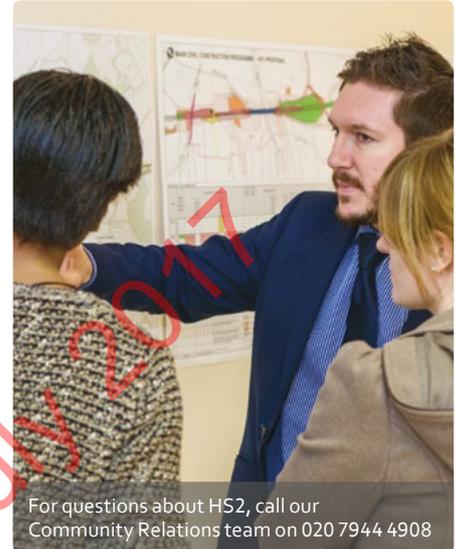
**High Speed Two is the Government's planned new, high speed railway. HS2 Ltd is the company responsible for designing and building the railway, and for making recommendations to the Government.**

This factsheet provides a brief summary on what mitigation is and how it is implemented during each stage of the project development.

Mitigation is important to the whole life cycle of the proposed scheme from the earliest stages of route selection, through to detailed design, construction and operation. The mitigation hierarchy, shown overleaf, shows the best practice approach used to prioritise mitigation solutions. As the project design develops, the type of mitigation also evolves.

Mitigation is:

- a physical feature incorporated into the design; or
- a measure implemented into the delivery or operation of a development project for the purpose of avoiding or reducing adverse environmental impacts. It may also include measures to create environmental benefits.



For questions about HS2, call our Community Relations team on 020 7944 4908

### **Between July 2013 and January 2014**

HS2 Ltd consulted the public on the proposed route and stations for Phase Two of HS2, from the West Midlands to Manchester, Leeds and beyond.

### **In November 2015**

The Government announced its intention to bring forward the delivery of the Phase Two route between the West Midlands and Crewe, known as Phase 2a.

### **In November 2016**

The Government announced proposals for the remainder of the Phase Two route, known as Phase 2b.



■ The mitigation hierarchy

Source: HS2 Ltd

## Route selection

Selecting the preferred route, as described in the Sustainability Statement, focused on the primary mitigation aim of avoidance. We seek to achieve this through the selection of broad route corridors, and then reduce down to individual route options which, alongside other factors, aim to avoid centres of population and sensitive environmental receptors.

A further process of refinement to the route is undertaken, with more detailed changes to the alignment assessed in order to achieve further avoidance, or where this was not practicable, a reduction in potential impacts.

At present we have focused on the potential long term and permanent impacts of the preferred route. Details of construction are yet to be developed; the impacts that are likely to occur temporarily over the construction period will be considered in due course by the Phase 2b environmental impact assessment (EIA) and during further detailed design.

## Single route option

As the scheme design develops, the opportunity to make significant changes to the route reduces and alternative mitigation options will be explored. The kinds of mitigation that could be applied at the next stage of design on Phase 2b can be seen through the EIA work on HS2 Phase One (London to Birmingham), as directed by HS2's Sustainability Policy. These measures are generally of three types:

- mitigation that is provided through the planning and design of the preferred scheme, such as through minor variations in alignment, or use of bridges, tunnels and cuttings;
- mitigation that requires physical features, such as noise barriers, landscaped mitigation or balancing ponds; and
- mitigation that requires further measures or policies, which are set out for different topics.

As the scheme is developed, we will be working with local authorities, communities and stakeholders to develop the engineering design in a way which minimises potential impacts as well as discussing proposals for mitigation. These opportunities will be explored alongside the EIA process.

We will continue to develop our understanding of local context and requirements through further engagement and consultation. In addition, we will seek to understand the existing environment further by collecting data and undertaking site surveys to assist in driving mitigation decisions.

## Temporary construction impacts and mitigation

Construction activities will be a source of concern to many people along the route. At the current stage of design for Phase 2b, details of construction are yet to be developed. As the design of the preferred route evolves, construction proposals will be defined including, amongst other things, location of work sites, activities, types of equipment, routes for construction traffic and expected duration of different work elements.

We are committed to managing potential impacts and reducing disruption to communities, businesses and the environment in ways that reflect the very best practice used by the construction industry. This will be informed by a Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) which will define mitigating potential impacts from things like noise, dust, lighting, traffic, river crossings, and disturbance to wildlife or disruption to buried archaeology.

It is expected that Phase 2b will have similar plans to Phase One using Local Environmental Management Plans (LEMPs) to set out how, at a local level, impacts during construction would be managed.

### Who are HS2 Ltd?

We are the company set up by the Government to deal with the design, engineering and technical requirements of building the railway.

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.

### Contact us at HS2

If you have any questions about this leaflet, please get in touch. You can contact our helpdesk on:

T: 020 7944 4908

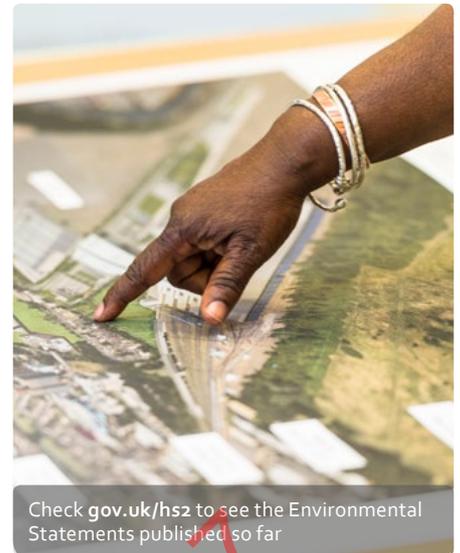
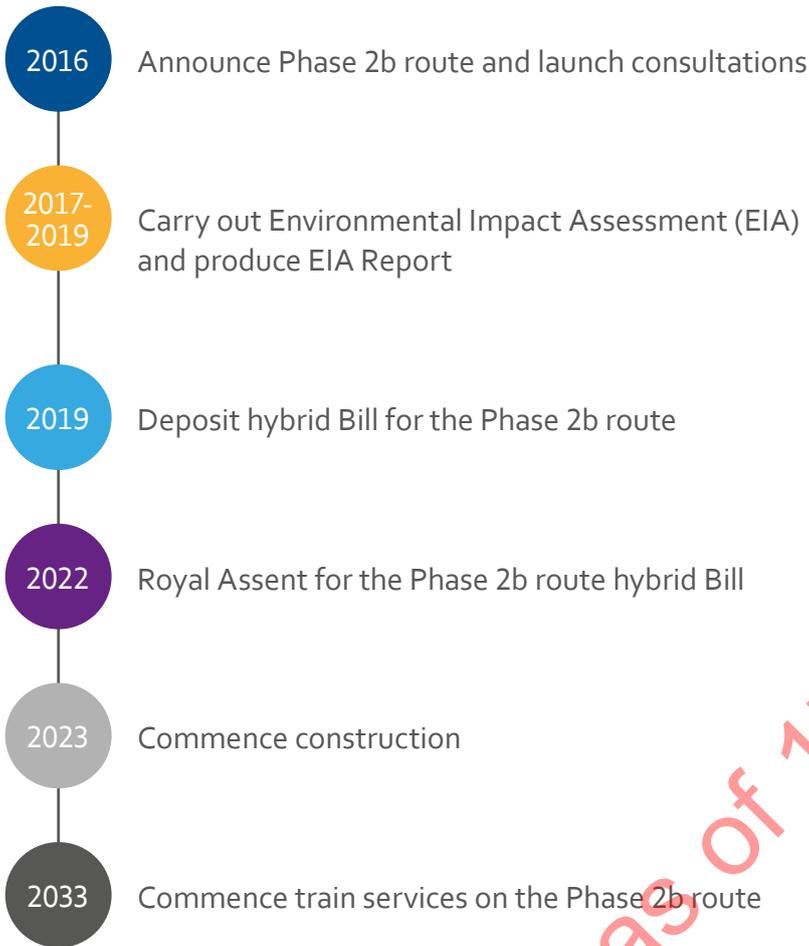
E: [hszenquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:hszenquiries@hs2.org.uk)

For the latest documents including route plans and profile maps visit:

[www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2)

## Next steps

This graphic shows what would happen between now and when trains start running on Phase Two.



Presenting a hybrid Bill to Parliament is how the Government gets permission to build the railway, and provides the opportunity for everyone's comments to be heard. Construction can only begin with Parliament's approval.

We will also carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to understand how the project would affect the environment and local communities, and what we can do about it. Further work will be done to mitigate the impact of the railway as the design develops.

To find out more about the documents mentioned in this factsheet, visit [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2)

## Keeping you informed

We are committed to keeping you informed via various channels



### 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. 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)

### Project updates

For more information about Phase Two, visit

[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)

And for details of events in your area, visit

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

#### Contact us

HS2 Helpdesk

Tel: 020 7944 4908

Email: [hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:hs2enquiries@hs2.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](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)

### Jobs and skills

To see what jobs are available on HS2 at the moment, check our careers page:

<http://careers.hs2.org.uk>

If you're a student wondering what careers in STEM subjects are like, check out articles and have a look around our Plotr World:

[www.plotr.co.uk/careers/worlds/hs2](http://www.plotr.co.uk/careers/worlds/hs2)

And if you're a business wondering how to get involved with HS2, have a look at our guides and updates on:

[www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2) – search for *HS2 business*

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