

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 sets out:

- planned investment in the rail network;
- how HS2 will help transform travel across the country;
- how we are working with partners to integrate HS2 into other plans and strategies to maximise the benefits of the investment in HS2.

HS2: Transforming travel across the country

Towns and cities served by HS2 trains will benefit greatly from more capacity and faster journeys, and regeneration opportunities. Working with our partner towns and cities as they develop their local plans and strategies, stations can act as hubs for the wider region. Developing better connections into these hubs mean that other important cities such as Bradford, Wakefield and Chester can benefit from HS2.

For example, the Government is already working with partners including Cheshire East Council, Network Rail, and HS2 Ltd to develop proposals for a new hub station at Crewe. These proposals would bring together local, national and regional rail services, improving connectivity across the region and providing new opportunities for the development and regeneration for Crewe itself.

A catalyst for wider growth

In addition to transformational effects on north-south journeys, HS2 can be a catalyst for a much bigger process of change. It is as an essential element in a strategy for transforming our transport system and our economy as a whole.



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

Between July 2013 and January 2014

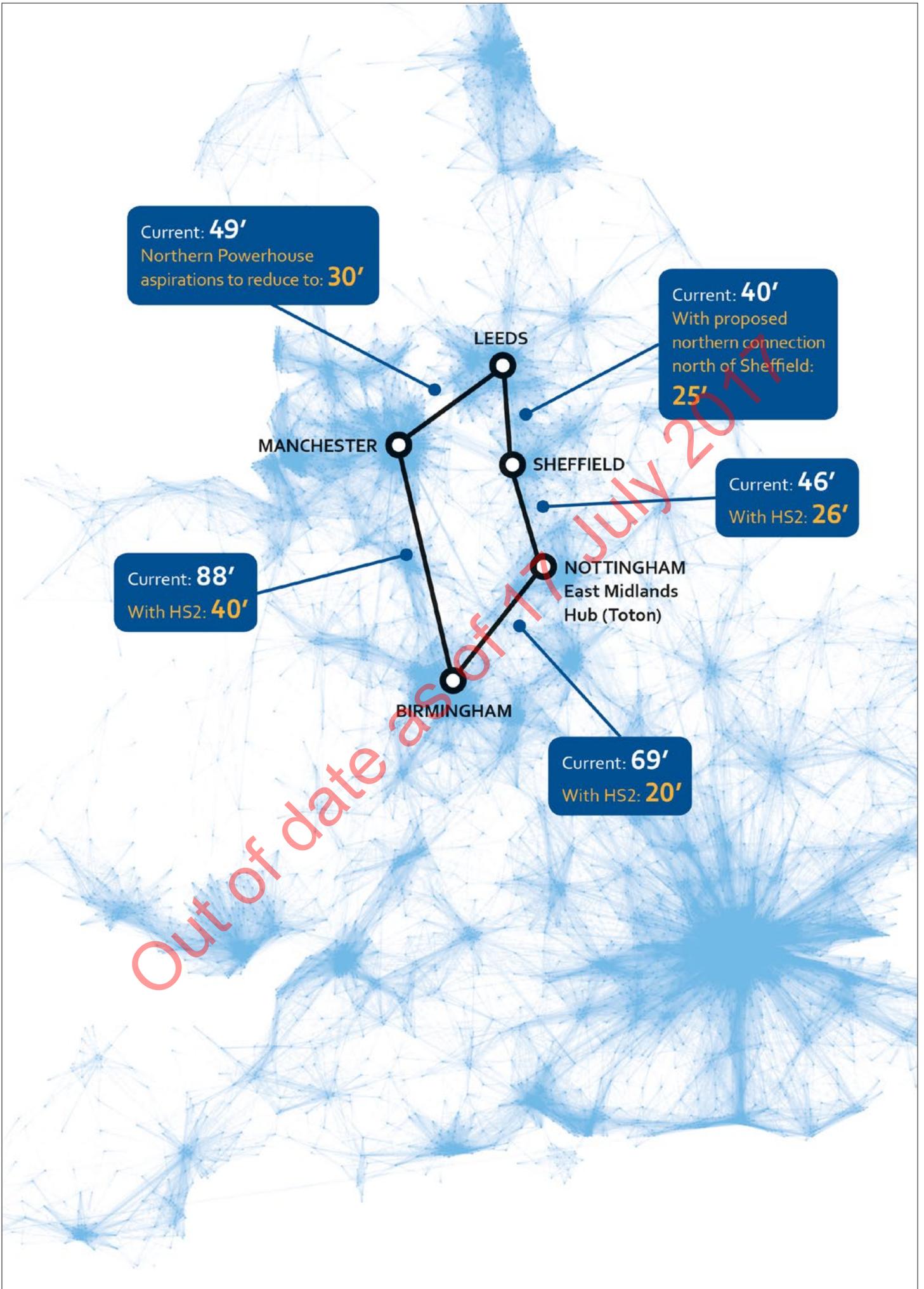
HS2 Ltd consulted the public on the proposed route and stations for Phase Two of HS2, from the West Midlands to Manchester, Leeds and beyond.

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.



■ How HS2 Phase 2b would help transform journey times between cities in the Midlands and the North
 Source: HS2 Ltd. Graphic courtesy of Dr Alasdair Rae, University of Sheffield.

Planned and committed rail schemes in the Midlands and North

In addition to developing HS2, the Government continues to invest in the existing railway. Network Rail has a £70bn investment programme over the next decade. That programme includes:

- Electrification of the Midland Main Line, bringing improving journeys for the East Midlands and Yorkshire;
- A fleet of new trains on the East Coast Main Line, improving journeys to Doncaster, Leeds, York and the North East; and
- The Northern Hub and electrification schemes, to provide more capacity and faster journeys between Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds.

However, investment in the existing network alone cannot deliver the capacity, journey times and reliability that the UK economy needs to flourish.

Transport for the North: the Northern Powerhouse

HS2 Chairman Sir David Higgins' report Rebalancing Britain, which was published in October 2014, focused on transport connectivity across the north of England, and called for the establishment of a new body to manage transport issues at a strategic level across the north of England. The Government subsequently established Transport for the North (TfN) as the body responsible for taking this work forward. TfN has, in turn, established the Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) project to look at new and upgraded rail links across the North of England to transform journey times, capacity and frequency of train services between the major cities of the North.

HS2 Ltd have partnered with TfN and Network Rail to identify whether new high speed lines, or making use of HS2, could be a part of delivering the Northern Transport Strategy. Opportunities have already been identified for HS2 to support TfN's aspirations for journeys between Sheffield and Leeds, which are reflected in the route on which we are consulting.

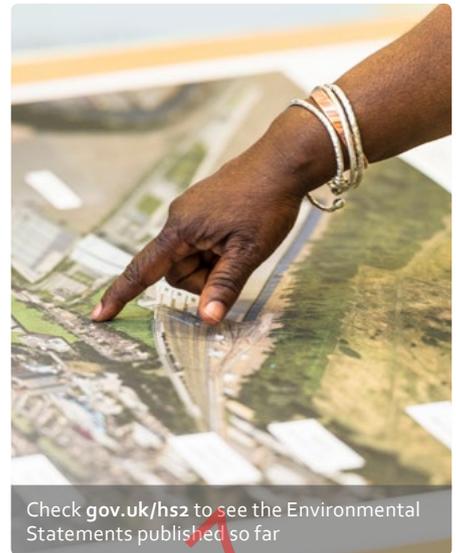
TfN will publish the Northern Transport Strategy in Spring 2017, and HS2 Ltd will continue to work with them to turn the strategy into reality.

Midlands Connect: The Midlands Engine

Midlands Connect is the transport workstream of the Midlands Engine, which seeks to unlock the economic potential of the Midlands.

The Phase One stations at Curzon Street and Birmingham Interchange will bring transport and economic benefits to the Midlands, and provide increased capacity across the area. Building Phase 2b to Manchester and, via East Midlands Hub, to Leeds will further support the Midlands Engine.

Midlands Connect is developing a dedicated HS2 readiness work package to ensure that the Midlands capitalises on the economic benefits that HS2 will deliver, reaching out beyond the three HS2 stations in the Midlands to the wider area. Midlands Connect will publish its full growth strategy in 2017 and this will also consider how to make the best connections between HS2 and existing rail services.



Out of Date as of 17 July 2017

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

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:

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

And for details of events in your area, visit

www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-events

Contact us

HS2 Helpdesk

Tel: 020 7944 4908

Email: 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

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

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

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 – search for *HS2 business*

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