

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 explains:

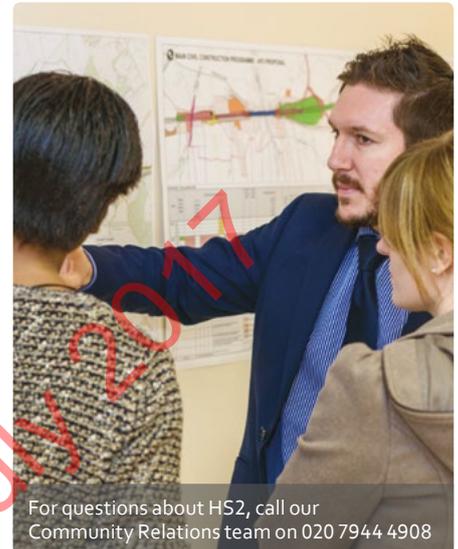
- what the Sustainability Statement is and what it covers;
- why and how HS2 Ltd carried out the Appraisal of Sustainability (AoS) process; and
- what we will do next.

The Sustainability Statement, including a non-technical summary, is available on our website at www.gov.uk/hs2

What is the Sustainability Statement and what does it cover?

The Sustainability Statement, published in November 2016, describes the potential impacts on people and the environment, both adverse and beneficial, of the Government's preferred Phase 2b route. It reflects the findings of the AoS process, which has been used throughout the development of the Phase 2b scheme design to appraise and report on the sustainability performance of various proposals and options.

It also describes how the potential impacts of the preferred route compare with the scheme that was presented at consultation in 2013/14. Since consultation closed, the Department for Transport and HS2 Ltd have been drawing together consultation feedback, information, analysis and opinion from a number of sources.



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.

Why and how we carried out the AoS

The AoS process follows and builds on the approach used for Phase One, which was developed in liaison with the statutory Government advisory bodies, including Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage (now Historic England).

The AoS process involved the independent appraisal and comparison of large numbers of route, station and depot options. It helped to:

- guide engineers in aligning routes in relation to particular sustainability constraints and opportunities;
- refine scheme proposals to avoid or lessen potential adverse effects;
- keep HS2 Ltd advised of sustainability issues and the potential effects of the scheme's proposals at key decision stages; and
- inform reports on the sustainability impacts of the options at each stage and support consultation.

The AoS process has therefore been fundamental in developing the Government's preferred Phase 2b route. The level and depth of appraisal has increased at each stage, in parallel with the detail of engineering design.

The AoS has considered 18 sustainability issues such as noise, landscape and property impacts. These topics are each grouped under one of the Government's four sustainable development priorities, which are shown in the diagram below.

Sustainability topics considered

Creating sustainable communities	Natural and cultural resource protection and environmental enhancement
Landscape and visual	Air quality
Cultural heritage	Health, well-being and equality
Noise and vibration	Safety
Accessibility	Property and community integrity
Biodiversity and wildlife	Employment and housing
Water resources and flood risk	
Sustainable consumption and production	Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and combating climate change
Land use resources	Climate resilience
Excavated material and waste production	Material resource use
Carbon emissions	

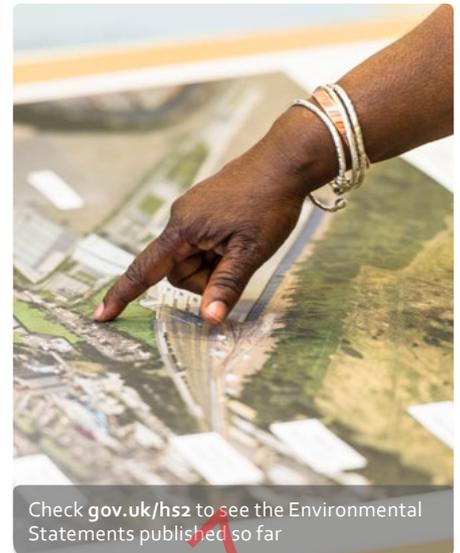
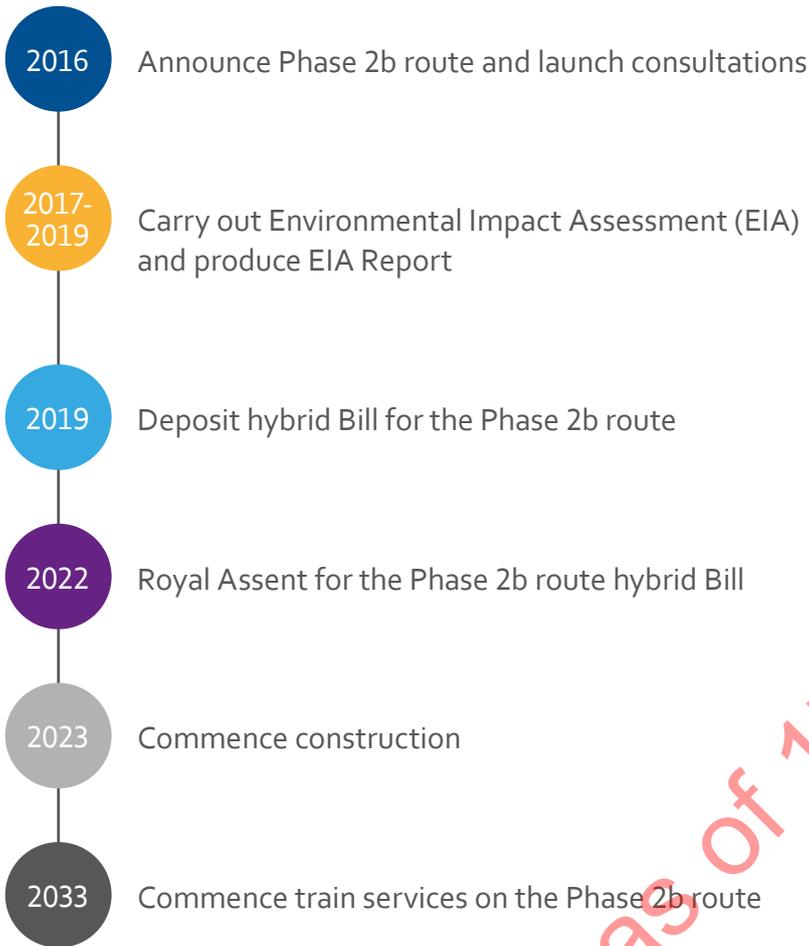
Who are HS2 Ltd?

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.

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

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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