In your area

South Cheshire

Introduction

This information has been produced by HS2 Ltd to update you on the route in South Cheshire. It includes:

- a summary of the proposed route of Phase 2a in the area;
- information about Additional Provision 2;
- map of the route in the area;
- the benefits that HS2 will bring to your area;
- the Phase 2a timeline;
- how to find out more about the project; and
- how to get in touch with us.

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. HS2 Ltd is the company responsible for developing the railway. In November 2015 the Government confirmed the route for Phase 2a of HS2: West Midlands to Crewe. HS2 Ltd is currently seeking Parliamentary approval to build and run Phase 2a.
The route of Phase 2a from South Cheshire
The South Cheshire area covers approximately 6.6km of the Phase 2a main line, as well as two spurs of about 6km, passing through the parishes of Checkley cum Wrinheim, Blakenhall, Hough and Chorlton, and Weston and Basford, and within the Cheshire East local authority area. The boundary between Madeley and Checkley cum Wrinheim parishes forms the boundary with the Whitemore Heath to Madeley area.

The southern extent of the South Cheshire area is predominantly rural in character, with agriculture being the main land use, interspersed with small villages and a scattering of isolated dwellings and farmsteads. The northern extent of the area becomes mostly urban towards Crewe, which is a large town of approximately 84,000 residents, with a range of services and community facilities, including a railway station, the Crewe Alexandra football stadium, shopping centres and a university campus. Other residential areas within the South Cheshire area include Wrinheim, Chorlton, Hough, Basford and Weston.

The route will extend from Madeley in the south to the Crewe urban fringe in the north where it will connect with the existing West Coast Main Line (WCML) via two spurs south of the A500 Shavington Bypass. The HS2 main line will then continue north and will provide for the future extension of the route to Manchester as part of Phase 2b of HS2. There will be associated works to the WCML to facilitate the new connection to HS2. There will also be works at Crewe Station to allow for additional services running through Crewe on the WCML.

Additional Provision 2 (AP2)
In July 2017 the Government submitted a hybrid Bill to Parliament. The Bill sets out the proposals for Phase 2a of HS2. Since then we have developed the design, particularly in respect of highways and utilities, and will need to make some changes to the Bill to reflect these. Changes are also proposed in response to requests made by affected parties and the select committee of MPs hearing petitions against the Bill.

We have already sought to make changes to the Bill through an Additional Provision, which we submitted in March 2018. We are now seeking to make further changes through a second Additional Provision (AP2), which we expect to submit later this year or early next year. AP2 will not change the route of HS2.

The details of AP2 are still being developed, and there will be other changes outside the Additional Provision process that we will publish for consultation at the time of the AP2 deposit. The changes in the South Cheshire area will include:

• a number of railway changes at Crewe, including a new platform and an extension to the existing platform 5 at Crewe Station, and a new design for the connection between HS2 and the West Coast Main Line south of Crewe;
• the relocation of an auto-transformer station;
• a series of amendments to utilities works in the area, including revised designs for gas and electricity diversions and altered connections for water supplies, sewers and telecommunications cables;
• the creation and enhancement of habitats for water voles in the parishes of Blakenhall, Hough and Chorlton;
• the realignment of a bridleway to avoid coinciding with a utility;
• the provision of a number of local placement sites for excavated material that would otherwise be exported by road;
• a small area of additional land required for the upgrade of a haul road; and
• a number of changes brought forward at the request of local agricultural businesses and other stakeholders, as well as at the direction of the committee of MPs considering the Bill.

The Additional Provision Process
Once AP2 is submitted to Parliament, people who are specially and directly affected by the proposals included in it will be able to petition against them. This means they can submit an objection, known as a petition, setting out their concerns and what they would like done about them. They – or a representative – can then present the petition to a special committee of MPs (the Select Committee). The petitioning period will start after AP2 is deposited in Parliament.

People will also have the opportunity to respond to a public consultation on the environmental impacts of the proposals. It will be for the Select Committee to decide whether the proposals in AP2 should be adopted.

“HS2 is a landmark moment for Crewe and the region as a whole. This once in a lifetime opportunity will trigger transformational change in the UK.”

Cllr Rachel Bailey, Cheshire East Council

National College for High Speed Rail
The newly opened National College for High Speed Rail will play a key role in generating the workforce of the future, designing and building the UK’s new high speed rail network and future infrastructure projects, including HS2. With state-of-the-art facilities in Birmingham and Doncaster, the college offers courses and apprenticeships in all elements of the rail industry whether you’re leaving school, wanting to up-skill, or take a new career direction. HS2 alone is set to create 35,000 new jobs, including 2,000 apprenticeships, and careers in this industry are set to become increasingly sought after.

If you would like further information, or to apply, visit the college website www.nchsr.ac.uk

You can call the college on 0330 120 0375 or email on enquiries@nchsr.ac.uk

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This map shows the route of HS2 through the community area. However, it does not include emerging design details. To see more detailed maps, please visit www.gov.uk/government/collections/high-speed-rail-west-midlands-to-crewe-bill.
What is HS2?
HS2 is the largest infrastructure project in Europe and will be the most advanced railway ever built in the UK. It is a catalyst for growth - revitalising the country, creating new opportunities for jobs and skills, regenerating towns and cities, and bringing the nation closer together. It will increase capacity on our railways and improve connectivity between eight of Britain’s ten biggest cities. It will run between London and Birmingham (Phase One) from 2026, extend to Crewe (Phase 2a) by 2027 and then link to Manchester, Leeds and further north from 2033 (Phase 2b). Once completed, HS2 services will travel to over 25 stations and serve 30 million people across Britain.

Why do we need HS2?
The future prosperity of the UK depends on a modern, strong and growing economy which enables us to compete on the international stage. Good rail links are essential for a strong economy, making it easier to import and export goods, for people to do business and to get to work.

HS2 will not only reduce journey times, it will provide more capacity for local, regional and freight services on the current network, relieving congestion and providing better travel options. By transforming journey times, HS2 will bring more opportunities within closer reach for employment, business, leisure and education.

How are the plans for HS2 being developed?
Before we start building the railway we need to gain permission from Parliament. Phase One was approved in 2017 and the hybrid Bill for Phase 2a is currently being considered by Parliament.

Between March and July 2018, a cross-party group of MPs, called a select committee has considered over 150 objections – known as petitions – to the Phase 2a proposals. During this process, specific commitments have been made by HS2 Ltd to organisations and individuals affected by the new railway. These are known as Undertakings and Assurances and they are intended to help manage the impact of the railway. Recently we have provided a number of assurances to organisations such as the National Farmers Union and the Country Land and Business Association, helping to support local farms and agricultural businesses.

Support for communities
We regularly talk to communities and understand that the construction of the railway will affect the lives of many people. Our aspiration is to be a good neighbour every single day, by respecting communities and working hard to minimise the potential impact of construction, while ensuring the various opportunities HS2 creates are available locally. These include jobs, apprenticeships, and opportunities for small businesses, as well as supporting local transport improvements and community projects.

The Select Committee published reports of its findings and recommendations on 24 May and 23 July this year. The next stage includes updating the proposals for the new railway, following further design work. The final step will be formal approval by the Queen to make the Bill into an Act of Parliament – a process known as Royal Assent - which we expect to achieve in late 2019. You can find more information about plans for Phase 2a of the railway at www.gov.uk/government/collections/high-speed-rail-west-midlands-to-crewe-bill

Some of the benefits of HS2
• It improves journey times between London, Manchester and the North West, which show strong demand for long distance travel.
• It also has the potential to relieve some of the pressure on a particularly constrained section of the West Coast Main Line (WCML), delivering vital new railway capacity
• Currently, service plans include two trains an hour between London and Crewe. The journey time would be cut to 55 minutes, saving 30 minutes on the current journey time.
• Cheshire and Staffordshire will be home to three stations served by HS2 trains: Crewe, Stafford and Stoke-on-Trent.
• Construction of HS2 will support thousands of new jobs, including 2,000 apprenticeships.

Information Papers
HS2 Ltd has published a set of Information Papers that explain how we intend to manage areas of concern and reduce impacts on the environment.

These papers can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-hs2-phase-2a-information-papers

The Phase 2a Timeline
2013 - Initial route investigations
We undertook formal consultations to understand your views and looked at how the environment might be affected by our plans.

2015 - Route confirmed
We finalised the route of the railway, following consultation.

2017 - Permissions and approvals
The Government submitted the Phase 2a hybrid Bill into Parliament. This is the process we are currently going through to gain permission to build the railway.

2018 - Ground investigations
We started investigating ground conditions along the route to help us to finalise its design.

2019 - Main civils design work
We’ll start detailed design work, prior to construction.

2021 - Main construction work
We’ll start building the railway.

2027 - Operational railway
The first passengers will be able to board HS2 services on the Phase 2a route.
Keeping you informed

We are committed to keeping you informed about work on HS2. This includes ensuring you know what to expect and when to expect it, as well as how we can help.

Resident’s Charter and Commissioner
The Resident’s Charter is our promise to communicate as clearly as we possibly can with people who live along or near the HS2 route. www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-charter

We also have an independent Resident’s Commissioner whose job is to make sure we keep to the promises we make in the Charter and to keep it under constant review. Find reports at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-ltd-residents-commissioner

You can contact the Commissioner at: residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk

Construction Commissioner
The Construction Commissioner’s role is to mediate and monitor the way in which HS2 Ltd manages and responds to construction complaints.

You can contact the Construction Commissioner at: complaints@hs2-cc.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

Find out if you’re eligible for compensation at: www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-if-affected-by-hs2

Holding us to account
If you are unhappy for any reason you can make a complaint via the helpline. For more details on our complaints process, please visit our website: www.hs2.org.uk/how-to-complain/

Contact us
If you have any questions about this document, please get in touch.

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