

## High Speed Two (HS2): a summary

HS2 is the UK's planned new high speed rail network, connecting London with the West Midlands, Manchester, Leeds and beyond.

HS2 represents a once-in-a-generation chance to transform the way we live, work and travel. It will provide:

- much-needed additional capacity for commuters.
- fast, frequent and reliable connections between major cities and regions.
- a catalyst for economic growth, shortening journey times and making it easier to do business around the country.

## Consultation on the route

In January 2013, the Government announced its initial preferences for the proposed route from the West Midlands to Manchester and Leeds. Since then, ministers have been talking to Members of Parliament whose constituents will be affected by this proposed route. They have been explaining the January announcement and the station and depot options, and discussing local priorities and concerns.

In parallel, HS2 Ltd has been discussing the proposals with local authorities, station city partners and key environment and heritage organisations that would be affected by the line of route.

A formal public consultation on the proposed route from the West Midlands to Manchester and Leeds has now been launched.

## Have your say

The Government is seeking the public's views on the proposed rail route. This consultation is your chance to have your say on the route, stations and depots being proposed.

Your contribution is important. Your views and evidence will be summarised in an independent report that the Secretary of State for Transport will consider when deciding on the proposed route.

This leaflet provides a summary of the proposals and the consultation. It also explains how to get involved. More information, including the full consultation document, can be found at [www.hs2.org.uk](http://www.hs2.org.uk)

The consultation is open until 1700 on 31 January 2014.

**Scotland** New HS2 trains using the West Coast Main Line would link Glasgow and Edinburgh with London in around 3 hours 40 minutes. The Government is also looking at options to cut journey times to under three hours, so that Scotland can benefit even more.

**The North West** High speed trains would join the West Coast Main Line and run to Carlisle, Lancaster, Preston and Wigan.

**Liverpool** HS2 would cut journey times between London to Liverpool via Crewe to 1 hour 36 minutes, far faster than today.

**Manchester Piccadilly** HS2 would unlock significant potential for regeneration and would support around 30,000 new jobs in Manchester. It would serve a regional economy that includes 90,000 businesses and MediaCity at Salford Quays, home of the BBC. Busy regional rail links to local towns in the North West would benefit from additional capacity.

**Manchester Airport** A proposed new interchange station would link Manchester Airport to more than 100 destinations, with trains speeding to London in just over an hour.

**Crewe** A new interchange, at the historic heart of Britain's railways, would cut journeys to the capital to 55 minutes.

**Birmingham Curzon Street** Ministers approved the Phase One route last year, which is set to open in 2026. It will double rail capacity between Curzon Street (a transformation of Birmingham's 19th century station) and London, bringing Euston to within 49 minutes.

**The North East** The high speed line would continue towards York, so that HS2 can run fast, direct services to Newcastle, Darlington and Durham.

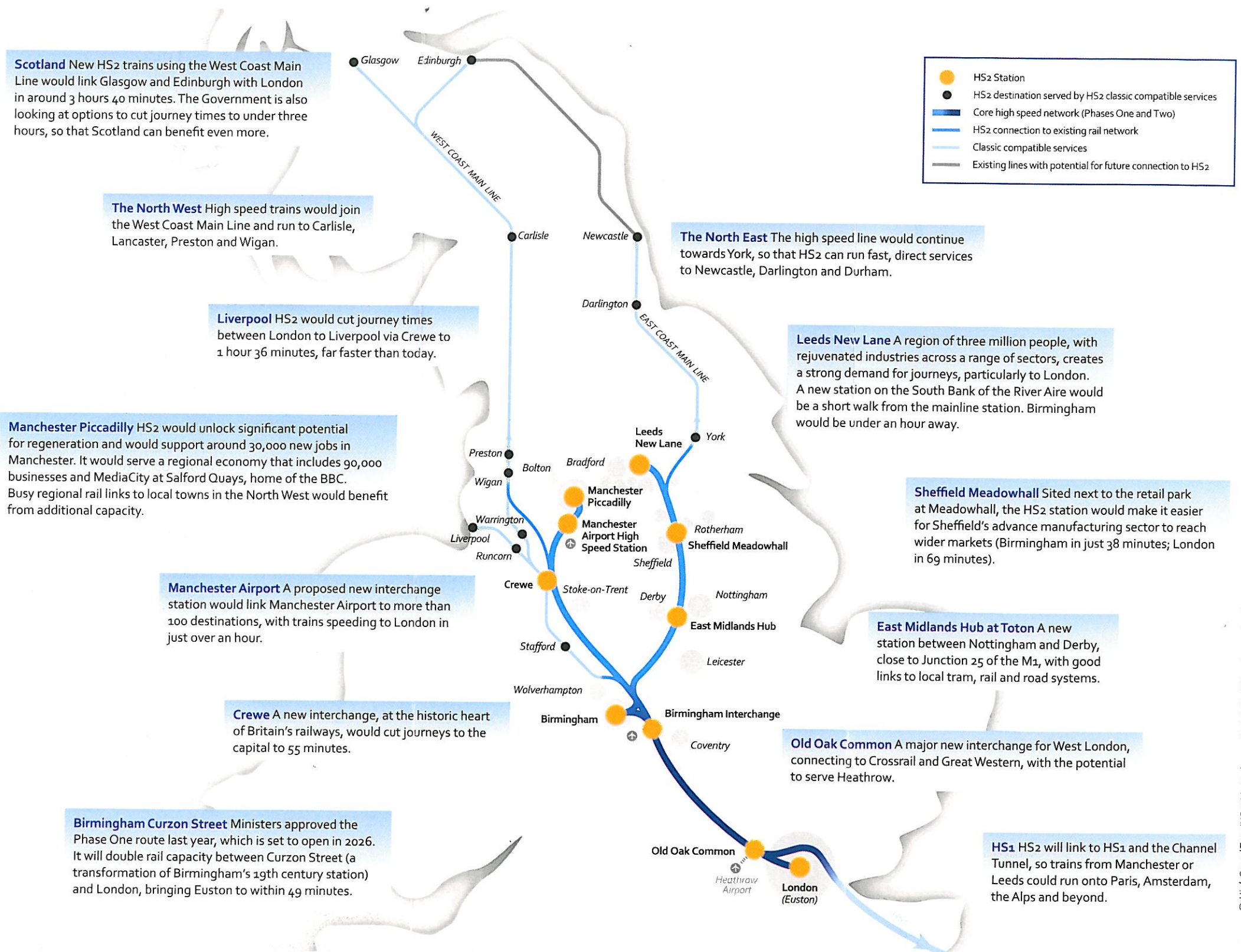
**Leeds New Lane** A region of three million people, with rejuvenated industries across a range of sectors, creates a strong demand for journeys, particularly to London. A new station on the South Bank of the River Aire would be a short walk from the mainline station. Birmingham would be under an hour away.

**Sheffield Meadowhall** Sited next to the retail park at Meadowhall, the HS2 station would make it easier for Sheffield's advance manufacturing sector to reach wider markets (Birmingham in just 38 minutes; London in 69 minutes).

**East Midlands Hub at Toton** A new station between Nottingham and Derby, close to Junction 25 of the M1, with good links to local tram, rail and road systems.

**Old Oak Common** A major new interchange for West London, connecting to Crossrail and Great Western, with the potential to serve Heathrow.

**HS1** HS2 will link to HS1 and the Channel Tunnel, so trains from Manchester or Leeds could run onto Paris, Amsterdam, the Alps and beyond.





## The Case for High Speed Rail

### More trains and more capacity

Britain's railways are running out of room. In just 15 years, demand for long-distance rail travel has doubled to 127 million journeys a year. We need to invest now so we can keep the country moving in the future.

HS2 will provide ultra-fast, regular connections between major destinations, and is expected to carry over 300,000 people every day. Network Rail predicts that this capacity boost will also make it easier for local networks to run smoothly, instantly improving everyday journeys on our existing railways.

### Faster travel

HS2 will link eight of Britain's largest cities, bringing London and the North within two hours of each other. It will also provide faster travel to the UK's airports, with proposed stations to directly serve Manchester and Birmingham, plus connections to East Midlands Airport via a new station. This will enhance links between our cities, rebalancing growth and opportunities.

### Economic growth

HS2 is forecast to generate over £50 billion in benefits for Britain. Connecting our regional cities will revitalise the economy outside the south-east of England, supporting the emergence of dynamic and diverse industries. Britain needs high speed rail to compete at its strongest in Europe and around the world.

### Regeneration and jobs

The new high speed rail network will radically re-draw the country's economic map, drive regional economies and support regeneration in and around our cities. It also brings the promise of job opportunities, both through the construction and operation of the line and through increased economic and business activity.

### Taking people into account

We know HS2 offers huge benefits for the public, but also that any major infrastructure project has an impact on communities and individuals. Through this consultation, the Government will seek to avoid, reduce and, where practicable, offset any adverse impacts on communities and businesses along the line of route.

## How to find out more and respond

The consultation document, supporting information and response form can be downloaded at [www.hs2.org.uk](http://www.hs2.org.uk)

We will be holding information events along the proposed route. These are an opportunity to review local information and speak directly with HS2 Ltd staff about the proposed scheme. The events programme is available on our website and will be advertised locally later this year.

Selected libraries and Citizen's Advice Bureaux have reference copies of the consultation document. Please refer to our website or call the **HS2 Public Enquires line** for a full list.

### Ordering documents

All documents are available free of charge at [www.dft.gov.uk/orderingpublications](http://www.dft.gov.uk/orderingpublications) or by calling the document order line on **0300 123 1102**

High Speed Two (HS2) Limited has actively considered the needs of blind and partially sighted people in accessing this document. The text will be made available in full on the HS2 website. The text may be freely downloaded and translated by individuals or organisations for conversion into other accessible formats. If you have other needs in this regard please contact High Speed Two (HS2) Limited.

### HS2 Public Enquires line

If you have any queries, contact the HS2 Public Enquires line on **020 7944 4908** or by email to [hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk)

## How to respond

**The consultation closes at 1700 on 31 January 2014.**

You can respond to the consultation in one of the following ways:

- by completing the response form **online** at [www.hs2.org.uk](http://www.hs2.org.uk)
- by sending your response by **email** to [hs2phasetworoute@ipsos.com](mailto:hs2phasetworoute@ipsos.com)
- or by **freepost** to the following address. You do not need a stamp.

**Freepost RTEL-YAZX-HAZT**  
**Phase Two Route Consultation**  
**PO Box 1152**  
**HARROW HA1 9LH**

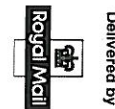
Return Address:  
Consultation Team,  
High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd,  
Eland House,  
Bressenden Place,  
London SW1E 5DU

hs2  
engine for growth

The Occupier  
Lowton  
Warrington



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# HIGH SPEED RAIL: INVESTING IN BRITAIN'S FUTURE

Consultation on the route from the  
West Midlands to Manchester, Leeds  
and beyond