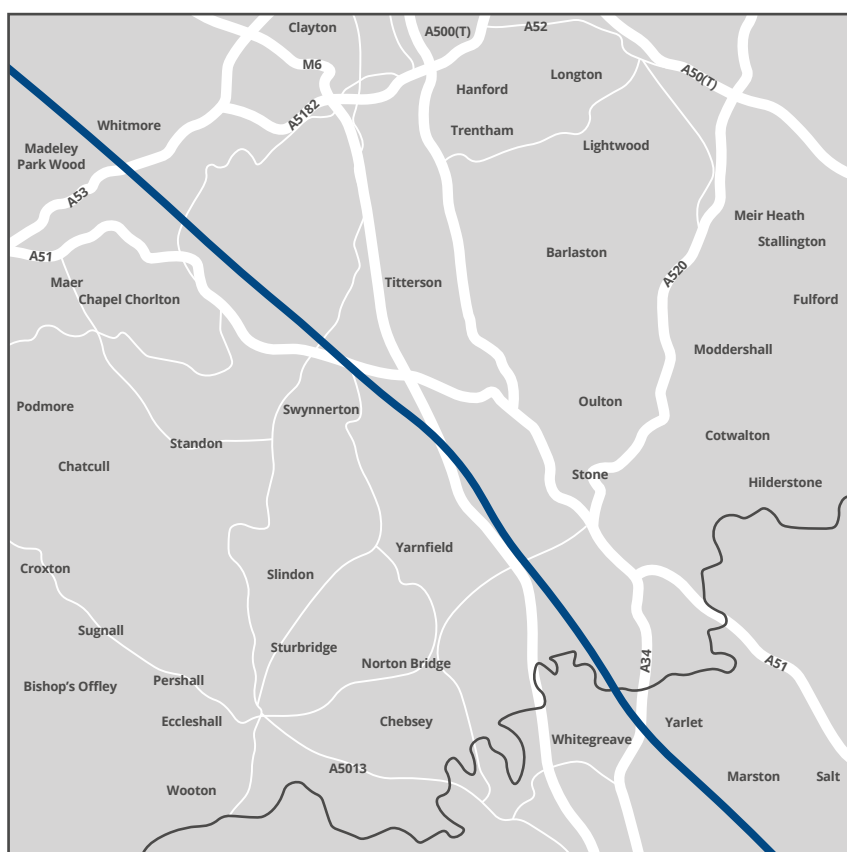


In your area

Stone and Swynnerton



High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. HS2 Ltd is the company responsible for developing the railway. We're currently seeking Parliamentary approval to build and run Phase 2a of HS2: West Midlands to Crewe, which we expect to achieve in 2020.

 HS2 Phase 2a

Introduction

We've produced this booklet to update you on the route from Stone to Swynnerton. It includes:

- a summary and map of the proposed route in the area;
- how Phase 2a is being developed and what's next;
- the benefits that HS2 will bring to your region and to the country;
- support for communities and property owners; and
- information on how to get in touch with us.



The route of Phase 2a from Stone to Swynnerton

The Stone and Swynnerton area accounts for about 13.5 km of the Phase 2a route, which passes through the Stone Rural and Swynnerton Parish council areas, within the Stafford Borough Council and Staffordshire County Council areas. The boundary between Marston and Stone Rural parishes forms the southern boundary of this area.

The boundary between Swynnerton and Whitmore parishes forms the northern boundary. The 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 residential areas mainly relate to Stone and Walton and within the wider rural area there are a number of villages and hamlets, including Yarnfield, Cold Norton, Norton Bridge and Swynnerton.

At the southern end of this area, the route will pass approximately 1.6km to the west of the village of Aston-by-Stone and approximately 600m north-east of the village of Stableford at the northern end. The route will then cross the Norton Bridge to Stone Railway to the east of the M6 (between the B5026 Eccleshall Road and Yarnfield Lane), before crossing the M6. The West Coast Main Line (WCML) passes through the northern extent of the Stone and Swynnerton area, running in a south to north direction on the western side of the route.

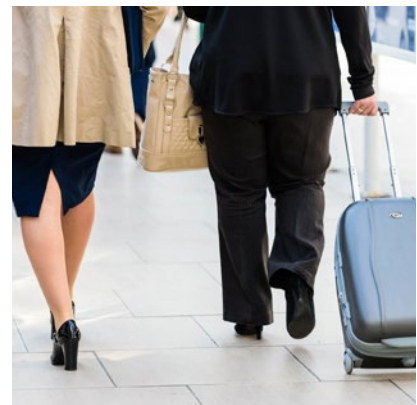
How are plans for HS2 being developed?

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. The plans for HS2 are being taken forward in phases: Phase One will connect Birmingham and the West Midlands with London; Phase 2a will extend the route to Crewe; and Phase 2b will extend the route to Manchester, Leeds and beyond.

Plans for Phase One of HS2 have been approved by Parliament and work is underway at sites along the route. Since July 2017, the Phase 2a part of HS2 has been subject to a parliamentary process. This will give us the powers we need to build and operate the railway. We expect this process to end in 2020 when we achieve Royal Assent of the Phase 2a hybrid Bill. Once we receive Royal Assent, enabling construction work can begin on this section of the route too.

During the parliamentary process, we have made specific commitments to organisations and people affected by the new railway. These are known as Undertakings and Assurances and they are designed to help manage the impact of the railway.

The Select Committee published reports of its findings and recommendations on 24 May and 23 July 2018 and 7 June 2019, which can be found on www.gov.uk/transport/hs2-phase-2a



"A fully integrated HS2 and mainline rail network will make Staffordshire even better connected, offering benefits for local commuters, businesses and our wider economy."

Mark Winnington,
Cabinet Member for
Economic Growth,
Staffordshire County
Council

What's next on Phase 2a?

The Parliamentary process will give us powers to build the railway, but we'll still have more detailed design work to do once it's complete.

Ground investigations

Ground investigations will help inform our design and construction plans, and we have been carrying these out along the route since 2018. These typically involve drilling boreholes – of up to 110 metres in depth – to find out more about the composition of the ground we plan to build on.

Archaeology and ecology

Before we start the main construction works, we'll also need to know how best to manage the railway's effects on the environment. One of the ways we do this is through archaeology investigations. We use the information from our investigations to deepen our understanding of the history of the affected area.

We will also carry out surveys of local wildlife, and build new habitats and woodlands, as part of a green corridor alongside the railway.

Utility diversions and changes to roads

In the early stages of construction, we'll need to take ownership of land for our construction compounds. We'll begin diverting utility infrastructure, such as water and gas mains, and electricity pylons.

We'll also need to divert, widen or close roads to allow for the construction and operation of the railway. Some of these changes will be temporary, and others will be permanent. Our road improvements will help to lessen the impact of traffic caused by the construction of the railway. We'll also reduce our impact by building some dedicated haul roads for our vehicles to access construction sites, and by sourcing materials for earthworks from sites close to the railway.

Constructing the railway

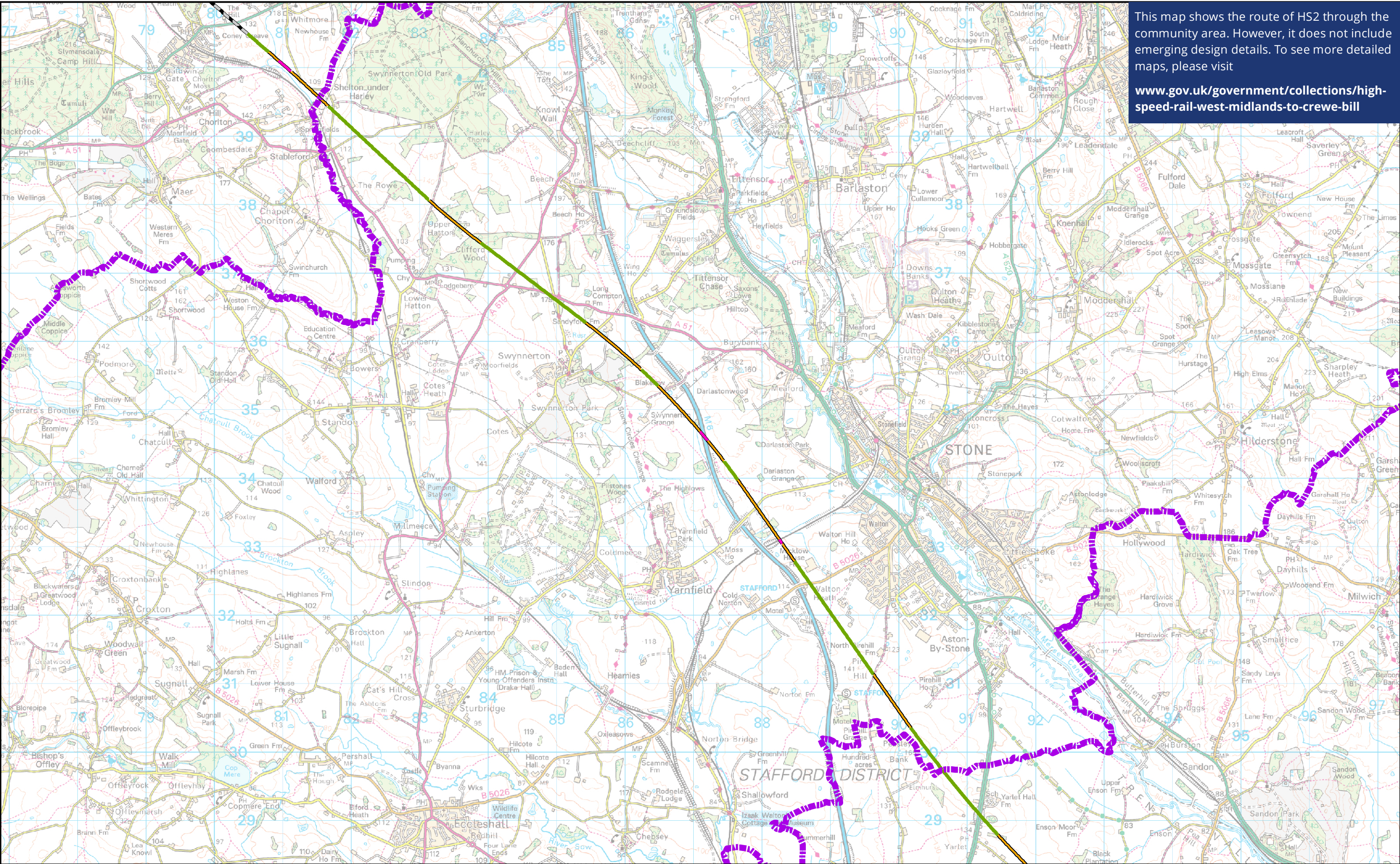
Once we have set up our construction sites, we will start our earthworks. This will include excavating cuttings, building embankments and the start of tunnel construction. After this stage, we can start the main construction work.

In the final stages of construction, we'll install the railway systems, including ballast, slab, tracks, signalling and power supply. Finally, we'll test and commission each phase of the new railway before the first services start to run.

We expect initial construction work on Phase 2a to begin in 2021/22. Throughout every stage of the construction process, we're committed to being a good neighbour to local communities by treating you with respect and compassion, while building the railway in a considerate way.



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



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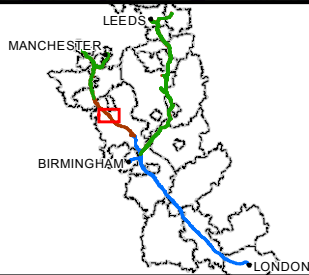
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Legend

Phase 2a alignment February 2019

- At Grade
- Bored Tunnel
- Cutting
- Embankment
- Cut And Cover Tunnel
- Tunnel Portal
- Viaduct

- Community Area Boundary
- Phase 1 alignment
- Phase 2b alignment



High Speed Two
Phase 2a
Community Area Map
Stone and Swynnerton

Published

HS2

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Date: 07/04/20

The benefits of HS2 in your region

- Journey times between London, Manchester and the North West will be improved, helping to meet strong demand for long distance travel. The current plan is for one train an hour between London and Stafford. The journey time would be cut to 53 minutes, saving 22 minutes on the current journey time.
- HS2 will provide additional capacity on the railway network, and has the potential to relieve some of the pressure on a particularly congested section of the West Coast Main Line.
- Staffordshire and Cheshire will be home to three stations served by HS2 trains: Stafford, Stoke-on-Trent and Crewe, bringing new jobs and new opportunities.
- The construction of HS2 will support thousands of new jobs, including 2,000 apprenticeships.

National benefits of HS2

HS2 will form the backbone of the UK's transport network, connecting eight of Britain's 10 largest cities. By making it easier to move between the North, Midlands and South, cutting many journeys by half, HS2 will make it easier for people to live and work where they want.

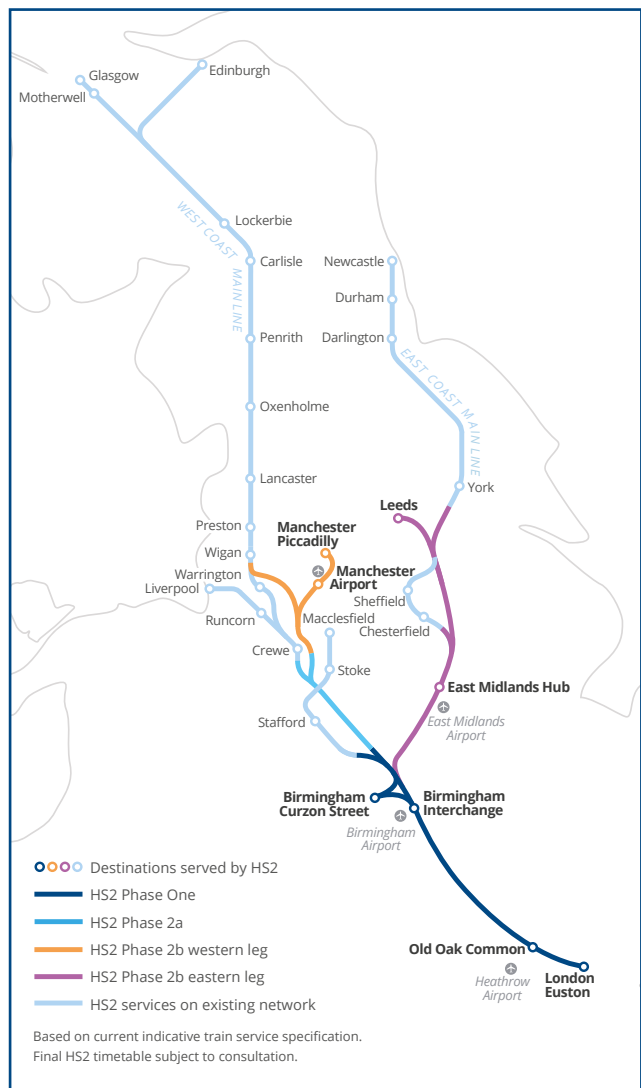
HS2 is expected to generate around £92 billion in benefits to the UK economy. Helping Britain compete on the global stage by increasing economic growth, productivity and tourism and supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs.

HS2 trains will stop at more than 25 stations, connect 30 million people with faster, easier and more reliable travel, and open up a range of new work, business and leisure opportunities.

HS2 will transform journey times and significantly increase rail capacity. It will free up space on the existing network for more local services and freight, taking lorries off the roads.

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.



Community funds

We currently offer two funds to communities and businesses disrupted by the construction of Phase One of HS2. These funds are the Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF).

As we progress with Phase 2a, we expect to offer an additional £5million of these funds to communities and businesses who are impacted by this section of the route. We expect this funding allocation to be available to communities and businesses disrupted by its construction following Royal Assent of the Phase 2a Bill.

The CEF is designed to give communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of HS2. It is an allocated fund that communities will be able to apply for to help support local projects that aim to improve their area. These funds are provided in addition to the comprehensive mitigation outlined in the Phase 2a Bill and Environmental Statement to address the environmental impacts of HS2.

The BLEF is designed to support local economies that may be disrupted by the construction of HS2. BLEF grants will be for local business support organisations and local authorities to help maintain business activity in local communities.

To find out more about CEF and BLEF, please visit <https://hs2funds.org.uk/>

Information for property owners

Our property schemes

We have a number of property schemes available to support owners of properties close to the line of route. These schemes will be available until one year after the railway has opened. Most of the schemes are already open for applications, however one scheme, known as the “Homeowner Payment Scheme” will not be available on Phase 2a until the parliamentary stage is completed. The Homeowner Payment Scheme will allow people with a qualifying interest to receive a cash payment.

To find out more about our property schemes and to see if you are eligible, please contact our HS2 Helpdesk team or look online at www.hs2.org.uk

For anyone who lives or owns land or property within the area known as “Safeguarding”, we’ll work with you as we move forward with the Project. We’ll keep you up to date on how the proposals are likely to impact your land or property.

Surveys

You may see our teams out and about carrying out surveys as we continue our investigations for building the railway. This will include surveys relating to ground investigations, ecology and habitats. If we need to access your land, you’ll receive a notice, which will explain what we are doing, when and how. If you have any questions about this, please get in touch with our HS2 Helpdesk team. Their details can be found on the back of this newsletter.



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

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.

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. 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 by contacting our HS2 Helpdesk team. For more details on our complaints process, please visit our website: www.hs2.org.uk/how-to-complain

Contact us

Our HS2 Helpdesk team are available all day, every day. You can contact them by:

 Freephone **08081 434 434**

 Minicom **08081 456 472**

 Email **hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk**

Write to

FREEPOST
HS2 Community Engagement

Website **www.hs2.org.uk**

To keep up to date with what is happening in your area, visit:

www.hs2inyourarea.co.uk

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