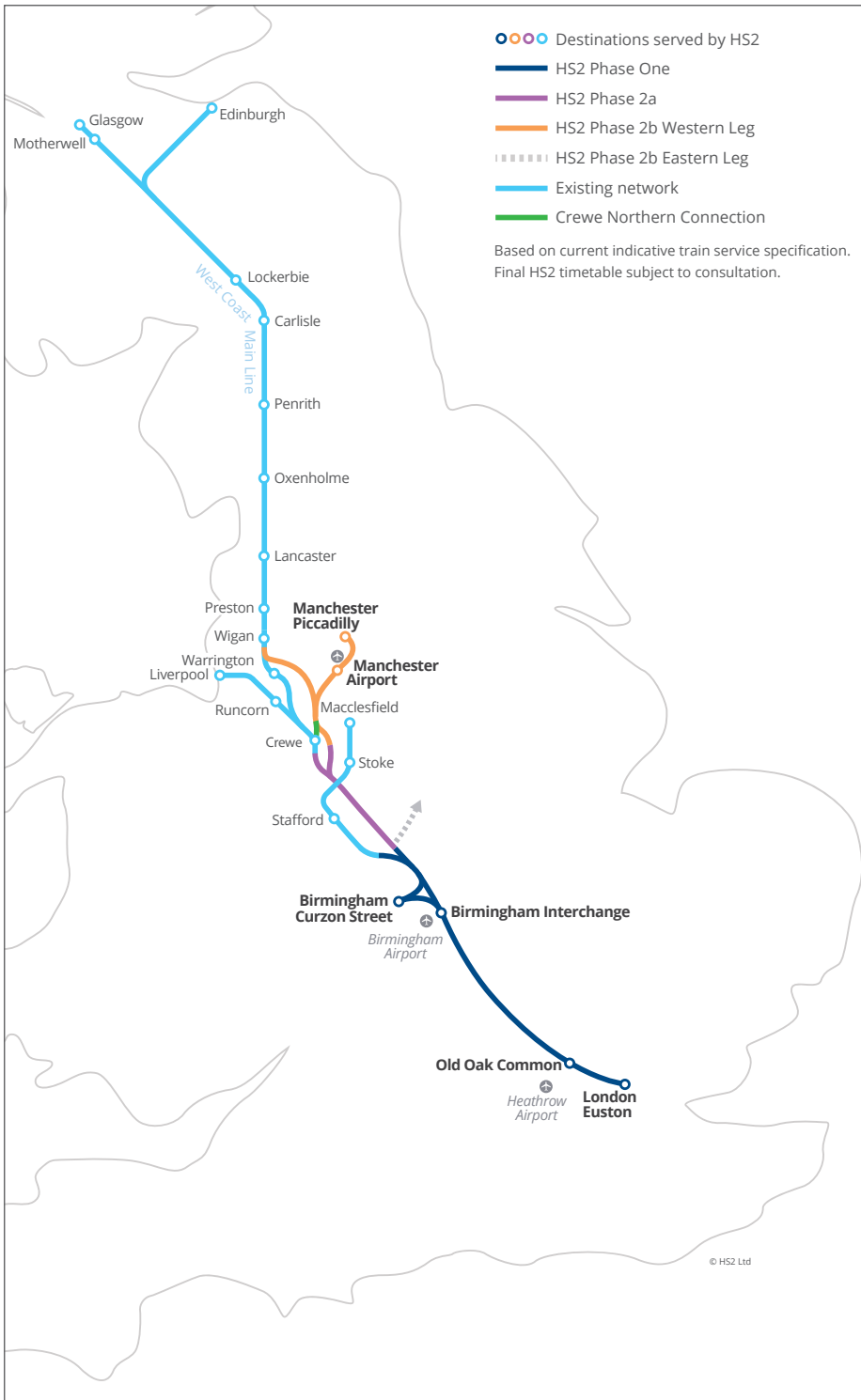


High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Environmental Statement

Guide to the Environmental Statement



What is HS2?

HS2 is the Government's proposal for a new high speed railway that will become the backbone of our national rail network, increase capacity and help to develop the skills and careers of British workers.

The proposal is being planned in phases. HS2 Phase One will connect London with Birmingham and the West Midlands. HS2 Phase 2a will connect the West Midlands with Crewe in Cheshire. HS2 Phase 2b (Crewe – Manchester) will extend the route to Manchester.

The High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Act (2017) gives legal approval for HS2 Phase One to go ahead. The High Speed Rail (West Midlands – Crewe) Act (2021) gives legal approval for HS2 Phase 2a to go ahead.

This ES is about HS2 Phase 2b Crewe – Manchester (referred to as the 'Phase 2b Western Leg').

This is a guide to the Environmental Statement (ES) for HS2 Phase 2b Crewe – Manchester and how to have your say on the information in it.

The ES accompanies the High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Bill that the Government introduced into Parliament in January 2022. The purpose of the Bill is to seek authorisation for the next part of the HS2 railway network, known as HS2 Phase 2b Crewe – Manchester.

The ES reports the environmental impacts of the planned new railway.

If you need more information after reading this guide, please get in touch with us – our contact details are on the back page.

What is the ES?

The ES is a suite of documents that set out the environmental effects of building and operating the Phase 2b Western Leg. They include our proposals for avoiding, reducing or managing these effects – from managing air quality to protecting local wildlife.

During the development of the HS2 Phase 2b Crewe – Manchester proposals, we produced a working draft ES so that people could contribute their views on the emerging environmental information.

A public consultation was held on this between October and December 2018 and the responses that we received related to the Western Leg of HS2 Phase 2b were considered during the development of the design and the environmental impact assessment reported in this ES.

Why is there a consultation on the ES?

The Government is running a public consultation on the ES for HS2 Phase 2b Crewe – Manchester, which will close at **23:45 on 31 March 2022**.

Responses to the consultation will help to:

- get feedback from people who might be affected by the HS2 proposals; and
- inform the MPs who are considering the Bill in Parliament.

This is a public consultation so we welcome responses from any person or organisation who wants to take part. You can find out how to respond to the consultation at the end of this guide.

Do I need to read the ES?

The ES is a large collection of documents. The chart on page 5 shows how the documents fit together. You can use the descriptions in the chart and on page 4 to identify the documents relevant to your area that you might want to read first.

Where do I begin?

The (ES) is made up of a number of documents, listed below.

To make it easier for you to find our assessments for a particular area, we have divided the proposed route into eight community areas (CAs). The ES also includes a route-wide assessment, which describes impacts likely to occur at a geographical scale greater than the community areas.

If you want an overview of the whole report, the Non-technical summary is a useful place to start.

Non-technical summary

This provides a summary in non-technical language of the HS2 Phase 2b Crewe – Manchester route, the reasonable alternatives studied, the engagement and consultation undertaken, the likely environmental effects, and how we propose to avoid, reduce or manage these effects. You may find this a useful place to start.

What is HS2 Phase 2b Crewe – Manchester?

The planned new railway between Crewe and Manchester (referred to as the 'Phase 2b Western Leg') comprises approximately 52 miles in length with connections onto the West Coast Main Line.

Construction for the HS2 Phase 2b Crewe – Manchester route is assumed to commence in 2025, with operation assumed to start in 2038.

Volume 1: Introduction and methodology

This provides:

- a description of HS2 and Phase 2b Crewe – Manchester, the impact assessment process and our approach to consultation and engagement;
- details of the permanent features of the Proposed Scheme and the generic construction techniques;
- a summary of the scope and methodology for the environmental topic assessments and an outline of the approach to mitigation and monitoring; and
- a summary of the strategic, route-wide and route corridor alternatives to the planned new railway and local alternatives considered prior to July 2017.

This volume is supported by a glossary to explain terms that appear frequently in the rest of the reports.

Volume 2: Community area reports

This consists of eight reports, together with maps, which provide a description of the planned new railway (which is divided into eight community areas – see the box opposite).

Volumes 3 and 4: Route-wide and Off-route effects

Volume 3 describes the significant effects likely to occur at a geographical scale greater than the community areas in Volume 2.

Volume 4 describes any significant effects identified beyond the Phase 2b Western leg route corridor and its local environment. This volume is supported by a Volume 4 map book.

Volume 5: Technical appendices

This consists of supporting information, and the specific assessments that have been conducted to establish the environmental effects of the route. It includes information organised by environmental topic and by community area, as well as map books relevant to individual reports.

Volume 2: Community area reports

To make it easier to find information on a particular area, we have divided the route into eight community areas, or CAs.

- MA01: Hough to Walley's Green
- MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
- MA03: Pickmere to Agden and Hulseheath
- MA04: Broomedge to Glazebrook
- MA05: Risley to Bamfurlong
- MA06: Hulseheath to Manchester Airport
- MA07: Davenport Green to Ardwick
- MA08: Manchester Piccadilly Station

Each report describes:

- the features of the area;
- the environmental baseline;
- the environmental impacts of the planned new railway; and
- how we propose to avoid, reduce or manage these environmental impacts.

Structure of the High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Environmental Statement

Non-technical summary

Provides a summary in non-technical language of the Proposed Scheme and its likely significant effects on the environment. This presents a summary of information included within the Environmental Statement.

Glossary, abbreviations and references

Contains terms, abbreviations and references.

Volume 1: Introduction and methodology

Provides an overview of the Proposed Scheme and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

Volume 3: Route-wide effects

Describes the effects that are likely to occur at a geographical scale greater than the community areas described in the Volume 2: Community Area reports.

Volume 4: Off-route effects

Sets out the likely significant effects at locations beyond the Phase 2b Western Leg corridor and its local environment.

Map Book

Volume 2: Community Area (CA) reports

Consists of eight reports and their associated map books. These reports set out the design and environmental assessment for the Proposed Scheme at a community area level, as shown below.

MA01 Report
Hough to Walley's Green
MA01 Map Book

MA02 Report
Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
MA02 Map Book

MA03 Report
Pickmere to Agden and Hulseheath
MA03 Map Book

MA04 Report
Broomeage to Glazebrook
MA04 Map Book

MA05 Report
Risley to Bamfurlong
MA05 Map Book

MA06 Report
Hulseheath to Manchester Airport
MA06 Map Book

MA07 Report
Davenport Green to Ardwick
MA07 Map Book

MA08 Report
Manchester Piccadilly Station
MA08 Map Book

Volume 5: Appendices and map books

The majority of appendices in Volume 5 examine certain topics in detail, either within a community area or more widely. Appendices assessing a particular topic are identified by the reference codes below. Volume 5 also contains supporting documents, such as the draft Code of Construction Practice. The topics which also have map books are noted below.

Map Book
Agriculture, forestry and soils
AG Appendices

Map Book
Air quality
AQ Appendices

Map Book
Climate change
CL Appendices

Map Book
Community
CM Appendices

Map Book
Ecology and biodiversity
EC Appendices

Map Book
Electromagnetic interference
EM Appendices

Map Book
Health
HA Appendices

Map Book
Historic environment
HE Appendices

Map Book
Land quality
LQ Appendices

Map Book
Landscape and visual
LV Appendices

Map Book
Major accidents and natural disasters
MA Appendices

Map Book
Socio-economics
SV Appendices

Map Book
Sound, noise and vibration
TR Appendices

Map Book
Traffic and transport
WM Appendices

Map Book
Waste and material resources
WR Appendices

Map Book
Water resources and flood risk
WR Appendices

Scope and Methodology Report

Draft Code of Construction Practice

Alternatives report

Planning data

Wider effects report

Working Draft Environmental Statement consultation summary report

Borrow pit report

Published outside the ES

Background Information and Data (BID) and associated BID map books

How do I respond to the ES consultation?

You can visit the ES consultation page at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase2b-crewe-manchester-environmental-statement> to view the documents.

You can also view the documents at a number of public libraries. To find your nearest location, visit our website at www.gov.uk/hs2 or get in touch with our helpdesk on **08081 434 434** or at hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

There are a number of ways of responding to the consultation:

Online

You can comment on the ES at <https://ipsos.uk/HS2ES>

By email

Alternatively, you can download the response form from <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hs2-phase-2b-crewe-manchester-environmental-statement-consultation>

You can then email your response to HS2BillES@Ipsos-MORI.com

On paper

If you'd like us to send you a paper copy of the response form, please contact our helpdesk.

You can post your response to: **FREEPOST HS2 Bill ES**

If you use the FREEPOST address, you don't need any further address information and you don't need a stamp.

Responses sent by Freepost will be considered as long as they are sent on or before the closing date. If you'd like to send your response by recorded or special delivery, please call our helpdesk and they will be happy to assist.

Please only use the email or postal addresses above when responding to the ES consultation. We cannot guarantee that responses sent to any other address will be included.

Before you comment, please read the confidentiality and data protection conditions that apply. You can find these on the response form or by calling our helpdesk.

This consultation will close at 23:45 on 31 March 2022.

Other consultations

An HS2-led consultation on the HS2 Phase 2b Crewe – Manchester Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA), is happening in parallel to the HS2 Phase 2b Crewe – Manchester ES consultation.

Further details this consultation is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hs2-phase-2b-crewe-manchester-equality-impact-assessment-report-consultation>

Please contact us if you'd like a free copy of this document in large print, Braille, audio or easy read. You can also contact us for help and information in a different language.

You can get in touch with us in the following ways:

24/7 Freephone: 08081 434 434

Minicom: 08081 456 472

Email: HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

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