

Happy New Year from HS2 Ltd, the company behind the building of Britain's high speed railway for the 21st century and beyond. As one of our supporters we will be regularly emailing you with new information, updates and key lines as the year progresses. Please see attachment below.



Thank you for your support.

HS2 Ltd.

2013 is going to be a momentous year for High Speed Two. It will be the year when the full scale and ambition of the project becomes clear. A national project, its benefits and impact will be felt beyond the reach of the high-speed line itself. Here we give a brief snapshot of the work that is continuing apace before the hybrid bill for Phase One is deposited in Parliament.

Judicial Review verdict

In January the High Court is expected to give its verdict on the five Judicial Reviews brought by opponents of HS2. The Department for Transport and HS2 Ltd are confident their position is robust and that the project will proceed.

Phase Two announcement

Early in 2013 the Secretary of State will announce his preferred route of Phase Two of HS2. The paths of the eastern leg to Leeds via the East Midlands and South Yorkshire, and the western leg to Manchester will reveal the full extent of the ambition for high-speed rail in Britain.

Property Compensation consultation events continue

January sees the last of HS2 Ltd's property and compensation consultation events, with eight public meetings taking place along the route of Phase One, before the consultation closes on January 31. The government will consider the responses and is expected to publish its final compensation package in the spring. Alongside the property compensation consultation HS2 Ltd has been consulting on safeguarding proposals to protect the route of the planned railway from conflicting developments.

Environmental Statement

Work is now proceeding to compile the draft environmental statement, which will be put out to public consultation in the spring. This is a large piece of work, stretching to around 50,000 pages of evidence covering all environmental aspects of Phase One.

Phase Three work underway

Following the Secretary of State for Transport's announcement at the Conservative Party Conference in October that he would like to see London – Scotland rail journey times reduced to less than three hours, HS2 Ltd. has started work on how to achieve this aim.
