

Indicative timetable of activity

July 2013		Commence formal consultation of the preferred route from west midlands to Manchester, Leeds and beyond.
July 2013		Launch of the Phase Two Exceptional Hardship Scheme
October 2013 – January 2014		Information events
31 st January 2014		Consultation closes
2014		Consultation response analysis. Refinements to the route will take account of the responses received, environmental impact and economic factors.
By the end of 2014		The government announces a decision on the preferred route, station and depot options to be progressed to the next level of design.
Hybrid Bill Development Phase	Safeguarding	Following the announcement of the preferred route we will consult on safeguarding measures. Safeguarding is a planning process to protect areas from conflict from new or planned development that may affect the ability to build or operate HS2. Once the route has been safeguarded, statutory blight notices can be served by qualifying property interests, requesting the government purchase the property. The government will also consider the introduction of additional discretionary property and compensation measures over and above the current law.
	Engineering Designs and Environmental Impact Assessment	The next stage of engineering design will be completed. This will include further detail for the design of the route, its structures and mitigation measures. An Environmental Impact Assessment will be undertaken to assess the significant effects that the project may have..
	May 2015	General Election
	Hybrid Bill	A Hybrid Bill seeking powers to construct, maintain and operate Phase Two of the railway will be brought forward during the next Parliament which commences following the May 2015 General Election
Construction		Following Royal Assent to the Phase Two hybrid Bill, there would be a period to prepare for construction – for example, for land to be acquired and contracts let. Construction itself will take approximately nine years overall, although, in most places, the duration of construction is likely to be much less. This period of construction will include a period of testing from early 2031, with Phase Two expected to open in 2032/33.