

High Speed 2 (HS2):

Summary of the impact on Weston and Basford Parish

The route through South Cheshire is shown in Map Book CA5: South Cheshire of the Environmental Statement available on the HS2 website.

HS2 Phase 2a will have a major impact on South Cheshire.

The path of the new high-speed railway line will run right through our Parish, parallel to the existing West Coast Main Line in a deep cutting under Newcastle Road and down to the tunnel entrance, located just south of the A500 and Weston Lane.

The major long-term impacts on our Parish are:

- **A500 and Weston Lane remain unaltered** - The tunnel taking the main HS2 line under Crewe town centre starts just to the south of Weston Lane. The tunnel itself is scheduled to be built as part of Phase 2b.
- **Casey Lane** – the bridge on Casey Lane is to be removed and Casey Lane closed off just beyond the existing houses. A new (Casey) Lane is to be built to the east of the railway to connect Weston Lane to the realigned Newcastle Road
- **Newcastle Road** – the existing bridge will be demolished and the road realigned to a new bridge over the railway to the north of the existing houses. The existing Newcastle Road running past these houses will become an access road for these properties and other properties currently accessed from Chorlton Lane to the west of the railway.
- **Chorlton Lane** – the existing bridge will be demolished and not replaced. Chorlton Lane will run on the eastern side of the railway from the realigned Newcastle Road to the junction with Waybutts Lane and will be closed off just after this junction. The section of Chorlton Lane on the west will join up to the 'old' Newcastle Road to give access to the existing properties located on the lane.
- **Chorlton to Blakenhall** - two viaducts will be built to take the HS2 lines over the West Coast Mainline between Chorlton and Blakenhall. These viaducts will be up to 14m high.
- **Den Lane** – the existing bridge over the West Coast mainline will remain as is. Further west, Den Lane will be realigned south of its existing position to join Mill Lane to the west of the new HS2 mainline. There will be three new railway crossings of Den Lane: the HS2 mainline and both the new viaducts will pass over Den Lane close to its intersection with Mill Lane.
- **Checkley Lane** – the existing railway bridge over the West Coast Mainline will remain as is. Further west the lane will be realigned to a new bridge over HS2.
- Several **footpaths and bridleways** which cross or run near the railway will be diverted
- **The character of the area** will be permanently changed: more rail infrastructure will be visible and there will be increased train noise, making the area look and feel less rural. Extensive landscape works will be undertaken to mitigate the visual impact. More trees will be planted, some on embankments and bunds, changing the landscape from predominantly open views across arable farmland to developing woodland.

- People living in Crewe and the surrounding area will benefit from high speed trains stopping at Crewe station, reducing the journey time to London from the current 96 minutes to just 55 minutes.
- From the completion of Phase 2a, scheduled for 2027, and the completion of Phase 2b it is planned that 7 HS2 trains an hour will run through Crewe in each direction. 4 of these will make a stop at Crewe, providing a high speed service between Crewe and London.
- From completion of Phase 2b up to 12 HS2 trains an hour will run through Crewe. Most of these will run straight through the tunnel to be constructed under Crewe. Discussions are ongoing concerning the building of a new HS2 hub station at Crewe which would enable more trains to stop at Crewe.

The effect on our Parish during construction will be significant:

Map Book CA5: South Cheshire, available on the HS2 website, contains maps showing the effects on South Cheshire during construction of the new railway.

Construction activity is due to start in 2020 and continue until 2027.

- Significant areas of land close to the line of the new railway will be required during the construction period to give access to the construction site, for use as construction compounds, for stockpiling materials, as borrow pits and for landscaping activities. The area adjacent to Larch Avenue will be particularly affected.
- There will be more traffic on the roads, including an increase in heavy goods traffic. Following representations made by the Parish Council, jointly with neighbouring Parish Councils, most of the HS2 heavy goods vehicles will use the A500 to access a haul road to be built along the line of the track. This should limit the number of heavy goods vehicle movements on local roads, except for the initial few months while the haul road is being built.
- Temporary road or lane closures will be required in a number of locations, including Newcastle Road, Casey Lane, Checkley Lane and Den Lane, especially during the initial few months until the haul road is built and at the end of the project.
- Some temporary access roads will be constructed and many footpaths and bridleways diverted
- There will be an increase in noise from traffic and from construction activities, some of which may also cause vibration effects to properties close to the new railway lines.
- HS2 have undertaken that mitigation measures will be in place to limit disruption and significant adverse effects, including construction traffic using the haul road along the line of the railway wherever possible, noise barriers, limiting the working hours, but some disruption is inevitable.

Full information on the HS2 project can be found on the HS2 website at: www.gov.uk/HS2.