

Following publication of the Network North Command Paper on 4 October 2023, I am writing to let you know that on the 18th January 2024 the Secretary of State removed the majority of the Safeguarding Directions for HS2 Phase 2a (between the West Midlands and Crewe).

However, in order to allow Phase One of High Speed Two to connect to the West Coast Main Line, Safeguarding Directions will remain on land south of King's Bromley and Handsacre. This connection at Handsacre will allow passengers to travel on HS2 trains through to Manchester, Liverpool and Scotland, joining the West Coast Main Line for the rest of their journeys.

Safeguarding is a planning tool used to protect the land needed for the HS2 scheme from potential conflicting development. The safeguarding directions require the Local Planning Authority to consult with HS2 Ltd on planning applications within the safeguarded land.

HS2 Ltd will be writing to the owners of properties affected explaining what these changes mean to them. The letters will also make clear how HS2 Ltd can help if property owners would like further information.

Newly issued safeguarding maps are available to view at:
www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-safeguarding

If you have any questions or would like more information about this matter, please feel free to contact the clerk.