

## HS2 : WHAT IS IT?

**HS2 is a state-of-the-art, high-speed line critical for the UK's low carbon transport future.** It will provide much-needed rail capacity across the country, and is integral to rail projects in the North and Midlands – helping rebalance the UK economy.

Britain's high-speed rail infrastructure project was given the go-ahead by the prime minister in February 2020 despite concerns over spiralling costs.

It is Britain's biggest infrastructure project and has had support from governments of all stripes since it was first mooted more than a decade ago. The project has been beset by delays and rising costs with some estimates putting the price tag at more than £100bn.

It could be 2040 before passenger services are operating on the full network. HS2's inception follows the development of HS1, the high-speed line between London and Kent connecting the UK to routes on the European continent.

The aim is to run 18 trains an hour in each direction to and from London - at speeds of up to 224mph - compared to between two and six an hour on Europe's high-speed railways.

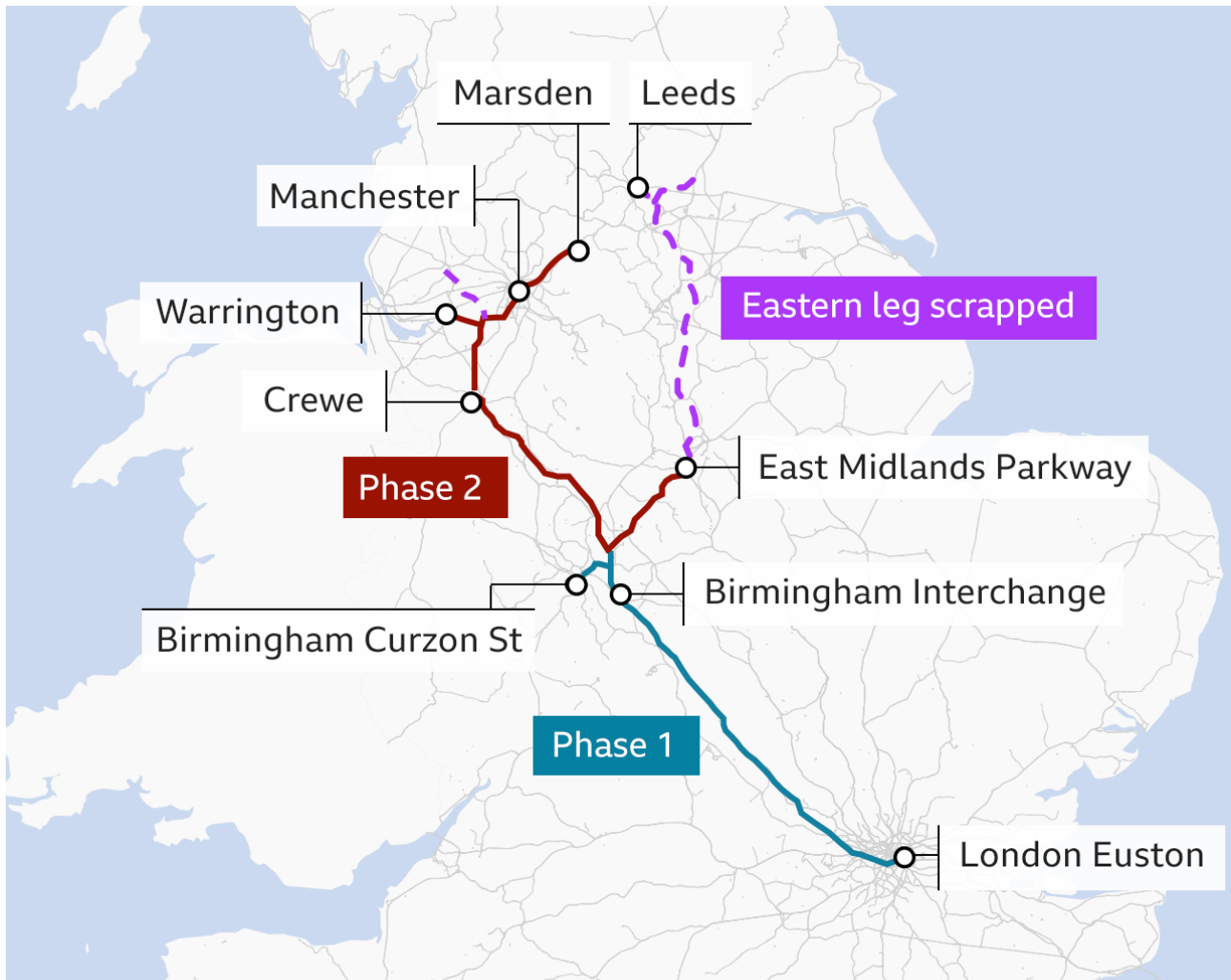
It involves the construction of more than 300 bridges and 70 viaducts for the London-West Midlands phase alone.

There will also, under current plans, be six new stations including Birmingham Curzon Street and extensions for London Euston and Manchester Piccadilly.

The project is designed to meet the long-term growth in demand for rail services, improve the reliability of the network, boost connectivity by making journeys faster and easier, and help economic growth across the UK.



# THE ROUTE



Source: Department for Transport

**BBC**

Stations on the first phase of the line will be London Euston, Old Oak Common in west London, Birmingham interchange and Birmingham Curzon Street.

The second phase will see trains head northwest to Manchester Airport and Manchester Piccadilly or heading on to existing lines via Wigan, Crewe and Stafford.

They had also been planned to go northeast from Birmingham towards the East Midlands Hub at Toton from where they will continue on the HS2 line to Leeds, with others diverging on to existing lines via Chesterfield and York.

But this eastern extension now looks in jeopardy.