

Why is the Hope Valley Railway Upgrade needed?

The Hope Valley Railway Upgrade is a critical investment to remove several bottlenecks between Manchester and Sheffield, making train journeys better and more reliable for passengers.

Currently, due to the single-track railway line across parts of the route, passenger journeys are often delayed by slower freight trains along the line. We are therefore building new railway track and associated infrastructure to allow the faster passenger trains to overtake the freight trains, thereby speeding up passenger journeys and removing bottlenecks.

Once the project is complete, will there be more train services along the line?

Before more trains can run, further railway improvements are needed in Manchester and Sheffield, as well as timetable changes. This is part of the ongoing work being carried out by the railway industry, which will enable additional trains to run in future.

While we manage this closely with industry colleagues and look at wider capacity improvement options, it is important to deliver these major improvements now so we can realise the wider benefits and run more trains in the future.

How much noise will there be from construction work?

Our team will always be mindful of the impact work may have on you and those on site are working with consideration for the local community in mind.

While unfortunately some noise will be unavoidable on the project, it will be minimised through planning work during the daytime and, where possible, installing temporary noise barriers. Noise monitoring will also be undertaken and, if this exceeds the trigger levels set, will be reviewed and we will identify appropriate, additional control measures.

How much work will take place at night?

The majority of work will take place during weekdays, however occasionally we will be required to work during Saturday nights. We will plan work to take place during the daytime as much as possible.

Will there be an increase in road traffic, and how much disruption will this cause?

While there will be a slight increase in road traffic, the project has produced a Traffic Management Plan to ensure that any disruption from vehicles is minimised, and we will take materials for construction work in and out by train as much as possible.

How will you look after the environment during the project?

We have developed a comprehensive set of environmental management plans. The approval of these by the Peak District National Park Authority and Sheffield City Council and their implementation during construction work will ensure that the project's impact is kept as low as possible.

Our main site compounds will also be connected to the mains electricity rather than using a generator, procuring 100% renewable electricity to reduce carbon emissions, with a proposed capital saving of 350 tonnes CO₂.

Will you be cutting down trees?

The project requires the removal of some vegetation to allow us to construct the site compounds and build the new railway track and infrastructure. However, once the work is complete, we will be replanting more vegetation than we have removed and will leave habitats in a measurably better state than they were pre-developed. This is called biodiversity net gain.

How will you protect local wildlife?

We have a team of ecologists working on the project whose role is to protect local wildlife while we deliver the project. This is detailed in the project's Ecological Management Plan.

How will the work affect local rivers?

We have produced a Pollution Control Plan to ensure that pollution within local rivers as a result of construction work is avoided, as much as is practicably possible.