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## **PRESS RELEASE**

30 March 2012

### **RAILFUTURE OUTLINES ITS POLICY ON HS2 PHASE 1**

*Mike Crowhurst, chairman of rail campaigning organisation Railfuture has issued the following statement outlining the national pro-rail campaigning group's policy on the government's proposed route of High-speed 2 phase 1 (London-Birmingham).*

Railfuture has long championed the development of a High Speed Rail network in Great Britain along with that of a fully integrated strategic national transport framework. We engaged fully in the extensive national consultation programme undertaken by DfT/HS2 Ltd.

Railfuture has acknowledged the Government's decision to follow their original proposals to route phase 1 of HS2 via the Chilterns AONB.

Railfuture has noted the additional mitigation measures announced by the Secretary of State including additional tunnels in order to minimise environmental damage. However, we strongly believe that further measures are needed to address remaining connectivity, capacity and environmental issues and we will work robustly with the Government to achieve those.

We believe that the current proposals to link HS2 to HS1 are completely inadequate and require new and innovative thinking.

We also believe that there remains a persuasive case to consider an economically and environmentally viable alternative alignment broadly via the M1/M6 corridor as advocated in our response to the HS2 consultation. Railfuture stands ready to discuss this and other issues with the Government.

Our full submission to the DfT can be read on the Railfuture website:

[http://www.railfuture.org.uk/tiki-download\\_file.php?fileId=296](http://www.railfuture.org.uk/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=296)

### **NOTE FOR EDITORS**

***Railfuture* is the campaigning name of the Railway Development Society Ltd (a not for profit) Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No. 5011634. Reg. Office: 24 Chedworth Place, Tattingstone, Suffolk IP9 2ND**

*Railfuture* is Britain's only completely independent voice on railway development. We are not affiliated to or sponsored by any political party, trade union, or private industry. We are funded almost entirely by our members.

*Railfuture* campaigns for Britain's railways to play a larger role for passengers and freight, calling for an enhanced and expanded network, including high-speed rail, along with light rail.

Rail is a vital part of an integrated efficient transport system serving a modern, vibrant, environmentally sustainable economy. We are pro-rail but not anti-road. *Railfuture* maintains that investment in rail travel and rail freight is vital to the future of the UK economy and environment.

Anyone supporting our aims can join online: [www.railfuture.org.uk/join](http://www.railfuture.org.uk/join)

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