

# They can't all be nimbys and luddites can they?

"At a time of painful cuts elsewhere, spending such a large sum on a single project that will only benefit a portion of the country is a criminal waste of scarce resources."

**Sunday Telegraph editorial**

"Despite endorsing the strengthening of Britain's infrastructure, this newspaper struggles with the case for the line..... To govern is to choose. Would the benefits of a shiny new high speed line outweigh the less visible but valuable things that could be done with the limited funds available?"

**Financial Times editorial**

"There is an idea that it will take business to the North. But official documents suggest that the majority of jobs created will be in the South, and that capital is likely to flow from Manchester and Leeds to London rather than the other way round."

**Camilla Cavendish,  
The Times**

"With so much pressure on the budgets of families and businesses, it is utterly indefensible that the Government is planning on spending such an incredible amount of money on this project. HS2 should be cancelled."

**Matthew Sinclair, Chief Executive,  
The Tax Payers Alliance**

"The burning need in public transport is not for sexy, pointy-nosed high speed trains whose economics simply don't stack up. It's for boring unglamorous improvements to the services we actually use."

**Andrew Gilligan, The Telegraph**

"If it's ever built, which I doubt, the high-speed rail link between London and Birmingham will be the biggest white elephant since Nellie packed her trunk and trundled off to the circus."

**Paul Routledge, Daily Mirror**

"A new high speed network would bleed the rest of the railway of money and care. Is that what travelers really want?"

**Simon Jenkins, The Guardian**

"The weakest aspect of the case is the 'green' argument which virtually falls apart."

**Christian Wolmar,  
Railway journalist and author**

"We seem to be committing ourselves to an eye watering expensive railroad for the few."

"High speed rail plan is madness"

**Mike Rutherford, Financial Editor,  
The Daily Telegraph**

"The economic justification for HS2 is weak – very weak"

**The Adam Smith Institute**

"The Green Party is opposed to the current HS2 proposals. The economic case is unsound. The claims about reducing CO2 emissions are questionable to say the least."

**Caroline Lucas MP,  
Leader of The Green Party**

"Too much is being spent on these big vanity projects, such as High Speed 2, and not enough on local schemes that will offer practical benefits in people's daily lives."

**Andrew Lee, Director, Sustainable  
Development Commission**

"The impacts of high speed rail investment on local and regional developments are ambiguous at best and negative at worst."

**Prof. Tomaney, Centre for Urban  
and Regional Development Studies**



[www.hs2actionalliance.org](http://www.hs2actionalliance.org)