



Fly into the centre of London.
Fast!

LondonCityAirport

Edinburgh 4.8°C

Change location



heraldscotland
The Herald | sundayherald

Friday 1 February 2013

Hello Visitor

Sign in | Register | Subscribe

Search

hs

News Politics Sport Business Comment Arts & Ents Life & Style Going Out

Weather Puzzles

Home News Crime & Courts Health Education Transport Environment World News

Book an ad Family Notices Dating Local Businesses Cars Property Jobs

TEXT SIZE

Scotland losing out as HS2 proposals attacked



Damien Henderson
Transport Correspondent

Wednesday 30 January 2013

THE high speed rail route in England that would have offered the most benefit to Scotland has been rejected in order to protect services to Lancashire, new documents show.

Route alignment options drawn up by HS2, the company set up by the Department for Transport to take forward its plans, included a connection from a new 250mph line from London to the West Coast line north of Preston.

This would have offered the best deal for passengers travelling north to Scotland as it would have cut journey times for Anglo-Scottish rail services, HS2 said.

But, in advice published on the DfT's website this week, it rejected this in favour of a junction south of Wigan to enable passengers from both Preston and Wigan to connect.

"Our key consideration here was that a connection further north would mean shorter journey times using HS2 (high speed rail) to Scotland; however, it would also mean that such trains would not be able to call at stations on the existing rail network between Bamfurlong and Brock," HS2 said.

The more northerly connection would have added £2 billion to the cost of building a high-speed rail network as it would have required a new interchange station to be built near Preston to maintain connections to Blackpool and other nearby stations.

The decision emerged amid a spat between the SNP and Scottish Labour over the lack of a concrete plan to bring high-speed rail to Scotland.

A spokesman for the Scottish Association for Public Transport condemned the route alignment favoured by the DfT, saying this ignored the benefits a line between Scotland and London would provide.

RELATED ARTICLES

[System to blame for fiasco over train franchise](#)

Transport • Thu 4 Oct 2012

[Double-spend warning over high-speed rail link](#)

Transport • Tue 3 Jul 2012

[Rail privatisation has finally run its course and almost certainly failed](#)

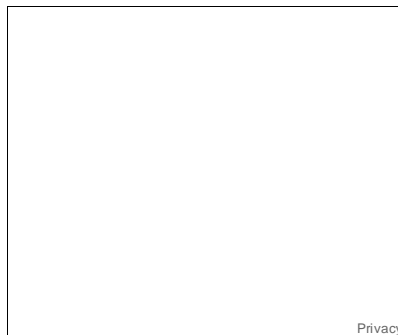
Letters • Sat 1 Sep 2012

[Fast track to growth must extend north of the Border](#)

Herald View • Tue 3 Jul 2012

[New calls for high-speed rail link to run to Scotland](#)

Transport • Wed 11 Jan 2012



Privacy

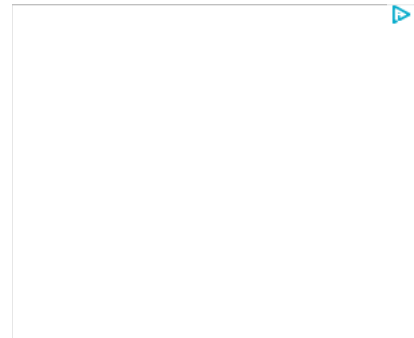
What do you think?

[Please sign in to comment on this article](#)

Showing 2 comments

Robert Wakeham

Surely the proposed junction south of Wigan is just the northerly end of the latest phase of the high speed route, and the design should allow for further extension of the line northwards in future phases. If there's no passive provision for this there's something far wrong with the design.



MOST READ

- Biffy Clyro: why Opposites attracts
- How Gordon Matheson scrapped George Square revamp when judges ignored his choice
- The advantage that private education buys is the privilege of connections
- Britons told to leave Somalia
- Dario Franchitti and Ashley Judd to separate after 11 years

SPONSORED LINKS

New Year, New You!
Win FREE laser eye surgery with Optical Express, the UK's No.1 Provider. Offer ends 31st January.

GREAT BRITISH MOBILITY BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!
Comfortably better

MOST COMMENTED

- SNP accept 'more neutral' indyref question advice from vote watchdog
- Poll question agreed but voters demand answers
- EU timetable 'would result in poor deal for Scotland'
- Row breaks over 2014 poll question
- High-speed trains to be hit by Scots delay

1 day ago

Stuart Andrew D Rankin, West L

Why would a Westminster Government help an independent country to improve its railway country?
It will not happen for years anyway, perhaps never.

1 day ago

heraldscotland

© Copyright 2013
Herald & Times Group
All rights reserved

Our News Services

Mobile
Apps and Kindle
Newspaper
Digital Editions
Back Issues
Online Archive
Email, Twitter, RSS
Syndication

Our Advertising Services

Family Notices
Book Your Newspaper
Ad online
Contact the Sales Team
The Facts and Figures
View Newspaper Ads
Commercial Features

Our Personal Services

Help, Feedback &
Contact
Dating
Travel Services
Photo Sales
Crosswords & Sudoku

Our Colleagues

Evening Times
s1
The Scottish Farmer
Scottish Horse
Newsquest Media Group

About Us

Herald & Times Group
Terms & Conditions
Privacy Policy
How We Use Cookies
Employment
