

Assembly Resource

Read the information about the HS2 railway protests below. Why do you think that the HS2 rebellion protesters chose to take the course of action they did? Do you think they made the right choice by building a tunnel to make their voices heard?

What is the HS2 railway project?

The HS2 railway project is the name for the proposed high-speed railway network built to connect London with cities in the north of England, including Manchester, Birmingham and Leeds.

Whilst some believe it will transform transport times and create jobs, others believe it will ruin large areas of the countryside and impact on wildlife.



HS2 Rebellion

What was life in the tunnel like?

Life in the tunnel was thought to have been very difficult. The temperature was cold, and the protesters didn't have mobile phone signal. They made sure there was plenty of food and water before they moved into the tunnels, alongside packs of cards and books to read to keep themselves busy.

Why did HS2 Rebellion choose to protest and why did they decide to build a tunnel?

The HS2 Rebellion group believe that the HS2 project shouldn't go ahead as it would cause huge damage to wildlife and the countryside in the areas where it would be built and they wanted to raise awareness.

They decided to build an underground tunnel near where the start of the HS2 railway line would be built, under Euston Station in London. As some of the protesters stayed in the tunnels between the 27th January and 26th February, they have held the longest UK tunnel occupation in over 20 years.

Pictured above: The entrance to the tunnel close to Euston Station, London for the protesters

Pictured right: A sketch by one of the tunnellers, known as Jimbo. It was completed prior to the protests but predicted what the tunnels and life there would look like.



@JimboVegan