



## GREENGAUGE 21

### Kent's high-speed trains are already proving successful

Timed to coincide with the launch of the full high-speed service for Kent, Greengauge 21 today published research into the new services.

“We already have a clear demonstration that high-speed rail will attract people away from more carbon-intensive car use”, said Greengauge 21 Director, Jim Steer. “The new high-speed services have been running in Kent for 6 months on a *Preview* basis, sufficient to get an early measure of the impact the full service will have. We have found that there has already been diversion from car (mainly) and coach to high-speed rail – 8% overall, 11% at Ebbsfleet – as well as from existing, slower train services. He pointed out that the rate of diversion from private car use was higher than the levels assumed in their forecasts for a national high-speed rail network made earlier this year.

Greengauge 21's new research, carried out by *The Leading Edge*, reveals that people in Kent consider the new high-speed services to be transformational, “giving them back two hours of their day” and providing an easy to use and high quality train service.

“We also have uncovered evidence that there is sharpening interest in the residential and commercial property markets in the parts of Kent served by the new services. The step-change in transport connectivity leaves the county very well-placed to emerge strongly from the recession and over the next few years, key towns in Kent can expect a regeneration boost. “If we proceed with a national high-speed network, these beneficial effects can be shared more widely across the whole country, not just in Kent”, Jim Steer added.

Greengauge 21's new report can be downloaded from the web-site [www.greengauge21.net](http://www.greengauge21.net).

#### Notes to Editors

1. Julie Mills and Jim Steer are available for interview. For more information or to set up an interview, please contact Jim Steer 07785 242506
2. [Greengauge 21](http://www.greengauge21.net) was established in 2006, to initiate the debate on high-speed rail in Britain.
3. The new research in Kent was carried out by *The Leading Edge*.
4. The [Greengauge 21](http://www.greengauge21.net) high-speed rail *Public Interest Group* was established in Spring 2008, to develop the case for a network of high speed lines, resulting in the definitive report *Fast Forward: A High Speed Rail Strategy for Britain*, published in September 2009.

5. The high-speed services in Kent are operated by Southeastern, using new 140 mph (225 km/h) Hitachi trains on High Speed 1, Britain's first high-speed railway. *Preview* services have been in operation since June 2009 and the full service is launched on December 13<sup>th</sup> 2009.