

HS2 is a new high speed railway that will form the backbone of Britain's rail network. HS2 will run between London and Birmingham from 2026, extend to Crewe by 2027 and then link to Manchester and Leeds from 2033.

Trains will continue on up the East and West Coast Main Lines, serving towns and cities in the north of England and Scotland. This will provide millions of people with access to the new high speed network.

HS2 will help unlock Britain's economic potential by bridging geographic divides and delivering a better connected and more balanced economy. It will provide more capacity for local, regional and freight services on existing lines, relieving congestion and providing people with better travel options.

Towns, cities and regions across Britain are planning to use the arrival of HS2 services as a catalyst for growth, with schemes to regenerate urban areas, create jobs and provide greater opportunities for local people.

HS2 services in Staffordshire and Cheshire

Crewe is an important location on the existing rail network and will provide wider important connectivity to the HS2 network. HS2 trains will also serve the current station in Stafford. This will become an 'integrated high speed station', where passengers can catch HS2 trains and access the high speed network to the south. HS2 Ltd is undertaking detailed work on an option for HS2 trains to serve Stoke-on-Trent and Macclesfield and we will keep the Councils concerned informed as this work develops.

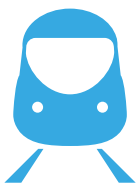


■ Stafford Riverside development – artist impression. Image: Stafford Borough Council

"HS2 will create a huge growth in the local economy. Much of this is because Crewe will be the gateway that links the high speed network to major towns and cities like Liverpool, Manchester, Preston, Stoke, Stafford, Chester and Birmingham as well as North and Mid Wales."

Simon Yates, Leader Crewe Town Council

Stafford ↔ London



0:54

HS2 journey time



Journey time saving

Crewe ↔ London

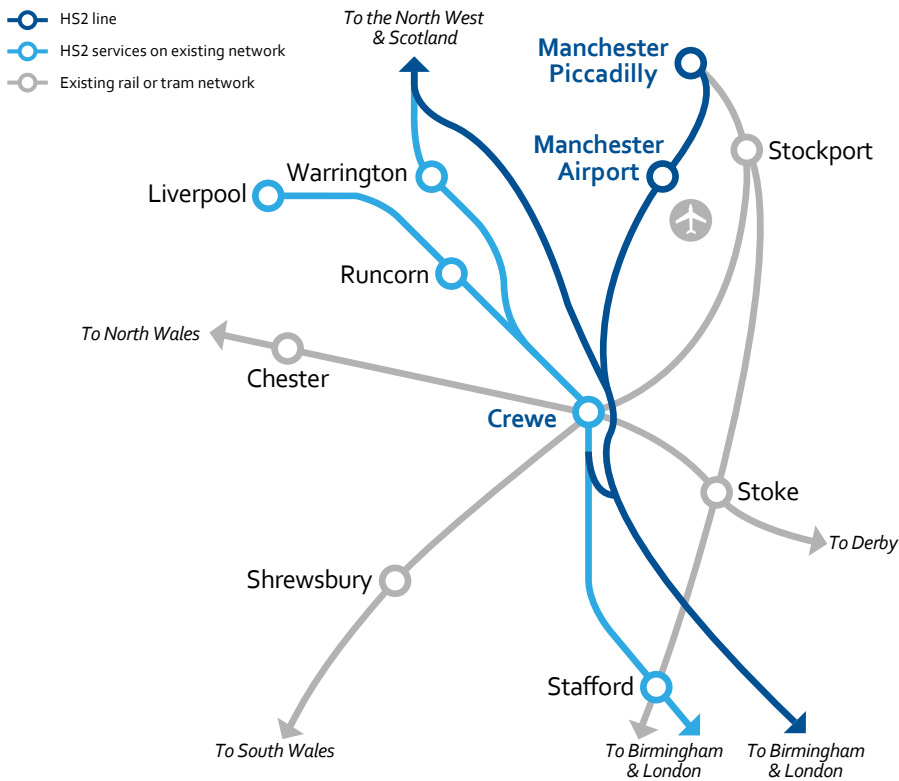


0:55

HS2 journey time



Journey time saving



“Stafford is perfectly placed to take full advantage of the introduction of HS2. We are having huge interest from developers and businesses alike who want to be a part of the exciting developments and changes happening in Stafford.”

*Patrick Farrington,
Leader of Stafford Borough Council*

“The Stafford stop is hugely important as it will not only benefit Stafford, but is the gateway to open up the economic benefits and opportunities for the hundreds of thousands of people living in Staffordshire, the Black Country, Shropshire and Stoke-on-Trent.”

*Philip Atkins,
Leader Staffordshire County Council*

Connectivity

Crewe is already a major interchange, and HS2 services to Crewe would also provide opportunities to better connect North Wales and the Mersey Dee region to London and the South East.

Stafford’s integrated high speed station will be used by a community far wider than the county town, opening up services to hundreds and thousands of people and businesses to the north, west and south including Staffordshire and the Black Country.

Northern Gateway Development Zone

Local councils and business groups have partnered to come up with plans to capitalise on the benefits of HS2 to the area. Covering Cheshire and the north of Staffordshire, the Northern Gateway Development Zone (NGDZ) is a coalition between Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP, Cheshire and Warrington LEP and seven local councils.

As part of its HS2 Growth Strategy, the NGDZ will drive forward development, delivering more than 100,000 new homes and 120,000 new jobs by 2040.

Regeneration

In Stafford, the Borough Council is using HS2 to build on Stafford’s reputation as an attractive place to live, work and invest in.

Regeneration plans are underway for a £1.2bn investment in new shops, businesses, industrial expansion and housing development. At the centre of this is the £100m revitalisation of Stafford town centre, close to the train station. Other plans in consideration include developing under-utilised brownfield and industrial sites into high density, high value commercial and residential.

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