

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 Birmingham and Solihull

Sitting at the heart of the HS2 network, the West Midlands will have two brand new stations, at Curzon Street in Birmingham city centre, and a station in Solihull to be known as Birmingham Interchange.

HS2 trains will serve both Birmingham city centre and Birmingham International Airport with fast links to Manchester, the East Midlands, Sheffield, Leeds and the West and East Coast Mainlines beyond.

With rail travel demand between Birmingham and London expected to double in the next 20 years, HS2 will add up to six services an hour to and from the UK's two biggest city economies.

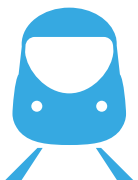


■ Birmingham Library
Image: HS2/Bob Martin

"I'm delighted that Greater Birmingham is making this investment in the future, working to maximise the potential of HS2 by investing in jobs and housing – and encouraging more business investment."

Theresa May, UK Prime Minister

Birmingham ↔ London



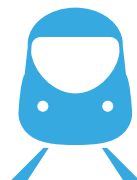
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HS2 journey time



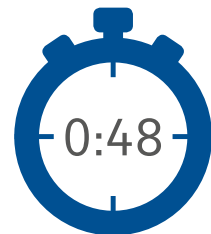
Journey time saving

Birmingham ↔ Manchester



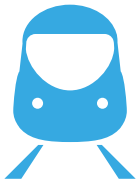
0:40

HS2 journey time



Journey time saving

Birmingham ↔ Leeds



0:49

HS2 journey time



Journey time saving

Economy

The Midlands already has the highest concentration of businesses outside London, including international firms such as Jaguar Land Rover, MG Motors, Deutsche Bank, JCB and the 150 year old, West Midlands-founded FTSE 250 engineering firm IMI.

HS2 will help accelerate the region's economic growth. The West Midlands Combined Authority's HS2 Growth Strategy has the potential to add £14bn to the economy and create and sustain 100,000 jobs. For example, the retail banking arm of HSBC is building its new headquarters in Birmingham city centre, global construction and support services firm Interserve is consolidating its operations at a new regional head office next to Birmingham International and others, such as Changan Automobile, are following suit, establishing research and development divisions in Birmingham Business Park.

Regeneration

Birmingham's Curzon Street Investment Plan will see almost £1bn spent on regenerating the area around the HS2 Curzon Street station. The scheme will take place over 30 years, leading to the creation of several new neighbourhoods across 141 hectares, including 4,000 homes and 36,000 jobs.

Interchange Station creates a world-class development opportunity for UK Central in Solihull. The plans include a global business hub, 'Arden Cross', with the potential to deliver 20,000 jobs and 2,000 new homes. The West Midlands Combined Authority Devolution Agreement has secured £348m of investment for Interchange and other new transport links, in addition to £288m for wider UK Central infrastructure.

"Our intention is to use HS2 to build an economic, social and environmental legacy for Solihull. That means getting our places, people and businesses ready."

Cllr Bob Sleight, Leader, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

"Birmingham Airport is in a unique position as in 10 years' time it will become the UK's only HS2-connected airport... We're therefore working on a masterplan to look at options which maximise the benefits of HS2."

Paul Kehoe, CEO Birmingham Airport

"Our city-region has many existing strengths, but HS2 in particular is set to be a crucial asset, encouraging investment and growth."

Paul Faulkner, Chief Executive Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce

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