

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 the Tees Valley

HS2 trains will serve the current Darlington station. It will become an 'integrated high speed station', where passengers can catch HS2 trains and access the high speed network to the south.

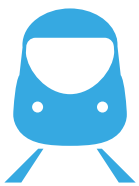
As well as saving almost 30 minutes on trips to London, it will take almost one hour less to get to Birmingham. Over 15,000 passengers a day will be able to travel on the high speed network to and from the Tees Valley.



■ Darlington HS2 Growth Hub
– artist impression, station east view
Image: Darlington Borough Council

The Tees Valley Combined Authority sees the reduction in journey times HS2 will bring as transformational, with a trip to London taking less than two hours for the first time.

Darlington ↔ Birmingham



1:25

HS2 journey time



Journey time saving

Darlington ↔ London

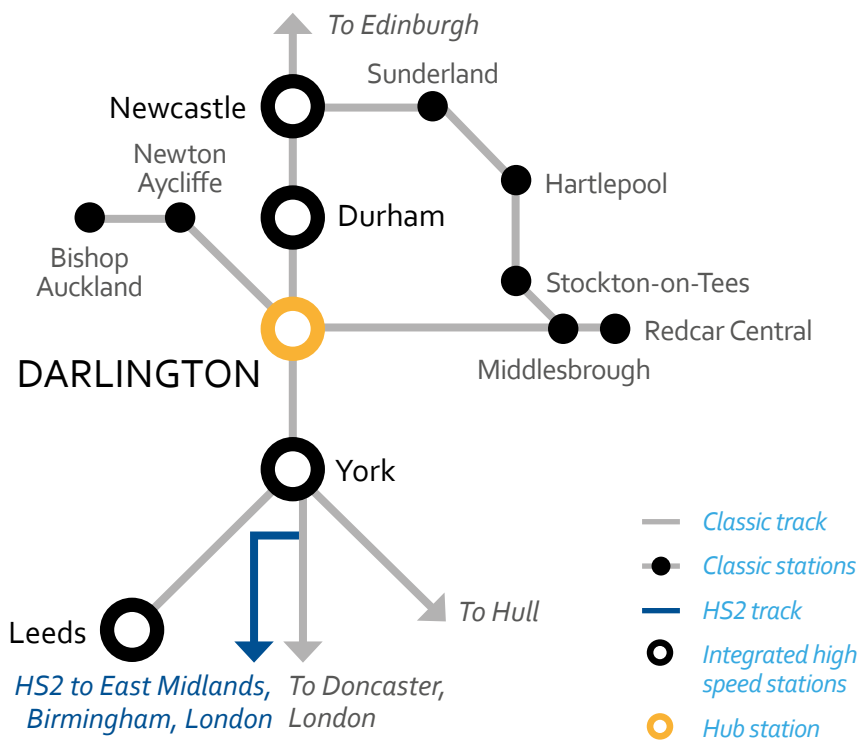


1:52

HS2 journey time



Journey time saving



“Our Growth Hub plans are driven by the needs of the community, but made achievable by HS2.”

Cllr Bill Dixon, Chair of the Tees Valley Combined Authority Transport Committee

“HS2 can be transformational for the economy of the Tees Valley and put Darlington at the heart of a dynamic new economic corridor.”

David Robinson, CEO of PD Ports and Tees Valley Unlimited Transport & Infrastructure Lead

Connectivity

Darlington Borough Council has been working with the Tees Valley Combined Authority, the Local Enterprise Partnership, Transport for the North and Network Rail on a masterplan to capitalise on HS2 trains serving Darlington station.

The plan sees the station as a catalyst for wider economic opportunities for people across the Tees Valley City Region. It will connect economic hotspots, such as Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees, Hartlepool and Newton Aycliffe, to other growth areas across the North and Midlands.

Raising productivity and employment/Economy

New research, commissioned by Darlington Borough Council, estimates that its HS2 Growth Hub plan could, in the long term, provide over 3,000 new jobs and a £130 million per year economic boost across the Tees Valley City Region.

With faster journeys and opportunities for extra capacity, HS2 will better link the advanced manufacturing, bio-pharmaceuticals and energy industries of the Tees Valley to clusters and innovation hubs in the East and West Midlands. By connecting the Tees Valley to Birmingham and Heathrow airports via the high speed network, HS2 also offers the potential for international expansion, as well as domestic business growth.

Regeneration

In Darlington itself, the Borough Council’s HS2 Growth Hub proposal envisages around £100 million of investment to help facilitate private sector investment for over 59,000 square metres of new business space and almost 1,500 homes, with the station connecting to the Central Park Enterprise Zone, the historic Market Hall area and other key public spaces in Darlington.

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