

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 Wigan

HS2 trains will serve the current Wigan North Western station. It will become an 'integrated high speed station', where passengers can catch HS2 trains.

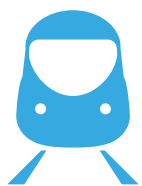
With trains running every hour, Birmingham will be just over half an hour away, and London less than 90 minutes. Over 15,000 passengers a day will be able to travel on the high speed network to and from Wigan.



■ Standishgate, Wigan Town Centre
Image: Wigan Council

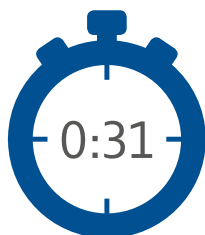
Wigan Council is working with Transport for Greater Manchester on a plan to be HS2 ready. The priority is to improve Wigan North Western station as an effective transport hub.

Wigan ↔ London



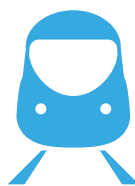
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HS2 journey time



Journey time saving

Wigan ↔ Birmingham

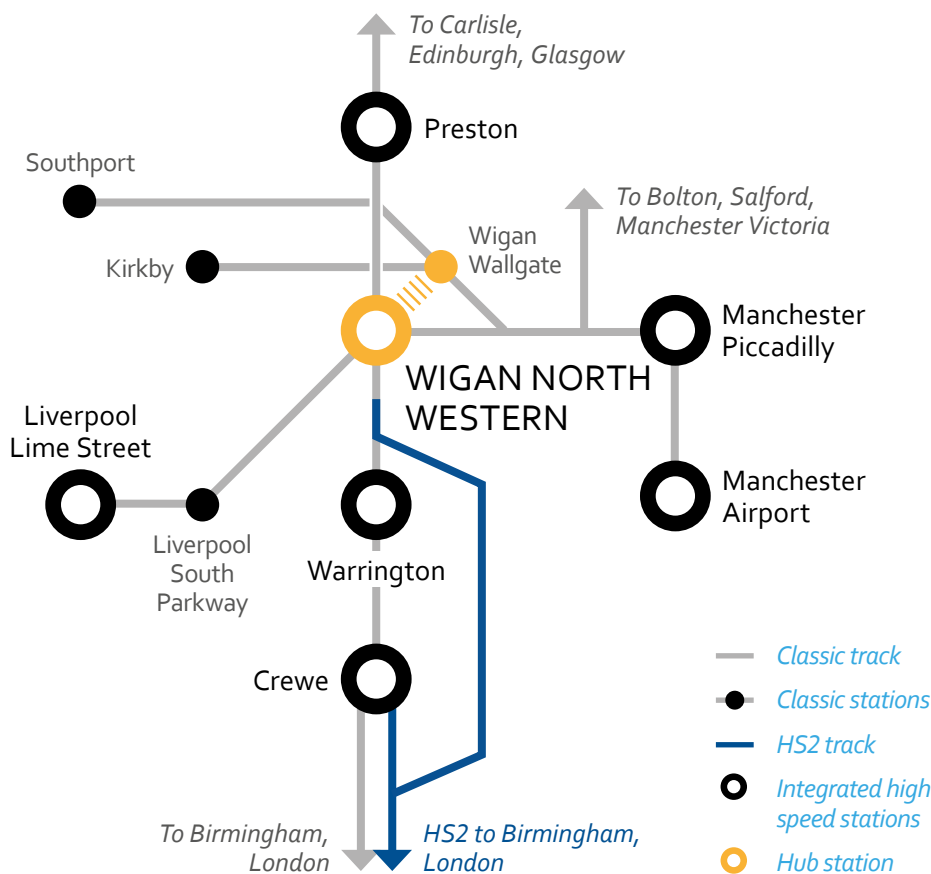


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HS2 journey time



Journey time saving



"We are passionate about securing all the regeneration benefits HS2 can bring. It will help us deliver thousands of new jobs and bring greater prosperity to the 320,000 residents who live here."

Cllr David Molyneux, Wigan Council's portfolio holder for regeneration

"The arrival of HS2 will be a watershed moment for the borough and will support the growth of our established industries while stimulating the expansion of emerging ones."

Cllr David Molyneux, Wigan Council's portfolio holder for regeneration

Connectivity

Sitting between the economies of Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Cheshire and Lancashire, and only 35 minutes from Liverpool and Manchester airports, Wigan is in pivotal location.

To make the most of HS2 services, plans include better links to Wigan Wallgate station to improve interconnectivity with east-west rail to Manchester, Southport and Kirby. Refurbishment of the bus station will start in 2017 to improve links to Wigan town centre and train stations.

Economy

HS2 will offer improved access to suppliers, skills and customers for Wigan's established businesses, such as NicePak and Heinz, whose food factory is the largest in Europe. Poundland's new £30m distribution centre could create 800 jobs when it opens. The council sees the integrated high speed station as a focal point for regenerating the town centre by raising Wigan's profile and encouraging business growth.

Regeneration

The Wigan Pier Quarter, just 10 minutes from Wigan North Western station, has been earmarked for redevelopment as a new retail and leisure destination. The Council is also investing £1.3m to make the Market Place region the cultural and social heart of the town.

Up to 1,000 jobs could be created at a new mixed-use development at Westwood Park. The site will benefit from both the integrated high speed Wigan North Western station and from improved motorway access.

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