

In the 1970s the Edge Hill Spur scheme was proposed to extend the Merseyrail underground network from Liverpool Central station to Edge Hill station, using existing disused railway tunnels which run under Liverpool city centre. A junction to facilitate future construction of the Edge Hill Spur and two header tunnels was built as part of the Liverpool Underground Link Line works in the 1970s.

Construction of the Edge Hill Spur would connect the City Line branches, to the east of Liverpool, into the electrified Merseyrail network and, importantly, the underground section in Liverpool city centre, thus improving integration and connectivity of the whole network. **An additional and substantial benefit would be the releasing of platform space at Lime Street mainline terminus station for use by inter-city, Northern Powerhouse Rail and HS2 services**, as the Edge Hill Spur would divert local train services into Liverpool Underground in the city centre.

There are 2 options:

1. re-use the disused Wapping Tunnel, by means of a new junction at Liverpool Central South Junction, on the tunnel approach to Central Station. The Wapping Tunnel would give access to Edge Hill via the Cavendish cutting, built for the 1830 Liverpool and Manchester Railway.

2. re-use a section of the disused Waterloo/Victoria Tunnel plus a section of the Wapping Tunnel. This route would permit a new underground station to be constructed to serve the new Royal Liverpool Hospital and the University of Liverpool. It would extend the two connecting tunnels from Central Station in a large radius curve to the north, passing beneath the mainline Lime Street station approach cutting, accessing Edge Hill via a section of the Waterloo/Victoria Tunnel.

Although powers were obtained to build this line under the 1975 Merseyside Metropolitan Railway Act, construction was postponed due to financial cutbacks that also halted the Liverpool Crossrail project. The east of Liverpool has suffered in many aspects because of this, ever since. City Line electrification, recently completed, adds to the viability of this scheme and the tunnels are safeguarded for future use.

The attached file contains a close up diagram of the Edge Hill Spur scheme.

For your information, here is the current Merseyrail (Liverpool Underground) network map:

<http://www.projectmapping.co.uk/Reviews/Resources/Merseyrail%201108.jpg>

Regards

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West Lancashire borough is only **2.5 miles** from Liverpool; Cheshire West and Chester borough is only **2 miles** from Liverpool; Warrington borough is only **5 miles** from Liverpool; North Wales is only **8 miles** from Liverpool.