

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 North East

HS2 trains will serve existing stations in Newcastle and Durham. They will become 'integrated high speed stations', where passengers can catch HS2 trains.

With two HS2 trains every hour between Newcastle and London and one per hour to Birmingham, over 25,000 passengers a day will be able to travel on the high speed network to and from the North East.

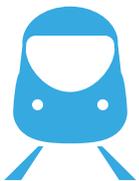
The North East Combined Authority (NECA) and the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) are working to ensure that these stations support the region's future, such as facilitating growth in development sites such as Newcastle's East Pilgrim Street and Stephenson Quarter.



■ Durham Cathedral
Image: Durham County Council

HS2 will better connect the North East with key economic centres across the UK, increasing business and employment opportunities and supporting the drive to retain and attract talent to the region.

Newcastle ↔ London



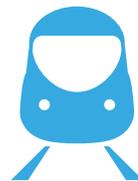
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HS2 journey time



Journey time saving

Durham ↔ Birmingham

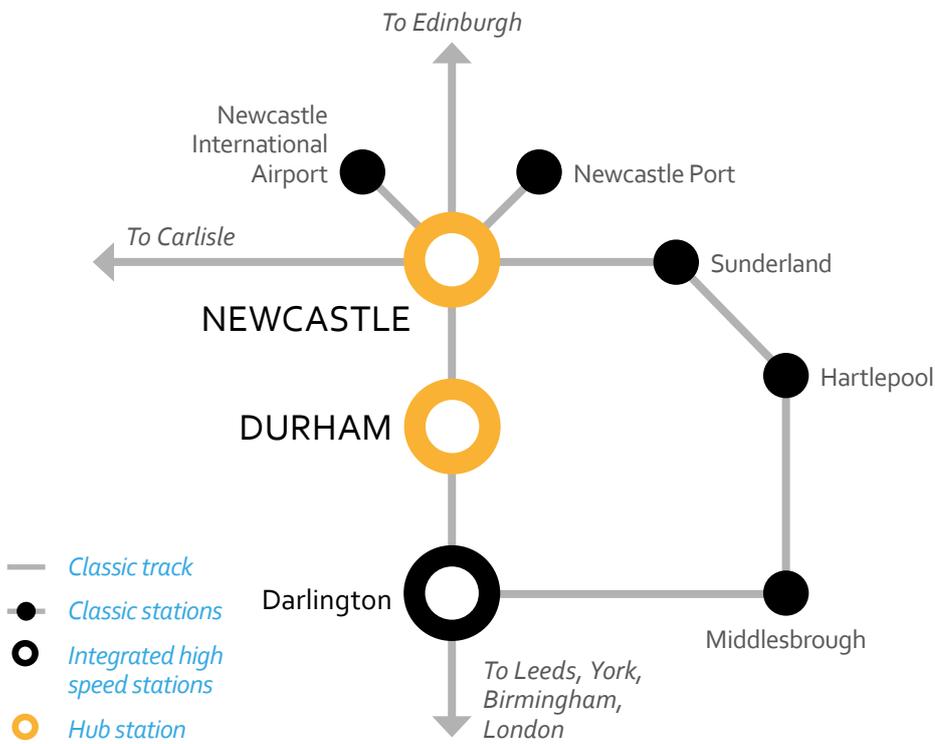


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HS2 journey time



Journey time saving



Connectivity

HS2 services will cement the status of Newcastle Central Station as an international gateway for North East England. It acts as a hub connecting Newcastle International Airport, Sunderland and South Tyneside, East Durham, Northumberland and Cumbria. Seamless interchanges to local metro, rail and bus services mean the people of Newcastle and the wider area are increasingly well served by public transport. The NECA is also working with Network Rail on options to improve the East Coast Main Line, local rail services and provision for freight.

Raising productivity and employment

The NELEP has outlined an ambitious vision over the next decade which aims to create 100,000 new jobs, boost private-sector activity and raise productivity and employment. The region has a strong base in engineering and manufacturing, including Nissan's manufacturing plant in Sunderland. Virgin Money, Tesco, the AA and British Airways also demonstrate the region's strength in business services; and thanks to firms like Ubisoft the North East has also emerged as one of the country's leading digital and creative centres.

Double up Durham

The arrival of HS2 services will support Durham's ambition to double employment in its thriving tourism sector. Durham County Council plans to capitalise on the arrival of HS2, the reputation of its world-class university and skilled workforce to attract new high growth enterprises with the development of the business quarter near the station. A new business park at Aykley Heads will provide 70,000 square metres of new office space that could deliver over 6,000 jobs to the city.

"When HS2 trains arrive into Newcastle they won't just bring improved journey times to other people and services in the UK, they will bring jobs and development adding to the largest employment area in the North East."

*Cllr Nick Forbes,
Leader of Newcastle City Council*

"We are excited about the many benefits that HS2 will bring. We can not only look forward to welcoming more tourists, but better connections will also make the choice even easier for businesses looking to locate to Durham City."

*Cllr Neil Foster, Cabinet Portfolio
Holder for Economic Regeneration,
Durham County Council*

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