

# THE CITY OF DONCASTER

## The Place for Rail





# RAIL. IT'S IN OUR DNA

The City of Doncaster - Birth place  
of Flying Scotsman and Mallard

over 150 years  
of engineering excellence  
in the Rail Sector



“

Welcome to the home of ‘can-do, not can’t do’ and a place where world class can be delivered, where change happens and people matter.

Michael Hird, Managing Director, Hird Rail

”

The city that built the world famous Flying Scotsman and Mallard is today established as one of the most important rail hubs in the UK and at the centre of developing the next generation of rail skills and expertise.

Rail has been a major part of Doncaster’s economy for over 150 years; companies based in Doncaster benefit from easy access to the rail industry with an unrivalled combination of location, established supply chain, skilled workforce and world-class training facilities.

With a long history of representation from rail freight operators, rolling stock suppliers, power supply and distribution, infrastructure maintenance and the operational railway, the sector continues to diversify in line with the emerging requirements for the industry.

# OUTSTANDING CONNECTIVITY

The City of Doncaster’s multi-modal transport connectivity offers excellent access to major conurbations, coastal ports and other parts of the UK and beyond, linking east to west and north to south.

“

Doncaster, the rail innovation centre of the UK provides a fantastic location for our business. Having well-connected transport links and access to a strong pool of talented people enables us to deliver an effective world-wide service.

Josh Jackson, Managing Director, Dual Inventive Ltd

”



## Road

At the heart of the UK’s motorway network with superb connections to the A1, M18 and M180, with links to the M1 and M62; over 6 million people live within a 45-minute drive of Doncaster.

## Air

The City of Doncaster Council has signed a 125-year lease to take over the former Doncaster Sheffield Airport (DSA). It has been confirmed Munich Airport International will provide operational and management services to Doncaster Sheffield Airport, with flights set to resume in 2026.

## Sea

Doncaster is located just 50 minutes to and from Humber Ports, the UK’s largest port complex.

In addition, Doncaster has direct rail connections to all major UK ports with facilities designed to handle a wide variety of cargo.

## Rail

- Fantastic connectivity to and from all major UK cities
- 104 UK rail stations directly served from Doncaster
- An average of 67 trains travel every day to and from London, with the journey taking as little as 87 minutes.

Rail passenger journey times to Doncaster	
York	20 mins
Sheffield	22 mins
Leeds	30 mins
Manchester	80 mins
Newcastle	83 mins
London Kings Cross	87 mins
Birmingham	88 mins
Edinburgh	178 mins

Drive times to Doncaster	
Sheffield	40 mins
York	1 hr
Leeds	1hr 5 mins
Birmingham	1hr 45 mins
Manchester	2hrs
Newcastle	2hrs 30 mins
London	3hrs 30 mins
Edinburgh	4hrs 45 mins



# HOME TO MANY LEADING RAIL COMPANIES

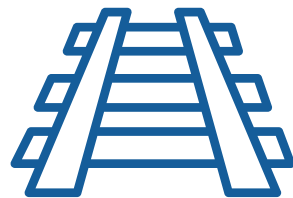
*DB Cargo UK is proud to be located at the heart of the rail industry in the UK in Doncaster as one of the biggest employers in the area. The local infrastructure links and proximity to key players across our industry and supply chain is critical to us and gives us the flexibility and agility we need to be one of the UK's largest rail freight operators.*

**Kathryn Oldale**, Head of Strategy, Policy and Communications, DB Cargo

Over **25**  
major players  
and over 50  
companies in  
the rail  
sector

*Our operations at the Doncaster depot have created jobs for the local area, with 300 people currently employed there, and will result in Hitachi Rail spending over £700 million in the UK supply chain. Iconic UK fleets are maintained at the Doncaster Depot, including 65 trains for LNER*

**Jim Brewin**, Chief Director UK and Ireland, Hitachi Rail



## Rail Operations

DB Cargo  
Freightliner  
GB Railfreight  
iPort Rail  
Keltbray  
LNER  
Network Rail  
Ninehundred  
Communications  
Group  
Transpennine  
T&RS Engineering  
Varamis Rail



## Training & Education

Advanced  
Manufacturing  
Research Centre  
Doncaster College  
Doncaster UTC  
Freightliner  
Jellybean Consultancy  
Maya Rail  
Network Rail  
Platinum Rail  
Services  
Sheffield Hallam  
University  
University of Sheffield



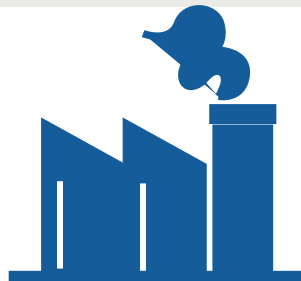
## Power Supply & Distribution

Network Rail  
SPL Powerlines  
Volker Rail



## Infrastructure

Amey  
Balfour Beatty  
Colas  
Dual Inventive  
Hird Rail  
Progress Rail  
Red Viking  
Rhomborg Sersa  
RSS Infrastructure  
Shwihag AG  
Skanska  
Trackwork  
Trackwork Moll  
TTS  
Volker Fitzpatrick



## Traction, Rolling Stock & Advanced Manufacturing

EM Diesel  
Hitachi Rail  
Unipart Rail  
T&RS Engineering  
Wabtec





# GREAT ADVANTAGES

There are many reasons why businesses invest in Doncaster. Here are just some of our key features...



10 Universities within 1 hour drive time

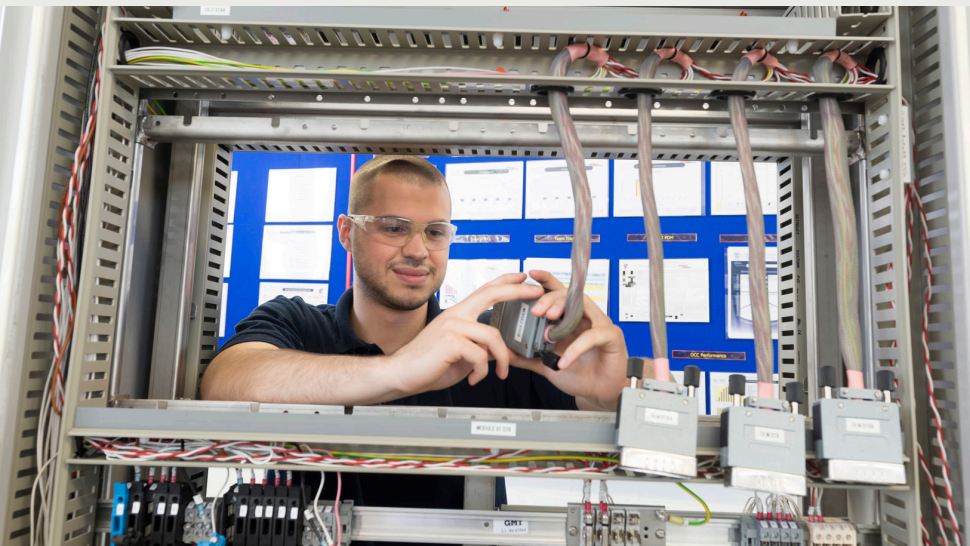
Excellent educational facilities

Proportionately more people hold NVQs up to level 3 than the national average



78.4% Employment Rate  
Doncaster has a total labour force of 147,300

Record levels of inward investment in the last 3 years  
£460 million and 4000 jobs created



Fastest growing for transport, storage and logistics across Yorkshire and Humber region



Home to Network Rail's newest training facility, located at the former National College for High Speed Rail

Population:  
Doncaster - 308,700  
South Yorkshire - 1,374,200

Over 8,000 employed in the Rail Sector



The largest metropolitan borough in the country covering 220 square miles of opportunity

Access to 11.6 million people within a 30 mile radius



£608.3 median gross weekly wage

12% below national average for businesses





# THE BIGGEST INTERMODAL RAIL FREIGHT FACILITY

The iPort rail terminal is an international bonded intermodal development which offers secure modern rail freight handling facilities



From bespoke mega-warehouses on an accelerated programme, to speculative units for immediate occupation, iPort offers logistics space built to suit your business.



Amazon, CEVA Logistics, Euro Pool System, Fellowes, Lidl, Woodland Group, Maritime and Moran Logistics are already thriving on site.

Infrastructure is already in place for this 6 million sq ft logistics site operating 24/7 with great multimodal connectivity and strong demographics.



## iPort

- Direct access to the UK National Rail network and direct services to Europe via the Channel Tunnel
- Daily, frequent rail services providing access to all major UK ports with capacity for up to eight trains per day
- Terminal provides flexible single or shared train loads
- 775m UK train length capacity
- Competitive terminal turnaround times
- Direct motorway access (Junction 3, M18)
- Container lifting and storage
- 30 acre site

## Other top sites for Rail and Logistics

- Redhouse Interchange
- Unity Yorkshire
- GatewayEast
- First Point, M18 Balby Carr
- Doncaster North
- Doncaster Lakeside





# A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

Doncaster is the newest city in the North of England offering first class amenities, surrounded by open free spaces and beautiful countryside to explore.

Doncaster has a lot to be proud of, from its racing calendar including the classic St Leger Festival, its rich railway heritage and wealth of Georgian and Regency architecture through to the UK's No.1 walk through Wildlife Park Adventure.



Scan the QR code to explore our latest Visitor Guide and discover Doncaster, your way!

If you are planning a team building day, searching for the best restaurants and cafes locally or looking to book hotel accommodation then our guide has everything you need.



# SUPPORT FOR YOUR BUSINESS

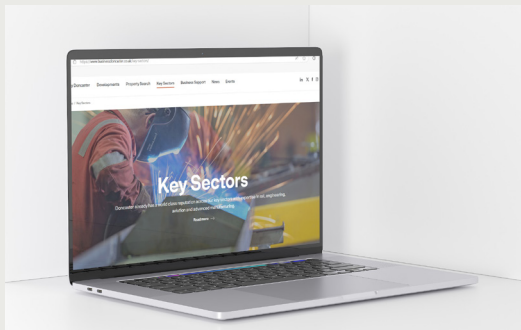
Our experienced Economic Development investment team can support your business whatever stage you're at. We offer free, confidential, high quality business support and information tailored to your individual business needs. The team are on hand to help find the right business solutions for you.

Below is a comprehensive overview (but not limited to) the services we provide:

	Land & Property Search		Business & Growth Strategy
	Local Supply Chain Assistance		Innovations & Solutions
	Frameworks & Accreditations		Access to Finance including Local & National Grant Funding
	HR Recruitment & Skills		Sector Specific Forums & Events

Business Doncaster is the Economic Development arm of the City of Doncaster Council, dedicated to providing support and information to local businesses and those looking to invest, locate and grow in Doncaster.

Whether you are a new start up or an established business, we can help your business thrive, grow and achieve success.



For further information please scan the QR code to visit our sector web page here:







**Victoria Clark**  
Sector Growth & Investment Team Leader  
Business Doncaster

*Let's connect...*



For further information please contact me:

☎ + 44 (0)1302 736474  
+44 (0)7812 780594

✉ [victoria.clark@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.clark@doncaster.gov.uk)

**City of Doncaster**  
**The place to invest, grow and thrive**

City of Doncaster Council,  
Civic Office, Doncaster, DN1 3BU

[businessdoncaster.co.uk](http://businessdoncaster.co.uk)



All statistics & information contained within  
this document are accurate as of June 2025.



**City of  
Doncaster  
Council**