HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES

Stay Local, Go Far

Engineering
Computing & IT
Counselling (Children & Young People)
Counselling (Adults)
Health & Social Care

Sport
Education & Teacher Training
AAT Accounting Courses
Access / Pre University Courses
Higher Apprenticeships

www.riverside.ac.uk
Welcome to Riverside College’s course guide for pre university and university level courses.

At Riverside College we recognise the benefits of students completing their higher education course closer to home.

With the convenience of a local college and outstanding value for money, alongside a distinctive education experience which provides outstanding results, our students are able to achieve their potential and progression in their chosen career.

Our inspiring tutors offer a high level of study support, you will be stretched and challenged academically whilst developing cutting-edge professional skills to ensure you stand out when applying for employment or promotion.
“I REALLY FEEL THAT I HAVE BEEN GIVEN EVERYTHING I NEED TO BE A SUCCESS AT RIVERSIDE. THE TUTORS ESPECIALLY ARE FANTASTIC, ALL INVOLVED HAVE BEEN SO BENEFICIAL TO MY DEVELOPMENT, AND FOR THIS I AM SINCERELY GRATEFUL.”

Riverside College HE Spring Survey 2019
WHY A HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATION?

At Riverside College our Higher Education qualifications are designed to enhance your career prospects, support progression, promotion and increased earning potential. They also offer you the opportunity for a complete change of direction.

What will you be doing?
- Primary teacher?
- Web Designer?
- Counsellor?
- Design Engineer?
- Health Service Manager?
- Sports Coach?

What will you be earning?
If you want to progress or change your career a degree level qualification could increase your progression and earning potential and give you greater job satisfaction. Employees with a degree can earn on average £10,000 more per year!*

*Graduate Labour Market Statistics
WHY CHOOSE RIVERSIDE?

01. Stay local, go far
Our undergraduates recognise the many practical benefits of staying close to home and completing their qualification locally.

02. Less debt
Our fees are lower than universities: meaning that you can complete your qualification with less debt without compromising on quality.

03. Access to tutors
Our small class sizes mean students get more contact time and support with our experienced teachers.

04. Bursary gift
A bursary of £500 for all eligible first year full-time higher education students (Sport, IT and Health and Social Care).

05. Studying and working
We ensure that our students have a good study/work/life balance. We do this by timetabling our courses over as few days as possible.

06. Graduate in style
All our HE students have a graduation ceremony either in the breath-taking Trentham Gardens (for Staffordshire University students) or in an impressive local venue.

07. £20 million investment
State of the art facilities and equipment are provided including, a brand new Clinical Practice Ward, Social Care Room and the IDEA Centre which includes specialist engineering, digital and sports laboratories.

08. Silver rated TEF
The Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework has awarded Riverside College the Silver standard for quality. The College is amongst the highest rated in the region for Higher Education provision.
The Higher Education National Student Survey 2018 revealed that nationally 83% of Higher Education students were satisfied with their course, while Riverside College received an impressive taught satisfaction rate of 96%: placing them in the top six nationally for further education institutions who offer a Higher Education provision.

**TEF Silver Award**

In 2018 Riverside College was awarded a TEF Silver Award for "excellent outcomes" for students on its Higher Education courses.

The Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF) was introduced in 2017 to provide information about the performance of the higher education sector in the UK.

Riverside College's Higher Education provision was praised for its high levels of full-time student satisfaction rates. In addition, the review panel commented on the "exceptionally high" satisfaction rates for assessment, feedback and academic support on part-time programmes. Special recognition was given to the professional backgrounds of staff and the College's "institution-wide approach to supporting widening participation students to ensure they continue in their studies".

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For more information please visit www.riverside.ac.uk
Staffordshire University

Riverside College is a franchised partner college of Staffordshire University. This means that you can study locally at Riverside College for a qualification that is awarded by Staffordshire University. Students who graduate from one of these courses will be invited to the graduation at Staffordshire University.

Staffordshire University is the connected university. They connect a global network of more than 20,000 students on their degrees. The University has been building relationships with partners in the region, across the UK and overseas. These connections continually influence the development of courses, teaching practices and the University’s commitment to enhance the opportunity for students to study how and where it suits them best. The industry connections and emphasis on experience at Staffordshire University makes graduates among the most employable in the UK. Riverside College is proud to be part of this success.

Quality Assured (QAA)

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) confirm the quality and standards of provision of Higher Education at Riverside College. Good practice was reported in relation to the effective integration of all student support services to enable students to develop their academic, personal and professional potential.

Shaping Futures

Riverside College are part of Shaping Futures, a new outreach programme for the Liverpool City Region. Shaping Futures deliver a programme of activities designed to raise aspirations and provide impartial HE information, advice and guidance to local 14-18 year old learners, to support them in fulfilling their educational potential.
Student success and celebrating students achievements is extremely important to us. All of our Higher Education students have the opportunity to celebrate their achievements at the annual Riverside College Graduation Ceremony. In addition, every student who graduates on a course which is awarded by Staffordshire University will also be invited to graduate at Staffordshire University.

For more information please visit www.riverside.ac.uk
Pearson Student of the Year
ROBERT PEEL
Course: HND in Computing
Progression: Liverpool John Moores University, BSc (Hons) Multimedia Computing

Staffordshire University Student of the Year
JOANNE SQUIRE
Course: Foundation Degree in Education
Progression: BA (Hons) Education
STUDENT FINANCE

Pre-University Courses

For information about fees, funding and loans relating to our Pre Higher Education courses please go to our website at www.riversidecollege.ac.uk/fees

Higher Education Courses

Tuition fee loans make gaining a degree much more affordable than you may think. Riverside College supports students to access quality, local higher education in the most affordable way.

Student Loans

Loans are available for all first time full and part time undergraduates if required. You won’t pay back any of your course fees until you are earning a minimum of £25,000 a year, £2,083 a month or £480 per week. The table demonstrates the amount you would be paying per month.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income each year before tax</th>
<th>Approximate monthly repayment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£25,000</td>
<td>£0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£27,000</td>
<td>£15</td>
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<td>£35,000</td>
<td>£75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£40,000</td>
<td>£112</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table is accurate for 2019 entry, for September 2020 entry or for more information visit www.gov.uk

Other Financial Support

There are many other opportunities to gain help with your finances. For further information on those listed below, please go to the Student Finance website, www.gov.uk/student-finance.

Just a few of these are listed here:

> Maintenance Loans
> Disabled Students Allowance
> Parents Learning Allowance / Childcare Grant
> The Adults Dependents Grants

To find out what support you could be eligible for, please call our Admissions Team on 0151 257 2053.
At Riverside College we have a dedicated Higher Education Pastoral Team who can help you with everything from applying for student finance, to supporting you to fit learning around your other commitments.

When you start your course you will be assigned a personal tutor who will guide you through your course to support you to develop personally, professionally and academically through one to one tutorials and additional activities such as work experience, trips and guest speakers. Our student services, pastoral support and study support teams are also available to help you overcome any obstacles to your success.

SUPPORTING YOU

DEGREE GRADUATES EARN ON AVERAGE £10,000 MORE PER YEAR

Graduate Labour Market Statistics

For more information please visit www.riverside.ac.uk
HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS EXPLAINED

Higher National Certificates (HNCs) and Higher National Diplomas (HNDs) are more practical than a traditional degree which means that you will gain valuable skills for the workplace. By choosing the HNC/HND route to achieving your higher education qualification you can benefit from developing employability skills to prepare you for a new career or to help you to progress in your current work.

A Foundation Degree is a Level 5 qualification - equivalent to the first two years of a degree level programme - that combines work based learning and academic study.

A Top-up Degree provides the opportunity to build on your HND or Foundation Degree and receive an Honours Degree by completing a final year of study.

Teacher Education courses are available to study on a part-time route over 2 years. The Certificate in Education and Post-Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) qualifications at Riverside College provide a thorough introduction to teaching within the Further Education and Skills Sector. You may also be able to undertake your teaching experience at Riverside College.

Higher Apprenticeships allow you to develop your skills to the highest standard and achieve qualifications at Level 4 and above through a mix of on and off-the-job training.

For more information please visit www.riverside.ac.uk
# HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES

The table below details the courses available. For more information on each of these courses please go to [www.riversidecollege.ac.uk/higher-education](http://www.riversidecollege.ac.uk/higher-education) and click on the courses listed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Days/Evenings Per Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>HNC in Engineering</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>1 afternoon and evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>HND in Computing</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>3 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Foundation Degree in Education*</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>½ day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Foundation Degree in Counselling*</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>1 day or 2 evenings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Foundation Degree in Health and Social Care*</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>2 ½ days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Foundation Degree in Sport Coaching and PE*</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>2 ½ days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Foundation Degree in Counselling Children and Young People*</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>1 day or 2 evenings **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>BSc (Hons) Health and Social Care (top up)*</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>2 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>BA (Hons) Education (top up)*</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>½ day per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>BA (Hons) Sport Coaching and Sport Development (top up)*</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>2 ½ days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>BSc (Hons) Counselling (top up)*</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>1 day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/7</td>
<td>Certificate in Education/Post Graduate Certificate in Education*</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>4 hours per week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Awarded by Staffordshire University ** Subject to numbers
HNC in Engineering

This is a specialist work related qualification that covers all of the key knowledge, understanding and practical skills required in the engineering sector. It is considered nationally by employers to be one of the benchmark qualifications for the industry. This qualification provides the education and training for engineers and technicians who are either employed at or are aspiring to work at a professional level in a variety of engineering roles.

Careers in Engineering

Employers place a high value on individuals who possess a Higher National Certificate (HNC) and it can open up higher level jobs within the industry or lead directly to a pay rise or a promotion with your current employer. Completion of the course may also lead to further study on a HND or degree programme in Engineering.

For more information please visit www.riverside.ac.uk
There is an increasing demand for people to work in IT, software and computer services in the UK and beyond. It is fast becoming one of the most dynamic sectors, with the UK Games Industry being one of the largest in Europe.

Whether you are already working in IT and want to progress, or would like to gain a higher level qualification to kick start your career in IT, the HND in Computing will allow you to gain leading edge skills through a nationally recognised qualification awarded by Pearson. You may be able to gain industry qualifications as well as your main course.

### Careers in Computing & IT

This course will prepare students for employment in a range of occupations including: e-commerce, software development, IT project management, multimedia, website development, networking and many more.

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**Start Date:**
September

**Duration:** 2 years

**Days/Evenings per week:**
3 days per week

**Entry Requirements:**
64 UCAS points, made up of a combination of the following:

- Level 3 qualification in a relevant subject e.g BTEC Extended Diploma in IT, Computing A Level.
- GCSE English and maths at a minimum of Grade C/ Grade 4 (or equivalent).

Applicants with professional experience will also be considered on an individual basis.

For more information please visit www.riverside.ac.uk
COUNSELLING

Foundation Degree in Counselling (FdSc)

This course will provide in depth professional training in counselling skills and theory. You will also develop a sound understanding of professional, legal and ethical issues.

Work placement is an integral part of the Foundation Degree in Counselling. This focuses upon the development and application of a range of work based competences and will prepare you to make the transition from learner to counsellor. 100 supervised placement hours will be completed in years 2 and 3.

Successful completion of this course means that you will have achieved qualified practitioner status and will be eligible for employment as counsellors. Graduates may have the opportunity to complete a BSc (Hons) Counselling at Riverside College.

The Foundation Degree in Counselling at Riverside College received a 100% taught satisfaction rate in the National Student Survey 2018.

Foundation Degree in Counselling Children and Young People (FdSc)

The Foundation Degree in Counselling Children and Young People is an innovative programme that provides education and training for working therapeutically with children and young people from early years to young adulthood using a variety of therapeutic approaches.

Successful completion of this course means that you will have achieved qualified practitioner status and will be eligible for employment as a counsellor working with children and young people.

Graduates may have the opportunity to complete a BSc (Hons) Counselling at Riverside College.

Counselling children requires practitioners to have an in-depth understanding of child and adolescent development theory, child psychiatry, safeguarding and child protection policies.

For more information please visit www.riverside.ac.uk
This course has been specifically designed for counsellors who are already qualified to Diploma or Foundation Degree level. It provides an opportunity for you to deepen your knowledge of counselling theory and practice and to develop expertise in areas of specific interest.

To achieve the BSc (Hons) Counselling Degree you need to demonstrate a high level of academic competence. This will be achieved through written assignments and the completion of a research dissertation which explores a topic of your choice.

Entry Requirements:
- A Counselling Diploma or Foundation Degree that consists of no less than 400 hours of training and a minimum of 100 hours of supervised counselling practice.
- Two written references, one from an academic source if possible.
- A personal statement and a GCSE Grade C/4 in English (or equivalent).

Careers in Counselling
As a fully qualified practitioner, graduates will be equipped to gain employment as professional counsellors in this growing industry. Successful graduates may also wish to set up their own professional counselling practice.

As a fully qualified practitioner, graduates will be equipped to gain employment as professional counsellors in this growing industry.

For more information please visit www.riverside.ac.uk
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Foundation Degree in Health and Social Care (FdSc)

This course offers you the opportunity to develop core transferable skills and knowledge relevant to health care, social care and public health to enable you to gain employment in an area of your choice.

Employability skills are embedded throughout the award, with a clear focus on how the modules you study can be applied to the workplace. You will be expected to undertake paid or voluntary work experience in a related healthcare setting throughout the duration of the course.

Awarded by Staffordshire University

Start Date: September
Duration: 2 years
Days/Evenings per week: 2 ½ days

Entry Requirements:
64 UCAS points, made up of a combination of the following:

- Level 3 qualification in a relevant subject e.g. BTEC Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care. A Levels in related subjects such as Health and Social Care, Biology and Social Science.
- GCSE English at a minimum of Grade C/ Grade 4 (or equivalent).
- A letter from an employer or unpaid work experience provider to confirm that the applicant has access to 70 hours of paid or unpaid work experience in Year 1 and 70 hours in Year 2.
- A current satisfactory enhanced DBS.

For more information please visit www.riverside.ac.uk
Awarded by Staffordshire University

Start Date: September
Duration: 1 year
Days/Evenings per week: 2 days

Entry Requirements:
• Successful completion of the Foundation Degree in Health and Social Care at a Staffordshire University partner college or HND in Health and Social Care enables you to progress directly onto the BSc (Hons) Health and Social Care course.
• GCSE English at a minimum of Grade C/Grade 4 (or equivalent).

Top-Up BSc (Hons) Health and Social Care

This year long course offers students with a level 5 qualification the opportunity to top up your qualification to a full bachelor’s degree.

Throughout your studies you will be taught by friendly, knowledgeable teachers who have been employed in either health or social care and are well equipped to help you relate your study topics to current policy and practice.

Foundation Degree in Health and Social Care (FdSc) - 2 years

Top-Up BSc (Hons) Health and Social Care - 1 year

Careers in Health and Social Care

Students can progress into many different careers within the health and social care industry including working in research centres, public health, health promotions, NHS support services, offender services, local authority and the education sector.

“I CHOSE RIVERSIDE COLLEGE BECAUSE IT’S MUCH CHEAPER TO STUDY HERE. THE TEACHERS ARE ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC”.

Riverside College HE Spring Survey 2019

For more information please visit www.riverside.ac.uk
This course will provide in depth professional theory with the opportunity to progress to employment within the Sport, Leisure and Educational industry in a wide range of roles. It aims to provide a stimulating learning environment where students will develop a sound understanding of professional, legal and ethical issues. Increasing self-awareness and personal development are also an integral part of the course.

As a sports student you will also have access to our state of the art Sport facilities in our new IDEA Centre at Cronton Campus and will work closely with our external partners to make sure you develop the skills employers want.
The aim of this 1 year course is to top up your Foundation Degree or HND Sport to a BA (Hons) and maximise your employability. It will prepare you for employment in a range of careers including PE teaching, sports development and sports coaching.

**Awarded by Staffordshire University**

**Start Date:** September  
**Duration:** 1 year  
**Days/Evenings per week:** 2 ½ days per week

**Entry Requirements:**  
- A UK Higher National Diploma or relevant Foundation Degree within a sport related discipline.  
- GCSE English and maths at a minimum of Grade C/ Grade 4 (or equivalent).  
- Current satisfactory enhanced DBS.

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**Top Up BA (Hons) Sport Coaching and Sport Development**

The aim of this 1 year course is to top up your Foundation Degree or HND Sport to a BA (Hons) and maximise your employability. It will prepare you for employment in a range of careers including PE teaching, sports development and sports coaching.

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**Foundation Degree in Sport Coaching and PE (FdSc) - 2 years**  
**Top Up BA (Hons) Sport Coaching and Sport Development - 1 year**

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**Careers in Sport**

You will have the opportunity to progress into a wide range of sport related careers, most commonly teaching, coaching, fitness instruction and sports development.

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For more information please visit [www.riverside.ac.uk](http://www.riverside.ac.uk)
Foundation Degree in Education (FdA)

This course provides an excellent opportunity for teaching assistants, learning support workers and teaching and learning mentors to build on your knowledge and experience of working in education.

It will enhance your understanding of your current professional role and support career progression and professional development.

Top-Up BA (Hons) Education

This year long course offers students with a level 5 qualification the opportunity to top up your qualification to a full bachelor's degree.

Careers in Education

You may progress to employment within family and children centres, care support, educational administration and management, play work, learning support and many other educational contexts. Alternatively, you may enter primary teacher training through PGCE Primary, Schools Direct, Schools Direct (salaried) and SCITT routes.
TEACHER EDUCATION

Certificate in Education (PCET) - Level 5
Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PCET) - Level 7

This course will provide a generic route for those wishing to follow a teaching career in the Further Education and Skills Sector, for example further education colleges, sixth form colleges, work based learning, adult and community learning, the Police, Prison and Fire Services, the National Health Service and also across the many private sector training companies.

In addition, there are now teaching opportunities in some schools and academies for post-compulsory teachers, particularly for teachers who can offer a vocational subject.

You will study with trainee teachers from a variety of educational settings. Paid or voluntary teaching experience is a key feature of the course. You may also be able to undertake your teaching experience at the College.

Careers in Teacher Education

Upon completion, successful teachers can undertake a period of professional formation leading to the achievement of Qualified Teaching and Learning Status (QTLS).

If you have completed the Certificate in Education you may be eligible to progress onto a degree level course in Education.

If you have completed your PGCE you may be eligible to progress on to a Master Degree in Education.

For more information please visit www.riverside.ac.uk
PRE UNIVERSITY COURSES

If you do not have the qualifications or experience required, or are not quite ready to study on a higher education programme, we have a wide range of courses designed to prepare you for higher education courses with us or at university.

Full details of our courses can be found on our website www.riverside.ac.uk or by calling our Adult Admissions Team on 0151 257 2053. If you are unsure if you have the entry requirements for any of our courses, please enquire and we will advise you of the best route for you.

Level 2 Preparation for Access
This is a one year programme designed for anyone who needs to build up their English, maths and/or science GCSE profile in order to gain entry on to their chosen Access pathway. You will also be prepared for university study through our study skills programme.

Access to Higher Education Level 3
The Access to Higher Education (HE) Diploma is a one year level 3 qualification which prepares you to study at university level.

Our access pathways can progress you on to many careers, such as:

- Social Work - including Youth Work
- Forensic Psychology and Forensic Science
- Working for the Criminal Justice System
- Nursing - Adult, Children's and Mental Health
- Midwifery
- Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Paramedics
- Primary and Secondary Teaching
- Engineering
- Museum Curator
- Business and Marketing
- Accounting and Finance
- Animal Management
- Biological Science

Award in Education and Training
The 12 week programme covers the basics of teaching in continuing and adult education including how to plan sessions, motivate learners and use a variety of assessment methods. After this programme may be eligible to progress on to the Certificate or Post Graduate Certificate in Education.

Level 2 and 3 Counselling Courses
The Level 2 Certificate in Counselling is a 15 week part time course, and the Level 3 Diploma in Counselling is a one year part time course. After successful completion of the Level 3 Diploma in Counselling students can progress on to one of the Foundation Degrees in Counselling and the top up to full degree.
Higher Apprenticeships

Higher Apprenticeships are an exciting opportunity to develop your skills, knowledge and qualifications to the highest level whilst continuing to earn a salary and progress your career.

This alternative route to gaining nationally recognised higher education qualifications works through a mix of on and off-the-job training. To take on a Higher Apprenticeship you need to be working either in a role with supervisory/management responsibilities or a higher level technical specialist role.

At Riverside College we offer Higher Apprenticeships in:
> Business
> Care Leadership
> Engineering

How does it work?

As a Higher Apprentice you will be assigned a tutor/assessor who will visit you in your workplace regularly to support you to complete any project work and assess the development or work place competencies.

Alongside this you will attend some group training sessions, the frequency of this varies depending upon the Higher Apprenticeship you are studying.

Professional AAT Accounting

The AAT (Association of Accounting Technicians) qualifications are internationally recognised and respected by employers. Studying AAT with us allows you to change your career, progress in your job or make the most of a career break.

We have part time day and evening AAT courses at Level 2, 3 and 4 starting in September visit www.riverside.ac.uk for more information.

Funding and Advanced Learner Loans available, please enquire.

For more detailed information, please contact our dedicated Apprenticeships Team on 0151 257 2828 or by emailing enterprise@riverside.ac.uk
**HOW TO APPLY**

Apply direct to us, no need to apply through UCAS. You can apply online via the website, [www.riverside.ac.uk](http://www.riverside.ac.uk), or call 0151 257 2053 and we will send you an application form.

Most of the courses featured in this guide will require an admissions interview. We will contact you with a date for your interview where we will be able to answer all of your questions and make sure the course is right for you. We will also discuss any financial or other support available to you.

For more information on anything featured in this guide please go to our website at [www.riverside.ac.uk](http://www.riverside.ac.uk) or call our admissions team on 0151 257 2053.

You can also come along to our Open Events to speak to tutors and ask any questions.

**Visit our website for event dates and times.**

We make every effort to ensure that the information in this guide is correct at the time of publication (March 2019). However, we reserve the right to make changes to our course offering for operational reasons.

**HOW TO FIND US**

**Riverside College**

**Kingsway Campus**

Our Kingsway Campus is situated close to Widnes Town Centre near Victoria Square.

Cronton Campus

Kingsway, Widnes WA8 7QQ

**Cronton College**

The college is situated on the A5080 Cronton Lane between the village of Cronton and Farnworth.

Cronton Campus

Cronton Lane, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 5WA

Free parking and excellent rail and bus services for both sites.