

# Join us in Kent and turn research into tomorrow's world.

Kent and Medway has the right environment, the best talent and the most extensive networks, it's a region where brilliant ideas are today realising their potential and returning on investment.

From new crops able to withstand a **changing climate** to globally important **life science research** and **sustainable green technology** development – it's a place where the exploration of exciting innovations is happening every day.

Across Kent and Medway an ecosystem of research and development that brings together industry with the **region's leading scientists and academics**, has long been established – and it's growing.

Our existing sciences parks have plans to **double in size**. More laboratory, production and manufacturing space are on the way across the region adding to a health and life science sector that is already booming with the **number of jobs growing by almost a fifth in five years**. The Golden Triangle is taking on a new shape.

With exciting clusters and incubators such as those managed through **Growing Kent and Medway**, and the new **Barclays Eagle Labs** at Discovery Park, there is a buzz about the region right now – from food and drink production and increased automation to hydrogen fuel to power public transport - **embracing innovation, encouraging start-ups and scaling up success**.

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Health & Life Sciences

1.8 million Sq. Ft.

The **total shortfall in lab space** identified by property advisers, Knight Frank within England's Golden Triangle for life sciences needed to meet Government ambitions to make the UK a **science and technology superpower by 2030**. Kent and Medway can be part of the solution.

1 million+ Sq. Ft.

The amount of **new science related space** that Kent and Medway could provide this decade through expansion of existing science park campuses at **Kent Science Park**, Sittingbourne and Discovery Park, Sandwich alone with further research space on the way at additional sites including **Kent Medical Campus**, Maidstone, **Canterbury Christ Church University**, Canterbury and **Innovation Park**, Medway.

16.7%

The percentage increase in the **number of jobs for the health and life science sector** over the last five years.

59,500

The **number of jobs supported** by the health and life science sectors in Kent and Medway. Dover and Sevenoaks have a **higher proportion involved in research** than the national average.



Flagship developments **Innovation Park**, **Medway** and **Kent Medical Campus**, Maidstone are part of the **North Kent Enterprise Zone**.

Here businesses can access a range of benefits including **business rate relief**. It is part of a range of **financial incentives** available to research businesses that locate in Kent.



Awarded the **UK Science Park Association (UKSPA) Best Life Science Research Facility in South East England** in 2016, Kent Science Park is now part of We Are Pioneer Group, a £450 million interlinked network of **10 science parks across the UK**.

579,000 Sq. Ft.

The **total size of existing research and development space** at Kent Science Park, serving an existing tenant base that spans **life sciences, virology, FoodTech, environmental technology** and **drug R&D**.

14,000 Sq. Ft.

Total area of **new start up and scale up labs** launched at Kent Science Park in 2023 following a **£2.5 million building refurbishment** programme.



Home of **GW Pharmaceuticals**, now part of **Jazz Pharmaceuticals**, awarded the **Queen's Award for Enterprise** for its work developing medical cannabis-based treatments for people with **epilepsy and multiple sclerosis**.



JOIN US IN KENT



The science campus at Discovery Park in Sandwich has been designated as a **Life Sciences Opportunity Zone** by the Government's UK Office for Life Sciences with Sandwich. It is putting the investment in place to be **recognised as a world leading science park** over the next five years.



This **emerging new facility** is located off junction 7 of the M20 at Maidstone, neighbouring KIMS Hospital, the **largest independent hospital in Kent**, and mental health service provider **Cygnnet Healthcare**, providing **additional flexible space** for health and life science in the region.



**500,000 Sq. Ft**  
The total amount of **science related commercial space** that Discovery Park intends to deliver for the region over the next **five years** by attracting investment to site.

**50,000 Sq. Ft.**

The availability of **lab and write up space** at the new £6 million Barclays Eagle Labs incubator for science related starts ups and early-stage companies located in the iconic **Building 500** at Discovery Park.



**1 million Sq. Ft**

The **total area** at Kent Medical Campaign with planning consent for A1, B1, C2 and D1 **flexible space** for **health, education and life sciences**.

The vision is to create a **fully integrated centre of excellence** for health, science and education in the South East.

**£9.5 million**  
The cost of a **new Innovation Centre** with 37,000 Sq. Ft. of office space for SMEs working in life science, health care and med tech.



**7,000**

The estimated **number of jobs** that Discovery Park want to create by 2032 by delivering projects, including a **science related manufacturing village**, the creation of a **national centre for neuroscience** (alongside life sciences, AgTech and renewable energy technologies.) The total number of jobs on site currently stands at around **3,500**.



Innovation Park, Medway at Rochester Airport is a **£15 million investment** in one of Kent most **dynamic business locations** create a new **world-class** business park for leading **technology, science and advanced manufacturing** companies.



Pfizer, which has an association with Kent going back more than 70 years, remains the **largest tenant at Discovery Park**. The company received **three Queen's Awards** between 1979 and 2011 for work including the creation of **tropical treatment Mansil**, anti-inflammatory medicine **Feldene** and sexual health drug **Viagra**.



**£5.2 billion**  
The **economic value** of the unitary authority of Medway, a **key growth area** in the South East and one of the **biggest regeneration zones** within the Thames Gateway.

**BAE SYSTEMS**

Rochester Airport is already home to BAE Systems, which provides some of the **world's most advanced**, technology-led defence, aerospace and security solutions.

**645K+ Sq. Ft.**  
The total area of **commercial space** that will be available for high value technology, advanced manufacturing and **knowledge intensive business**, including R&D.





Food & Drink Innovation

Ensuring the region **leads the way** for innovation in areas such as **technology-led horticulture, fresh produce packaging and processing** is the mission of the academics and researchers, start-ups and scale ups leading **Growing Kent and Medway**, a world-class research innovation and enterprise cluster that has kept a well-established key sector at the cutting edge.

£154,000

Funded awarded in February 2023 by Growing Kent and Medway to **11 businesses involved in a diverse range of projects** aimed at making food production more sustainable – from **reducing plastic in fruit punnets** and **cutting energy in food processing** to **extracting plant proteins from seaweed for meat-free products**. Research at facilities in Kent is aiding their future growth.

£6.8 billion

The estimated **increased in sales of meat and dairy substitutes** by 2025. In Kent a growing cluster of research and innovation is emerging to meet the **increased appetite for healthier choices, plant-based products** and more **personalised nutrition**.

Number One

**Born Maverick** is a pioneering Canterbury based bio-tech business which has developed a range of **innovative food products** from **seafood alternatives using seaweed to plant-based milk**. The company won the **Top 50 BAME Entrepreneurs Under 50 of 2022** competition held by Tech Round. It has set as its mission a desire to play a leading role in **shaping the food industry of the future**.



**NIAB** are specialists in molecular genetics, genomics, pest and disease biology and managements, crop and post-harvest physiology, agronomy and environmental science.

It is home to the **GreenTech Hub for Advanced Horticulture**, a new state-of-the-art glasshouse and propagation unit, including a Wine Innovation Centre.

The **Biotechnology Hub**, located at the Canterbury campus of the **University of Kent**, specialises in sustainable food research and is run by some of the leading experts in plant biology, post-harvest and packaging.

It can support science-based businesses with research needed to test and progress innovation or overcome challenges in everything from managing crop disease to environmentally friendly packaging options.



The **Medway Food Innovation Centre** at the **University of Greenwich** is at the centre of work that has the potential to transform the UK's food and drink sector – from alternative proteins and novel processing to sustainable packaging and product development.

Academics based at the centre have leading expertise in food processing, plant and algal protein-based NPDs, flavour and texture analysis, food safety, packaging and fresh produce storage. It is also home to a Food and Drink accelerator offering support for exciting start-ups and innovators with potential in this sector.

The **Industrial Agri-Engineering Hub** is part of the university's multi-million-pound facility for science, health, engineering and medical research, opened in 2021. It is run by specialists in alternative fuels, robotics and mechatronics, advanced manufacturing and automation – with a focus on the food and horticultural sector.

The facility has been designed with regional employers and industry in mind taking ideas, such as the design and creation of fruit picking robots, from concept to market through ground breaking innovation and pioneering research.





# Kent and Medway the right location

**72%**

cheaper  
commercial  
property\*  
\*compared  
to London

**1.8 million**  
potential customers

**68**

infrastructure  
& commercial  
development sites



2 science parks



Gateway to  
London and  
Europe

**33%**

lower house  
prices



17 minutes from  
the capital by train

**70,000 +**

companies already here



4 motorways

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