

# Put Yourself at the Centre of Scientific Discovery...

Kent's life sciences sector has created some of the most revolutionary and world-renowned medicines in existence and continues to innovate and discover for tomorrow's world.

Pfizer, Viatrix, Diasorin, Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Smiths Medical and over **2,015 other life science sector companies** have made Kent and Medway their home over the years, putting the county on the map as a **key location for UK science**: from bio-tech, pharmaceuticals and diagnostics to global science logistics, med-tech manufacturers and contract research organisations.

Two of the UK's leading science parks – **Discovery Park** and **Kent Science Park** – allow businesses access to high-quality labs and state-of-the-art facilities while benefiting from more affordable and cost-effective rates, compared to London, just 1 hour away.

In addition to Discovery Park, a **220-acre science and technology campus**, designated as one of six life science opportunity zones, there is Kent Science Park in Sittingbourne – part of the UK wide Pioneer Group science park family with further clusters developing at Innovation Park, Medway and Kent Medical Campus in Maidstone. As of March 2024, some **65,500 jobs** are supported by the life sciences sector in the region..

Kent's science parks and universities have also shaped a collaborative environment in the region where students, scientists and business professionals can thrive through research, development and innovation. These local initiatives coupled with **dedicated undergraduate courses** and the new Kent & Medway Medical School will ensure that you can find the right staff, trained to **professional standards** and with an understanding of the latest life science challenges.

Thanks to the county's **strategic location** between Europe and the 'Golden Triangle' of London, Oxford and Cambridge, your business will be fully immersed in a **vibrant and international scientific community**.





**417,000**

The South East has the second highest number of life science employee jobs in the country accounting for **9.7%** of all employee jobs in the region.



**1.8%**

The increase in the South Easts Life Science sector over the last five years, with a higher proportion of life science enterprises in Kent in districts of Canterbury and Dover. They were the only Kent districts along with Dartford and Gravesham to have a higher proportion than the national and regional average.



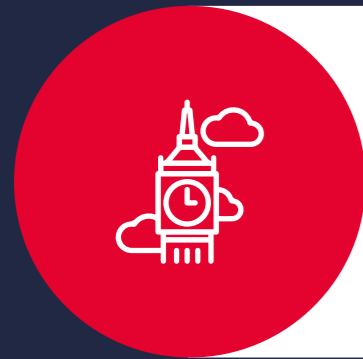
**65,500**

The number of jobs supported by the life science sector across Kent and Medway, accounting for **8.8%** of all jobs.



**3.1%**

Life science jobs in Kent and Medway have grown by **3.1%** over the last five years.



**12,115**

The South East has the second highest number of life science enterprises after London (**15,925**).



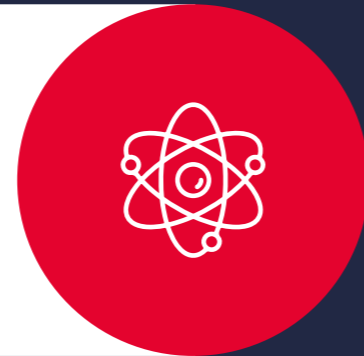
### Discovery Park

Home to Kent's only Barclay's Eagle Lab, providing free wrap around support to science start up and scale up businesses including access to mentoring, resources and investors.



**2,015**

The number of life science enterprises in Kent in 2022 accounting for **2.8%** of all enterprises.



# Key strategic sites

## DISCOVERY PARK

With its world-class infrastructure and unique collaborative approach, Discovery Park has established itself as one of the UK's top science, technology and innovation parks, with a fantastic track record in drug discovery.

Its thriving community is made up of visionary entrepreneurs and leaders from small scientific teams to industry-leading labs who work side-by-side across its 220 acres, including Pfizer, Viatris, Unilabs (York Bio), CancerTools, Concept Life Sciences and Algaecytes. With state-of-the-art laboratory, shared lab, office, coworking and specialist manufacturing facilities and a strong network of support, Discovery Park provides the ideal environment for businesses to start, scale and succeed. The park also runs a series of large-scale events attracting industry-leading speakers and delegates, provides mentoring and growth programmes for early-stage businesses and has its own investment fund – Discovery Park Ventures.

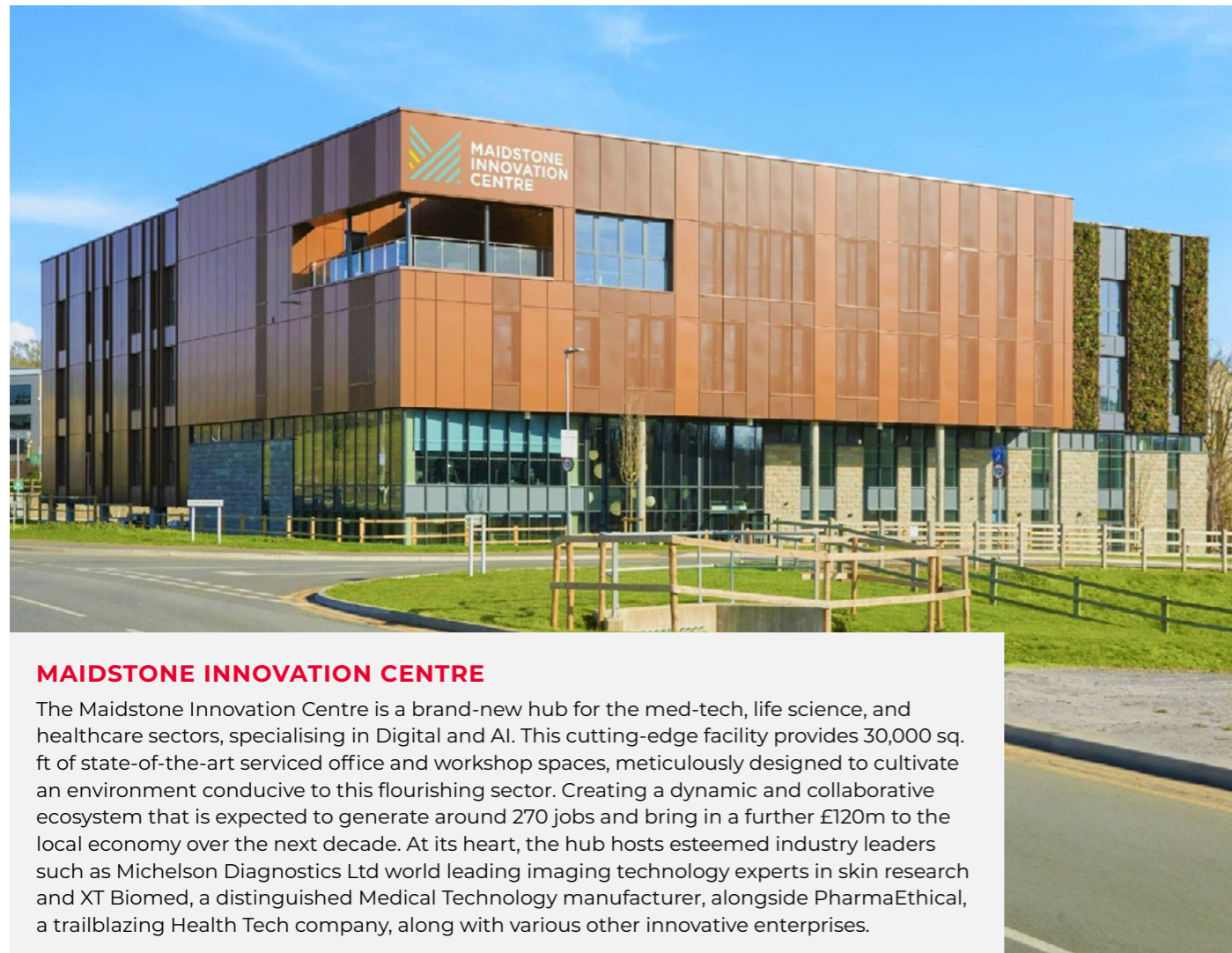


Image: Corstorphine & Wright



## KENT SCIENCE PARK

Kent Science Park in Sittingbourne offers over 500,000 sq. ft. of high-spec, purpose-built laboratory and business accommodation across 47 buildings. The site is perfect to nurture start-ups and to serve expanding or mature companies focusing on agri-tech, biotech, biopharma and more.



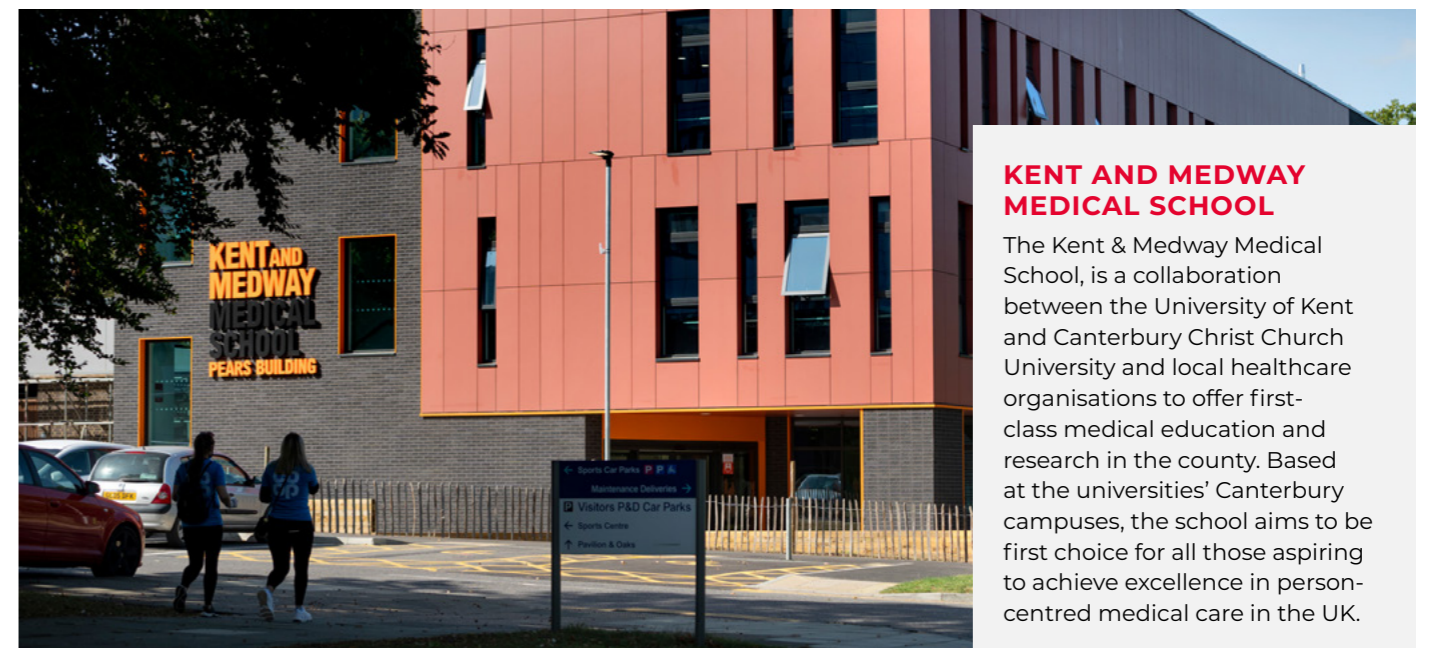
## MAIDSTONE INNOVATION CENTRE

The Maidstone Innovation Centre is a brand-new hub for the med-tech, life science, and healthcare sectors, specialising in Digital and AI. This cutting-edge facility provides 30,000 sq. ft. of state-of-the-art serviced office and workshop spaces, meticulously designed to cultivate an environment conducive to this flourishing sector. Creating a dynamic and collaborative ecosystem that is expected to generate around 270 jobs and bring in a further £120m to the local economy over the next decade. At its heart, the hub hosts esteemed industry leaders such as Michelson Diagnostics Ltd world leading imaging technology experts in skin research and XT Biomed, a distinguished Medical Technology manufacturer, alongside PharmaEthical, a trailblazing Health Tech company, along with various other innovative enterprises.



## KENT MEDICAL CAMPUS

Offering a range of flexible opportunities including headquarters buildings, specialist residential and rehabilitation care, as well as Higher Education training facilities for the medical and health care professions, the campus will create more than 4,000 jobs and provide 98,000 m2 (1,000,000 ft2) of flexible accommodation.



## KENT AND MEDWAY MEDICAL SCHOOL

The Kent & Medway Medical School, is a collaboration between the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University and local healthcare organisations to offer first-class medical education and research in the county. Based at the universities' Canterbury campuses, the school aims to be first choice for all those aspiring to achieve excellence in person-centred medical care in the UK.

LONDON

High Speed 1

ThermoFisher  
SCIENTIFIC

UNIVERSITY OF  
GREENWICH

Ebbsfleet International

DiaSorin

Colorcon

Recipharm

KENT SCIENCE PARK

Sittingbourne  
[www.kentsciencepark.com](http://www.kentsciencepark.com)

KENT AND MEDWAY  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

Canterbury  
[www.kmms.ac.uk](http://www.kmms.ac.uk)

Sandwich Train Station

Thanet Parkway

QTS  
ANALYTICAL

University of  
Kent

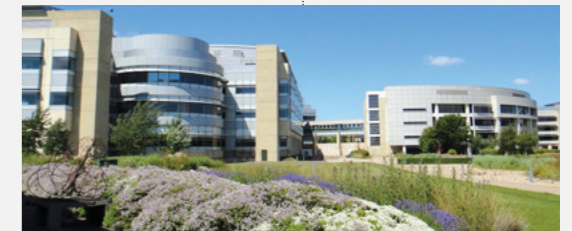
Jazz Pharmaceuticals

Abbott

smiths medical

ANCON

VIATRIS Pfizer



DISCOVERY PARK

Sandwich  
[www.discovery-park.co.uk](http://www.discovery-park.co.uk)

LAUNCH  
DIAGNOSTICS

SEKISUI

NIAB

KENT  
MEDICAL  
CAMPUS

Canterbury  
Christ Church  
University

bedfont  
GmbH

Ashford International



Channel Tunnel

PARIS



MAIDSTONE INNOVATION CENTRE

Maidstone  
[www.maidstoneinnovationcentre.co.uk](http://www.maidstoneinnovationcentre.co.uk)



KENT MEDICAL CAMPUS

Maidstone  
[www.kentmedicalcampus.com](http://www.kentmedicalcampus.com)

## Access to leading talent

Kent is home to a highly skilled pool of talent and boasts a strong pipeline of life science graduates. With four top Universities within the county and a further 25 within an easily commutable distance, including University College London, Imperial and Kings College London, Kent opens its doors to approximately 35,000 graduates each year.

### KENT AND MEDWAY ENGINEERING, DESIGN, GROWTH AND ENTERPRISE

EDGE Hub Canterbury Christ Church University addresses the current challenges faced by companies in Kent and Medway who require innovative solutions to enable them to thrive. Developed in partnership with industry, its Kent and Medway Engineering, Design, Growth and Enterprise (EDGE) Hub provides a strong catalyst for change, together with the stimulation of new skills and innovation for Industry 4.0 and 5.0 in the South East. EDGE Hub will be worth an estimated £7.6m to £11.4m per year to the Kent and Medway economy.

150

There are over **150 state-run secondary schools** in Kent and Medway – offering a range of provision from **selective grammar** and **university technical** schools to **industry sponsored academies**.

4

Kent has four universities: **Canterbury Christ Church University**, the **University of Greenwich**, the **University for the Creative Arts** and the **University of Kent**, which is ranked in the top 25 of all universities in the UK.

### SCHOOL OF BIOSCIENCES

Regarded as one of the very best places to study in the UK, the School of Biosciences at the University of Kent is a leading centre of research, education and training in biological sciences. It was recently ranked 21st out of 102 institutions in the 2018 Guardian University Guide and is amongst the best-funded schools of its kind, with current support from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, Natural Environment Research Council, Medical Research Council and Wellcome Trust.





## Join us in Kent for the right quality of life

Located on the doorstep to London and the closest part of the UK to mainland Europe, **Kent and Medway** has all the benefits of the capital but with more room to breathe, think and inspire. Easily accessible, competitive on cost, forward looking and full of opportunity. From vibrant seaside towns and stunning countryside to culturally rich urban living, the county is one of the most visited, filmed and photographed locations.

People choose to live in this region for good reason. Access to high quality jobs, extensive transport connections and more space for your money compared to London and other parts of the southeast. With thousands of new homes on the way hand in hand with new job opportunities, demand is being met like never before.

Add in some of the UK's best public and state schools, vibrant cultural scene, restaurants, rich heritage and top visitor attractions it's easy to see why Kent and Medway remains a popular destination that not only provides businesses with the best prospects for success but reflects who they are.

# Grants and Funding

## KENT AND MEDWAY BUSINESS FUND

With a focus on stimulating innovation, job creation, and investment, Kent and Medway Business Fund offers a range of financing options tailored to meet the diverse needs of local enterprises. Whether it's providing loans for start-ups, assisting with expansion projects, or facilitating access to working capital, the Kent and Medway Business Fund plays a crucial role in empowering businesses to thrive and succeed. By offering accessible and flexible funding solutions, the fund contributes to the resilience and competitiveness of Kent and Medway's business community.



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## BARCLAYS EAGLE LABS

Barclays Eagle Labs, located within Discovery Park, provides additional support through its Digital Growth Grant awarded by the UK Government. Regardless of banking affiliation, businesses can access free support, including the Demo Directory, a platform connecting science and technology entrepreneurs with potential investors. Additionally, the Funding Readiness Programme, powered by Capital Enterprise, helps businesses understand and navigate funding options to fuel their growth.



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## DISCOVERY PARK VENTURES

Discovery Park Ventures offers investment opportunities for businesses in novel and disruptive technologies and ambitious life science companies. With a £3 million fund supporting early-stage companies and plans to expand up to £25 million in the next three years, it's a valuable resource for start-ups seeking funding. While not guaranteed to occupiers of Discovery Park, the supportive team is always available to mentor, make connections, and open doors to other investment opportunities. Similarly, investee companies aren't required to be based at Discovery Park but can benefit from a strong collaborative relationship.



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## KENT AND MEDWAY GROWTH HUB

The Kent and Medway Growth Hub is a vital resource for regional businesses, providing expert advice, support, and networking opportunities to foster economic growth. Situated in the heart of Kent and Medway, the Growth Hub offers tailored guidance to help businesses navigate the complex funding landscape, identify suitable grants, and develop compelling funding applications. Whether it's accessing grants for innovation, expansion, or skills development, the Growth Hub acts as a trusted advisor, connecting businesses with the resources and support they need to secure vital funding and drive success in Kent and Medway's vibrant business community.



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## GROWING KENT AND MEDWAY

Growing Kent and Medway offers essential grants and funding support to businesses in the region, serving as a catalyst for economic growth and innovation. With a focus on nurturing local enterprises, the program provides financial assistance to businesses looking to expand, invest in new technologies, or develop their workforce. A significant investment of £5m is allocated for research and development grants for Kent and Medway. Whether it's through grants for research and development, capital investment, or skills training, Growing Kent and Medway plays a crucial role in enabling businesses to realise their growth ambitions.



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## BRITISH BUSINESS BANK

The British Business Bank plays a pivotal role in supporting the growth and development of businesses across the UK through its diverse range of grant and funding programs. As a government-owned economic development bank, it provides crucial financial support to businesses at various stages of their journey, from start-ups to established enterprises.



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# Kent and Medway the right location

**72%**

cheaper  
commercial  
property\*

*\*compared  
to London*

**1.8 million**

potential customers

**68**

infrastructure  
& commercial  
development sites



4 universities



Gateway to  
London and  
Europe

**47%**

lower house  
prices\*

*\*compared  
to London*



17 minutes from  
the capital by train

**70,000 +**

companies already here



350 miles  
of coastline

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 **Locate in Kent**

  
**GREAT**  
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND