

Join the Creative Revolution

One in eight companies are now working within the creative and digital industries – with Kent and Medway emerging as one of the leading creative hubs in the country.

Nearly **7,000 creative and digital companies** have chosen to locate in **Kent and Medway**, attracted by Kent's exciting **coastal communities and other places rich in cultural appeal**. Digital start-ups, film & TV studios, artistic producers, games manufacturers, and entertainment companies have created an ecosystem of expertise and **growth countywide**, from household names to SMEs.

Kent and Medway boasts a number of **strategic locations** that are primed for creative and digital businesses to expand, including the Folkestone Creative Quarter, Maidstone TV Studios and Chatham Historic Dockyard. On top of these towns such as Margate, Folkestone, Canterbury and Tunbridge Wells have embraced **opportunities to grow creative, collaborative communities** that consistently outrank the capital when it comes to quality of life. Exciting projects coming on stream include the Docking Station in Medway due to open by 2027 and Dover Beacon in Spring 2026.

Almost 10,000 people already work in Kent and Medway's creative and digital industries, including graduates and academics trained at some of the **UK's top universities** including the University for the Creative Arts (UCA), all within an easily **commutable distance of London**.

The UCA is ranked as the number one specialist university for the creative and digital industries in the UK, offering over **120 courses from its Canterbury Campus** providing students with the skills Kent businesses need to support their growth. Kent and Medway is home to the University of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Greenwich. Together they are building skills in film, multimedia, digital technologies and performing arts, and a pipeline of future talent **right on your doorstep**.





10,000

Locate in Kent has helped create over 10,000 jobs in the creative and digital sector and assisted over 177 companies in the industry to relocate or expand into Kent.



48,750

The number of creative and digital companies located in South East England.



+51.4%

Thanet has experienced a doubling in the number of creative and digital organisations based in the district over the last five years.

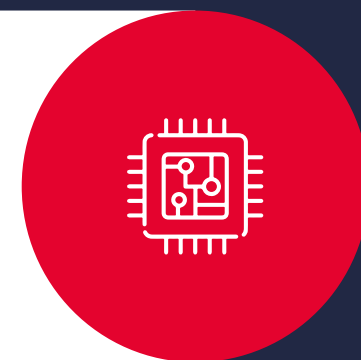


6,825

The number of creative and digital enterprises located in Kent and Medway.



One of the biggest clusters of **digital technology focused businesses** in the South East is at Kent Science Park.



Tunbridge Wells is one of the **UK's top creative and digital hotspots**

with a thriving cluster of 875 creative and cultural businesses.



Case studies

PILLORY BARN

Pillory Barn, headquartered in Maidstone, Kent, is a strategic marketing and communications agency with a strong focus on place branding, public sector campaigns, and digital innovation. With over 25 years of experience, the agency has built a reputation for delivering impactful, creative work that drives engagement and growth. By leveraging Kent's rich business ecosystem and creative talent, Pillory Barn has partnered with local authorities, tourism bodies, and national clients to shape compelling narratives and campaigns that influence real change.

Born and raised in Kent, Pillory Barn has seen first-hand Kent's growth into a leading county for the creative and digital sector. Offering businesses opportunities to innovate, access convenient connectivity and facilities, and experience a unique variety of places to discover that rival other destinations, including London.

"When you look across the whole of the county, creative and digital is an incredibly strong sector and many of the businesses are SME or micro. This brings a real smorgasbord and melting pot of hyper creative people that specialise and generalise in the industry. You can access an amazing photographer, drone operator or designer – they are on our doorstep in spades – and are able to complement our amazingly strong team."

MIRANDA CHAPMAN
MANAGING DIRECTOR, PILLORY BARN



BE WONDERFUL

In the ever-increasing digital world, Be Wonderful makes digitalisation easier to incorporate into business operations, whether that be via UX design, product development, building new web platform, integrating CRM or digital marketing. They pride themselves on solving complex problems by delivering wonderfully simple solutions.

"There has always been a natural support infrastructure in Kent. Whether it's the councils, Government bodies or projects, charitable organisations or inward investment agencies like Locate in Kent. Businesses setting up or expanding in Kent get all the help they need, with access to growth programmes, funding, strategic support, connections with peer groups and access to a diverse talent pool."

DAN MAUDHUB,
FOUNDER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR AT BE WONDERFUL

DOVETAIL GAMES

Dovetail Games, based in Chatham, Kent, is a leading developer and publisher of simulation entertainment. Specialising in train and fishing simulators, the company has built a global fanbase through high-quality, immersive experiences across platforms like PC, Xbox, and PlayStation. Benefiting from Kent's strong digital and creative talent pipeline and excellent connectivity to London, Dovetail has grown from a small startup into an internationally recognised brand, exporting its games worldwide and contributing significantly to the region's thriving tech and gaming sector.

"Being located here in Kent, in the heart of the Medway towns, has been absolutely pivotal to what we've done"

JOHN RISSIK
DEPUTY CEO

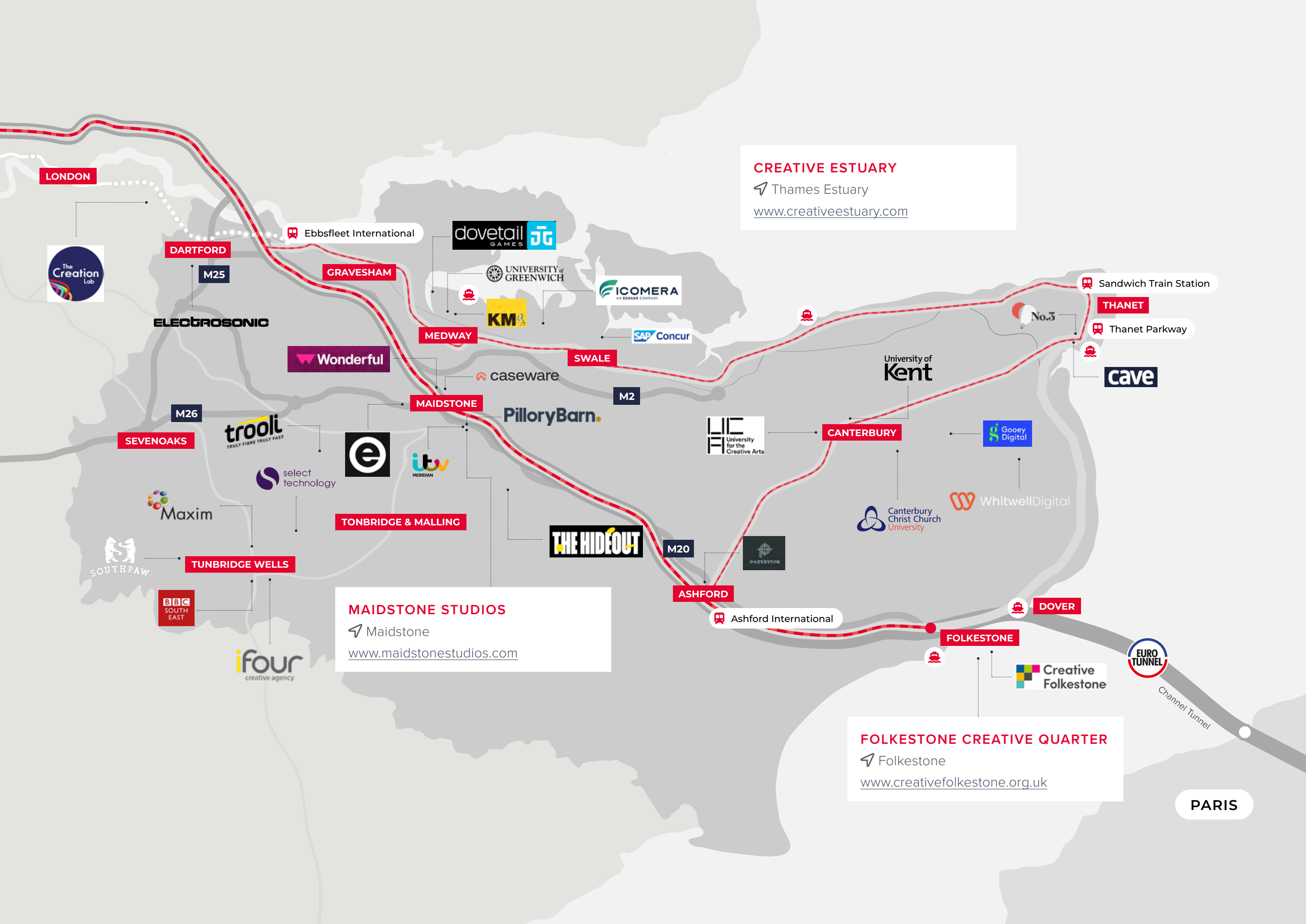


CREATIVE FOLKESTONE

Creative Folkestone is an independent arts charity dedicated to the regeneration of Folkestone through creative activity. Working with the people of Folkestone, partners and other stakeholders the foundation is transforming the town.

"Some of the people who live here are currently making the living by going up to London and coming back daily. What that means, if you move here with your business there are some really talented people who are currently commuting to London, and I am sure they would like to live and work in the county."

ALASTAIR UPTON
CREATIVE FOLKESTONE



CREATIVE ESTUARY

Thames Estuary

www.creativeestuary.com

MAIDSTONE STUDIOS

Maidstone

www.maidstonestudios.com

FOLKESTONE CREATIVE QUARTER

Folkestone

www.creativefolkestone.org.uk

PARIS



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.

Access to leading talent

Hire qualified employees at costs lower compared to London when relocating in Kent with three pro-active industry-focused further education colleges.

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.

THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT

The University of Kent's School of Engineering and the University of Greenwich Faculty of Engineering and Science deliver courses in science, technology, engineering and mathematics at its Medway Campus in Chatham, Kent. Training the engineers of the future.

CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH UNIVERSITY

According to the 2023 Graduate Outcomes Survey, Canterbury Christ Church is the best university in the UK for graduates in employment. The university has developed the Kent and Medway Engineering, Design, Growth and Enterprise Hub, has added an additional 1,000 graduates into the labour market.

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**.

THE UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS

The University for the Creative Arts (UCA) in Canterbury is a top specialist institution offering cutting-edge courses in areas like animation, architecture, and visual communication, supported by industry-standard facilities such as VR labs and digital studios. With a rich heritage and strong industry links, UCA nurtures a vibrant creative community and has produced many acclaimed alumni.

University
for the
Creative Arts
Canterbury

← Reception

← Herbert Read Gall

Grants and Funding



KENT AND MEDWAY BUSINESS FUND

With a focus on stimulating innovation, job creation, and investment, the 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.

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)



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.

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)



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.

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

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

Join us in Kent
Get in touch today:

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www www.locateinkent.com

 **Locate
in Kent**