

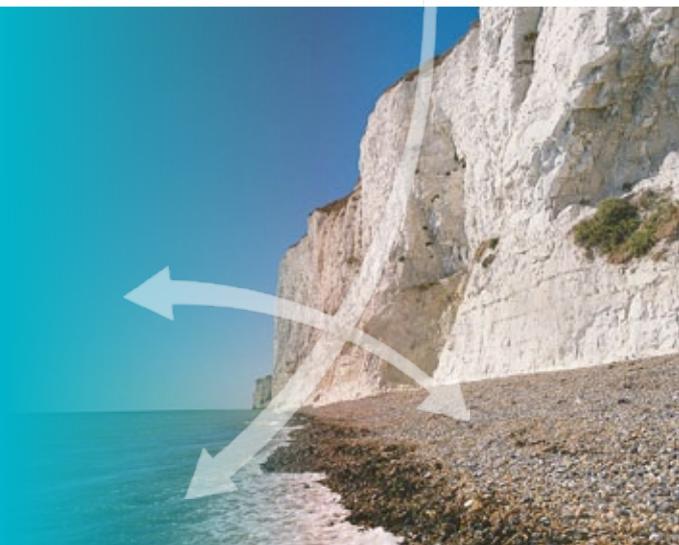
Kent

a great place to do business



Kent is a great place to start doing business in the UK.

It is the closest part of England to mainland Europe and is next to London. Kent's excellent connections to mainland Europe via the channel tunnel, high speed rail links and several freight and passenger ports mean that access from France, Belgium and the Netherlands is extremely easy. Kent is an entrepreneurial county with a highly diversified economy and is home to many world class companies. With a range of business parks, development land and commercial property as well as a large number of innovative companies, Kent is open for business.





Kent has excellent connections to mainland Europe and further afield.

An introduction to Kent

Kent is a great place to start doing business in the UK. As one of the UK's largest counties, Kent enjoys a 'gateway' location between London and continental Europe. With easy access to the 27 member states of the EU, the UK as a whole is an attractive location to do business. It provides access to a large potential customer base, product innovators, suppliers and partners. The UK has an open deregulated economy with no restrictions or controls on overseas investors. It also enjoys a beneficial tax regime, with some of the lowest rates in Europe, and R & D tax breaks.

Kent has excellent connections to mainland Europe and further afield. This means that the EU market, with a population of 500 million, is within easy reach via the Channel Tunnel, several freight and passenger ports (including the port of Dover), and two international high-speed railway stations (Ashford & Ebbsfleet) with direct connections to London, Paris and Brussels. The expanding Kent International Airport also provides direct links to Amsterdam Schiphol and further destinations such as the US, Africa and the Far East.

Kent is an entrepreneurial county with a highly diversified economy consisting primarily of small and medium enterprises. Over 50,000 businesses are based in Kent, most of which have less than 100 employees.

Kent is also home to several world-class companies such as Saga, Kimberly-Clark and BAE Systems. Kent is an outward looking county and its dynamic businesses are open to Business to Business collaborations and partnerships.

Key industrial sectors

- Life Sciences
- Environmental Technologies
- Creative Industries
- Logistics & Distribution
- Agri-food
- Business & Professional Services

Kent's location and quality of life make it a great place to do business.



Kent has many key commercial sites and offers an array of different business parks, development land, office and industrial property across the county at competitive rates. All sites are up to 60% cheaper than in London and are within easy reach of the UK capital and mainland Europe. Parts of Kent are also undergoing major regeneration and development which will provide significant growth and employment opportunities in the coming years.

Kent is home to 1.46m residents and consists primarily of medium and large towns, and traditional villages rather than cities or large conurbations. The county offers an excellent work-life balance and is known as the "Garden of England" due to its agricultural heritage which continues today. It has over 2600 km² of glorious countryside and 550 km of unspoilt coastline to explore, and more historic houses and castles than any other county.

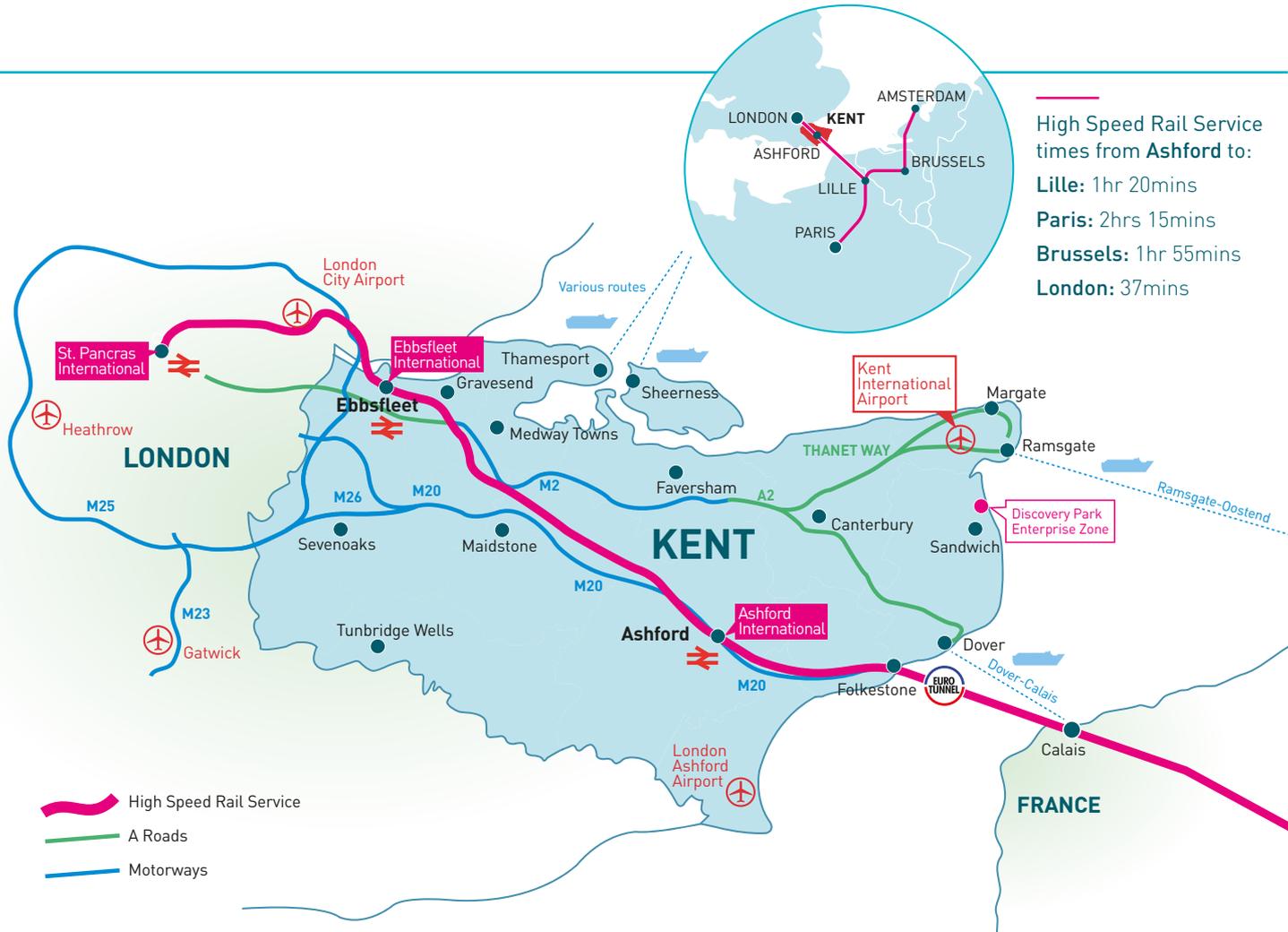
Key Business Events

Kent 2020 Vision Live is the county's largest multi-sector business event. It takes place every April at the Kent Event Centre near Maidstone.

The Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce also organises an annual Business to Business Exhibition in June, open to all businesses throughout Kent and beyond.

Thanks to Kent's location next to the capital, businesses in the county have easy access to all of the major international trade fairs which take place each year in London.







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Business Support Services in Kent

Apart from the 2 Seas Trade project, companies can contact the following organisations in Kent for support and advice on international trade, all of which are working together under the **Kent International Business** programme.

Web: www.kentinternationalbusiness.co.uk

- **Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce (KICC)**

KICC's business advisers can provide advice and guidance on doing business in Kent. With over 1,100 member businesses, they can also put you in touch with a range of companies and useful business contacts based in the county who can help you enter the UK market.

Email: info@kentinvictachamber.co.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)1233 503838

Web: www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk

- **Locate in Kent**

Kent's investment promotion agency can provide free advice to overseas companies on business relocations, commercial property, supply chains and doing business in Kent.

Email: enquiries@locateinkent.com

Telephone: +44 (0)1732 520700

Web: www.locateinkent.com

- **Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)**

The Kent branch of the EEN can help your business to find local agents, suppliers, distributors or specific business contacts in the UK.

Email: info@enterpriseeurope-se.eu

Telephone: + 44 (0) 844 7252244

Web: www.enterpriseeurope-se.eu

- **Private sector**

There are various companies in Kent with local knowledge who can offer services in support of European trade such as banks, translators, marketing agencies and legal firms.

- **Kent County Council**

Please contact Kent County Council for more information or if you have any further queries about doing business in Kent.

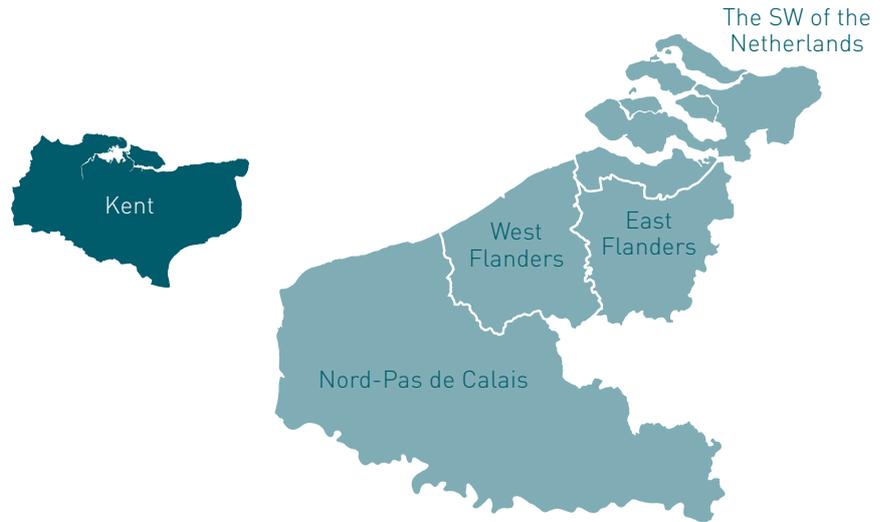
Email: international.affairs@kent.gov.uk

Web: www.kent.gov.uk



About 2 Seas Trade

The 2 Seas Trade (2ST) project is part financed by the EU funded Interreg IVA 2 Seas Programme. 2ST aims to encourage and support SMEs in Kent, East and West Flanders (Belgium), the South West of the Netherlands and Nord-Pas de Calais (France) to trade within these partner regions. The project is being run by the organisations shown below who between them have many years experience in helping companies trade internationally.



www.2seastrade.eu

