



Join the experimenters

The life sciences sector in Kent is the heartbeat of innovation in the county, with a rich heritage of exciting research and a deep talent pool of scientific expertise built through decades of heritage as a world centre for drug discovery and research. More than 2000 enterprises now represent this sector across the region.

It is a fast-evolving space, with large companies like Pfizer today sharing the global stage with exciting SMEs like Genea Biomedx; AbBaltis and Centauri Therapeutics. With access to funding, including the Kent Life Science Fund, these scientific pioneers are given every opportunity to grow.

Kent is firmly on the map as a key location in the South East for a range of life science businesses from bio-tech, pharmaceuticals and diagnostics to global science logistics, med-tech manufacturers and contract research organisations.

Canterbury Christ Church University's School of Life Sciences and the University of Kent's School of Biosciences, meanwhile, provide students with access to real-life laboratory experience, including a purpose built industrial facility at Discovery Park. It gives life science businesses across Kent and Medway a direct link to the next generation of scientists, building the skills for the region's continued success in this sector.

Key Locations



Discovery Park,
Sandwich



North Kent
Enterprise Zone
(NKEZ)



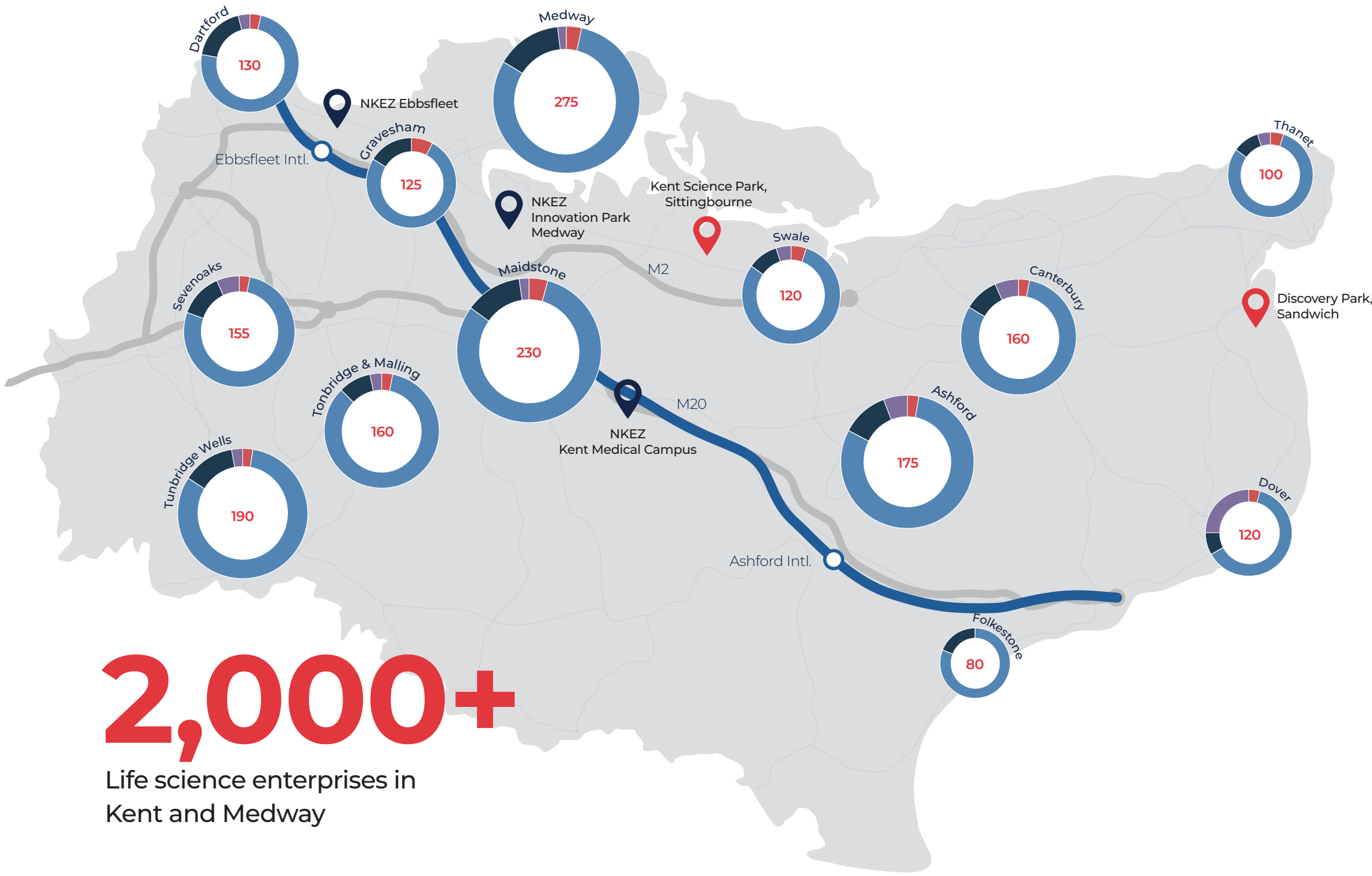
Kent Science Park,
Sittingbourne

Kent's life science industry strengths

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY DIAGNOSTICS TESTING
BIO-TECHNOLOGY HEALTHCARE PHARMACEUTICALS

SECTORS

- Medical and pharmaceutical production
 - Human health
 - Wholesale and retail
 - Research and experimental development
- High Speed 1



2,000+

Life science enterprises in Kent and Medway

11,905
The South East has the **second highest** number of life science enterprises in the UK after London (15,240).

29.8%
The number of life sciences businesses in Kent and Medway increased by almost a third over the past five years.

Dover has one of the highest concentrations of life science enterprises in the country.

top 20
DOVER

75
An extra 75 new life sciences businesses have moved to Medway over the past five years, the county's biggest increase over that period.

1,200
Ashford and Swale are leading the way in medical and pharmaceutical production, with 1,200 employed across both districts within this specialism.

£200,000
37.4% of life science enterprises in Kent have an annual turnover of £200,000 or more.

Need support growing your life science business?

From property and site selection to access to funding; skills advice and sector expertise, we can help.



"Having relocated to Discovery Park in 2017 we benefited from the site's Enterprise Zone status and £500,000 of Expansion East Kent funding."

Naz Bashir
CEO, AlgaeCytes



Connectivity

Extremely well connected by rail, road, air and sea and with its close proximity to London and Europe, Kent has easy, fast and efficient access to key markets. **High Speed 1** is a major point of difference for Kent, offering access to London by train in **17 minutes**. It's often quicker for people to reach the capital from the county than to cross it.



Skills

Kent's four universities provide a wealth of graduates across key growth sectors each year, including the University of Kent which ranks within the **top 25 universities in the UK and top 500 globally**. With a local population of over **1.8 million** and access to millions more from neighbouring regions, Kent offers a highly diverse talent pool.



Cost

Cheaper property and lower salaries make Kent a cost-effective base for business. Kent's commercial property is up to **60% lower** in rental or purchase price compared to London. This combined with a highly skilled workforce with lower salary levels can result in operational savings of **up to 55%**.



Quality of life

Made up of traditional pretty English villages, bustling towns, stunning countryside and over **350 miles of coastline**, Kent is designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty for good reason. Yet average residential property price are approximately **33% cheaper than London**.

CONTACT US

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Kent discovers

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