

CANTERBURY AREA PROFILE

Canterbury district with a population of 149,700 comprises of Canterbury City, Herne Bay and Whitstable as well as many attractive rural villages.

Transport Links

The Canterbury area has excellent transport links, with both the M20 and the M2 close by. London is easily accessible via the M25 and can be reached in just over an hour and a half. The A2 and A260 connect Canterbury with the Channel Port of Dover and the Eurotunnel car shuttle terminal in Folkestone. Canterbury district has nine railway stations with two in the city. High Speed Rail services from Canterbury West mean St. Pancras International can be reached in 59 minutes, and there are also frequent trains to Charing Cross and Victoria. Whitstable and Herne Bay are served by a direct line to Victoria taking approximately 1 hour 35 minutes. Ashford International Station is a 20 minute rail journey away, Gatwick airport can be reached in an hour and Heathrow in one hour 30 minutes by car.

Business Potential

There are currently over 30 business parks, industrial and trading estates in Canterbury district. These include Canterbury Office Park and Lakesview Business Park in Canterbury which provide readily available space and new development land for industrial and office uses. New phases of Canterbury Business Park, located on the A2 just south of Canterbury, provide in excess of 20,000 sq ms of new business development opportunities for warehousing and distribution, offices and industrial uses. Canterbury Innovation Centre, based on the University of Kent campus, offers space for businesses providing innovative services or products. Situated 7 miles north of Canterbury, Altira Park is a 30 acre high quality business park offering serviced sites for office, industrial and distribution uses. The business park has detailed planning permission for property types in both B1 and B2 uses and is 1.8 miles from Herne Bay railway station with direct services to London Victoria.

The Whitefriars shopping complex saw the largest single investment of £100 million and also the largest area of the city centre ever to be developed in one phase. The area has prominent business services, construction and property and tourism and leisure sectors and a strong manufacturing base located around the district including key business locations such as Canterbury Innovation Centre. The district also boasts four higher education institutions: the University of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church University, the University for the Creative Arts and the Girne American University, which collectively bring over 35,091 students to the area with over 11,000 graduating each year.

Future Developments

Plans submitted by the energy company Vattenfall are currently being considered for extending the successful Kentish Flats Offshore Windfarm off the coast of Whitstable/Herne Bay. Work also continues on improvements to Herne Bay's seafront and Canterbury City Council is pursuing a regeneration programme for the town centre that will make the town a more attractive place to live and work, enhance it as a destination and retain a greater proportion of residents' retail expenditure. Major improvements are planned for the town's Memorial Park including better connections between the seafront, the town, the park and the station.

Set in the heart of the city, the redeveloped Marlowe Theatre and Beane Library/Museum will be completed in October 2011. It is set to become one of the country's landmark theatres, providing a place for Kent's many creative artists and performers to devise and premiere new work. The theatre will help revitalize and regenerate the city centre, generating an estimated £22.6 million for the local economy and helping to secure hundreds of jobs.

Other regeneration opportunities also exist in Canterbury including a potential mixed residential and commercial re-development at Wincheap Industrial Estate, and on land at

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Canterbury West and Canterbury East stations. More details on these and other commercial development opportunities can be obtained from Canterbury City Council.

Useful Links

Canterbury Council: www.business.canterbury.gov.uk

Visit Kent: www.visitkent.co.uk

East Kent: www.east-kent.co.uk