

DOVER AREA PROFILE

Dover District covers about 123 square miles, and includes three main towns, Dover, Deal and Sandwich, with a population of over 106,000, Dover is a popular part of East Kent in which to live and work.

Transport Links

Located on the South East coast, Dover District is the nearest location to mainland Europe and provides an excellent location for those looking to conduct business in Europe. The District has excellent transport links and is served by both the M2 and the M20. The M25 can be reached in just over an hour and London in about 1 hour 45 minutes. Dover provides regular high speed trains to St. Pancras International in just over the hour with Deal and Sandwich also shortly to be connected, and trains to London Charing Cross and London Victoria in about 1 hour 30 minutes. Dover has the busiest roll-on roll-off ferry port in the UK with ferries departing from Dover every 20 minutes and is also only 15 minutes from the Channel Tunnel where Eurotunnel makes twice hourly crossings to Calais. Ashford International Station and its Eurostar service to Paris, Lille and Brussels is only 25 minutes away, Gatwick can be reached in 90 minutes and Heathrow in 2 hours; and Kent International Airport in Thanet can be reached in 30 minutes.

Business Potential

Dover has a network of major sites throughout the district including the flagship White Cliffs Business Park which is ideally located alongside the A2/M2 and only a few miles from the Port of Dover. It continues to attract household names and a raft of blue-chip companies including Anssems Trailers, a Dutch company who are building a new factory. Outline planning permission has been granted for phase two of the White Cliffs Business Park development to go ahead. The £100 million investment could bring 1,800 full and part time jobs. The new development will include a range of office, warehouse and industrial accommodation. Phase three of the development could create an additional 1,200 jobs and another 21 hectares of commercial space, although planning permission has not yet been granted for this. Further proposals for education and leisure based uses are also being explored on land situated to the south of White Cliffs Business Park.

Farthingloe Village Business site is located on the west side of Dover in a rural setting. Proposals are currently being developed for a comprehensive mixed-use residential, care village and commercial uses linked to proposals at Western Heights. Proposals at Betteshanger Business Park and Foulmead Country Park, which has a combined area of 120 hectares, are currently being prepared for a comprehensive redevelopment including educational, employment and tourism based facilities which is expected to provide about 850 student places and 1000 - 1600 jobs.

2011 also brings the return of the Open Golf Championship to Royal St George's Golf Club at Sandwich.

Future Developments

The early momentum achieved by the Dover's regeneration initiative picked up significantly in recent years, and there is continued developer interest in the area for both residential and employment opportunities. In July 2008, Dover was awarded Growth Point and Regional Hub status. This, together with the adoption of the Local Development Framework in February 2010 and the High Speed rail service, is bringing increased investor confidence. New housing at sites like Buckland Mill, Connaught Barracks and Whitfield, which will further encourage employment growth in the town, are moving forward. Proposals for a Bus Rapid Transit System are also being developed to link key housing sites into the town centre and beyond.

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The main focus of attention is the regeneration of the town centre and waterfront alongside the planned port expansion at the Western Docks. This includes links to the town centre, further improvements and development at Dover Priory station and Folkestone Road, Dover Castle and the newly completed Dover Sea Sports Centre. A new hotel – Dover Marina Hotel recently opened on the sea front. A partnership between the District Council and the Port of Dover will oversee a mixed use redevelopment around Granville Docks. The recently successful application for £3.85m match funding under the government's Sea Change programme includes plans for a possible cable car from the waterfront to the castle and improvements to the Esplanade area. There are also plans to carry out improvements around the historic castle including updating the secret wartime tunnels.

Useful Links

Dover Council - www.dover.gov.uk

Visit Kent – www.visitkent.co.uk

East Kent – www.east-kent.co.uk