



# Tonbridge & Malling Business Guide & Directory



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# Tonbridge & Malling

## Business Guide and Directory

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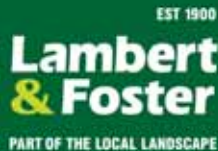


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## Foreword

On behalf of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, I would like to thank you for your interest in our Business Directory.

The borough Council is committed to promoting the growth and expansion of our existing business community as well as welcoming further economic investment at appropriate locations around the borough. I hope that the Business Directory will play a role in encouraging such continued growth. It sets out up to date information on all businesses in the borough, organised in a way which helps other businesses and agencies find the information they need quickly. I hope you use

the Directory to source services and supplies locally within the borough and build contacts with our local businesses to mutual benefit. This will help our local economy to stay prosperous and healthy.

I would like to thank all of our partner organisations and local businesses who have supported the publication of the Directory. I hope you will find it a valuable information source.

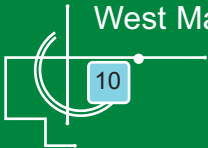
Cllr John Balcombe, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council



Kings Hill Housing



West Malling High Street





## About the Borough of Tonbridge

Covering an area of 92 square miles, with a population of 118,000, the Borough of Tonbridge and Malling is located in the heart of West Kent in an area bounded to the north by the Medway Towns, the east by Maidstone, to the west by Sevenoaks and to the south by Tunbridge Wells.

The borough's main urban areas are the market town of Tonbridge with a population of some 33,000, located to the south of the borough, and the 'Medway Gap' urban area to the north of the borough which is located along the M20/A20 corridor and encompasses the parishes of Aylesford, Ditton, East Malling and Larkfield, Leybourne and further north, the town of Snodland.

Extensive parts of the borough are rural in character with a number of attractive and historically important rural centres such as West Malling, Borough Green, Hadlow, Hildenborough and East Peckham.



Liberty Square Kings Hill



The Hop Farm





## The Local Economy

Tonbridge and Malling has a healthy economy, where unemployment levels, in national terms, are low. The economy has a strong base in manufacturing, distribution and service-based industries.

A number of large employers are located in the borough, including Aylesford Newsprint in Larkfield, Fidelity in Hildenborough and Smurfit Townsend Hook in Snodland.

With its good transport links (the M2, M20 and M26 pass through the borough, and there are two main railway lines to London and the Channel ports), Tonbridge and Malling is an attractive area for offices and high-tech development, particularly at Kings Hill. Here an integrated business and residential community is developing on a 650 acre site. Already over 100 companies are established on the business park, including educational and training establishments.

There are busy out-of-town shopping centres at Aylesford and Larkfield. Tonbridge town centre is a thriving shopping centre where there are a variety of stores. Speciality and craft shops are located in Borough Green, Snodland and West Malling. The borough also has regular Farmers' Markets in Tonbridge, Hildenborough, Shipbourne and West Malling. The borough is a good place for small businesses - on average three-quarters of local companies have less than 10 employees.



Aylesford Newsprint



M 25 Services  
18 m

The M25 Motorway



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## Communications

The borough enjoys high quality communication links by road and rail to the M25, London, Ashford and the Channel ports.

Principal east/west roads are the M2, M20 and A20, whilst the A21 links Tonbridge with Hastings, Sevenoaks and London via the M25. Gatwick is some 45 minutes drive-time from the borough.

There are two main rail services provided to London from Tonbridge and from West Malling and other local stations. A local rail connection is also available serving the Medway Valley linking Maidstone, Strood and Paddock Wood. Access to high speed train services to London St Pancras is via Ebbsfleet International Station.



Landing at Gatwick Airport



## Supporting Local Businesses

The Borough Council, working with West Kent partners, provides a range of support to help local businesses grow and expand.

The ESCALATE loan fund of £5.5M offers interest-free loans to local businesses with growth potential.

Those wanting to set up in business for the first time or small businesses needing support can access a free business advice service provided by the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber also provides a range of local business seminars on topics of interest to business including marketing, book-keeping, use of social media, and exporting advice.

Home-based businesses sometimes suffer from a lack of contact with other like-minded people and rely a great deal on IT. A dedicated support service for this important sector is available from the Centre for Micro Business.

Full details of the support available to local businesses also including a property search facility, advice on apprenticeships, and local



businesses events, are available on the Council's website at: [www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/business/business-support-and-advice/business-advice](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/business/business-support-and-advice/business-advice)





Tonbridge Castle



## Borough Tourism

Tourist-related industries represent a key business sector for the whole borough.

Set in the heart of Kent, Tonbridge and Malling has always been an area of great historical interest and has often been described as 'Kent's hidden gem'. Stretching from Walderslade in the northeast to Tonbridge in the southwest, the borough is rich in cultural history and spectacular scenery.

The area is dotted with picturesque villages, orchards, oast houses, vineyards and churches and has many outstanding places to visit. These include the 11th century Tonbridge Castle, which is one of the best examples of a motte and bailey castle in the country, St Mary's Abbey in West Malling, the recently-restored medieval manor house, Ightham Mote, Aylesford Priory, the ancient Coldrum Long Barrow stones, the prehistoric burial chamber ruins at Kits Coty and the Hop Farm Country Park near East Peckham, which has some of the finest Victorian oast houses in the world.

There are also four beautiful country parks, which are ideal for picnics and family walks, and many

lovely gardens including Great Comp Garden at Wrotham Heath and Broadview Gardens at Hadlow.

The Hop Farm Country Park near Paddock Wood also attracts large numbers of visitors both to the annual programme of events it holds and to the in-situ attractions on the site.

There are a wide range of indoor and outdoor leisure facilities in the borough. Haysden and Leybourne Lakes Country Park have received the National Green Flag award nine times between them, the Angel Centre and Larkfield Leisure Centre are ranked in the top two % nationally under the UK's National Quality Scheme, Quest, and the Council's holiday programme has received 17,800 child attendances borough-wide.

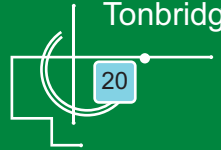
The borough enjoys a wide range of hotel and guest house accommodation which caters for all sectors of the market.

For Business tourism, the borough now has major conference facilities available for hire at East Malling Research (contact 01732 843833), and the River Centre, Tonbridge (contact 01732 770707).

Each year a Holiday Guide is produced, which lists over 350 places to stay along with details of 100 places to visit in the area. For further information, access the tourism web pages on [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk)



Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council offices



## Key Contacts

For inward investment advice or information about available commercial premises and sites, contact:  
Locate in Kent on 01732 520700

For free one to one advice about setting up a new business or developing your existing business, contact:  
the Invicta Chamber of Commerce on 01233 503838

For Home-based Business support, contact the Centre for Micro Business on 01223 653974

For help with networking and marketing, contact the West Kent Chamber of Commerce and Industry on  
01732 366644

For advice about business rates, contact the Borough Council on 01732 876335

For advice about refuse collection, food safety and hygiene, contact the Borough Council on 01732 876190

For advice about planning and building regulations, contact the Borough Council on 01732 876311

For information about available grants for business and social enterprise, and all other information for  
business, browse the business pages on the Borough Council's website:  
[www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/business/business-support-and-advice/business-advice](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/business/business-support-and-advice/business-advice)





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## Businesses, get active!

Download your free Business Finder CD at [www.burrows.co.uk/tonbridge](http://www.burrows.co.uk/tonbridge)

### Tonbridge and Malling Database is now online!

The online version enables you to search for business by name, type of business and location. Simply type what you are looking for and decide how you want to sort the results. The database is **FREE** to join for all local businesses, so why not register today at [www.burrows.co.uk/tonbridge](http://www.burrows.co.uk/tonbridge). You can also keep your organisation's details up to date; just find your entry and click the Update link.

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