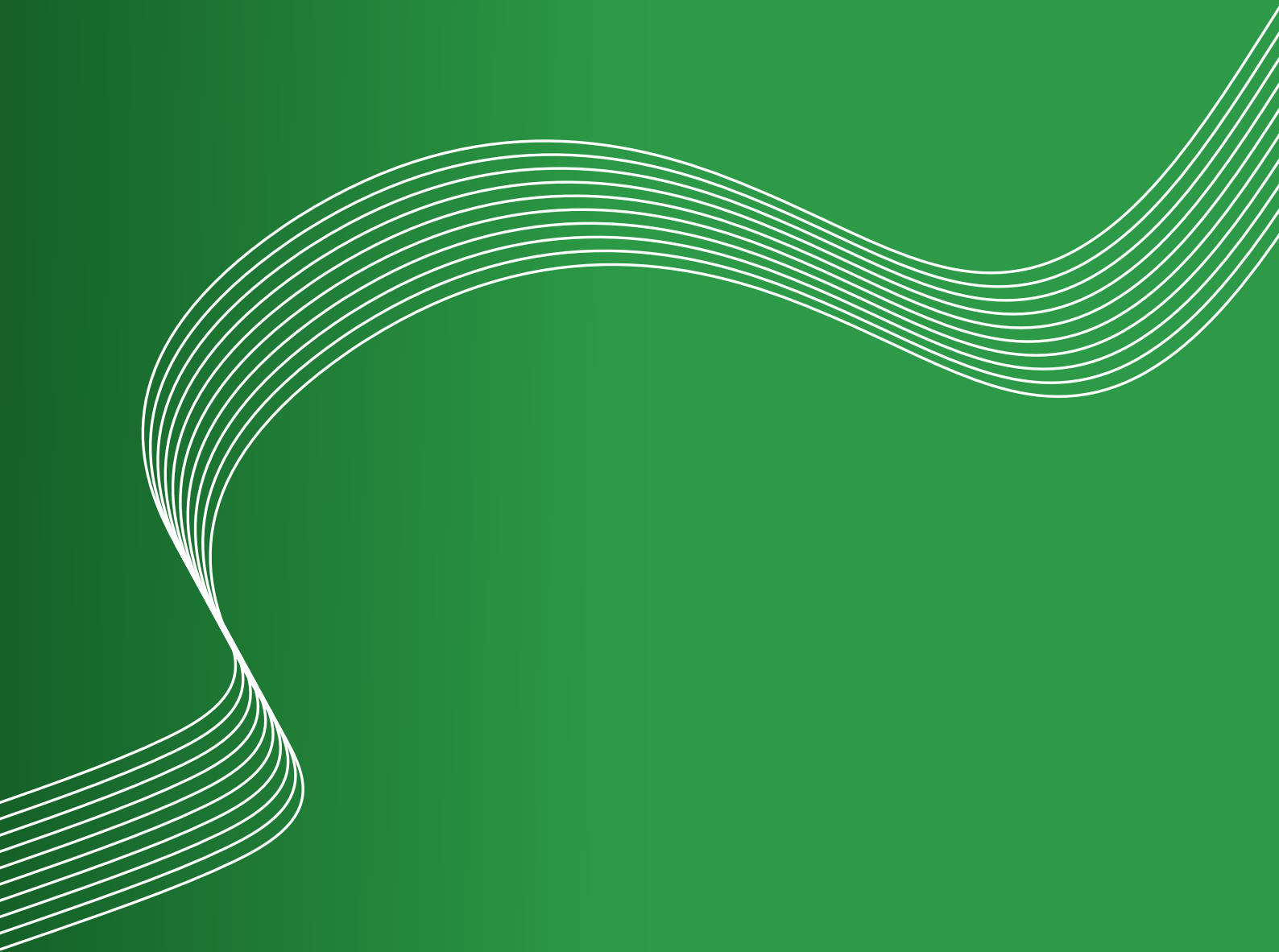


The Marches

Local Enterprise Partnership





Chairman of the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership, Graham Wynn OBE, welcomes Greg Clark MP, now UK Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to the Marches during a visit in 2015

WELCOME TO THE MARCHES

Home to the birthplace of industry, 29,800 businesses and a £12.3 billion economy, the Marches includes Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin.

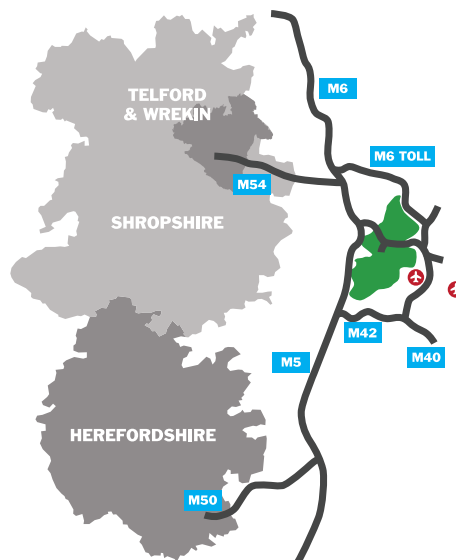
Officially one of the most enterprising regions in the country, it is uniquely placed to capitalise on its location and sector strengths in advanced manufacturing, food and drink and defence and security.

It has the largest areas of shovel-ready land in the Midlands, with two key investment locations in Hereford and Telford.

A land deal in 2016 will see the UK Government commit £44.5 from land sales in Telford into site preparation and infrastructure to support growth. And more than 25 investors have already relocated to Skylon Park, a dynamic business location on Hereford Enterprise Zone.

The region's business-friendly approach is why global players including BAE Systems, Ricoh, Denso, GKN Land Systems, Caterpillar, Muller Wiseman Dairies, Cap Gemini, Bulmers (Heineken) and Cargill Meats have chosen to base their operations here.

Today the Marches has a vibrant SME business base, ready-made supply chains across multiple industry sectors and with its quality of life offer in one of the most beautiful regions of the UK, it is one of the fastest-growing investment locations in the Midlands.





TELFORD

Telford 54 is a prominently located 78.11 acre (31.61 ha) site, arranged into 7 different sized plots, in an attractive landscaped setting adjacent to Stafford Park, one of Telford's major industrial estates.

Telford 54 joins the A464 only 0.85 miles from Junction 4 of the M54 motorway linking to the M6, and 1.7 miles from Central Telford, which is undergoing a £250 million pound reinvestment as part of the Southwater Programme.

With a workforce of 350,000 located within 30 minutes of the town, Telford boasts a strong expertise in automotive engineering, advanced manufacturing, logistics and other engineering related activity.

T54 has already attracted the largest FDI investment in the Midlands in recent years in Tier 1 automotive supplier Magna Cosma, and has just announced a further major investment in the site by car parts manufacturer Polytech. Together these investors will eventually create up to 800 jobs. These and other automotive sector investments mean that Telford is well placed to support the strengthening of West Midlands supply chains and the re-shoring of the £6bn of additional supply chain opportunities identified by the Automobile Council.

Telford's advanced manufacturing corridor, with 200 acres of ready to go land is the equivalent of 166 football pitches!





"This Telford project will bring the most advanced structural casting technologies to the UKas light-weighting continues to be a key technology driver, we are uniquely positioned to help automakers achieve optimal weight savings throughout the vehicle architecture."

President of Cosma International (Magna)

Skylon Park is unique – it is the only Enterprise Zone in the UK with a dedicated defence and security sector focus thanks to the city's links to the world-renowned special forces, the SAS.



HEREFORD

Skylon Park is a modern business destination in the picturesque Herefordshire countryside and is the only Enterprise Zone in the UK with a dedicated defence and security sector focus.

Plots are scaled to suit investors and made development ready – 25 businesses have already moved to the Zone benefitting from free business rates, simplified fast and free planning and an ultrafast broadband network. Only 40 acres remain, particularly suited to larger investors.



Based in Rotherwas, just outside the city centre, the park is a thriving home for 250 companies employing more than 3,000 people, with its own specific access road, it has excellent links to the motorway network.

Speculative build to rent units have been constructed and are already full. One of these, Skylon Court, is host to the Business Solutions Centre run by the University of Wolverhampton providing integrated business support, advice and training.

The south area of the Park is envisioned as a hub for defence and security businesses benefitting from the close proximity to the Hereford SAS base, Malvern Science Park and GCHQ. A cyber security centre is planned by the University of Wolverhampton as a focus for business occupation, training and links to academic research.



"It's home for us, and with modern technology nowadays we can easily communicate with our team and clients whether they are based in the UK or further afield. It's also home to other ex-military personnel who have also set up businesses locally using their expertise, which we regularly call on for training new recruits."

Bob Cole,
Director, Minimal Risk Consultancy



BUSINESS IN THE MARCHES

666,700
PEOPLE
Live Here

Home to
29,800
BUSINESSES

Contributes
£12.3
BILLION
to the UK
Economy

12,300
JOB
Created Since
2011

Business
Survival Rates
2nd
HIGHEST
Out of 38 LEPs

Marches start-up
business rate
8th
HIGHEST
in UK

8%
GROWTH
in SMEs in last
5 years

26%
GROWTH
in Business and
Professional
Services Sector

1,988
INWARD
INVESTMENT
Projects Attracted
in 2014/15,
up 12%



OUR BUSINESS SECTOR STRENGTHS

Advanced manufacturing

More than 36,600 people are employed in a wide range of manufacturing industries, including fabricated metal productions, rubber, polymers and machinery/equipment manufacturing, with automotive manufacturing alone employing 3,400 people in the region.

The region already boasts a number of vehicle component manufacturers, machinery and equipment manufacturing and metal fabricators including: BAE Systems (Engineering, Combat Vehicles UK); GKN plc; Bridgnorth Aluminium; Caterpillar; Denso; Doncasters Group Ltd; GEA Denco; Grainger & Worrall; Holden Aluminium Technologies, Special Metals Wiggins and Stadco.

The Marches benefits from the availability of quality sites; its proximity to the M54 which links to the rest of the national motorway network and the nearby i54 site, home to Jaguar Land Rover's (JLR) new engine plant, which represents a major opportunity for Marches manufacturers, a number of whom are already tier one suppliers, to do more business with JLR.



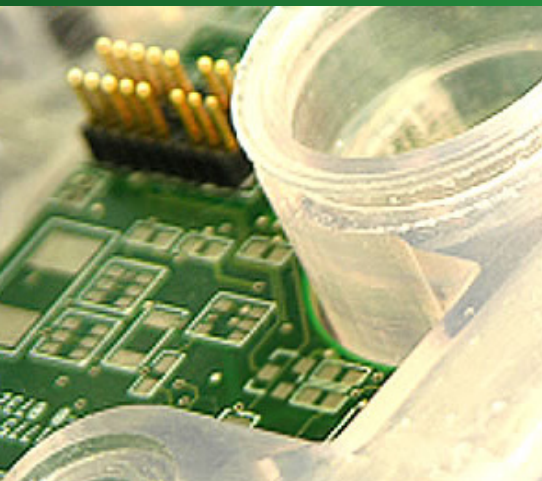


Defence and security

Defence and security businesses employ approximately 4,000 people across the Marches and aside from the operational bases, key private sector companies already operating in the sector here include: BAE Systems (Engineering, Combat Vehicles UK); Caterpillar Remanufacturing; DrazaH Solutions Limited; Fujitsu; G4S; Global Radio Data Communications and Smartwater Technologies.

As home to the UK Special Forces, Herefordshire has a heritage that has led to it already being the location for a cluster of companies in this sector, many of which have been set up by ex-military personnel. These companies, building on the worldwide reputation that the British Army has for quality and expertise, are able to exploit the growing export market for the supply of services in this sector. The region's Enterprise Zone, at Skylon Park, in Herefordshire, is the only Zone in the UK with a defence and security sector focus.

In Shropshire, meanwhile, RAF Cosford houses the Defence College of Aeronautical Engineering and other technical training operational units, alongside the award-winning RAF museum. Whilst Telford, with its concentration of aero and defence companies and supply chain around MOD Donnington, is an expanding defence gateway and centre of logistics excellence.





Agri-Food & Agri-Tech

Worth more than £1.89 billion to the Marches economy and claiming almost a quarter of all Marches manufacturing jobs, the thriving agri-food and drink sector employs 42,700 people.

Boasting both multinationals and home-grown names including ABP, Arla, Bulmers (Heineken); Cadbury (Mondelez); Cargill Meats; Dairy Crest; Faccenda; Heinz (Single Service); Müller Wiseman Dairy; Palethorpes (Pork Farms); Tyrrells and Westons Cider, the size and scope of the food and drink sector in the Marches cannot be underestimated.

The region also boasts a well-established supply chain in food packaging, manufacturing, processing, materials innovation testing and development and specialist logistics and preservation solutions.

The Marches also has more people employed in Agri-Tech than any other LEP area. Key players include McConnel, the world leader in Vegetation Maintenance; Fullwood, a world leader in robotic milking parlours; GKN Land Systems in Telford and JCB in our neighbouring LEP.

Harper Adams University, the leading UK institution specialising in agriculture and agricultural engineering, is an internationally recognised Centre of Excellence in this sector.



