

Buckinghamshire

The Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain



Living in
Buckinghamshire

Welcome to Buckinghamshire

Buckinghamshire, the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain, offers its residents an outstanding quality of life. It's a great place to live, which helps create a motivated and skilled workforce. Employees enjoy a high standard of living which helps to raise productivity and creates some of the highest staff retention rates in Britain.

Buckinghamshire benefits from its central strategic location and easy access to motorways and airports. The county is in close proximity to London, with Heathrow airport only 45 minutes drive away and 5 other airports within a 90 minutes drive.

The key towns are Aylesbury with its bustling shopping centre and historic open air market and High Wycombe which is a regenerated, well connected modern town. Smaller, less urban and more traditional towns include Amersham, Beaconsfield, Buckingham, Marlow, Princes Risborough and Wendover. A full metropolitan "fix" is available with London being just 50 minutes away by rail or road, while the historic city of Oxford and shopping haven of Bicester Village are within 30 minutes drive.

Buckinghamshire is known to have excellent schools which are credited with the strongest schools performance in the country, as recognised by the government. There is a wide choice of schools - 185 Primary schools, 34 Secondary schools and 20 fee paying schools.



Buckinghamshire is the most filmed county in Britain. It has been the setting for box office smashes such as Skyfall and Tomb Raider, filmed at the world famous Pinewood Studios whilst the idyllic villages around Buckinghamshire form the set of Midsomer Murders. Over a third of the area is covered by the government designated Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which stretches across the southern part of the county.

Buckinghamshire offers many and varied leisure pursuits. From the southern border created by the picturesque River Thames with the Olympic and Paralympic rowing centre at Eton Dorney, to the northern border, where Silverstone is home to the F1 British Grand Prix. For ball sport fans – there's Wasps rugby club, Wycombe Wanderers football club and also a choice of top flight golf clubs all situated in the county.

There is a very wide variety of residential property available to buy or rent from traditional country houses, elegant town houses, and riverside cottages to modern urban apartments. Buckinghamshire has an equally varied range of facilities for business visitors and conference guests; from historic houses to modern hotels or bijou heritage hotels.

A central strategic location with world class export links



Finding a Place to live

When moving a business, one of your primary concerns will be where to live. Buckinghamshire is a diverse county that can offer you town centre locations or countryside retreats - all with great access to London, airports and the rest of the UK.

Buckinghamshire has seen a boost in housing development in recent years but still remains a very rural location with almost two thirds of the county classed as an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Renting a property

Rented accommodation is available from three main providers: private landlords, local councils and housing associations. In Buckinghamshire, there are many properties available from private landlords and the best way to find a property is to contact letting agents in the area you choose to live in. If you are new to the UK and are unsure where you want to be based, there are many national letting agents such as those on the National Approved Letting Scheme database that will be able to help you. nalscheme.co.uk

For new arrivals to the UK, landlords may request additional information from you such as a letter from your employer outlining your level of income. A deposit is usually required by most landlords and you may be expected to pay one month's rent in advance.



Buying a property

As with letting agents, estate agents in the area you wish to live in will be able to help you find property. These agents will usually be based in the nearest town such as Aylesbury or High Wycombe. Online property finders such as Right Move are particularly useful if you are new to the UK as they outline average property prices across the county as well as giving you a good overview as to what is available.

Visit a website such as Right Move to start your property search [rightmove.co.uk](https://www.rightmove.co.uk)

**Start your move at award winning
agency Chiltern Relocation:
chilternrelocation.com**

**Over a third of
the area is covered
by the government
designated Chilterns
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty**



Education in Buckinghamshire

With a superb range of state, grammar and independent schools, Buckinghamshire has some of the best educational achievement records in the UK, producing a future workforce that is highly skilled and well placed to adapt to the proposed growth in the area.

Early Education

All children are entitled to attend a free part time early education establishment from the term after their third birthday, until they start school. Choosing the right childcare and Free Early Years Provision (for 3 and 4 year olds) for your child is an important decision. Childcare can be offered by private, independent and voluntary providers as well as child minders and schools.

Schools and Colleges

Education in the UK is generally split into primary education (5 – 11 years), secondary education (11 – 16 years), further education (16 – 18/19 years) and higher education (18/19 years plus). In Buckinghamshire there are two types of secondary schools– upper schools and grammar schools. The 11+ test decides which type of school will best meet your child's needs.

The 11+ consists of two multiple-choice verbal reasoning tests. A child's highest score in these tests is their Verbal Reasoning Test Score (VRTS). This score is used to decide which type of school will best meet your child's needs and whether they have reached the standard necessary for a Buckinghamshire grammar school. Each school has its own geographical catchment area so it is important to consider your school preference when finding a place to live.

Buckinghamshire is credited with the strongest schools' performance in the country as recognised by government

Academies

Academies are classed as independent state schools which opt out of council control. Academies have freedom to determine their own policies on things like the curriculum, school hours, term dates and staff pay. Independent schools/academies are not maintained by the local authority. More information about academies can be found on the Department for Education website.

- > Buckinghamshire UTC based at Aylesbury College focusing on IT and construction
- > Silverstone UTC based at the world famous Silverstone Circuit focusing on high performance engineering and motorsport and technical event management

Both of Buckinghamshire's UTCs liaise closely with local and national employers to ensure students are work ready.

International Baccalaureate

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) is a two-year educational programme primarily aimed at students aged 16–19 that provides an internationally accepted qualification for entry into higher education, and is recognised by universities worldwide. There are two schools in Buckinghamshire that currently offer the IBDP these are:

Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School - Aylesbury
The Hazeley Academy – Milton Keynes

University Technical Colleges

University Technical Colleges (UTC) are a new concept in education. They offer 14 – 19 year olds the opportunity to take a highly regarded, technically-oriented course of study. They are equipped to the highest standard, sponsored by a university and offer clear progression routes into higher education or further learning in work. As of September 2013, Buckinghamshire will have two UTCs in operation:

Higher Education

Buckinghamshire is home to two universities and is within reach of some of the world's top universities in Oxford, Cambridge and London. Buckinghamshire New University (BNU) provides a wealth of study options and allows the county access to a large number of highly skilled graduates. Buckinghamshire's reputation for enterprise has also seen more unique educational establishments thrive. The University of Buckingham was the first privately funded university in the UK, attracting students from all over the world. The Open University, based in neighbouring Milton Keynes is also a hugely successful pioneer of distance education. The county has a well-developed adult learning structure, with numerous local venues offering a wide variety of courses.

Visit the schools admissions pages on the Bucks County Council website bucksc.gov.uk



Buckinghamshire's Connectivity

With excellent road, rail and airport links to London, Oxford and onward to the Midlands and the South East, Buckinghamshire is an ideal location for any business looking to establish a British operation. The county has three major international airports on its doorstep (Heathrow, Luton and Gatwick) and is less than an hour's drive from London and Oxford. Buckinghamshire is located in the heart of England with excellent connections to the rest of the UK.

Rail Links

Buckinghamshire has direct links to London Marylebone station with a travel time of 28 minutes from High Wycombe. There is also access to London's Underground network with a tube station at Amesham.

The East-West Rail project will give Buckinghamshire residents access to stations in Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge allowing for journeys direct to Birmingham. It is anticipated that the route will have services running from 2019.

**Close proximity
to London without
the congestion**



Distances to Airports

Aylesbury to:

Heathrow: 40 miles (64km), 45 mins

Gatwick: 75 miles (120km), 1 hour 15 mins

Luton: 30 miles (48km), 40 mins

Birmingham: 74 miles (119km), 1 hour 20 mins

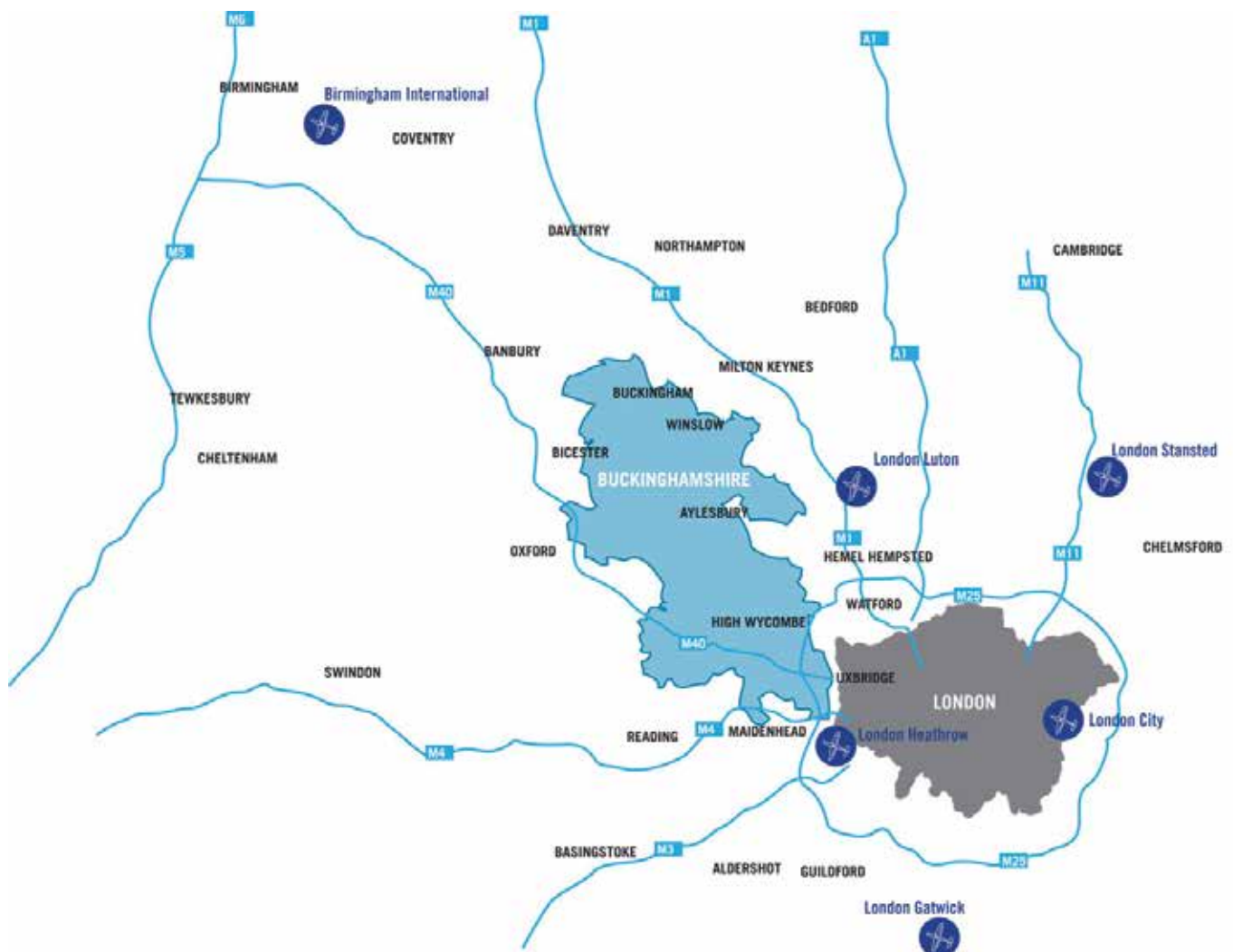
High Wycombe to:

Heathrow: 22 miles (35km), 30 mins

Gatwick: 57 miles (92km), 57 mins

Luton: 40 miles (64km), 45 mins

Birmingham: 85 miles (137km), 1 hour 20 mins



Working in Buckinghamshire

Home to world class companies in the advanced engineering, life sciences, ICT, creative and media, and food and drink sectors, Buckinghamshire is an attractive proposition.

Employment Law

The UK has one of the least restrictive and most flexible systems of employment law anywhere in the developed world. This is because employment law is still largely based on the contract – the principle that whatever two competent parties agree will be enforced by the courts.

Generally, employers are free to hire whatever staff they want, how they want. Employees must be given a written statement of the terms of their contract of employment within two months of starting work. Draft contracts of employment which comply with the law are readily available from commercial suppliers.

The National minimum wage is a minimum amount per hour that most workers in the UK are entitled to be paid, depending on age and if apprenticeship applies.

In the event of dismissal due to redundancy, employees with at least two years of continuous employment are entitled to a redundancy payment from their employer. The level of redundancy payment is related to the employee's age, length of continuous service with the employer and weekly pay.

UK Advisory Network (UKAN)

If you are looking to employ staff in the UK, UKAN is a network of experienced professional service providers who work in partnership with UKTI to provide support to companies investing in the UK.

The Network was established by UKTI to provide high quality and trusted support to investors setting up in the UK, by promoting closer working between the Government and the private sector.

ukti.gov.uk/investintheuk/ukadvisorynetwork/html

Diverse Economy

Home to the Silverstone Circuit, Buckinghamshire is at the heart of Motorsport Valley® where a wealth of companies supply leading-edge technology used in Formula One and whose precision engineering and advanced technology skills are increasingly being exploited by the mainstream automotive industry. Composites and robotics are also at the heart of Buckinghamshire with many companies using their technology in alternative industries such as the life sciences which has a deep history in the county as the home of the Paralympic movement. The life sciences sector is rooted around Stoke Mandeville Hospital and their world leading spinal injuries unit. Offering the ability to test new products to the UK market, Stoke Mandeville Hospital has research at its heart and is constantly trying to improve the lives of patients.

Pinewood Studios is at the centre of Buckinghamshire's creative and media sector and is home to over 300 businesses servicing the studios. This sector also plays a key role in local education with Bucks New University who can boast their own TV and sound studios and The National Film and Television School who are one of the top film, television and new media schools and one of the top three non-American schools in the world (Hollywood Reporter). Buckinghamshire's food and drink sector has recently been enhanced by a £150m investment from Arla in a mega dairy on the outskirts of Aylesbury. The 115 acre site will process and package up to one billion litres of milk a year from British farms. Family members can also be catered for as the county offers a diverse range of employment opportunities so there should be a job for everyone.



Working in Buckinghamshire

Immigration and Visas

If you are coming to the UK, the best way to find out if you need a visa is to visit the UK Border Agency website whose short questionnaire will tell you if you have the right to work in the UK. ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

National Insurance

A National Insurance (NI) number is your own personal account number. It is unique to you and you keep the same one all your life. If you have the right to work in UK and don't have a NI number, you will need to apply for one.

To get your NI number, you need to contact Jobcentre Plus on 0845 600 0643 who will arrange an 'Evidence of Identity' interview or they can send you a postal application.

Local Recruitment Agencies



Adapt IT Recruitment

adaptrecruitment.com

Tel: 01908 373373



Bucks and Berks Recruitment

bucksandberks.co.uk

Tel: 01628 898899



Aspire Recruitment

aspire-recgroup.co.uk

Tel: 01908 354754



Chiltern Recruitment

chilternrecruitment.co.uk

Tel: 01494 555222



Better Prospects

betterprospects.com

Tel: 01494 413271



Duco-Personnel

duco-personnel.co.uk

Tel: 01494 413771



Blue Arrow

bluearrow.co.uk

Tel: 01494 474000



skypersonnel.co.uk

Tel: 01296 433277



Brook Street

brookstreet.co.uk

Tel: 01494 512522



mapp.co.uk

Tel: 01296 428661

We share your ambition

As well as offering a great location for your business, Buckinghamshire is also a great place to visit.

Buckinghamshire is home to the highest concentration of golf courses in the country including world class venues such as Stoke Park Club. The county also boasts the most National Trust properties in Britain including the world famous Waddesdon Manor and Stowe Landscape Gardens. These assets combined with the fact that Buckinghamshire is at the heart of the Chiltern Hills – an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – mean that Buckinghamshire provides an eclectic mix that is perfect for both you and your family.

For relaxing days out, why not try our internationally acclaimed gardens, parkland and nature reserves. If you are looking for something a bit faster paced then Silverstone, the home of British Motorsport and F1 British Grand Prix should whet the appetite as will the combination of extreme sports and leisure activities found at Xscape in Milton Keynes. For sporting fans, Buckinghamshire is home to the MK Dons, Wycombe Wanderers and London Wasps – a great weekend out for all the family.

Great food is in abundance in Buckinghamshire, from Michelin starred chefs to mouth watering local food and drink producers. You really can 'eat the view' when you buy from farm shops and farmers' markets, and enjoy meals in pubs and restaurants serving local produce. Explore our vineyards and microbreweries, taste draught beers, pick your own strawberries and admire skilled chocolatiers at work creating gorgeous chocolates.

Buckinghamshire has a rich history and heritage in the film industry with box office greats such as James Bond and Lara Croft gracing the county. Buckinghamshire also forms the set of Midsomer Murders, Lark Rise to Candleford and Inspector Morse meaning that no matter where you travel in the county, you are likely to stumble across a film crew or set.

Being so conveniently situated close to London, Birmingham and Oxford means that our residents can take advantage of day trips to neighbouring cities for a full metropolitan fix, designer shopping sprees at Bicester Village or the historic castle in neighbouring Windsor.

More information on Great Days Out in Buckinghamshire can be found at [visitbuckinghamshire.org](https://www.visitbuckinghamshire.org).

Local Authority Contacts

Buckinghamshire County Council - bucksc.gov.uk

Aylesbury Vale District Council - aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

Wycombe District Council - wycombe.gov.uk

South Bucks District Council - southbucks.gov.uk

Chiltern District Council - chiltern.gov.uk

Employment and Education

Education in Buckinghamshire - bucksc.gov.uk/sites/bcc/schools/schools.page

Ofsted - ofsted.gov.uk/

Ofsted-home/Inspection-reports/schools

Citizens Advice - adviceguide.org.uk/index.htm

Adult Learning - adultlearningbcc.ac.uk

Job Centre Plus - gov.uk/en/Employment/index.htm

Finding a place to live

Right Move - rightmove.co.uk/

National Approved Letting Scheme - nalscheme.co.uk/

Leisure and Days Out

Visit Buckinghamshire - visitbuckinghamshire.org/

General

DVLA - dft.gov.uk/dvla/

HM Revenue and Customs - hmrc.gov.uk

National Rail - nationalrail.co.uk.

NHS Direct - nhsdirect.nhs.uk.

UK Advisory Network - ukti.gov.uk/investintheuk/ukadvisorynetwork.html

UK Border Agency - ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/do-you-need-a-visa/

Direct Gov - gov.uk/

UK Trade and Investment - ukti.gov.uk





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