

# Swindon & Wiltshire: Inward Investment Overview



**Swindon & Wiltshire**  
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

"A great R&D facility which  
is able to meet our needs  
and understands automotive  
requirements"

## Swindon and Wiltshire: The home of world-class R&D assets

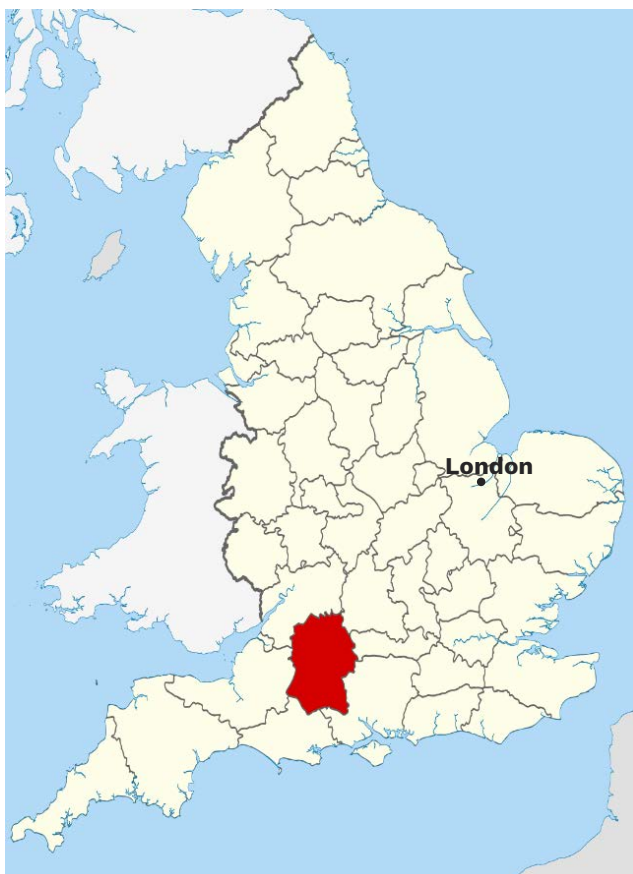
Wroughton  
site of Science M  
Group's Innovation C

Swindon and Wiltshire is home to the likes of household names such as Intel and Dyson, as well as world-leading expertise in life sciences at Porton Down.

Our region offers inward investors world-class R&D assets and an experienced workforce, including access to 12 universities within one hour. In addition a free Higher Futures skills service is

available which provides employers with tailored talent development solutions delivered by universities nationwide.

Future developments to keep pace with economic growth include a £21m Institute of Technology with a focus on advanced manufacturing and engineering, life sciences, digital sciences and creative media; and an ambition for a multi-campus business-led university.



Wiltshire (green) Swindon (orange)

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►  
Airfield,  
Museum  
Campus



## Automotive R&D

Swindon and Wiltshire has a rich heritage and a growing cluster of automotive technology. The region is home to BMW Pressings plant which will produce parts for the new electric Mini, and is set to be a world player in electric vehicle technology. Dyson is investing over £2bn in the development of electric cars, with a new R&D centre and test track facilities on a redeveloped airfield.

As well as supporting BMW and Dyson, companies in the area also have easy access to other OEMs such as Jaguar Land Rover, Ford and Vauxhall. Nearby Centres of Excellence include the National Composites Centre, on the Bristol & Bath Science Park, and universities with a strong automotive engineering pedigree, such as Oxford.

The Science Museum Group owns the former RAF Wroughton airfield extending to over 545 acres and housing thousands of objects from the national collection. This facility is developing a multi-discipline science and engineering research campus, complete with test track facilities for the automotive sector. Building on the success of attracting innovative organisations such as the University of Bath, Balfour Beatty

and Amazon's Grand Tour programme to the site, the former runways and road network are now being used by a range of automotive companies - such as Arrival - with a strong focus on autonomous and electric vehicle testing. Aaron Ridley from Arrival said, **“A great R&D facility which is able to meet our needs and understands automotive requirements.”** Aaron Ridley - Head of Product Validation, Arrival



Swindon and Wiltshire also boasts an active Hydrogen Hub to promote the commercial use of hydrogen, including automotive applications. Key partners include Johnson Matthey who have their fuel cell R&D facility in Swindon.



dyson



SCIENCE  
MUSEUM





## Life sciences

The Swindon and Wiltshire area has established itself as an ideal location for the development and commercialisation of life science technologies, particularly therapeutics, medical technologies and digital health. The region is home to the renowned Porton Down facilities of the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) and Public Health England (PHE).

It is a hotbed of innovation between the private sector, Government and academia. Companies benefit from state-of-the-art research facilities, ability to construct bespoke scale-up capacity and options to access to finance.

DSTL works with over 60 universities and leading-edge companies from around the world. This globally significant research campus employs over 2,000 people and offers companies the chance to collaborate with experts in a range of subjects and to

utilise laboratory space and other specialist facilities.

PHE can offer access to specialised containment facilities, in-vivo capability, reference to the rare and imported pathogen repository and access to a highly qualified workforce. PHE has strong links with research intensive academic institutions and industry and has an extensive life science IP portfolio from which it can make technologies available for commercialisation.

Porton Science Park, which is expanding significantly, provides bespoke facilities to companies to scale operations. This includes affordable laboratories and research facilities, combined with support services to enable product development from pre-clinical through to late stage clinical for therapeutics.



▲  
**Porton Science Park**

Porton Biopharma can offer potential collaborators access to MHRA and FDA licensed facilities and also leverage its knowledge and experience of regulatory compliance and quality systems for product development.

There is also a very close link with the military, with the Government's Defence & Security Accelerator (DASA) headquartered in Wiltshire, helping to facilitate new technology from the private sector into our armed forces.

In the north of the area, centred around Swindon, there is a concentration of pharmaceutical development and manufacturing firms, including the likes of Catalent and Patheon, keen to partner with companies in future drug development and manufacture.



**Public Health  
England**



**PORTON  
BIOPHARMA**





## Digital technologies & cyber security

Wiltshire is home to the Ministry of Defence's Global Cyber Operations Centre and future warfare development centre. The wider region also includes GCHQ and the UK Defence Academy. The county is rich with experienced SMEs providing leading edge services to defence and industry cyber teams.

Wiltshire is a British Army Super Garrison with a focus on digital and technology innovation. As such, Wiltshire's military veteran community offers local companies a range of unrivalled skills and expertise. Veterans are universally acknowledged as the best operatives to deliver digital security and resilience. This is why many veterans excel in their second careers as cyber-security experts. It remains a virtually untapped rich seam with huge potential for companies coming to the area.

Fin-tech is also pre-eminent in the area. Nationwide, the world's largest building society, with its HQ in Swindon, has a growing cyber team of over 200 specialists, drawing successfully from the veteran community.

Other major corporates include the UK Headquarters of Intel, whilst Apple have a presence in the area following the part-acquisition of Dialog Semiconductor, designer of power-management chips in the iPhone and iPad.

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Neighbouring universities provide access to 14% of the UK's mathematics students



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and 11% of computing students. Specific cyber courses are available at nearby universities in Bath, Bristol, Warwick and Cardiff. There is also ongoing cyber collaboration across Universities, Colleges and the Military as they continue to design and refine leading edge courses to meet the needs of the 4th Industrial Revolution as it is becoming known.

Companies move to the area to access the UK Government’s open data platforms that are hosted at the Ark Data Centre in Corsham. A key advantage this offers is a secure and resilient environment to access large data sets that can be developed for commercial purposes.



**Ministry  
of Defence**





## Selection of premises & major sites at competitive prices

A range of incubators, co-working space and 'accelerators' exist across Swindon and Wiltshire at competitive prices compared to neighbours along the M4 corridor.

Average rents for grade A office space are:

- Reading £37 per square feet;
- Bristol £32.50 per square feet;
- Swindon £18.50 per square feet.

(source: Colliers International, National Office Rents Map June 2018)

£2.5 million has been invested in the Corsham Mansion House, with an ultra-fast digital infrastructure to allow firms to start-up and scale-up. The Carriageworks at Swindon, adjacent to the main rail station into London, offers a range of flexible workspace in unusual converted Victorian rail buildings.

Large sites to accommodate design and build options are available. This includes high profile sites along the M4 corridor

such as over 1 million sq ft at Junction 17 and up to 1 million sq ft in Swindon at Symmetry Park.

In addition the Science Museum Group's Innovation campus extends to over 500 acres and boasts one of Europe's largest solar farms, generating 63 mega watts of power.

It is attracting firms requiring access to cost-effective and extensive power, including renewable-energy technology firms such as battery management, electric and autonomous vehicle development and also data centres.

Other key sites include development opportunities adjacent to the operational airfield at Boscombe Down, managed by QinetiQ, focussing on aerospace, defence and security. On-site facilities allow extensive environmental testing, with the likes of avionics rigs, decompression chambers a night vision system test house.





▲  
**Workshed - Swindon's new work space  
for entrepreneurs, pioneers & creative thinkers  
to innovate, connect and grow**



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**Hub for digital and innovation  
opportunities at Corsham Mansion House**





## Bespoke soft landing support

The Swindon and Wiltshire team offers tailored support to relocating and growing companies.

- Bespoke workspace searches;
- Introductions to R&D assets for collaboration and research;
- Recruitment and training advice, including apprenticeships and links to recruitment agencies and training providers;
- Local regulatory support, for example with planning (including a pre pre-application service to scope ideas) and environmental health;
- Networking opportunities to meet potential suppliers and customers;
- Access to a wide-range of relocation and on-going business support;
- Other locality support and advice such as parking, public transport, health centres and schooling;
- Access to an extensive range of support from other partners, such as the Department for International Trade, Chambers of Commerce, UK Research and Innovation.

**For further information please contact:**

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**Swindon & Wiltshire**  
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

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