

Taunton



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Somerset Chamber of Commerce

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Clarke Willmott LLP is a national firm of solicitors providing a broad range of legal services for businesses and individuals. Founded in Taunton over 100 years ago, our teams of lawyers are based in seven offices across the country.

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FIND OUT MORE AT OUR OPEN EVENINGS!

**REGISTER
ONLINE**

Taunton Deane is a low risk investment location, retaining its distinctive character, beautiful environment and a great quality of life.

Already home to many successful businesses across all sectors, Taunton’s pro-business attitude means it’s well on the way to creating 12,000 new jobs and 13,000 new homes by 2028.

It’s a cost competitive location, with first class infrastructure and a well-educated, widely-skilled workforce on the doorstep.

In early 2017, Taunton was awarded Garden Town Status by the Government, becoming one of a very small number of Garden Towns in the UK. The status reflects Taunton’s first class built environment and plans for future growth.

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A UNIQUE OFFERING ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Bridgwater & Taunton College is located in Somerset, in the heart of South West England, and in a strategic position that offers easy access to the rest of the UK via the M5, the rail network, and Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter airports. The College has centres in Bridgwater, Taunton and Cannington, as well as outreach centres in Yeovil and Paignton.

The College has one of the broadest curricula of any school or college in the United Kingdom, offering 993 qualifications at all levels of study, from entry level programmes right through to full Honours Degrees. It is one of only a few colleges, outside the private sector to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

The College's overall success rates exceed national averages and place the College firmly in the top 10% of colleges in the country.

In 2014/15, success rates at A Level reached an impressive 99.4%, with an 88% success rate for all Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeships across the College.



Recently, the College was awarded a highly prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education.

This recognised the local, regional and national impact of the College's partnership work with employers to provide skills training.

FIND OUT
MORE!

BRIDGWATER CENTRE

Bath Road
Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 4PZ
01278 455464
info@bridgwater.ac.uk | www.bridgwater.ac.uk

TAUNTON CENTRE

Wellington Road
Taunton, Somerset TA1 5AX
01823 366366
enquiries@somerset.ac.uk | www.somerset.ac.uk

CANNINGTON CENTRE

Rodway Hill
Cannington
Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LS
01278 455464
info@bridgwater.ac.uk | www.bridgwater.ac.uk

YEOVIL CENTRE

Lufton College
Yeovil, Somerset BA22 8ST
0845 8728895
info@bridgwater.ac.uk | www.bridgwater.ac.uk

PAIGNTON CENTRE

Education Centre, Paignton Zoo
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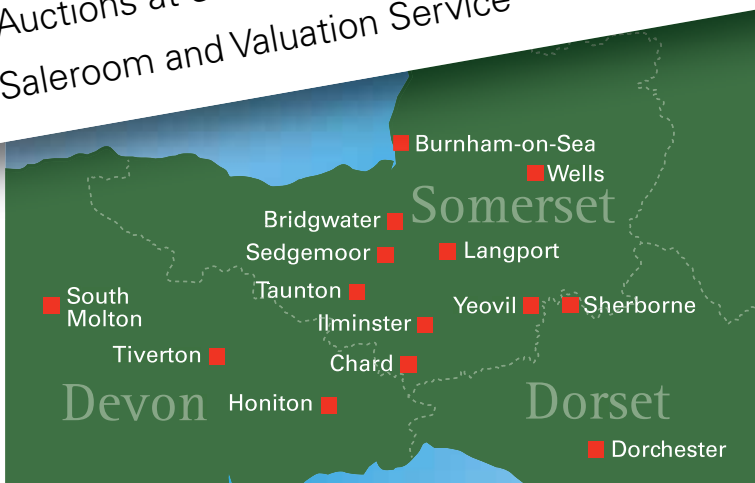
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The Key To Fine Living



West country housebuilder Strongvox Homes, is going from strength to strength with a growing reputation for creating exceptional homes for discerning buyers looking for the ultimate in stylish living in some of the finest locations in the South West.

The private company, with its headquarters in Taunton, currently employs over 50 staff under the leadership of Managing Director Toby Ballard. Since being established in 2004 the company has built over 1,000 homes across the South West and has ambitious plans to step up the pace and complete 200 homes a year by the end of 2017.

Strongvox Homes has also attracted national plaudits. It was listed in the prestigious Sunday Times Virgin Fast Track 100 league table of Britain's top private companies with the fastest-growing sales, and showcased in The Daily Telegraph's coverage of 1,000 Companies to Inspire Britain, celebrating the UK's most exciting and dynamic small and medium-sized businesses. Most recently it has been listed in Investec's 2015 Mid Market 100 of Britain's high-performing, innovative, medium-sized companies.

For all the latest sales information visit www.strongvox.co.uk or call **01823 444055**.

Strongvox Homes' success is in building beautifully designed, large, traditional homes of quality and distinction, in exceptional locations where people will enjoy living for years to come.

Strongvox Homes work hard to offer something special. Personal, secure and privately owned, their ethos is to build individual homes and communities throughout the West Country in which people will enjoy living for many years to come. All Strongvox homes are carefully and beautifully designed to a high specification, with the emphasis on making each house individual and in harmony with their surroundings. With its impressive portfolio of completed developments from Bristol down to Brixham and from Camelford across to Cerne Abbas, Strongvox Homes are now selling in several highly desirable new sites across the South West.

New developments

Current developments in Somerset are **Castle Fields** located at Dunster Beach, close to the medieval village of Dunster and within easy reach of Minehead and Exmoor, also **Ellicombe Gardens** in Minehead with stunning views across the Bristol Channel. Sites coming soon include **Manor Lawns** at North Curry near Taunton with 30 new properties and prices from £285,000; **Hayes End** is a new, select development of 5 bedroom detached and affordable homes in the picturesque woodland village of West Hill in Devon with an arts and craft themed design; **Moonhill Copse** is a unique development of bungalows in the charming hamlet of West Clyst near Exeter; also near Exeter, in Pinhoe, is **Expression**, a development of contemporary apartments and houses available from 2017; and finally **Heritage Mill** in Wellington with apartments, coach houses and houses also available from 2017.





CASTLE FIELDS

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MANOR LAWNS

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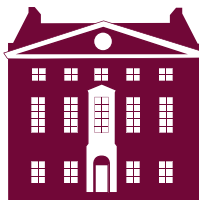
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What to do...
Where to go...
How to get there...

request your welcome pack

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TAUNTON
Visitor Centre

INTRODUCTION

A major regional centre, attracting and growing businesses in all sectors. Multi award-winning open spaces, spectacular surrounding countryside and a thriving town centre which showcases a mix of independent and national retailers, Taunton has what it takes to really boost your business.

Taunton is a well-established investment location with organisations such as Debenhams, Relyon, Swallowfield, RIGID, the UK Hydrographic Office, Viridor and many more already calling it home.

The planned dualling of the A358 between Ilminster and Taunton, along with the imminent improvement to its M5 junction, will support Taunton in reaching its full economic potential.

The new Junction 25 will enable direct access to a new 25 hectare employment site, set in a quality, green environment and creating up to 4,000 jobs across a range of high value business sectors. At Junction 26 the build out of Westpark, a mixed-use business park in excess of 16 hectares, continues apace, offering first class accommodation for a new community of businesses.

WELL CONN

Superfast Broadband • First
New Roads and Infra

MORE COMP

CONNECTED

Class Rail Links
structure

82.3%

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY RATE

Higher than the UK average



6,000 CONSTRUCTION JOBS

Hinkley Point C • Europe's Biggest Infrastructure Project • £18bn Investment
• Major Employment and Supply Chain Opportunities

COMPETITIVE



United Kingdom
Hydrographic Office

swallowfield



Relyon
The best facts in the world

SUPERFAST BROADBAND

Exeter 23 mins 

Bristol 35 mins 

Cardiff 1 hr 31 mins 

London 1 hr 44 mins 

Birmingham 2 hrs 5 mins

Manchester 3 hrs 42 mins

CONNECTIVITY

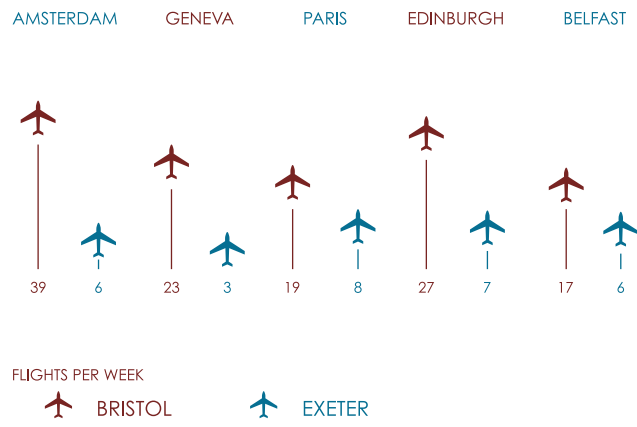
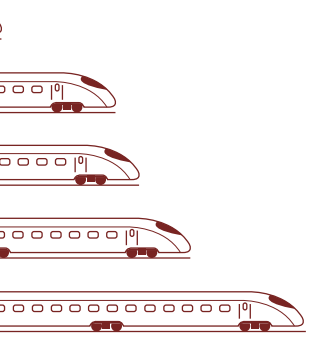
Taunton is nestled cosily in the heart of the West Country but any sense of remoteness is entirely illusionary.



Rail links are first class; from Taunton Station you can be in Paddington in just 1hr 40, Bristol or Exeter in 30 minutes and Birmingham in 2 hours.

Taunton station is undergoing a major improvement and refurbishment programme, providing better customer facilities for customers on the First Great Western services direct to London.

By road, Taunton is currently seeing significant government investment to its network. Investment planned along the A358 and at Junction 25 of the M5 will improve capacity and will open Taunton up as a strategic interchange located at the gateway to the South West.





TOWN CENTRE WIFI

It takes just two and a quarter hours' drive up the M5 to reach Birmingham. More locally, Bristol and Exeter are within easy grasp, the centre of Exeter within 40 minutes and Bristol 60 minutes. Both cities host international airports with destinations throughout the UK and Europe, making Taunton ideally located to benefit exporters, importers, and foreign owned businesses.

And it's not just superfast travel making Taunton well connected. The Borough enjoys superfast broadband and by the end of 2017, 95% of Somerset will be connected.



-  Less than 30 Minutes Drive Time
-  Less than 60 Minutes Drive Time

82.3%

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY RATE

Higher than the UK average

EMPLOYMENT SITES AVAILABLE NOW

ECONOMY

Taunton is in a strong economic situation with a broad existing base of business, and excellent prospects for growth in new industries such as Nuclear and Digital.

A strong and diverse business location, Taunton has a presence of firms in all of the UK's most growing sectors. It is already home to a cluster of national and regional HQs that recognise Taunton's economic strengths and great location, ensuring excellent access globally as well as throughout the UK.

Taunton is proud of its strong technology base, manufacturing and engineering as well as designing and creating new products and processes. Companies such as Advanced Amphenol, ExoTec Precision, and Swallowfield PLC give Taunton an excellent advance manufacturing focus. Also at the forefront of digital technology, Taunton is home to a growing cluster of large and small digi and data-centric businesses, such as Claims Consortium, Western Provident Association, and the UK Hydrographic Office.

GROWING BUSINESS SECTORS 2015-2020 BY GVA

SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL



33.7%

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



33.7%

RETAIL



25.9%

ICT



31.3%



CRIS CADBY IDNOnline

Group Managing Director

'Taunton Deane is a first class location for our business, employing local, highly skilled people, such as IT engineers. With assistance from local authorities and working with the three main colleges, we have been able to access grants, funding and recruit apprentices who play a crucial role in IDNOnline's development.'

And on the doorstep is Hinkley Point C, the largest construction project in Europe, with £18bn of investment over the next few years. Local businesses stand to benefit enormously through supply contracts.

In recent years numerous businesses have grown out of the two local hospitals, the Southwest Pathology Services (SPS) being an excellent example. Set up in 2012, SPS delivers the full range of path services to Taunton and Somerset NHS serving a population of 500,000 and over 100 GP practices.



MORE COMPETITIVE WAGE RATES

LOWER

COMPETITIVE

Taunton offers a great opportunity for businesses relocating out of London and the South East: first class communications links alongside lower wages and property costs. And don't forget the lower cost of a fantastic quality of life.



Many firms have relocated to Taunton to reflect the lower costs of running their business whilst taking advantage of the journey times and infrastructure links. With a journey time of 1 hour 40 minutes by train to London, direct motorway access, and regular flights from Bristol and Exeter airports, Taunton is a stone's throw from most UK and European cities.

One of the biggest overheads for business can be staffing; with wage rates being considerably lower than neighbouring Exeter and Bristol, employers in Taunton can reduce their wage bill with no compromise to the strength and diversity of their



Get out of the rat race, cut your costs, and relocate to Taunton.

RETAIL RENTALS

labour force, from entry-level apprenticeships through to degree level specialists.

The same applies to commercial property costs. Whether it's office, industrial or retail property Taunton's costs are significantly lower than locations further up the M5 and along the M4.

Yet demand for property remains strong and developers are continuing to supply new stock on a speculative as well as bespoke basis.

But Taunton's biggest advantage is the lower cost of living in such a great part of the UK. House prices

are a fraction of those nearer London and the South East, and with super and even ultra-fast broadband becoming common place, families can enjoy all the benefits of living in Taunton but still keep in touch with friends and family elsewhere in the UK and Europe.





**510,
RETAIL**

44%

**OF POPULATION QUALIFIED
TO NVQ₄ OR ABOVE**

PEOPLE

Taunton Deane is a growing and changing area, the fastest growing town in Somerset.

There is a widely skilled, well-educated and extensive working population. Taunton and the other towns and villages that make up Taunton Deane are home to 114,000 people. Just over 82% are workforce active.

The area is witnessing huge population and business growth, much of which is located in homes in the new 'Urban Extensions' located around Taunton and Wellington. The new residents will be welcome newcomers, bringing employees, increased spend, and fresh business ideas to drive our economy forward.

A thriving settlement with a vibrant economy, Taunton offers a terrific community spirit and a shopping central to rival that of any city. Plans for a multi-million pound development on the River Tone 'Firepool',

000 CATCHMENT

SASSI HOLFORD

INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED BRIDAL WEAR DESIGNER

'The town has to be right for my business and lifestyle; Taunton succeeds on both levels. It has great communications, transportation, education facilities and lifestyle.'



will deliver a brand new waterfront community with a vibrant mix of offices, shops and restaurants, a cinema, hotel and new homes and apartments.

With a current estimated 510,000 retail catchment, the addition of Firepool will bring more opportunities and more jobs. The Borough is already home to some national and international high-street giants such as M&S, Waitrose, Fat Face and Next, as well as some well-known eateries and a whole host of home-grown independent traders.

the
brewhouse



COMEDY
ACTIVITIES



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CINEMA



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FAMILY



DANCE
EXHIBITIONS



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Taunton Rethink A Refreshed Vision for Taunton

Railway Station Enhancement

Including new station 'gateway' and ticket office, improved bus and taxi facilities, commercial opportunities and increased parking provision.

Castle Green

Re-landscaped in 2012 to reinstate Taunton's historic green as a space for markets, events & relaxation. A spectacular glass bridge floats the castle moat.

Market House

Refreshed use of the landmark Market House Building.

Firepool

- Mixed use development with leisure, retail, offices, restaurants and residential
- High quality pedestrian connection between Taunton Railway Station & Coal Orchard
- Attractive waterfront environment

Coal Orchard

A new place on the river with town quay, high quality cafés and restaurants, cultural activities and shops.

COMPLETED

COMPLETED

Growing or relocating your

Through **Local Authority Building Control** we can provide: -

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Partnership**

**Two areas of outstanding
natural beauty covering:**

46,900
Hectares

156 
**PARKS AND RECREATION
GARDENS**

QUALITY OF LIFE

There's more to life than work, and Taunton Deane is not only one of the most attractive places to locate to, it offers a unique environment and great quality of life too.

Located between two areas of outstanding natural beauty, The Blackdown and The Quantock Hills, Taunton is genuinely the best-of-all worlds, you can choose from rural, suburban or urban environments and benefit from short easy commutes.

Less than 27 miles from the coast, half an hour's drive from the heart of Exmoor National Park and very near to one of Europe's great wetlands,

The Somerset Levels, Taunton offers a thriving, dynamic cultural life.

Taunton is home to the first class Somerset County Cricket Club, which regularly hosts international cricket as well as county league matches. It is also home to the England women's team.

The area is well supplied with golf courses and tennis clubs, indoor swimming pools and leisure centres. There is a comprehensive selection of high achieving rugby, football, hockey and cycling clubs. If horse racing is more your thing, Taunton Racecourse can provide a thrilling afternoon out.

The Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre and The Brewhouse Theatre offer wonderful performance venues with



HOME TO SOMERSET COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

110,000

Visits annually on match days

outstanding facilities. Both provide the community with a busy year-long programme of performances and classes open to all the family.

Taunton town centre boasts four award-winning public open spaces. These come alive during the summer with festivals, street theatre and the hugely popular Taunton Flower Show. Markets and family events regularly occupy the spaces making the most of the town centre footfall.

As for housing, there's everything on offer from traditional properties in any of the unspoiled village communities to modern, high quality homes being developed across the borough - all within easy access to business and commercial quarters.





50%
OF THE TOP SCHOOLS
ARE IN TAUNTON

EDUCATION

44% of Taunton's working population is qualified to NVQ4 and above, well ahead of the national average – a reflection of its reputation for high-quality state and private education.

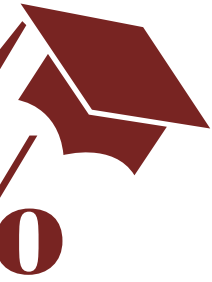
2016 saw the merger of Bridgwater and Somerset Colleges into one institution, named Bridgwater and Taunton College (BTC). The new college builds on the best of each, offering an extensive package of further and higher education focused on the creation of high quality, effective and flexible training solutions that meet employer needs. Plans are well advanced for a new dedicated university, offering degree level qualifications and skills that organisations can thrive upon.

The proposal to build the UK's first nuclear power station in 20 years at Hinkley Point has stimulated unprecedented demand for new construction skills and expertise in Somerset. In a forward-thinking strategy, BTC is working proactively with Hinkley suppliers to maximise the opportunities on offer for local people within the nuclear industry.

Also within Taunton is Richard Huish College, which evolved from Huish's Grammar School, and now offers nearly 70 courses including A Levels and a range of apprenticeships, professional and business qualifications.

State and independent secondary schools

Taunton is also richly endowed with state and independent schools. Taunton School, which opened in 1847, has always been inclusive and broad-minded



SCHOOLS IN SOMERSET

92

DESIGNATED OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES

and in 1973 became one of the first independent schools to accept both sexes.

Queen's College and separately King's College both with a Victorian foundation, encourage pupils to study beyond the constraints of the core curriculum. Both have excellent academic reputations and are renowned for sporting and creative excellence.

Wellington School is regularly the top performing school in Somerset at A-level. It boasts a first-rate music department and outstanding sports coaching. Within the state sector, The Castle School has established an enviable record of academic success over many years and has been the recipient of several awards in recognition of this.



NEXT STEPS

At Taunton Deane Borough Council we put businesses first, providing a confidential, professional service to support you, whatever stage your business is at in its evolution.

If you're looking to build your business or invest in Taunton we will work alongside you to provide comprehensive support, enabling your business growth, providing useful information and context to guide your business decisions.

We can provide:

- Property solutions
- Recruitment
- Relocation research resources
- Business and marketing development
- Finance and mentoring support
- Overcoming obstacles
- Supply chain information
- Networking

Taunton 

**TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL
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Skills and
Innovation
Centre

CSIC, Rodway, Cannington, near Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LS
T: 01278 655004 E: csic@bridgwater.ac.uk



Training tomorrow's workforce

Bridgwater College has recently merged with neighbouring Somerset College to form Bridgwater & Taunton College, and the educational offer of the combined organisation is hugely diverse.

The positive decision on Hinkley Point C will provide a huge boost for people locally as they start to plan their future careers, and the College have been highly proactive in harnessing the investments being made in our region. Our early partnership work with EDF Energy and its supply chain has resulted in massive public and private investment in bespoke facilities and new curricula. These programmes, delivered in 'live', industry-standard training environments, address the specific skills gaps that employers identify, whilst also enabling learners to experience and understand workplace safety, cultures and behaviours at first hand.

One of these unique facilities is the College's Construction Skills and Innovation Centre (CSIC) in Cannington. Groundwork, steel

fixing, construction plant and lifting operations, deep excavation, civil engineering, and water utilities are taught.

CSIC was built in partnership with EDF Energy, delivering quality training so that business can secure and guarantee construction projects now and in the future.

Achieving the highly prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize in the 2015/16 round, this award recognised the local, regional and national impact of the College's partnership work with employers to put in place the skills training that industry needs, particularly in relation to the nuclear new build at Hinkley Point C, where it has successfully engaged with a wide range of stakeholders. The College was also named Sedgemoor Large Business of the Year and TES FE College of the Year in 2016.

To discuss the opportunities available for training and skills for your business, contact our dedicated Business Development team on 01278 655004 or email csic@bridgwater.ac.uk

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IT'S LOCAL TAUNTON DEANE ONLINE BUSINESS DIRECTORY



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- ✓ Market your business for **FREE!**
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 /tauntondeanebc

 @TDBC

www.tauntondeane.gov.uk

'It's Local' is an online business directory, built for today's mobile generation, that accompanies this Taunton Deane Business Guide.

At **itslocal Taunton Deane** you can find business services by keyword or company name. It is fully integrated with Google maps, directions and Streetview and includes direct links to businesses' websites and social media including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google+ and Youtube.

The service can also be accessed from mobiles and tablets by sending a text message **4Taunton** to **88802**. The service is dynamic, sending device-appropriate pages to mobiles, tablets, laptops, desktops and Smart TVs.

Register your business at www.itslocaltauntondeane.co.uk and click on the **Add Company** link.

Notes:

1. 'its local Taunton Deane' is compatible with most web browsers, including Google Chrome, Firefox and Microsoft Internet Explorer (version 9 and above).
2. When accessing the service via mobile or tablet, there is no charge for the text message beyond your telecom provider's rate.

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We've served Taunton and the surrounding areas in Somerset for the past eight years.

Successfully led by Branch Manager, Rosie Broom and her team of five staff, who cover a wide spectrum of local industry sectors recruiting for both temporary and permanent positions.

The team have excellent local knowledge and clients include Skin Care Sanctuary, Taunton Deane Borough Council and UK Hydrographic office.

The team has a functional database of more than 200 candidates actively seeking employment; from which they place, on average, 150 per week on temporary assignments, as well as placing seven per month into permanent positions.

Our objective is to ensure that the conditions are right for the businesses which employ its

candidates thus allowing both candidate and business to flourish. For example, a new £24.5bn nuclear power station at Hinkley Point in Somerset is to go ahead after it received final approval from European Union regulators.

Our objective is to ensure that candidates and clients both flourish.

The nuclear sector has large economic and employment multipliers meaning that a swathe of indirect and induced jobs will be created. The baseline level of employment in Somerset County as a whole is expected in 2019, to be close to 279,000 jobs. By 2020, the level of total employment in the county is forecast to be 1,300

net jobs higher under the Hinkley Point C scenario than the baseline; by 2030, the differential could rise to 2,900 net jobs.

The majority of people in Taunton/Somerset (15.3%) are employed in skilled trades, compared to 10.7% nationally; also the area has a higher share of employment in high-technology manufacturing than the England average.

A skilled and well-qualified workforce is a fundamental requirement for a competitive and prosperous region - there is a strong link between skills and employment. At Cordant People we understand that every organisation needs a constant supply of candidates with the necessary skills because this is the foundation of business success.



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TAUNTON RACECOURSE is the perfect venue whether you are organising a day at the races, a conference or even a wedding. Whatever your requirements, we at Taunton Racecourse are dedicated to helping make your event a great success.

There can be no better way of entertaining your clients than to invite them to your company's own race day and let them experience the thrill and excitement of the race, or simply entertaining your family and friends.



WEDDINGS

Taunton Racecourse is beautifully situated in the heart of the West Somerset countryside. The unique atmosphere and panoramic views across the racecourse to the Blackdown Hills make it the perfect location for your special day. Taunton Racecourse not only holds a licence for civil marriages, but we specialise in catering for wedding breakfasts, evening wedding parties, receptions and dinner dances.

EVENTS

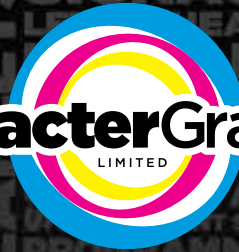
Taunton Racecourse is an easily accessible, picturesque location in which to hold your outdoor event. We have played host to large variety of events from car and caravan rallies to re-enacts of English Civil War battles.

We have over 135 acres available with parking for more than a thousand cars and the events area can be used together with the accommodation in the Racecourse stands if required.

CONFERENCES

The racecourse is only two miles from the M5 (junction 25) and a five-minute drive from the centre of Taunton. Taunton Racecourse is well sign posted from both the M5 and Taunton town centre. Our two fully self-sufficient stands, the Orchard and Paddock Stands, have a range of rooms available with business facilities and can accommodate from 12 to 350 delegates in different layouts and are the ideal setting for conferences and seminars.

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We're frequently on the look out for customer-focused individuals to join our busy teams in Culmhead and Taunton.

Callum Hacker, 2016 winner of Claims Handler of the Year at our annual staff and supplier awards said,

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Callum Hacker with Debbie Mawer
and Jeremy Hyams

