

invest in east lothian

Edinburgh's Coast & Countryside



Play



East Lothian, a near neighbour to Edinburgh, is a great choice for business, investors and families.

Beautiful coast and countryside, attractive and distinctive towns, good quality housing, schools and services.

All these factors contribute to East Lothian being a prosperous place in which to do business.

Many businesses have already chosen to locate here – could you be next? Read on for more information about why East Lothian could be the perfect place for you to live and work.



Proud to live,
learn, work
and play in
East Lothian.

Play



More than 100,000 people call East Lothian home and with over 40 miles of stunning coastline, golden beaches, rolling countryside, award-winning attractions, excellent food & drink and the world's finest links golf courses, you can see why!

It may feel like a million miles away, but we're only minutes from Edinburgh and have easy access to the rest of Scotland.

East Lothian offers the complete package.



East Lothian is not only a great place to visit, it's a great place to live and work.

We enjoy the sunniest climate in Scotland, great local produce, excellent schools and spectacular natural beauty which encourages year round recreational opportunities including cycling, walking, golfing, surfing, sailing and water sports – all just a stone's throw from Scotland's capital city.



Economic Development



In East Lothian we understand the importance of a strong local economy and are committed to both attracting and retaining businesses within the county.

East Lothian's Economic Development Strategy identifies opportunities that can support economic growth in the county.

The strategy highlights East Lothian's key strengths, such as location, skilled workforce, quality of life and economic development support.

This makes it an exciting time to join East Lothian as it becomes Scotland's most sustainable economy.

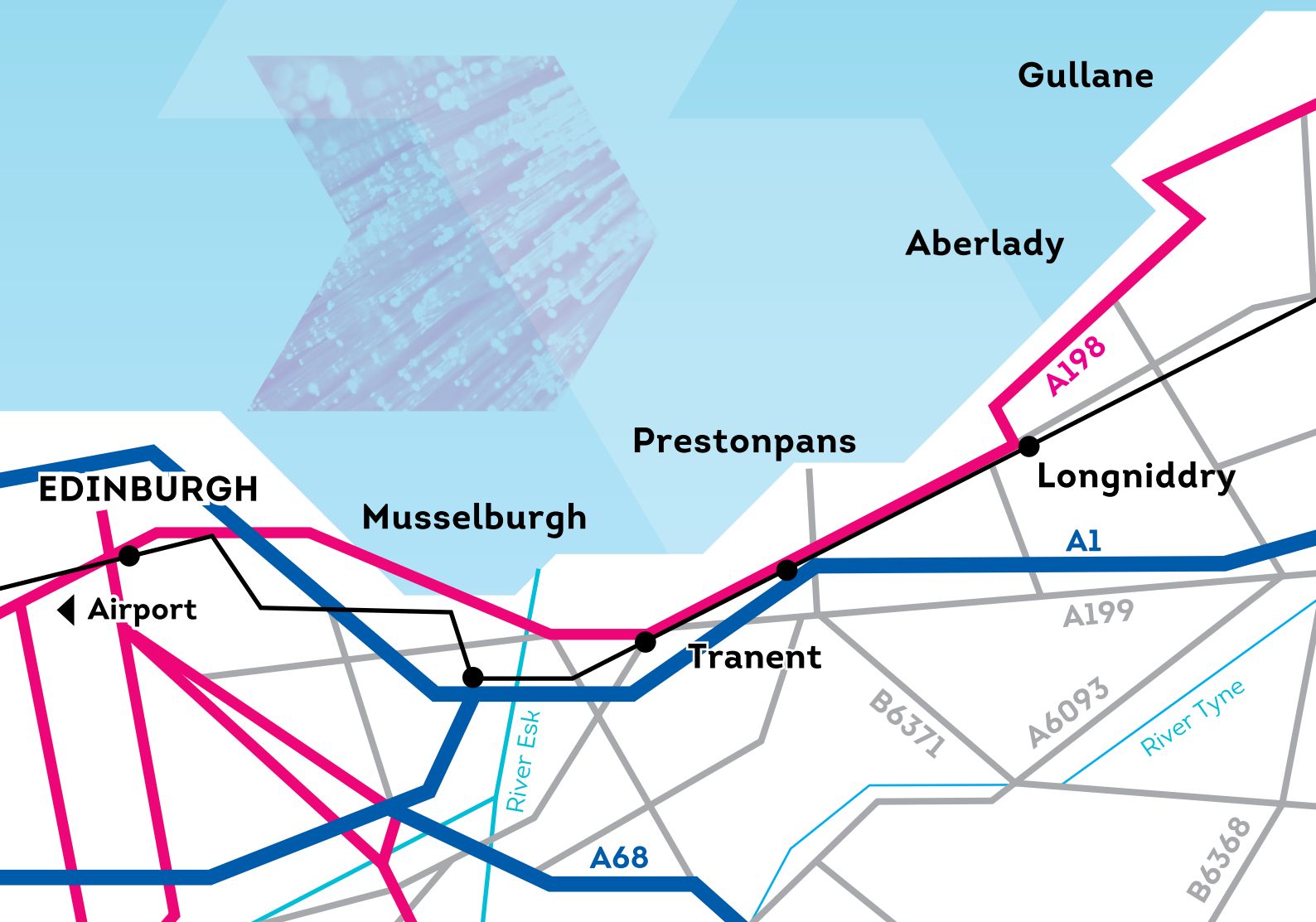


Connecting

One of the great advantages of locating a business in East Lothian is how accessible we are.

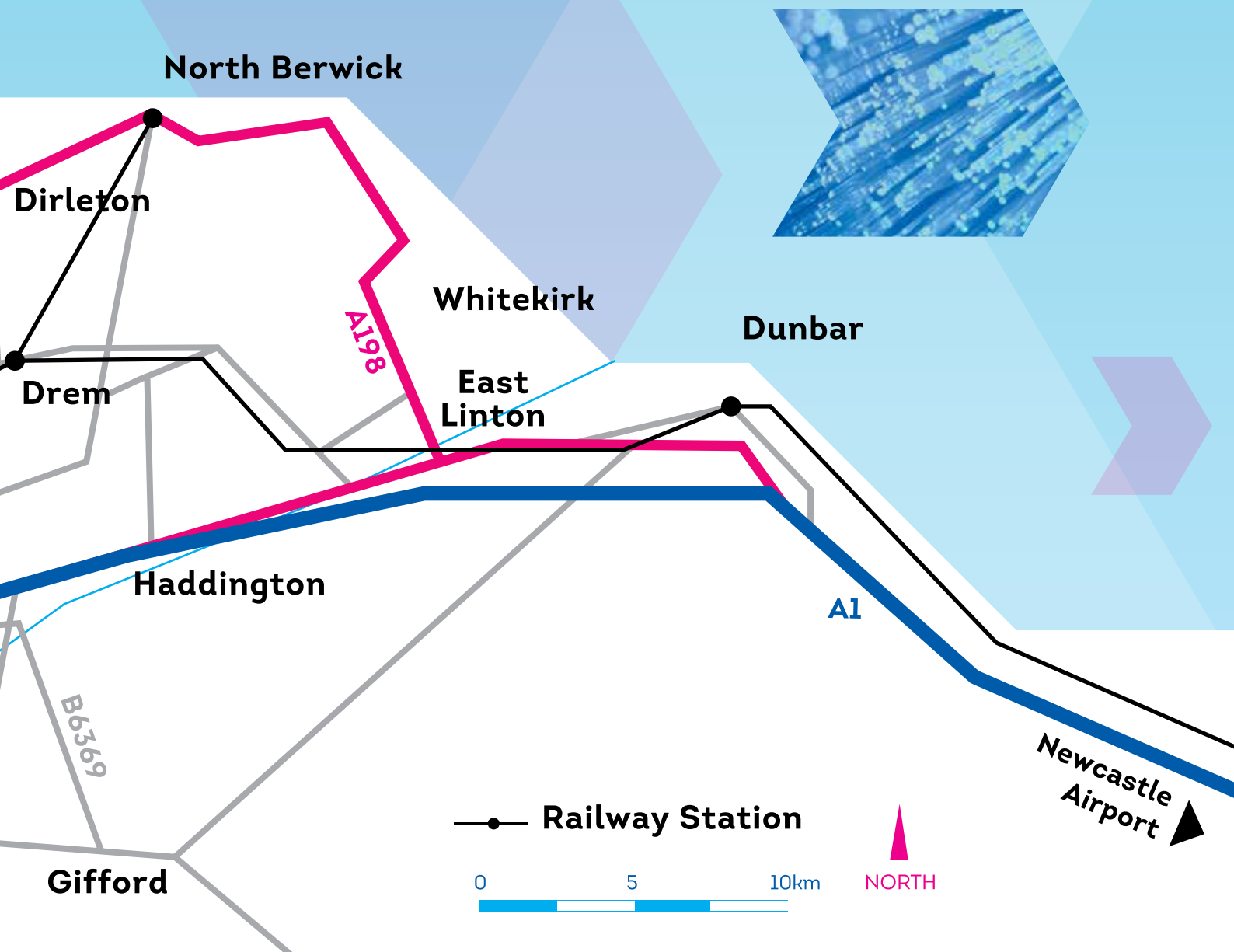
Getting here couldn't be easier: good access to trains, close to major road networks and easy access to national and international flights.

Only 30 minutes drive from Edinburgh airport with many flights across Europe, the United States, the Middle East and onward. By road the links are excellent with easy access to the A1 direct to London, the A68, the M8 and onto the rest of the UK.



Dunbar is served by the Main East Coast Line allowing travel from London in less than 4 hrs 20 mins. There are frequent train services connecting many of the towns and villages direct to Edinburgh.

Connecting digitally is a high priority for East Lothian Council. By 2017, Digital Scotland is aiming for 95% of premises to have access to fibre broadband. East Lothian is meeting this goal with many towns already provided with superfast broadband.



Talent



East Lothian enjoys quality provision of education, with the option of both state and private schools. We are committed to ensuring our young people achieve their potential and local schools regularly feature highly in exam attainment tables.

Queen Margaret University in Musselburgh offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses in the areas of healthcare; drama and the creative industries; media, communications and sociology as well as business

and enterprise. There are also a number of continuing professional development courses. The university also supports businesses of all sizes, from encouraging start-ups through its on-campus Business Gateway presence, to carrying out research for larger companies. They specialise in food and drink, creative industries and sustainable business.

East Lothian is also within easy reach of Edinburgh's many top-rated universities and colleges.

Knowledge, experience, training and desire to succeed coupled with enviable surroundings and quality of life position East Lothian firmly on the map as 'the place to do business'.



A strong educational foundation bolstered by vocational training provides upcoming talent to stimulate and refresh the local economy. We support graduates and school leavers through internships and training programmes to retain their invaluable skills within the county.

East Lothian Works employability service is also available to support both jobseekers and employers with recruitment, retention and progression of staff.



- 1 Edinburgh Napier University
- 2 University of Edinburgh
- 3 Queen Margaret University
- 4 Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) Edinburgh Campus
- 5 Heriot-Watt University Edinburgh Campus
- 6 Heriot-Watt University Scottish Borders Campus

Case Studies

Black & Gold

Our family have been farming in East Lothian for over 150 years, but it wasn't until the harvest of 2010 that we launched our Black & Gold cold pressed rapeseed oil. We are really proud of our product, which has gone from strength to strength. Top chefs such as Stuart Muir, Executive chef of Harvey Nichols 4th Floor restaurant, are now using our oil.

We have been supported throughout this business journey by East Lothian Council's Economic Development Department who understood the needs of a developing micro-business. They, along with Scotland Food and Drink, introduced us to Queen Margaret University, as we had some specific questions about our oil.

How good was it nutritionally? And what happened to its properties when cooking with it? Working with QMU completely changed preconceptions we had about the oil and using evidence-based marketing we have been able to accurately inform our consumers not only about the health benefits of rapeseed oil but also its versatility in the cooking environment.

We have attended trade and consumer shows such as the sell-out RHS and BBC Good Food Show with the support of East Lothian Food and Drink and, for a new business, this has been invaluable exposure to the food industry and allowed engagement with our customers throughout Scotland.

www.blackandgoldoil.co.uk



Had Fab

We are steel fabricators predominantly working in the electricity field, based in East Lothian since 1946. We employ over 80 members of staff with a huge range of skills, from design engineers and Cad operators to CNC machine operators and welders.

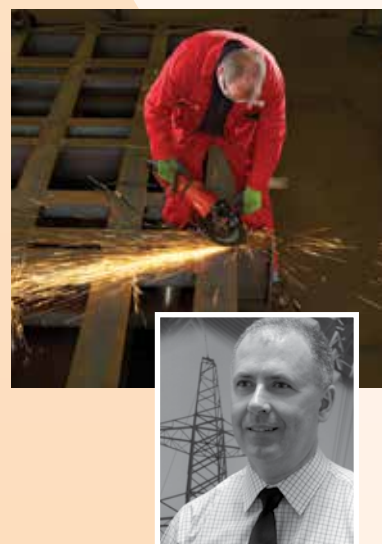
As well as our main sector of work, we have been involved in art projects, for example the challenging 'Crouching Man' project with London-based artist, Antony Gormley. He had an interest in pylons, and wondered what we could make for him. We manufactured the crouching man sculpture for Antony, which is a complex structure weighing in excess of 40 tonnes, made from angles with complex geometry and nodes where as many as 27 angles all join together. The sculpture is permanently on show in the Dutch town of Lelystad, 30 kilometres south of Amsterdam.

In East Lothian, we have great links on the A1 for transportation of materials, whether that's to the north of Scotland or to the south of England. Our work is varied so being easily accessible to national and international customers is very important to us.

Just 30 minutes from Edinburgh Airport, it was easy for our international clients to come to our facilities. We recently had a client from Brazil. When he arrived at our facilities and looked at the work we did for Antony Gormley he said *"If you can do that, you can do our work."* Getting him through the door was enough to seal the deal.

And it's a wonderful place to live. In just 15 minutes you can be on the beach, in the hills or even in the centre of Edinburgh.

www.hadfab.co.uk



Foxlake Adventures

Here at Foxlake Adventures, we are Scotland's first cable wakeboarding park along with the UK's only ropes course constructed over water. We are located in the heart of East Lothian, nestled in small, stunning woodland on the edge of the newly re-launched John Muir Way.

We have a team of about 20 staff who all work tremendously hard throughout the year to deliver the very best customer care and coaching in the country while creating a truly unique experience and atmosphere down at Foxlake.

We like to think Foxlake forms part of an ever increasing, diverse and dynamic group of new businesses spanning a number of sectors from food & drink

to outdoor adventure developing in the county and we are proud of it!

My perfect day in East Lothian would start with a bacon sandwich using the freshest local produce while looking out at the stunning views at the coast. The ideal set-up for a cycle out on my road bike to Foxlake for a quick wakeboard set followed by a ride into the hills to Spott, Stenton and Gifford. Back home, and smartened up, I would head out for a three course meal at one of the many restaurants across the county where you can sample the finest seasonal produce.

Ending the evening – your options are endless for a quality local night cap. Can you have a better day anywhere else in Scotland?

www.foxlake.co.uk



Thistly Cross

As an East Lothian-based cidemaker, we at Thistly Cross are proud to use real fruit in our award-winning ciders. We mature our ciders here in East Lothian for a minimum of six months. This creates a fuller, rounder flavour, which is proving successful in the UK and across the world.

We make six core varieties – Traditional, Original, Elderflower, Ginger, our latest best seller, a Whisky Cask cider, which is matured in Glen Moray whisky casks, and with our home grown berries – Strawberry!

In fact it was a glut of berries a few years ago that led to us to

experimenting with turning the extra fruit into cider, all grown and picked on our fruit farm. And we haven't looked back since.

We're delighted to have been assisted by East Lothian Council through East Lothian Food & Drink. Their help has allowed us to attend various events across the UK, opening up different markets for Thistly Cross and introducing us to a whole new set of customers. We make our cider with passion and integrity, supporting and working with local businesses whenever we can, and we're proud to be based in the heart of the East Lothian countryside.

www.thistlycrosscider.co.uk





East Lothian is open for business

With an expected population growth rate of 12% by 2022, East Lothian is well placed to meet the demands and opportunities that such growth will bring

Our approach is based on partnership and by understanding your business needs we can work with you to help your new business become established or help your existing business grow.

East Lothian Works is a one-stop-shop which brings together services for employers, business owners and those looking for employment.

Key partners available to offer guidance include; East Lothian Council, Business Gateway, Job Centre Plus, Skills Development Scotland, and local higher and further education institutions.



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We assist individuals looking for jobs, training and skills development, helping entrepreneurs set up in business and aiding employers in finding the right staff for their enterprise. As well as being a source of advice for businesses, the centre can also signpost to any funding available, which can be an invaluable resource when starting out, relocating or expanding.



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east lothian
works



We'd love to hear from you and to help you bring your business to East Lothian or grow your existing enterprise.

You can contact us via eastlothian.gov.uk/invest or email economicdevelopment@eastlothian.gov.uk or phone **01620 827282**.

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