

Land Use in Kent Local Authorities as at 2005

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Land Use Statistics (Generalised Land Use 2005) were produced by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and published by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). They are experimental statistics and should be used as an estimate only.

The statistics present the distribution of land by type across nine simplified categories that fall within the local authority defined area.

Data in this bulletin will help to inform and monitor housing policy and strategies as well as support the development and delivery of sustainable communities.

Headline information

- The administrative area of Kent is 392,024 hectares. (KCC area 362,235 hectares and Medway Unitary area 29,789 hectares). This includes an element of water areas. For example reservoirs and estuaries such as The Swale and River Medway. The total water area is 23,121 hectares.
- 85% of the land area in Kent (KCC area) is greenspace. This is the same as the South East region. The next largest category is domestic gardens which account for almost 6% of the land area.
- Less than 2% of Kent (KCC area) is covered by buildings (Domestic buildings 1.2% and non domestic buildings 0.6%).
- About 2.5% of the Kent (KCC area) is devoted to transportation (road and rail uses). This is above the national average of 2.3%.

Further information

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Summary.

- In geographical area terms the largest local authority district in the county is Ashford covering an area of 580,390 thousand square metres (58,039 hectares). The smallest district is Dartford with 80,148 thousand square metres (8,014 hectares). Swale is the second largest district with 414,217 thousand square metres. However this local authority does include 46,719 thousand square metres of water (The Swale and River Medway estuaries).
- Dartford (8,014hectares) and Thanet (11,070 hectares) are two of the smallest districts in area and both have a high percentage of land area classified as roads, 5.6% and 5.1% respectively. The average for England is 2.3%, the South East region 2.6% and Kent 2.5%.
- 85% of the land area in Kent (KCC area) is greenspace. This is the same as the South East region. The next largest category is domestic gardens which account for 6% of the land area.
- Six Kent districts are above the regional greenspace figure of 84.7%. Within Kent Ashford district has most greenspace with 91% this is followed by Shepway (88%), Tunbridge Wells (88%), Dover (87%), Maidstone (87%) and Sevenoaks (86%). The average for England is 87%.
- Thanet district has the least amount of greenspace, 67% of the district land area is classified as greenspace. Not surprisingly as it is a relatively small district and as if to compensate for this 11% of the district is classified as domestic gardens. Although it should be noted that only 47% of Medway Unitary Authority is classified as greenspace. However 41% of Medway UA is classified as water, by far the largest area of water within any Kent authority area.
- Note: $10,000\text{m}^2 = 1$ hectare
1 hectare = 2.4711 acres
100 hectares = 1 kilometre²

Table 1

Kent Districts: Land Use as total land area in district as at 2005

Source: National Land Use Statistics

	Total Area of All Land Types	Domestic Buildings	Non Domestic Buildings	Road	Path	Rail	Domestic Gardens	Greenspace	Water	Other Land Uses	Unclassified Land	Admin Geography
Area in Square metres (m2) (thousands)												
Ashford	580,398.90	3,778.18	2,455.82	8,812.27	337.21	1,270.27	23,027.42	528,173.00	6,624.61	5,918.52	1.6	580,617.22
Canterbury	320,790.76	4,358.22	1,849.83	7,713.70	444.42	519.75	19,673.31	266,785.67	15,437.27	4,005.04	3.55	320,884.12
Dartford	80,147.77	2,330.12	1,439.92	4,489.56	258.78	267.35	8,210.94	50,761.93	8,640.52	3,748.04	0.62	76,314.45
Dover	320,395.57	3,339.25	1,768.70	6,829.65	291.44	502.4	15,212.22	279,584.18	7,431.42	5,431.57	4.74	320,612.86
Gravesham	100,504.88	2,502.00	1,139.50	3,990.27	178.53	517.57	10,159.53	77,602.86	1,859.40	2,554.25	0.98	104,956.54
Maidstone	393,411.08	4,629.78	2,609.35	9,407.09	440.01	821.02	23,150.13	343,315.69	3,442.13	5,584.06	11.82	393,350.65
Sevenoaks	370,004.15	4,046.87	1,779.70	9,118.89	382.17	548.02	26,597.69	318,342.66	4,636.18	4,472.09	79.88	370,336.22
Shepway	360,499.76	3,383.30	1,642.95	7,228.07	270.87	1,145.48	14,626.80	318,240.52	10,073.41	3,887.97	0.4	365,246.27
Swale	414,217.13	3,884.84	2,490.69	7,839.41	319.15	565.88	15,576.80	330,670.29	46,719.66	6,150.31	0.1	422,095.68
Thanet	110,705.55	3,803.35	1,532.24	5,675.96	318.46	360	12,448.80	73,967.11	8,385.80	4,213.60	0.23	112,328.74
Tonbridge & Malling	240,517.29	3,460.03	2,143.84	7,480.71	345.83	468.11	18,063.29	199,098.54	4,749.90	4,706.44	0.6	240,984.25
Tunbridge Wells	330,764.70	3,346.28	1,863.90	6,244.03	284.9	200.89	20,072.05	291,216.56	3,317.49	4,218.61	0	331,328.48
Kent (KCC area)	3,622,357.54	42,862.22	22,716.44	84,829.61	3,871.77	7,186.74	206,818.98	3,077,759.01	121,317.79	54,890.50	104.52	3,639,055.48
Medway	297,898.26	6,095.27	3,142.70	8,988.61	686.19	485.99	20,933.35	139,200.03	109,909.45	8,452.71	3.97	268,857.09
South East	19,386,997.03	255,769.79	126,666.74	474,115.10	24,400.77	27,916.47	1,202,344.53	16,442,704.44	527,873.24	304,993.59	212.36	19,412,971.66
England	132,323,721.60	1,507,704.90	868,948.76	2,949,587.87	143,436.17	179,349.95	5,645,140.41	115,741,625.40	3,436,199.04	1,850,204.61	1,524.56	133,037,283.00

Figure 1 (For use with table 1)

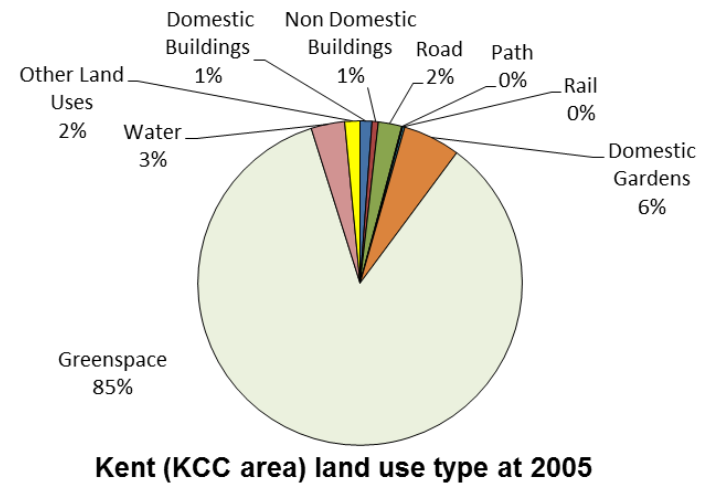
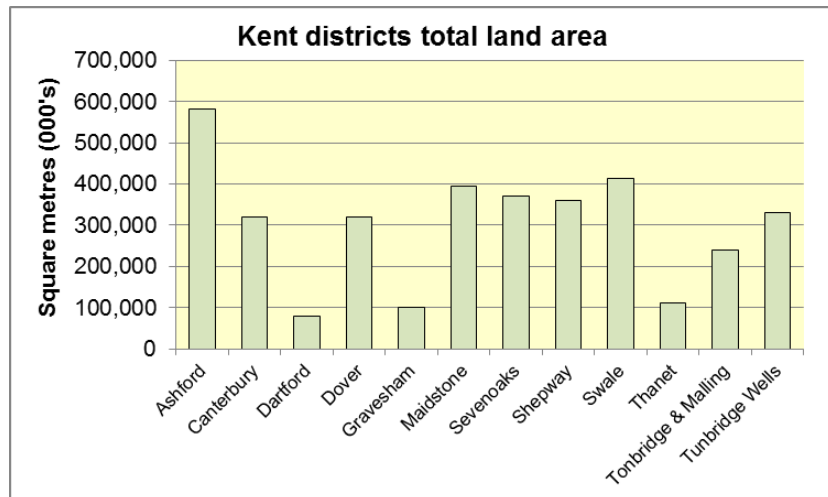


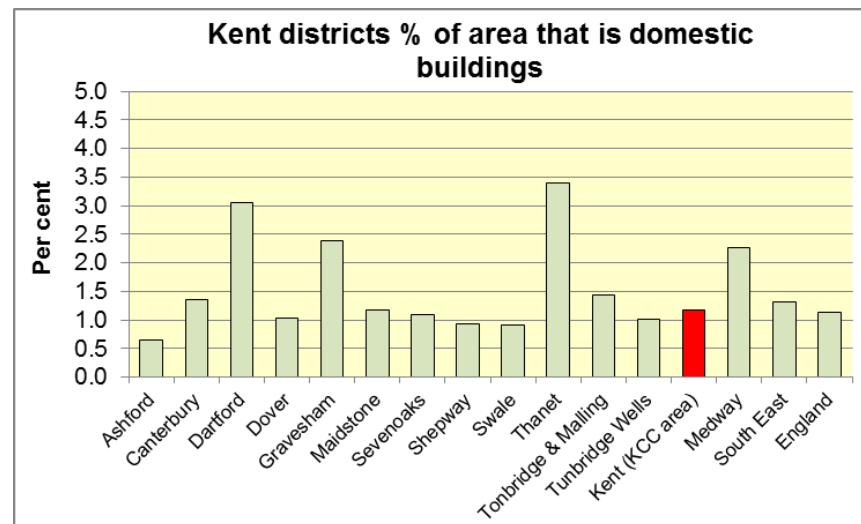
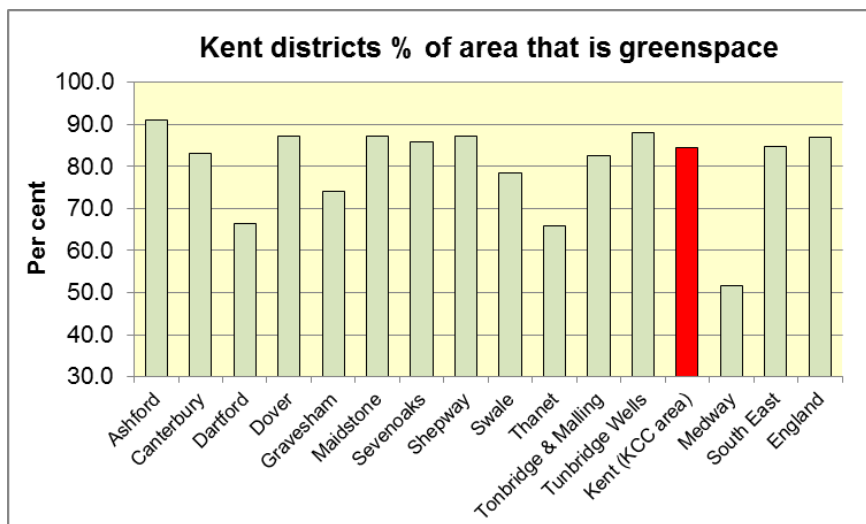
Table 2

Kent Districts: Land Use as a % of total land area in district as at 2005

Source: National Land Use Statistics

	Total Area of All Land Types;	Domestic Buildings	Non Domestic Buildings	Road	Path	Rail	Domestic Gardens	Greenspace	Water	Other Land Uses	Unclassified Land	Admin Geography
Area in Square metres (m2) (thousands) as a % of local authority area												
Ashford	99.962	0.651	0.423	1.518	0.058	0.219	3.966	90.968	1.141	1.019	0.000	100.00
Canterbury	99.971	1.358	0.576	2.404	0.138	0.162	6.131	83.141	4.811	1.248	0.001	100.00
Dartford	105.023	3.053	1.887	5.883	0.339	0.350	10.759	66.517	11.322	4.911	0.001	100.00
Dover	99.932	1.042	0.552	2.130	0.091	0.157	4.745	87.203	2.318	1.694	0.001	100.00
Gravesham	95.759	2.384	1.086	3.802	0.170	0.493	9.680	73.938	1.772	2.434	0.001	100.00
Maidstone	100.015	1.177	0.663	2.392	0.112	0.209	5.885	87.280	0.875	1.420	0.003	100.00
Sevenoaks	99.910	1.093	0.481	2.462	0.103	0.148	7.182	85.960	1.252	1.208	0.022	100.00
Shepway	98.700	0.926	0.450	1.979	0.074	0.314	4.005	87.130	2.758	1.064	0.000	100.00
Swale	98.133	0.920	0.590	1.857	0.076	0.134	3.690	78.340	11.068	1.457	0.000	100.00
Thanet	98.555	3.386	1.364	5.053	0.284	0.320	11.082	65.849	7.465	3.751	0.000	100.00
Tonbridge & Malling	99.806	1.436	0.890	3.104	0.144	0.194	7.496	82.619	1.971	1.953	0.000	100.00
Tunbridge Wells	99.830	1.010	0.563	1.885	0.086	0.061	6.058	87.894	1.001	1.273	0.000	100.00
Kent (KCC area)	99.541	1.178	0.624	2.331	0.106	0.197	5.683	84.576	3.334	1.508	0.003	100.00
Medway	110.802	2.267	1.169	3.343	0.255	0.181	7.786	51.775	40.880	3.144	0.001	100.00
South East	99.866	1.318	0.652	2.442	0.126	0.144	6.194	84.700	2.719	1.571	0.001	100.00
England	99.464	1.133	0.653	2.217	0.108	0.135	4.243	86.999	2.583	1.391	0.001	100.00

Figure 2 (For use with table 2)



Background information

Land Use Statistics (Generalised Land Use 2005) are presented by the Department of Communities and Local Government as experimental statistics and should be used as an estimate only. However the results are thought to be accurate to 10m². Users should note that due to improvements the 2005 edition should not be compared with the earlier 2001 database. The statistics are published by the Office for National Statistics.

These statistics have been created via a computerised process. A classification has been developed which allocates all identifiable land features on Ordnance Survey MasterMap into nine simplified land categories and an additional 'unclassified' category. These are: domestic buildings, non-domestic buildings, roads, paths, rail, gardens (domestic), green space, water, other land uses (largely hardstanding), and unclassified. Although not suitable for comparisons with the 2001 release it does provide a basis for comparing categories across districts and regions.

Checks and tests were undertaken to ensure the correct categories were allocated to the correct land parcels and these came out with a less than 5% error of fit. The area causing most problems was defining the difference between non domestic and domestic buildings. However the level of accuracy achieved is appropriate for the experimental purposes of the data.

It is a simple classification based on output areas. These are calculated first, then aggregated to produce larger geographies. However not all map polygons fit the output areas, roads, railways and water features are a case in point.

The data is presented in thousands of metres squared (000m²), to 2 decimal places. The statistics are therefore accurate to the nearest 10m². Where there is no area of a given land type, a zero is shown in the cell. Where the area of a particular land type is not zero, but is less than 5m², this is shown by a dash (-) in the cell.

Further more detailed information is available from the Department of Communities and Local Government.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-land-use-change-statistics>