

# UK Life Sciences Real Estate Q2 2022





# Welcome to Linesight's guide to the UK life sciences real estate market

Designed to provide an overview of the burgeoning UK life sciences real estate market.

This guide is intended for anyone interested in expanding into the UK life sciences real estate market, including investors, architects, developers, owners, agents or occupiers.

This high-level comprehensive guide provides market statistics, drivers for growth, definitions, considerations, indicative costs and terminology used within this market to better inform those wishing to enter this exciting market.

If you want to explore this sector in more detail, please contact Priya Shah, Giles Heather or Natalia Gospodinova.



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## MARKET STATISTICS



**2.4% of  
UK GDP**

targeted to be invested in life science R&D by 2027. <sup>1</sup>



**61%**  
↑ 2020  
2021

**£2.4bn**  
investment into the UK LSRE sector for 2021. This represents a growth of 61% from £1.5bn the previous year.

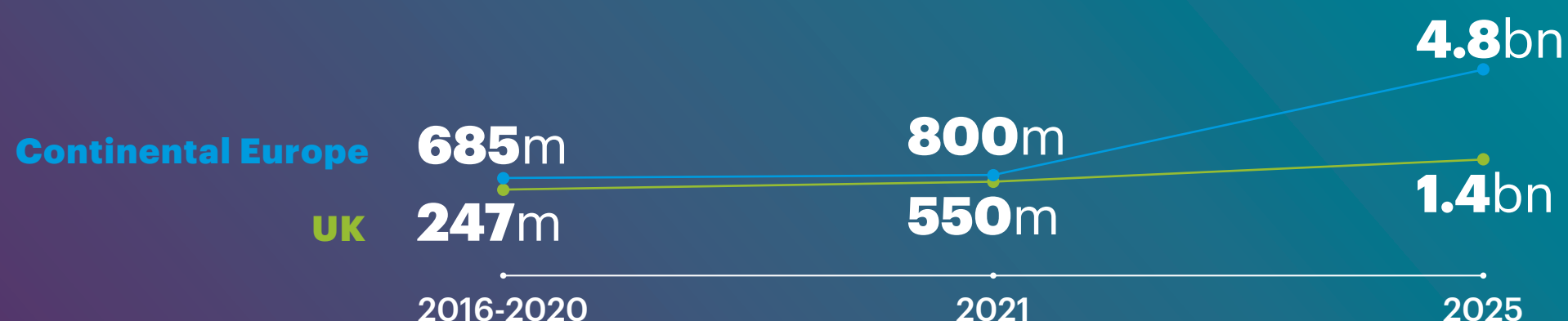


**166%**  
↑ 2018  
2020

166% increase in UK life sciences real estate transactions from 2018 to 2020. <sup>2</sup>



## ESTIMATED ANNUAL INVESTMENT IN LIFE SCIENCES REAL ESTATE (GBP)<sup>3</sup>



## MARKET DRIVERS FOR LIFE SCIENCES REAL ESTATE

There are a number of factors that are resulting in the overall increase in UK life sciences real estate:

### DEMAND-SIDE

- Ageing population
- Lifestyle diseases
- Rising healthcare spend
- Personalised medicine

### SUPPLY-SIDE

- Technology and discovery
- VC funding
- The patent cliff
- On-shoring of life sciences manufacturing post-Covid

<sup>1</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1013597/life-sciences-vision-2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1013597/life-sciences-vision-2021.pdf)  
<sup>2</sup> UK life sciences real estate sector targeted by up to £15bn of capital (jll.co.uk)  
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.jll.co.uk/en/newsroom/uk-life-sciences-real-estate-sector-targeted-by-up-to-p15bn-of-c>



# REAL ESTATE CLASSIFICATIONS



## SHELL AND CORE

- Concrete and metal frame - substructure, upper floors, roof, stairs, external walls
- Lobbies
- Lift shaft
- Loading bays
- Base plant – MEP systems to plant rooms and distribution of services via risers
- Fire compartmentalisation
- Fire detection including sprinkler plant if required
- Landlord toilets
- Back of house areas
- Reception
- External works



## CAT A OFFICE SPACE

- Basic level of finish, often to an industrialised standard
- Distribution of MEP services throughout lettable area including small power, lighting, air conditioning
- Raised access flooring with floorbox allowance - suspended ceilings, basic lighting
- Plastered and painted perimeter walls
- Basic fire detection systems including sprinkler plant if required
- Blinds



## CAT B OFFICE SPACE

- Fitted out with completely bespoke level of finish – floor/ceiling/wall finishes
- Fully fitted-out kitchen
- Communal office amenities
- Completely bespoke laboratory space
- Meeting rooms
- Offices
- Breakout spaces
- Workstations
- Furniture
- Power
- Data
- IT
- Feature lighting and design and brand detailing



## LAB-ENABLED OFFICE SPACE

- Consideration given as to how the space could be developed as a laboratory
- Larger slab-to-slab height to create space for enhanced services
- Moveable work benches
- Enhanced power and data for high technology requirements
- Enhanced HVAC system to increase number of air changes per hour
- Includes space for external bottle store for gases

# SPACE TYPES COMPARISON – GENERIC OFFICES VS LIFE SCIENCES BUILDINGS

## GENERIC

- Social/communal spaces
- Café, collaboration zones, town hall, showcase and possible lecture halls
- Circulation spaces
- Corridor stairs, lifts and goods lift etc.
- Utility spaces
- Non-research storage, plant rooms, risers, cleaning cupboards, WCs and showers etc.
- Office space
- Write up research/review data/standard office space, meeting rooms and meeting pods etc.

## LIFE SCIENCE

- Wet labs
- Research space – microbiological cabinets, freezers, tissue culture rooms etc.
- Dry labs
- Office space (increased MEP vs generic office space)
- Specialist spaces
- MRI, environment rooms, technical or specialist/ additional plant spaces etc.
- Circulation spaces





# LABORATORY TYPES



## CLEAN ROOM / LAB

A room specifically designed to limit the number of airborne contaminants.



## DRY LAB

Focused on computation, physics and engineering. Similar to collaboration spaces used for research and development.



## WET LAB

Space for manipulating liquids, biological matter and chemicals. Where biohazards are in use, they are categorized by Biosafety Levels [BSLs], which are used to identify the protective measures required:



### BSL-1

- Requires no containment and poses minimal potential hazards to personnel.
- Used to study infectious agents or toxins not known to consistently cause disease in healthy adults, e.g. E. coli.



### BSL-2

- Used to study moderate-risk infectious agents or toxins that pose a risk to health if accidentally inhaled, swallowed, or exposed to the skin.
- Includes hand-washing basins, eye washing stations and doors that close automatically and lock.



### BSL-3

- Used to study infectious agents or toxins that may be transmitted through the air and cause potentially lethal infection through inhalation exposure. Biosafety cabinets and carefully controlled air flow or sealed enclosures are used to prevent infection.



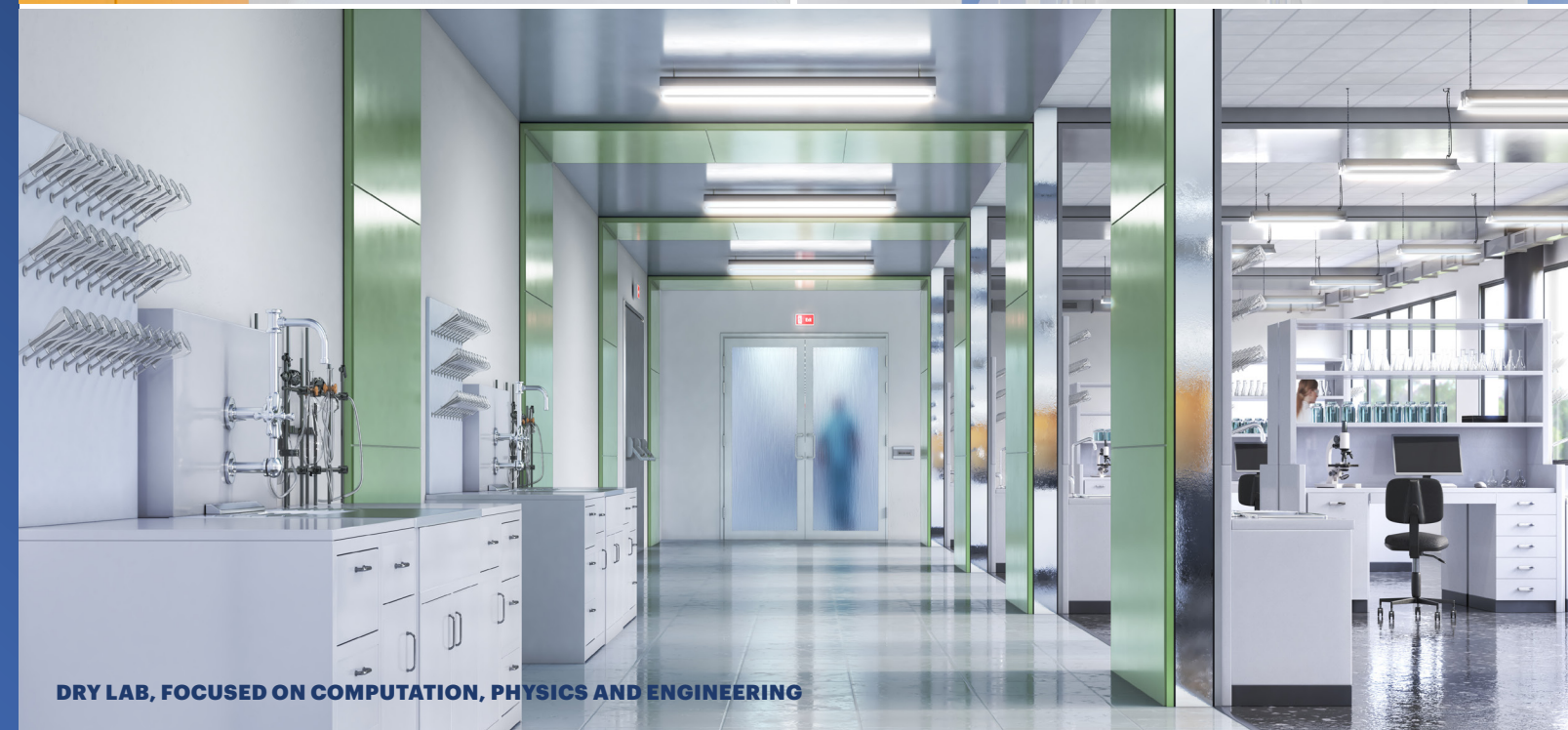
### BSL-4

- Used to study infectious agents or toxins that pose a high risk of aerosol-transmitted laboratory infections and life-threatening disease for which no vaccine or therapy is available. e.g. the Ebola virus.



CLEAN ROOM / LAB

CLEAN ROOM / LAB



DRY LAB, FOCUSED ON COMPUTATION, PHYSICS AND ENGINEERING



WET LAB FOR MANIPULATING LIQUIDS, BIOLOGICAL MATTER AND CHEMICALS





HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



HVAC

# SPECIALIST CONSIDERATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

When compared with buildings for more generic usage, life sciences buildings have a set of specialist considerations and requirements. These are primarily in the following areas:



## PLANNING & ARCHITECTURE

- Regulations** – health and safety must be prioritised.
- Modifications** – conversions to life sciences buildings may require modifications to be made e.g., new facade for better ventilation.
- Planning** – exterior modifications may require additional approvals from local planning departments.
- Hazardous materials** – change in occupancy or use classification may require upgrades to fire protection, power and extraction systems.
- **Site and service** – additional space to receive, store, distribute and dispose of hazardous materials.
- **Service elevator** – for delivery and removal of hazardous materials.
- Programme** – enhanced infrastructure systems and structural upgrades [if required] can result in additional lead time.



## STRUCTURE

- Columns** – larger column bays than offices.
- Loads** – 4.8 kN/m² as a uniform live load.
- Vibration** – controlled environmental conditions and solutions to dampen vibrations.
- Floor-to-ceiling height** – best practice is at least 4m for life sciences buildings.



## INFRASTRUCTURE

- HVAC** – all air to be extracted and not recirculated for safety and cleanliness requirements, which results in higher demand on heating and cooling infrastructure.
- Power** – increased power requirements due to additional HVAC and renewable energy initiatives. This could result in potential upgrades to electrical services and hence increased costs and extended schedules.
- Backup electrical system** – encourages clean air and renewable energy initiatives.



## ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL & GOVERNANCE

- Environmental:**
  - Building Certifications (BREEAM, EPC Rating)
  - Procurement of energy from renewable sources
  - Setting targets for enhanced energy efficiency
- Social:**
  - Enhanced team breakout and collaboration provisions
  - Enhanced provision of catering facilities to ensure staff Well being on site.
- Governance:**
  - Transport links ensuring adequate access for all staff.



# CASE STUDY - DEVELOPING A SPECULATIVE LIFE SCIENCES BUILDING - CENTRAL LONDON

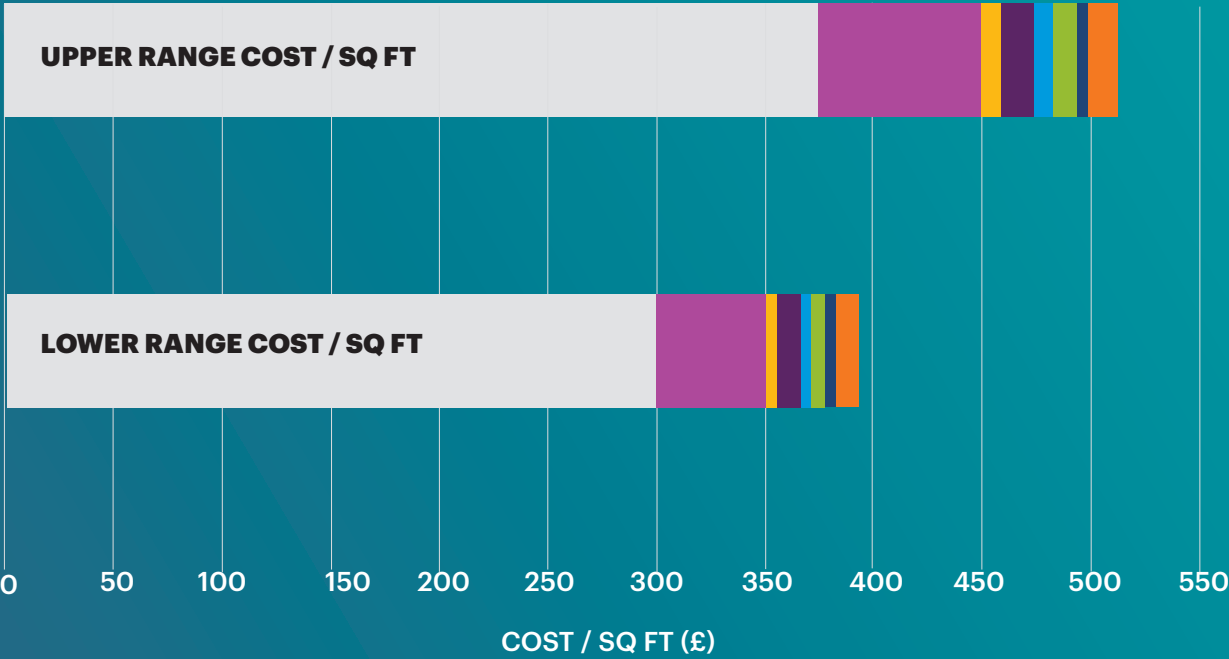
## Commercial office

	COST / SQ FT (£)	
	LOWER	UPPER
Commercial Office - shell & core	£300	£375
Commercial Office - CAT A	£50	£75
SUB-TOTAL	£350	£450

## Order of cost uplifts for a commercial office development, to allow for a degree of future flexibility in adapting or fitting out as a life sciences building.

	COST UPLIFTS / SQ FT (£)	
	LOWER	UPPER
<b>Frame &amp; Upper Floors</b> Changes to grid size and slab depths to aid laboratory planning and control of vibration if required. A 7.5m x 7.5m in situ concrete fat slab construction will provide flexible planning of laboratories across floor plates.	£6	£9
<b>External Façade</b> Increased floor-to-floor heights to c. 4.2m - 4.5m, incorporation of louvres, additional plant screening to roof areas. Increased wall/floor ratio.	£12	£15
<b>Riser Strategy &amp; Vertical Distribution</b> Additional vertical distribution due to the increased air changes required on laboratory floors (up to 6 air changes per hour) and to provide fume cupboard extract infrastructure. Increasing riser space will reduce the net to gross efficiency compared to standard office development.	£6	£8
<b>Fresh Air Provision</b> Enhanced fresh air provision due to increased air volumes. Variable air volume systems to on floor distribution to laboratory areas instead of 4-pipe fan coil units.	£7	£12
<b>Vertical Transportation</b> Additional goods lift and lift shaft to serve specific laboratory use. Secure access from the ground floor/basement floor to the goods lift will be required.	£3	£4
<b>Utilities</b> Increased load of incoming electrical utilities.	£11	£17
TOTAL	£395	£515

In the case study model above, the cost uplift to a London city centre shell, core and Cat A office development (with a base cost of £350/sq ft) to allow for a degree of future flexibility in adapting or fitting it out as a life sciences building is around 13-20%. On a commercial office development (with a base cost of £450/sq ft), the cost uplift range drops to 14-19%.

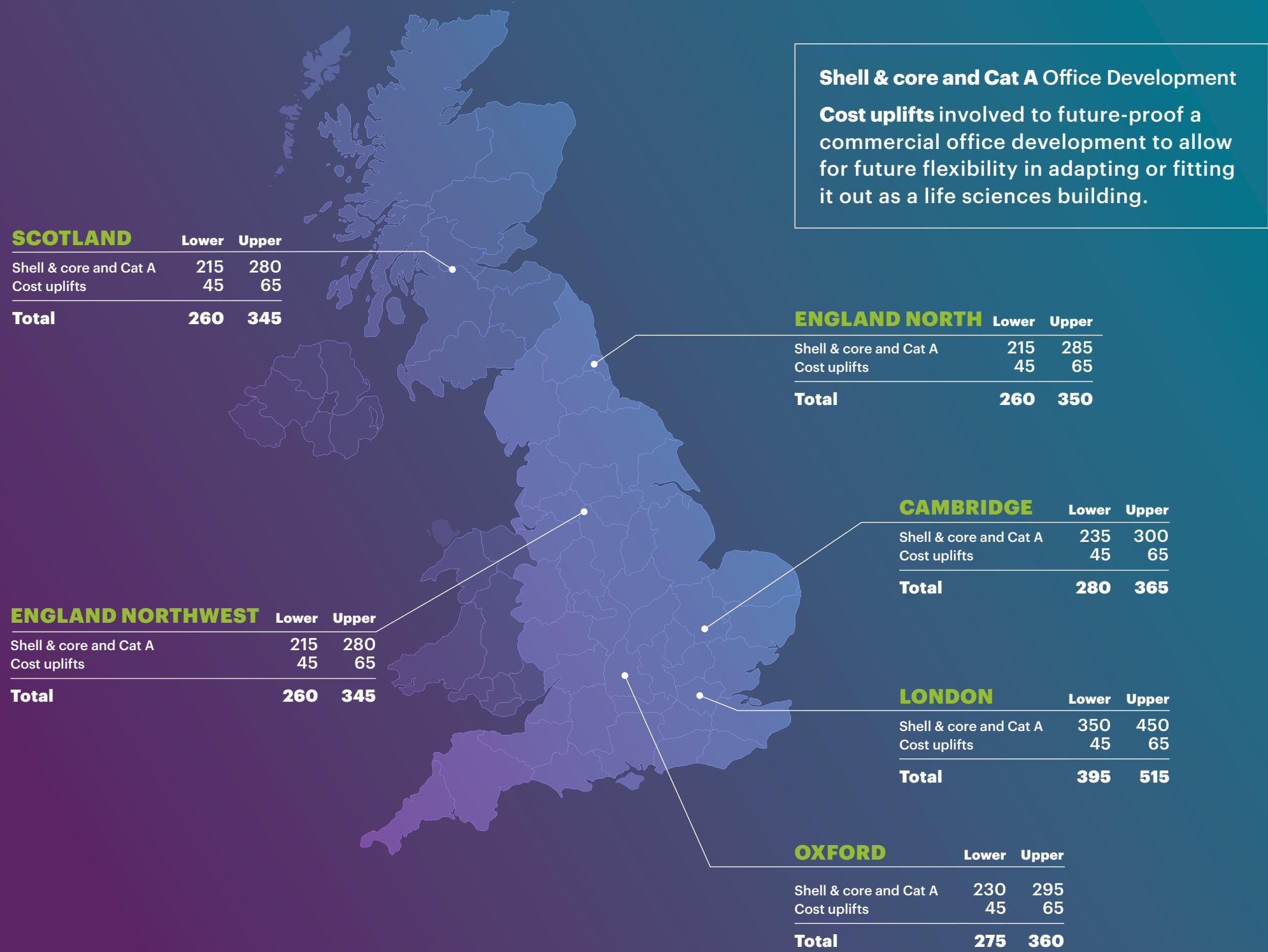


## NOTES/ ASSUMPTIONS

- a) Costs are based on August 2022 prices, and estimated on gross floor area. Average costs as indicated should not be used for insurance valuation purposes.
- b) The costs are representative of typical ranges for this type of project. Unique designs or challenging sites may not be within the cost range shown.
- c) The rates shown are average construction build only and do not include VAT, professional fees, any other soft costs, or allow for future inflation.
- d) The building costs noted above for the building types are exclusive of site development costs and external works, which can vary significantly based on the specific site.
- e) The costs associated with brownfield sites can vary significantly and the building costs above exclude abnormal contamination.
- f) The basic building costs above exclude basement construction costs. Should a basement be required, this should be costed separately.
- g) The model above is based on an equivalent BCO Category A fit-out with a net/gross efficiency of 0.75. No allowance has been made for any tenant fit-out (including equipment).
- h) No allowance is made for any specialist gas installation. An area within the basement to be set aside for tenant gas storage.
- i) No secondary/specialist laboratory drainage will be required.
- j) Demolition and site clearance is excluded.

# REGIONAL RANGES FOR DEVELOPING SPECULATIVE LIFE SCIENCES BUILDINGS

Typical Build Cost - £/SQ FT (GIA)



**The build cost ranges are included here as a guide and represent the approximate spread of costs within a region.**

A scheme positioned within this range is dependent on key influencing factors, including but not limited to:

- a) **Number of storeys** - e.g. high, medium or low rise.
- b) **Range of functions** - proportion of wet, dry or specialist lab space.
- c) **Logistics** - e.g. constrained city centres versus more easily accessible peripheries.
- d) **Letting strategy** - multi vs single tenant.
- e) **Supply chain** - e.g. appeal of scheme and supply chain appetite.
- f) **Vibration control** - the performance of the structural grid to meet specific vibration control criteria is an important consideration.
- g) **The regional ranges** are indicative only.



# INDICATIVE RENT LEVELS Q4 2022



## OFFICES

	£ PER SQ.FT.
<b>01</b> King's Cross - Knowledge Quarter	84 - 86
<b>02</b> City of London	70 - 73
<b>03</b> London Docklands	35 - 36
<b>04</b> Canary Wharf	50 - 52
<b>05</b> Central London	77 - 80
<b>06</b> Cambridge	52 - 54
<b>07</b> Oxford	48 - 50



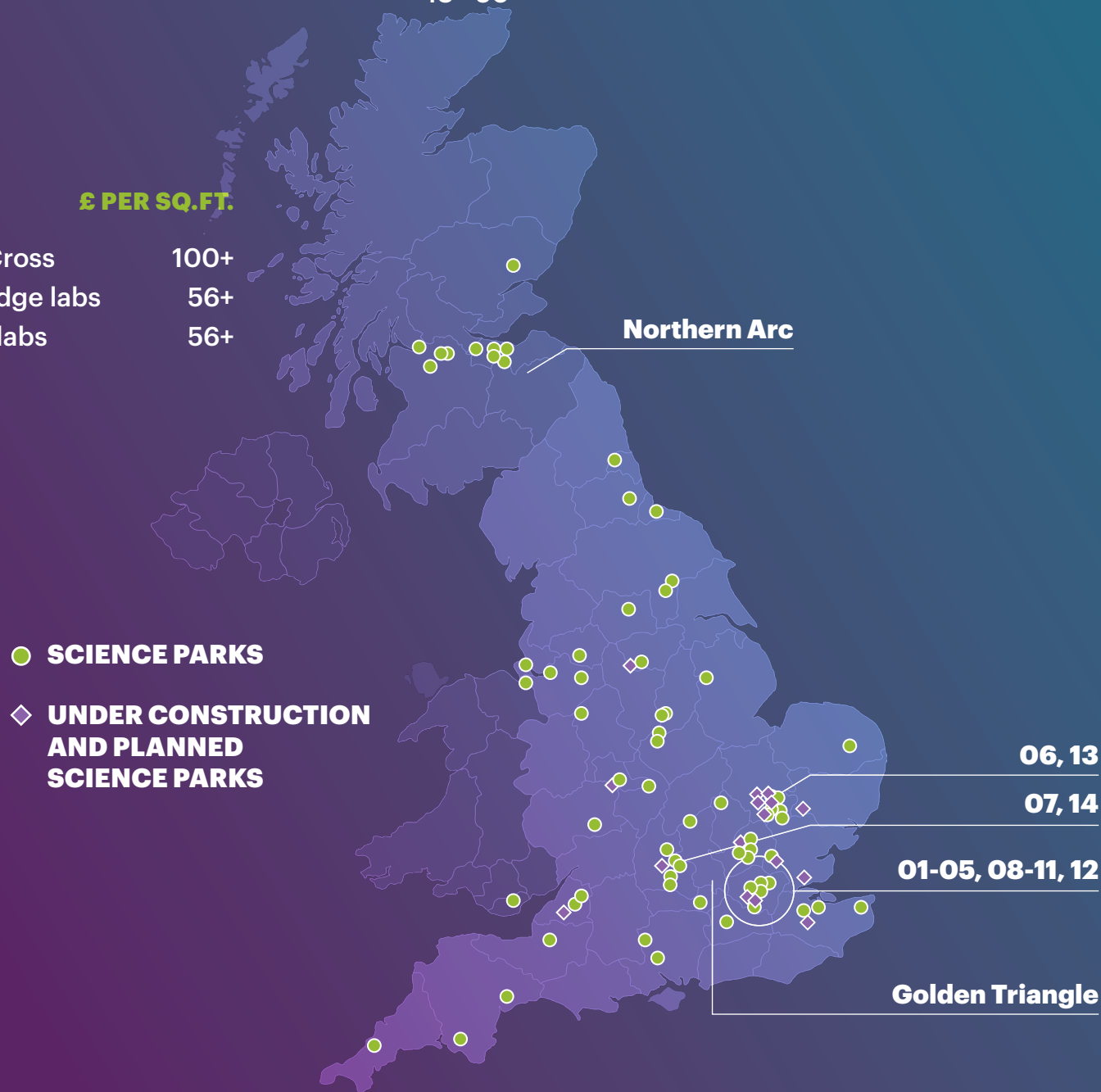
## HYBRID SPACE RENTS

	£ PER SQ.FT.
<b>New-build lab/office hybrid</b>	
<b>08</b> Central London	75
<b>09</b> Central London Prime Locations	125
<b>Office conversion lab/office hybrid</b>	
<b>10</b> Central London	70
<b>11</b> Central London Prime Locations	120



## LABS

	£ PER SQ.FT.
<b>12</b> King's Cross	100+
<b>13</b> Cambridge labs	56+
<b>14</b> Oxford labs	56+



- **SCIENCE PARKS**
- ◆ **UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND PLANNED SCIENCE PARKS**

# LIFE SCIENCES DEFINITIONS



**Life Sciences**  
Companies operating in R&D and manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, biotechnology-based food and medicines, medical devices and biomedical technologies.



**Science Cluster**  
A group of organisations e.g., academic research, hospitals, start-ups, SMEs and major corporates, engaging in a range of science-based R&D, manufacturing and commercialisation activities.



**Science Park**  
A purpose-built development of office space, labs, workrooms and collaborative space designed to support R&D in science and technology.



**Science Incubator**  
Set up to assist in the establishment and growth of early-stage companies by providing resources and access to industry mentors and specialists.

# LIFE SCIENCES ACRONYMS

<b>BCO</b>	British Council for Offices
<b>BSL</b>	Biosafety Level
<b>Cat A</b>	Category A, referring to the BCO standards
<b>CL2/CL3</b>	Containment Level 2 or 3
<b>COSHH</b>	Control of Substances Hazardous to Health
<b>GMP</b>	Good Manufacturing Practice
<b>HEPA</b>	High Efficiency Particulate Air
<b>HVAC</b>	Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning
<b>IPO</b>	Initial Public Markets Offering
<b>LSRE</b>	Life Sciences Real Estate
<b>M&amp;A</b>	Mergers and Acquisitions
<b>MEP</b>	Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing
<b>MMC</b>	Modern Methods of Construction
<b>R&amp;D</b>	Research and Development
<b>REIT</b>	Real Estate Investment Trust
<b>VC</b>	Venture Capital



Linesight's deep knowledge and experience within the life sciences and commercial office sectors enables us to achieve optimum outcomes and certainty in all cost and scheduling tasks.

#### OUR CORE SERVICES INCLUDE:



Planning and  
Scheduling



Benchmarking



Project Management



Cost Management



Project Controls



Procurement



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