



Southglade Food Park  
Source: The Food & Drink Forum

## The Food & Drink Forum

# CASE STUDY

The Food & Drink Forum is a not-for-profit trade body that was set up in 1998 to support and connect small food and drink business within North Nottinghamshire.

In 2005, the Forum supported Nottingham City Council to develop Southglade Food Park, which offers a flagship development providing high grade food manufacturing space with purpose-built units that enable new and innovative food businesses to start-up and grow. Importantly, what set Southglade apart from other similar initiatives at the time was the combination of high-quality food grade premises with access to the support and advice offered by the Forum. The technical support and services provided to tenants ensures that they are meeting regulatory requirements and are producing innovative, safe, compliant and consistent products that meet both customer and consumer demands.

As the first food and drink business park of its kind in the UK, Southglade has helped to put Nottingham and the East Midlands on the map for its pioneering food and drink sector and has acted as the blueprint for similar schemes across the Midlands Engine region, such as at Leicester Food Park, and other parts of the country.

Since Southglade Food Park opened in 2005, the Forum has attracted significant businesses support funding to enable it to deliver thousands of instances of support to businesses within the sector in the East Midlands, which has resulted in the creation of an estimated 2,000 plus new jobs in the industry. Its recent FEAST2 project generated 140 new jobs in the D2N2 LEP area alone.

The Forum provides:

- **Community Impact:** as a trade body supporting the food and drink industry, the Forum has been helping food and drink businesses to grow. It has helped to secure, directly or indirectly, over £66 million of public funding for the sector.
- **Premises:** the Forum operates three purpose-built food parks in Nottingham, Leicester and Weston-super-Mare (The Food WorksSW).
- **Specialist Industry Support:** the Forum's experienced and highly qualified Technical Team have supported hundreds of food and drink businesses to create safe, high-quality products for a range of markets. As a not-for-profit organisation, their Technical Team are highly regarded and have developed a well-deserved reputation for unbiased and ethical support.
- **Membership:** Business Membership provides small producers and established manufacturers access to the knowledge and expertise they need to build for success. The Associate Membership scheme is for suppliers of high-quality professional services, ingredients and equipment that they endorse, and recommend to their Business Members.

