# THE PARK ROYAL



# ATLAS

An Employment Study of London's Largest Industrial Area

#### The Park Royal Atlas v1.1

#### **Published by**

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The Park Royal Atlas is an employment study prepared by the Mayor's Regeneration Team, cliented by the Old Oak Common Joint Authority Project Team in association with the Park Royal Business Group. The Project Team includes the Mayor's Planning Unit, Transport for London, Brent, Ealing and Hammersmith & Fulham

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All the businesses that gave their time to participate in the creation of the Atlas

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**MAYOR OF LONDON** 



# FOREWORD

I want London to be the world capital of business, and for all Londoners to share in that success. This means creating more long-term, sustainable employment, improving opportunities for entrepreneurs to set up and grow their businesses, and supporting exciting new places of work.

Park Royal is one of Europe's largest and most thriving industrial estates. Since the 1903 Royal Agricultural Show – which gave the area its name – Park Royal has supported a range of world renowned businesses such as Guinness, Heinz, and McVities who continue their world leading operation from the site today.

This Atlas reveals the continued importance of Park Royal as a motor for our economy. With over 2000 workplaces mapped and analysed, it helps make the case for attracting investment to stimulate growth and improve the working environment for the 30,000 plus people based here.

The Park Royal Atlas is as much about revealing the people and businesses behind the statistics as it is about understanding this fascinating place. My team has come across inspiring examples of entrepreneurs running businesses ranging from advanced metal fabrication to theatrical prop makers, from highly specialised food production to logistics and smart recycling.

The Atlas celebrates the diversity of enterprise. It uses data collected from

months of surveying and hundreds of interviews to give an insight into what people make, the facilities they operate from, and the improvements to the area they would like to see.

I am delighted that the interviews revealed an air of confidence about the future, as well as the demand for this place expressed through low vacancy rates. However, it is clear that more work is required to improve working conditions and address persistent problems such as a lack of parking spaces.

This work is a stepping stone towards better engagement and tailored support to local businesses from the Mayor of London and Boroughs, forming part of the emerging partnership with businesses. This study will inform policies and strategies for sustainable regeneration in the Park Royal area for years to come, as well as signalling an exciting new approach to industrial localities across London and beyond.

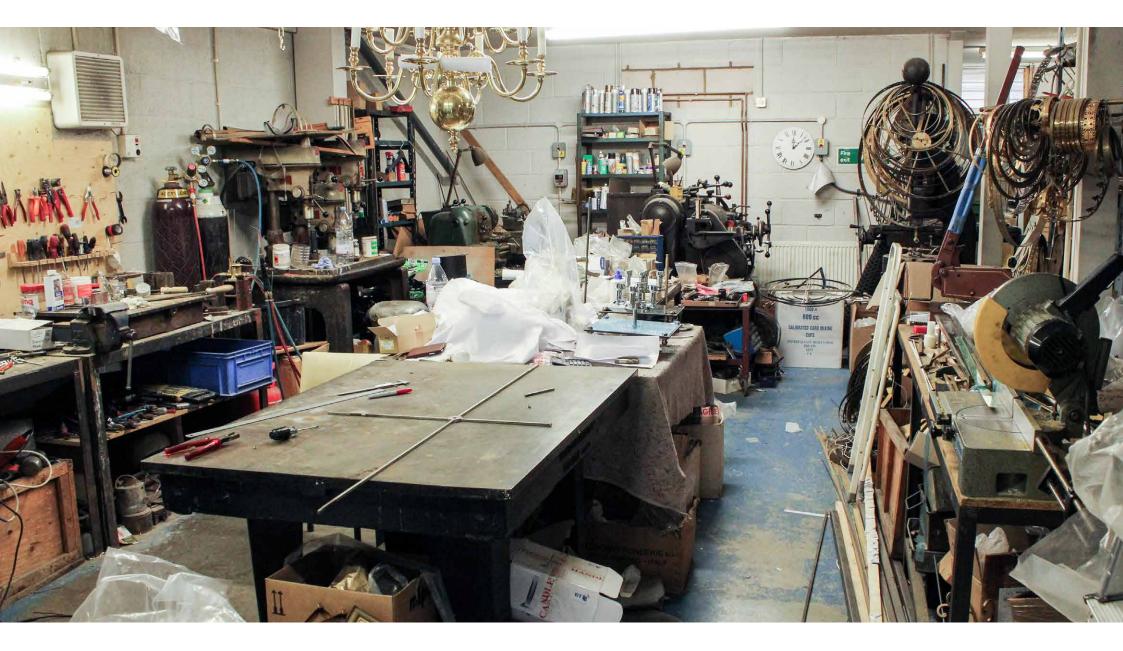
I would like to thank all who have given time to support the making of this unique Atlas and ask for any comments on this first edition to be passed to my team.

Kit Malthouse Deputy Mayor of London for Business and Enterprise

23rd May 2014



# INTRODUCTION



# INTRODUCTION

# **OBJECTIVES**

Considered to be London's largest industrial area, Park Royal covers an area equivalent in size to the City of London. Although it is known that there are a large number of businesses in Park Royal, until recently relatively little was known about the what they do or what types of spaces they use. The *Park Royal Atlas* reveals the diversity of business activities in Park Royal. Its specific objectives are to:

- Provide detailed information on the local economy
- Record all employment activities
- Analyse business activities by number, size and clustering, as well as supplier and customer locations
- Improve the visibility of the local economy by celebrating and marketing its diverse products and services, as well as highlighting its contribution to the sustainability of the wider London economy
- Support inward investment in the locality
- Inform policy and strategies for intensification and economic growth in the Park Royal and Old Oak Common Opportunity Areas
- Support sustainable economic development and regeneration

Reveal the diversity of business in Park Royal

# STUDY AREA

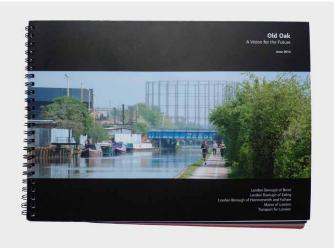
Park Royal is an industrial area located to the west of central London. It is situated within three London boroughs, Brent, Ealing and Hammersmith and Fulham. The area is bounded by National Rail, Overground and Tube lines to the north, south and east, while the North Circular (A406) and Western Avenue (A40) form additional boundaries to the west and south. The study area is based on the Park Royal Strategic Industrial Land boundary, designated in the London Plan (2011), with the addition of adjacent industrial sites in Alperton and North Acton.

# **OLD OAK COMMON**

The eastern corner of Park Royal, known as Old Oak Common, is set to be transformed when a 'super hub' High Speed 2 (HS2) and Crossrail Station is built by 2026. Old Oak Common will become a new district with up to 24,000 new homes and more than 55,000 jobs. The Park Royal Atlas will inform this development, as well as helping to strengthen and enhance the important industrial offer of the rest of Park Royal.

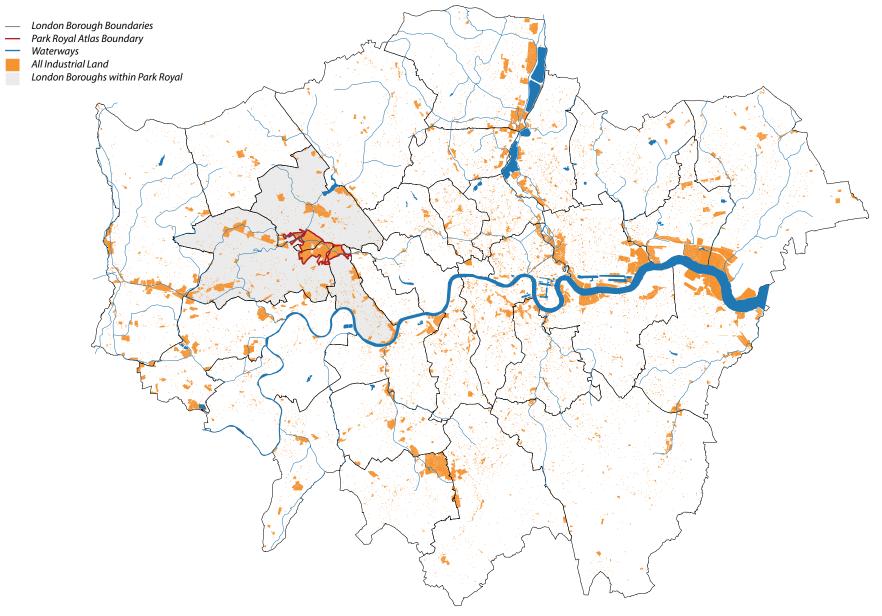
## ATLAS OVERVIEW

The Park Royal Atlas presents the results of a door to door survey of all the workplace units in Park Royal. The methodology explains how the survey was undertaken and the methods used to collect and categorise the data. The analysis maps the collected data, using graphs to highlight key trends, as well as presenting case studies of selected businesses.



"Old Oak A Vision for the Future" (GLA, June 2013)

## fig. 1 Park Royal LOCATION MAP



LB OF BRENT

TAPAT

LB OF EALING

LB OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

London Borough Boundaries
Park Royal Atlas Boundary

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### **MEET THE BUSINESSES**

Names of the 1,717 active workplaces revealed by the survey of Park Royal.

(Iq) Easy Broadcast Ltd / Crown 1-1 Transport 1Dream Educare 24-7 Drama 2D-3D 313 Motors Limited 360 Rotation 3A Distributions Ltd 3D Tyres 4 Rail Services Ltd A B C Building & Maintenance Constructors Ltd A B M Motors Ltd A Class Motors A Kapadia A. Fulton Company Ltd A.I.D. Training + Operations Ltd A+M Hire / A+M Studios A1 Business Solutions Aaa Linen Services Aaraee Novelties Ab Butchers Ab Solicitors Abacus Fundraisina & Party Products Abacus Print Abbey Appliances Abbey Distributors Abbey Manor Abbey Marketing Abbey Point Cafe Bed & Breakfast Abbott Signs Ltd Abc Services For People Like U Ableman Shaw & Company Abu Afif Sweets Acava Studios Accountancy Services London 1 td Accurate Profession Ltd Ace Ace Café Ace Cars Ace Records Ltd Ace Shutters / Mr Tint Ace Vehicle Deliveries Ace Waste / Simpson Acme Technology Ltd Active Ventures UK Ltc Acton Coachworks Acton Commercial Factors Ltd Acuk Ad Londres Addictive Restaurant & Bar Addwings Ltd Adidas (UK) Ltd Admoveo Ltd Adriana Auto Crash Advanced Broadcast Services 1 td Advanced Training Academy Advansys Technologies Ltd AFG Auto Mot Centre AFP Partnership Africa Today African Relief Fund

Aftershock Anything Express Aaility Trains Anytime London Ltd Ahaleena Anytwist Ltd Air Fast Tickets Apc Overnight Airport Executive Apolo Multiform Ltd Airports First Apply Food And Drinks Airstar European Network Appy Food And Drinks Ltd AJ Cleaning Services Arab News Network Ann Ajay Business Centres Ltd Archie's Mediterranean Products **AK** Motors Arco Area 18 Al Enam Al Gali I td Aredour Ltd Arena Flowers Al Mazar Deli Al Sar Express Aro Marble Ltd Al Waste Arrogance Accessories Al-Ahram International Art Dental Laboratory Al-Azawy Art House Hire Ltd Alba Stone Art Logistics Ltd Artist Spaces Ltd Aldi Jd Ltd Aldous Lamont Artist Studios Al-Eteiah Tv Ltd Arts Bibliographic Alexander James Contracts Ltd Ary Network Alexanders Removal Asda Supermarket Alfa Romeo Coachworks Ash Kumar Products Alforat Satellite Channel Ashcon Building Contractor Ltd Alhashimi Ashia Centur Ltd Al-Jabal Food Asme Engineering Ltd All Stars Agency Ltd Assalam Alayun Allen Autos Astel UK Ltd Allied Motors UK Astrid + Miyu Ltd Allpex Limited Ataman Almalthea Designs Atex Business Solutions Al-Murad Atn Network UK Ltd Alperton Motors Limited Atrium Modular Lighting UK Alpha Bakeries ATS Euromaster Alpha Beta Business Centres Attila Boros Bakery Alpha Consultina AUH Thomas Food Alpha Mania Auto Audio Alpha Omega Marketing Ltd Auto Capital Alpha Transfer Ltd Auto Delta London Ltd Alpha Vehicle Movements Ltd Auto Doctor Alter London Ltd Co. Auto Motors Altima Liahtina Auto Service Auto Services Vehicle Solutions AM Construction AM Motors Auto Trans Middlesex Amaco Group Auto Villa Amari Plastics Ltd Autobike Mot Centre Autogem Motor Concepts Amathus Amazing Tiles Automotive Glass Distribution Amazon Autotrade UK Amazon Shine Autotrust Ambersphere Solutions AV Link Ltd Ambican UK Ltd AVC Live Ltd Ambros Direct Ltd Avolites American Muffin Co. Ltd AW Bodyshop Ammoura Ltd Awafi Foods Ltd Amouri Motors Axis Partnership Active Marketing Solution AXT Ava Autos Ltd Amz Motors Andrew West Interiors Az Accountancy Services UK Ltd Angel Fernandez Sanchez De Azco Interiors La Morena **B** Mackin Construction Anglo Pacific B&Q / Trade Point Anna Sholz Ltd B.E.C.Perimetre Security Ltd Ansari Garage B+K Skips Antiqua Print Gallery Ltd B+M Motors

Babak Art Studio Babcock Bakkavor Bakkavor Foods Bakkavor Meals Balance Sheets And More Ball Bearing Centre Ltd Ballward Limited Bamboo Basket Distribution Ltd Barclavs Bank Plc Barker Ross Recruitment Barry Bensons Ltd Bascomb + Drew Basrah Lounge / Tobacco Batten-Edwards Instruments Ravfield **Bbc Studios** Bd Décor (Barry Bank) Beachcourse Limited Beat 2 Beatz Beat About The Bush Beauty Base Ltd Beck's Cafe Bees Enterprises Beijing Tong Ren Tang (UK) Ltd Beirut Nights Café And Resteraunt Bell Trading Ltd Bellisseomo Ltd Belmont Printing Company Belvedere Carpets Ltd Ben Pearce Benchmarx Bespoke Events London Best Hand Car Wash Best Price Garage Ltd Best Tint/Best Glass Best Way Bestway Catering Wholesale Biffa Waste Services **Big Yellow Self Store** Riahams **Binding Supplies & Services** Bischell Ltd **Black Island Studios** Blott Blue Apple Cars Blue Cruise Ltd Blue Light Services Ltd Blue Light Services Ltd BMV Distributors Ltd Boden Fashion Bodvbits Ltd Bodystretch UK Ltd Bodytec Accident Repair Centre Bogdan Kurski Ltd Bonhams Book Events Boothill Motorcycles Bosche Services Botanic Lab Bower Products Limited **Bp/M&S Simply Food** Bradlev Plumbase Braiform Brand Distribution (UK) Ltd

Brazilian Salon Bread And Honey Breezemount Brian Clarke Studio Briahtbox Marketina Britannia Autos Ltd Britfil Steel Fabrication British Council Broadcast Sessions Ltd Brooks Packaaina Ltd Brownell Ltd Browns Sea Foods Brunnel Freight Forwardina Btm International (UK) Ltd Bua Builders Depot Building Products Ltd **Bullet Express** Burger King (UK) Ltd Business Associates UK Ltd **Business Mobiles** Butterfly Cleaning Ltd C.E. Moore Ltd Cable Logic (Europe) Ltd Cadoaan Tate Cafe Ola Cafe Racer Custom Motorcycles Café Royal Caffe Concerto Caffe Giordani Ltd Cakubi Consulting Ltd Caldigit Caledonian Supply Company & Mehadrin Wholesale Ltd Canal Cabin Canapes Direct Candy Desserts Cannon Hygiene Ltd Canonbury Cabinet Makers Canv Cafe Lounae Limited Cape Systems Capital Accountants Capital Seafoods Ltd Car Giant Car Hire Helpline Ltd Car Spare Factors Carcare Pro Limited Caribbean Roti Company Carlo Manzi Carphone Warehouse Carphone Warehouse Headoffice Carrara Marble Cartridge Value Casa Bardotti Cava Bien Fashion Cbg Group UK CcfLtd Cds Group Celestial Church Of Christ Park Royal Parish Celex Ltd Celia's Kitchen Cell Technologies Centercomms Ltd Central Middlesex Hospital Centre House Business Centre Centre House Caffe Ceva Champers (Wholesale) Chandlers Chandra Enterprises

Bravo Aluminium Systems

Chanton

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Lizzanno Space Creation Loan My Motor Locatel UK Ltd Lock Engineering Co Ltd Locum Link Pharmacy Recruitment Lodge Catering Lofbergs Loft Studios Londis London Business Consulting Ltd London Carstore London Chauffeur Drive Ltd London Knockouts London Mobility London Special Executive Cars London United Busways Ltd London Vip Group Long Island Products Longshaws Design & Print Ltd Lookers Jaquar Lookers Plc Lords Builders Merchant Lotus Linens Loubnan Natural Food Ltd Loubnan Natural Foods Ltd Louise Bradley Lp Construction Ltd . Lua Lua Tv Luckshmee Limited Lunchtime Office Catering Co. Lynchmob Studio Lyons Learning M E Moloney And Company M&M Associates M&M Metal Work Ltd M. Moss (Repairs) Ltd MAR Garage Ltd M&N Traders M6 Motors Ma Automotive Services Macahel Machine Shop Mackintosh's Catering Management Ltd Madam Gautiers Madame Gautiers Madstron Healthcare Maaaza Magnet Trade Maanum Direct Mahan Foods Mai Trading Co. Ltd Maisa Maisanda & Co Maison Blanc Ltd Maiestic Radio Mak Automotive Maker Builders Llp Makro Malcolm Cowen (Drinks) Ltd Malik Metal Work Mama Youth Project Mammamia Itlaian Food I td Manaco Mian Ltd Management Office Maneek Jewellery UK Ltd Manle Fine Foods I td Marasu's Petits Fours Marathon Lab Supplies Marble Arch Bathrooms Marc B. Ltd

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Plexus

Prefit

Shah & Associates Shayona Shell UK I td Sheng Da Ltd Shephers Cafe Sherrys Hair And Beauty Wholesaler Shine Motors Ltd Shiv Souvenirs Shrine Credit Union Shurgard Self-Storage Sicilian Food Suppliers Sigma Computers Sianature X Sinclair Mckinsey Accountant Sings N Print Sipi Care Sixtv-Six Car Ltd Sky Glass Limited SI-Gems + Minerals Ltd Smart Care Trainina Smith And Hunter Prime Carcare 1 td Smokys Carpentry SN Worldwide Social Consultancy And Research Ltd Sofar Ltd Sola Solutions Group Plc Somali Broadcast Network Somali Channel Ltd Somali International Youth Development Somali Voices Community Centre Sonic (UK) Ltd Sonik Products Limited Sony Corporate Services Europe Sorbitum Ices Sound Masterina Source Distribution Southern Drapes Souvenirs Of London Space Nk Spc Automotive Ltd Speciality Drinks Sneedy Spice Shack Splashback & Worktops Ltd Spot Colour Ltd Spyker Design & Productions Limited Sauires Buildina Contractors Sri Perdana Ltd Sri Sita Vinayaga Srs School Sse Audio Group Ssq Spanish Slate Quarries UKLtd Ssr Tradina Ltd Stanley Productions Staples Stapletech Star Accountancy Starlight Design Starlite Tradina Ltd Station Cafe Status Windows Ltd Stavfix Ltd Steel Deck Stella Rossa Contractors Ltd

Steven Davis Furnishings Steven Duggan Events Stewart Parvin London Stock In Trade Stone & Buildina Ltd Stone Inc. Stone World Uniwax Ltd Stoneyard Ltd Storaae Storz Medical UK Ltd Straight Talking Telco Stratstone Aston Martin Street Claim Solutions Ltd Street Sushi Strongbase Stuff U Sell Subway Sukarah Lounae Summit Furniture Sun Ocean Ltd Sunbeam Frames Sunderii London Ltd Sundream Enterprise Super Hire Props Ltd Supercover Insurance Plc Superalazed Supersteel Supponor Surface Doctor Surface Measurement Systems Survival Leisure Company Swift Courtesy Cars Swift Direct Claim Ltd Synergy Networxx Lrd T&C Cleanina Services T&Senterprises (London) Ltd Taiko Food Take 2 Films Tan M C Ltd Tarmac Ltd Buxton Lime & Cement Taste Of The Alaarve Tasty Central Tax Assist Accountants Tax Spot Tazmere Tea & Coffee Plant Teacrate Plc Techno Packaging Telecitygroup Tenpin . Tesco Tesla Motors Texaco Garage TfL Uniform Services TfL / London Highway Maintenance Thames Reach Home The Artisan Bakery Ltd The Big Basement Company Euro Toiletries And Hvaene Products The Castle The Coffee House The Collective Dairy The College Of IT & E-Commerce The Dry Cleaning Business The Female Health Company The Fishermans Arms The Humminabird Bakerv The King Escalope The Kingfisher Press

Sterlina Studios

The Metropolitan Police Authority The Natural Sea Sponae Company Ltd The Olive Grows The Organic Pharmacy The Park Royal Garage The Performance The Polish Bakerv The Printed Word The Safety Supply Company The Skiwear Service The Soundhouse The Spice Land The Synthesizer Co Ltd The Transport Exchange Group The United Distribution Company The World Of Yachts And Boats Ltd Thomann Hanry Thomas Charles Joinery Ltd Thomson Motors Accidental Repair Centre Threadmill Clothina Ltd Three Colours Limited Tikit Tile Land Ltd Tiles And Bathroom Right Ltd Timeless Bespoke Designs Ltd Times Immigration Consultants Ltd TK Trading / Yoshikawa Group Ltd TNT To Sky Ltd Toga Plant Hire Ltd Tommy Flynn's Bar And Steakhouse Tony Fowkes Automobiles Tony Zreik Tool Station Top Supplies Top Tiles Top Trenz Ltd . Tophandvs Ltd Topps Tiles Torpedo Factory Group Total Facade Solutions Limited Total Floor Heating Touchstone Imports Touchstone Worktops Ltd Toughglaze (UK) Ltd Toughqlaze Ltd Touracar I td Tower Of Faith Tower Transit Trading Post Ltd Transcom Telecom Ltd Transputec Travelodge Hotel Travelodae Hotels Ltd Trendy Living Trevor Howsam I td Triple A Accountancy Services Troy Systems Limited Trumax Cars Ltd TSN Hire Car Ltd TT Motors Tucker French TVS Foods UK Ltd Tyre Spot

The London Bakery

UK 3 B Scientific Ltd UK Coldstore UK Star Tyres UK Tyres UK Visa Centre Ltd Unbloc Drainage Engineeers Limited Uncle Cheff Uncle Jim Uni-Care Uniflora Unimix Management United Cater Ltd United Trade & Services Limited Unitrust Protection Services (UK) Limited Unity Care & Training Consultancy Ltd Universal Display Uncakes Ur Refrigeration Wholesale Ltd Urban Cow Ltd Urc Car Repairs Uttam London Vale Inco Ltd Valimex (Import & Export) Ltd Vascroft Constructors Ltd Vaspa Double Glazina Vb & Sons Vcn Vdc Vehicle Pound For Brent And Hounslow Councils Veloci London Ltd Venus Concept Venus TV Verona Marble Ltd Vh Insurance Services Ltd Vhl Catering Viakeys Video Duplicatina Co. Ltd Vigilant Security Services UK Ltd Virdee Autos Visionmed Ltd Vivalda London Vivo Technologies Ltd V-Max Mechanics Vmi Volumetrics Wembley Quality Cars / Europe Prestige / #1 Mechanic Services West London Art Factory Westbourne Cars Westbridge College Western Solutions Ltd Westfield Auto Centre Westwood Fabrications Westwood Joinery Wf Senate Park Royal Branch Wft Ltd What A Load Of Rubbish Ltd White Fuse Media White Rose Laundries Ltd Whitneys Of Willesden Wiamore Home Wigmore Medical William Hill Bookies Williams And Hill Williams Chartered Accountants Wingman Group Wolselev Women's Support Association

World Food Aid Limited World Net World Of Tiles And Bathrooms Ltd Worldwisetradina Ltd WPL Wrapology Allbees Xara Computers UK Ltd Xinhua Bookstore (London) Ltd Yaash Motors Yakitori King Yek O Yek Yorpien Skip Ltd Yuriko Hill Potter ZA Tyre Works Zagros Cafe Zanardia Zen Zen Builders Zenith Distribution Zentron Zepbrook Zinc Desian Ltd ZM Motors Zone Lest Motorcycles

# CONTEXT



# CONTEXT

# HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The area's "royal" title derives from its use as the showground for the Royal Agricultural Show (1903-1905). The show was officially opened by the then Prince of Wales (later George V), who allowed the area to take the name "Park Royal". However, despite ongoing royal patronage, the shows were increasingly sparsely attended, forcing the Royal Agricultural Society to sell the showground in 1905.

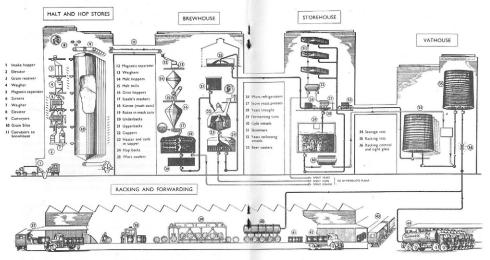
It is here that Park Royal's familiar industrial character begins to emerge, with the area being used as munitions factory during World War I. Early industrial developments tended to be characterised by large factory complexes specialising in the manufacture of automobiles, electrical machinery, as well as food and alcohol. By 1932 there

#### were 73 factories,

London's Kitchen

employing 13,500 workers on site. Park Royal's steady growth was aided by the relatively light bomb damage sustained during World War II, in stark contrast to the devestation wrought on many of London's other industrial heartlands. Industry continued to boom in the post-war period and by the 1960s the area employed more than 45,000 people. However, by the 1970s Park Royal was facing large-scale industrial restructuring, as well as general industrial decline. Many of the multinational firms, the area's largest employers, chose to relocate, and by the early 1970s around 70 larger firms left Park Royal and the nearby Wembley Estates. Important local employers such as Heinz could only survive by cutting staff numbers from 3,500 to 500, before eventually relocating in 2000. The Guinness Factory was subject to a similar process of downsizing before finally closing in 2005.

# GUINNESS - FROM START TO FINISH

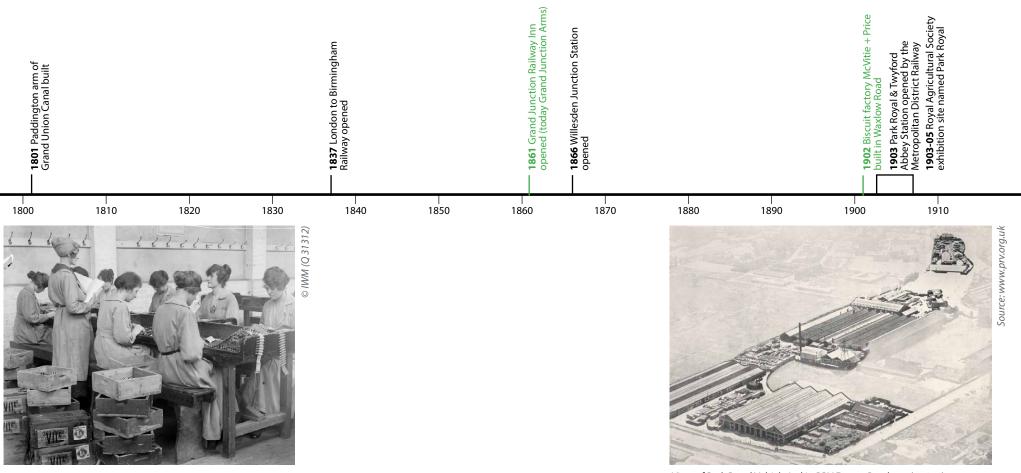


17 Cask reception and examination 38 Hoop driver 39 Multiple cask washer and steamer 40 Cask racker 41 Metal cascs 42 Road transport 43 Rail transport 44 Road tankers

Diagram showing Guinness' Park Royal Brewery operations (1998)

#### fig. 3 Park Royal TIME LINE, part 1

- *General history, infrastructure*
- Business history
- Planning history

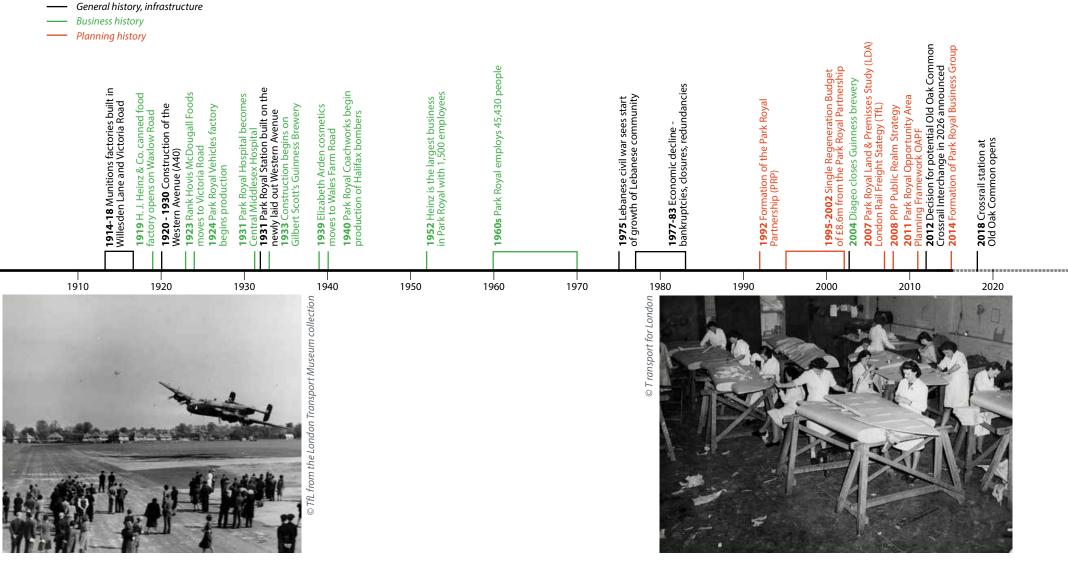


Women munition workers filling machine gun belts with 0.303 inch ammunition at the National Box Factory (1917)

View of Park Royal Vehicle Ltd in PRV Export Brochure (c.1940)

PARK ROYAL ATLAS 14





The London Aircraft Factory at Park Royal Coachworks (1940 - 1946)

Manufacture of Halifax bombers at Park Royal Coachworks (c.1941)

## **CURRENT CONTEXT**

Many of the large factories that produced everything from beans and beer to bombers and buses have been replaced by or subdivided into smaller industrial units. These are being used by many smaller businesses today. Meanwhile, London has continued to expand into the surrounding sites that had once been open fields.

In recent years strategies and visions have been developed by local authorities, business groups and the Greater London Authority that seek to balance necessary infrastructure investments, housing and real-estate pressures and the important economic role of Park Royal.

The following planning documents have influenced and will continue to influence the development of the Park Royal area:

LONDON PLAN (2011) Designates Park Royal as Strategic Industrial Location (SIL) and an Opportunity Area for development.

PARK ROYAL OPPORTUNITY AREA PANNING FRAMEWORK (2011) Establishes a vision for the coherent development of Park Royal.

# PARK ROYAL PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY (2008)

Commissioned by the Park Royal Partnership to address the poor quality public realm in the area [status tbc] OLD OAK VISION DOCUMENT (2013) Scoping document for the creation of an Old Oak Common Opportunity Area. Looks to spark debate about potential for development around a future Crossrail and HS2 transport hub.

There are also a number of important planning documents that have been adopted by the three local boroughs (Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham) and will shape the development of Park Royal. These include:

#### BRENT

Core Strategy (2010) Site Allocations (2011) Alperton Masterplan (2011)

#### EALING

Core Strategy (2012) Development Sites (2013) Development Management Development Plan Document (2013)

HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM Core Strategy (2011) Development Management Development Plan Document (2013) Proposals Map (2011) Planning Guide Supplement Planning Guidance (2011)

# METHODOLOGY



# **METHODOLOGY**

## **SURVEY**

The Park Royal Atlas uses a mix of quantitative and qualitative research techniques. Maps, graphs and case studies are used to paint both a broad yet detailed picture of Park Royal's economy. The Atlas is based on a door-to-door survey combined with observation, structured interviews and photographs to provide a more nuanced understanding of how Park Royal "works".

The survey was carried out over 5 weeks, with teams of two researchers covering a

particular area. Teams were made Quantitative and qualitative research

up of one of four core researchers and a guest researcher, volunteers from either the GLA or one of the local boroughs. Totalling 525 man-hours, the survey collected a wide range of information at three levels of detail:

#### LEVEL 1 SITE DATA

Data was gathered on each employment site, whether an industrial estate or other geographical grouping of workplaces.

- Allocated site ID on map
- Site name
- Site address
- General condition (very poor to very good)
- Contribution to character of area (negative, neutral or positive)
- Additional notes

#### LEVEL 2 OBSERVATIONAL DATA

Within each employment site data was collected on individual workplaces via a structured observational study.

- Allocated business unit ID on map
- Name
- Address
- Phone number
- Webpage / Email Address
- Primary Activity (to establish SIC category)
- Space type (small or large office, workshop, small or large warehouse, vard, other)
- Unit shared by workplaces
- Size estimate of employment (micro, small, medium or large)
- Basement floor area multiplier of workplace footprint
- Ground floor area multiplier of workplace footprint
- Upper floor area multiplier of workplace footprint
- Notes on business
- Case study rating

# 2150 workplaces surveyed

### 245 businesses interviewed

#### LEVEL 3 STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS 14% of all businesses in Park Royal were interviewed. The interview questions covered the following themes:

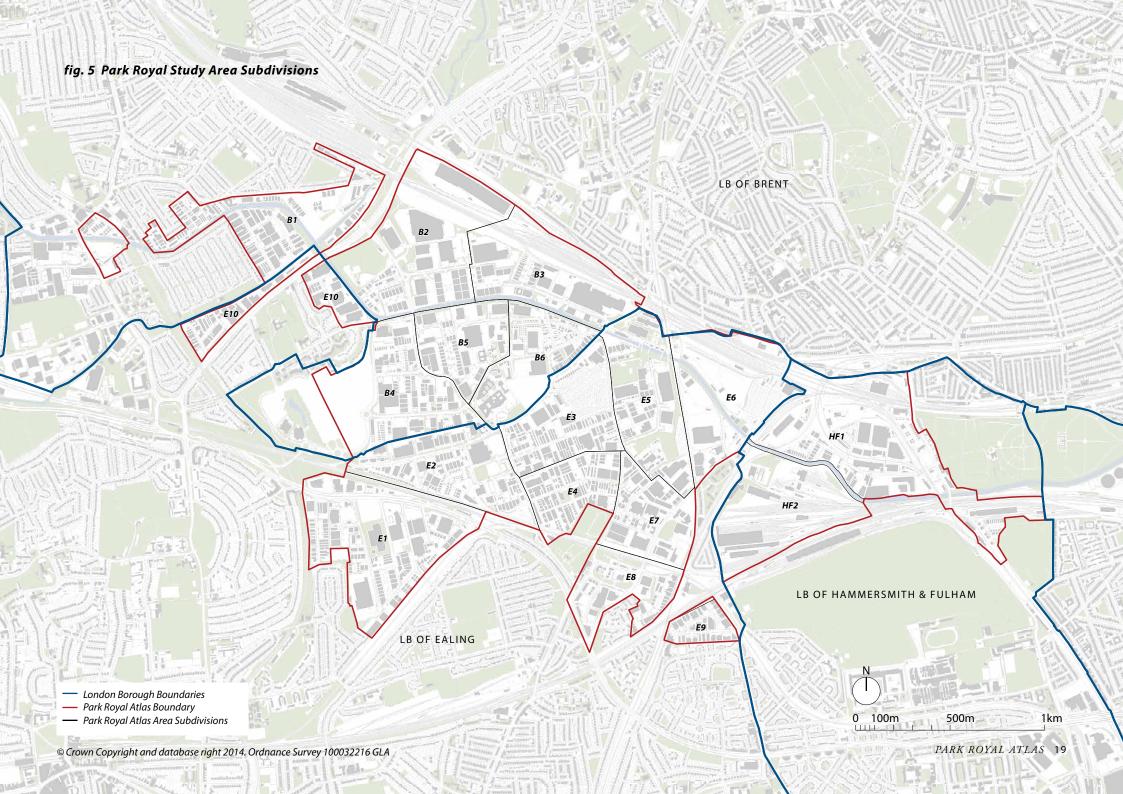
- Type of business (Independent, headquarters, branch or franchise)
- Number of employees
- % of employees from local area (Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham)
- Years at location
- Year business established
- Supplier locations
- Customer locations
- Anticipated employee requirements in one year
- Anticipated floorspace requirement in one year
- Premises tenure
- Production figure for last year
- 3 Advantages of location
- 3 Improvements for location
- Notes for case study

The data was collected on paper forms and then inputted by the researchers into a central database via a digital form. This database was then corrected and crosschecked with the maps prior to analysis.

# MAPPING

The *Park Royal Atlas* study area is based on the Strategic Industrial Land boundary from the London Plan (2011), with the addition of some immediately adjacent industrial land. For the administrative purposes of this study the area was divided into 18 separate study areas, B1-B6 in Brent, E1-E10 in Ealing and HF1-HF2 in Hammersmith and Fulham (fig. 5).

During the door-to-door survey employment sites and businesses were marked on paper maps. This information was then used to update the detailed Ordinance Survey map of the area using GIS software. Footprint areas of individual workplaces were measured from the updated Ordinance Survey map, before being muliplied by the number of floors occupied (information gathered during the survey). This provides a more accurate approximation of the gross floor area occupied by each business.



## CATEGORIES

BUSINESS SECTORS For analysis and mapping the main activities of businesses were categorised using the Standard Industrial Classification 2007 (SIC) which also allows for future comparison with other government business data. These categories were then regrouped into 19 distinct categories (fig. 6) with each category allocated a unique colour in order to identify it on the map.

However, these sectors cannot provide a completely fool-proof means of classification, as the choice of what to include or exclude from any category is subject to a degree of interpretation. For instance, although the vast majority of Park Royal's substantial film industry is found in the KInformation and Communication category, the 37 specialist film equipment and prop hire firms are categorised as M Services Other. These businesses have been categorised according to their primary business activity - the renting and leasing of specialist equipment - which masks their evidently strong links to the film industry. Similarly, the area's many catering firms are not classified as A Manufacture Food, instead becoming a subset of the O Retail *Restaurants Hotels* category.

#### fig. 6 Business Sectors



Breweries, bakeries, biscuit factories, roasteries Steel refineries, sheet metal workshops Print shops, sign makers, print finishers Joineries, jewellers, cobblers, umbrella makers Recycling plants, carbreakers Contractors, road pavers, joiners Garages, car showrooms, car restoration Wine import, spice merchants, fish suppliers Electronics wholesalers, medical suppliers Railway sheds, self storage, couriers Publishers, film studios, software developers Lawyers, bankers, accountants, head offices Chauffeurs, travel agents, prop hire, car rental Hospitals, schools, charities Pubs, shops, hotels, restaurants Laundries, churches, artist studios Empty premises Unable to establish business activity Non-employment sites

#### SPACE TYPOLOGIES

The Atlas also maps the types of spaces used by businesses. The space type categories describe the primary space type occupied by the business (gross floor area). Once again there are some inevitable ambiguities. For instance, many large warehouses feature 2 floors of office space on the street facing side. However, since a greater amount of floor space is occupied by the actual warehouse the space is categorised as a Large Warehouse.

Space types were also cross-referenced with their use by different business categories. This provide an overview of the particular spaces that are necessary for different business sectors. This provides the necessary information to crossreference the businesses with the land use categories used in employment land reviews.

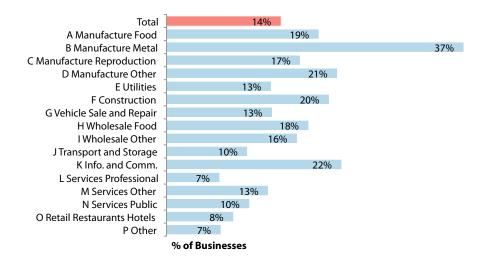
#### fig. 7 Space Types

1 Small office type space	Desk-work, on any floor, in workplaces smaller than 500m <sup>2</sup>	
2 Large office type space	Desk-work, on any floor, in workplaces larger than 500m <sup>2</sup>	
3 Retail type space	Publicly accessible shop type unit with street frontage	
4 Workshop type space	Light industrial or studio type unit on any floor, with no purpose built loading bay	
5 Small warehouse type space	Purpose built industrial unit with loading bay, smaller than 500m <sup>2</sup>	
6 Large warehouse type space	Purpose built industrial unit with loading bay, double height ceiling, larger than 500m <sup>2</sup>	
7 Yard	Contained open space with only temporary or small buildings on site	
8 Other	All other structures	

## **INTERVIEW RATES**

Given the door-to-door nature of the survey, interviewees were chosen on an ad-hoc basis. In total 14% of Park Royal's workplaces were interviewed. However, there are noticeable differences in the interview rates across the different business sectors ranging from 6% in professional services to 38% in metal manufacturing. This range a was largely due to the availability and accessibility of certain business types. For example, many professional service workplaces were in small offices located on the upper floors of buildings that were difficult to access. By contrast, manufacturers tended to be located in ground floor units that tended to be more visible and accessible.

#### fig. 8 Interview rates by business sector



# LIMITATIONS

The door-to-door survey lists every workplace that could be found by the researchers in Park Royal by visiting every building. Although as many workplaces as possible were visually verified, it was not possible see inside every workplace. Therefore some of the workplaces listed are based on information from signs and door listings, some of which were later verified by desk-based research.

Workplaces were marked as unknown if there was evidence of occupation but the business name and activity could not be established. In some cases, paticularly where buildings had been subdivided into multiple premises, buildings were not accessible and it was difficult to establish the exact number of units or how many of these were occupied. In these cases it was also more difficult to estimate the proportion of the building footprint area used by individual workplaces.

While much effort has been put into collecting the data in a consistent manner the involvement of various temporary and guest researchers means that there may be some inconsistencies, although selective corrections have been made to the database. Despite these limitations we are confident that the Park Royal Atlas provides both a robust overview and revealing insights into employment in Park Royal.

# SURVEY ANALYSIS



# SURVEY ANALYSIS

## **BUSINESS SECTORS**

The door-to-door survey for the *Park Royal Atlas* located 2150 workplaces. 1934 of these were active, and of those the names and activities of 1717 could be identified. The distribution across the business sector colour groups is relatively even, ranging from 14% in manufacturing (sectors A-D) to 18% in services (sectors L-N).

It is estimated that the workplaces in Park Royal contain 2,300,000m<sup>2</sup> of gross floor area, including all floors. In terms of floor area, the proportion of the business sectors shift significantly compared to the number. Manufacturing (sectors

> Patchwork of business sectors

A-D) increase to 20%, while wholesale, transport and storage (sectors H-J) 27% of the total gross floor area. These business sectors clearly require larger workspaces to operate successfully.

The map in fig. 11 shows the geographic distribution of the sectors. One of the map's most striking elements is the diverse patchwork of workplaces found across Park Royal. While some areas have larger workplaces, others are characterised by a much finer grain, of small, individual workplaces as well as larger buildings that have been subdivided.

> Wholesale, transport and storage use 27% of floor area

Mapping the business sectors highlights the many workplaces in the manufacturing, wholesale and storage and transport sectors requiring large building footprints. Many of these are involved in the manufacturing and wholesale of food. While there are some obvious clusters of larger workplaces, particularly in the food manufacturing sector, there are also many smaller scale clusters of micro food businesses. These are often located within single buildings and therefore cannot be distinguished on the map.

While vacant and unknown workplaces each make up 10% each of the total workplace number, vacant workplaces only make up 8% of the floor area.

> B Manufacture Metal C Manufacture Reproduction D Manufacture Other **F** Utilities F Construction G Vehicle Sale and Repair H Wholesale Food I Wholesale Other J Transport and Storage K Info. and Comm. L Services Professional **M** Services Other N Public Services O Retail, Restaurants, Hotels P Other Business Activities Y Vacant Z Unknown

A Manufacture Food

#### fig. 9 Total Number of Workplaces

2200

2000

1800

1600

1400

1200

800

600

400

200

0

of Workplaces

Number 1000 fig. 10 Total Area of Workplaces

11%

2%

1%

6%

2% 2%

8%

6%

7%

14%

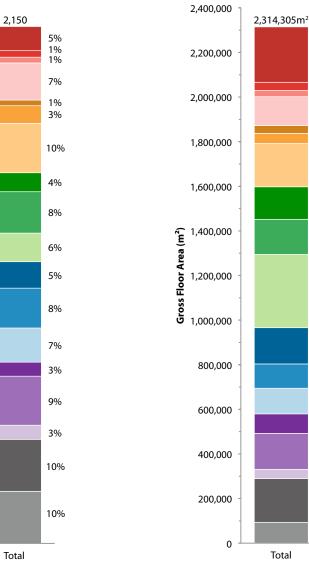
7%

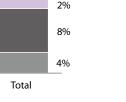
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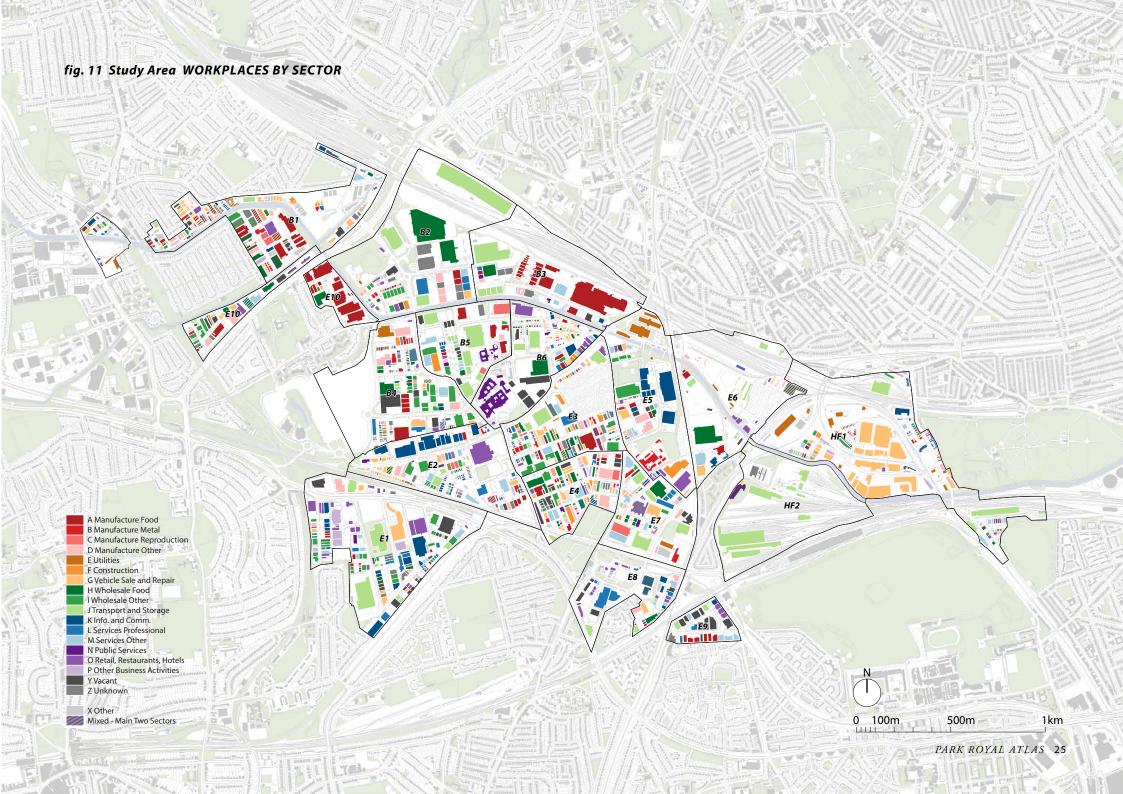
5%

4%

7%







## **BUSINESS SECTORS BY BOROUGH**

The varied nature of workplaces in Park Royal is reflected in the breakdown of workplace numbers and areas by borough in fig. 12 and fig. 13.

#### BRENT B1-B6

Brent contains 35% of Park Royal's workplaces by number and 38% by gross floor area. The central area (B2) to B5) hosts a number of sizeable business parks with some of the largest workplaces. By contrast, B1 - at the eastern end of Park Royal - has the highest density of workplaces. The area is characterised by older brick buildings that are often subdivided into smaller workplaces, occupied by a large number of small independent car sale and repair businesses. Similar buildings and businesses are found at the north end of B6, one of the earliest industrially developed areas of Park Royal.

#### EALING E1-E10

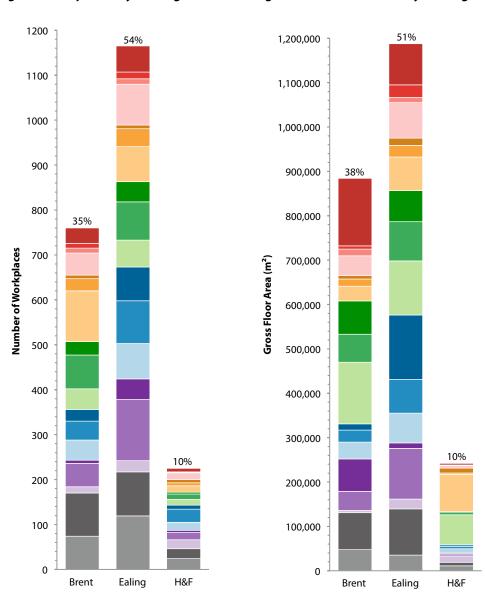
Ealing accommodates the largest number of Park Royal's workplaces with 54% by number and 51% by floor area. The central areas *E3*, *E4* and *E7* consist mainly of modest and smaller warehouses. Although often in relatively poor condition, they host a large variety of smaller, mostly independent businesses. Many buildings have been subdivided into multiple workplaces that are not always easily identifiable. Food manufacturing and food wholesalers are prevalent, alongside a number of cafes and restaurants. The areas around this centre (areas *E1, E2, E5, E6, E8 and E9*) tend to have a greater number of larger and newer buildings, often situated within business parks or industrial estates.

HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM *HF1-HF2* The eastern extremity of the Old Oak Common area is largely cut off from the rest of Park Royal by several intersecting railway lines. The area itself is divided by the Grand Union Canal, with the south bank dominated by large railway yards and depots, while the north is primarily occupied by a large used car retailer and two waste recycling sites. Wedged between these larger occupants are a number of smaller warehouses, offices and workshop units accommodating a wide range of smaller businesses, including a number of artist studios.



#### fig. 12 Workplaces by Borough

#### fig. 13 Gross Floor Area by Borough



# WORKPLACE SIZE

It is estimated that 75% of all the known workplaces in Park Royal are micro businesses. These are businesses with less than ten employees, although many have no more than one or two. The vehicle sale and repair category alone constitutes 15% of all micro businesses, closely followed by Retail, Restaurant and Hotels (14%). Otherwise there is a relatively even distribution of workplaces across the other business sectors.

## 75% of workplaces are micro businesses

Small businesses make up 20% of all workplaces, while only 4% of workplaces are medium-sized businesses. The 1% of workplaces that are large businesses is made up of only 19 businesses. These include a number of large food manufacturers like Bakkavor, a ready meal manufacturer, and several industrial bakeries like McVitie's, perhaps the largest household name to be based in Park Royal. Other noteworthy employers are the Central Middlesex Hospital, a major Royal Mail distribution centre, and the UK headquarters of Carphone Warehouse, currently Park Royal's largest employer (1200 employees).

It is estimated that approximately 31,000 people work in Park Royal. This was based on the estimated numbers of workplaces by size and employee numbers (obtained via the structured interviews). SMEs (businesses with less than 250 employees) make up 58% of the overall employment in Park Royal.

An estimated 31,000 people work in Park Royal

A Manufacture Food

B Manufacture Metal

D Manufacture Other

**E** Utilities

Y Vacant

Z Unknown

F Construction G Vehicle Sale and Repair

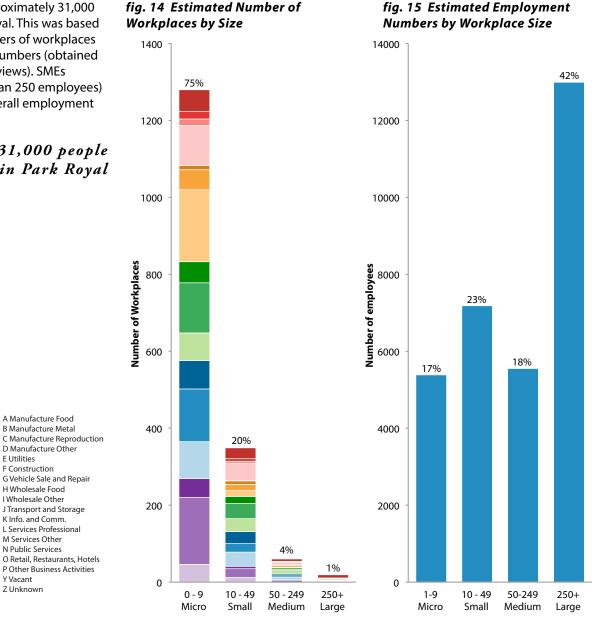
H Wholesale Food

I Wholesale Other

K Info. and Comm. L Services Professional M Services Other N Public Services

J Transport and Storage

P Other Business Activities



## **SPACE TYPES**

Mapping the space types of the workplaces helps us to understand their particular spatial requirements. In terms of total workplaces, small offices are the most ubiquitous space type (30%). The numbers in fig. 16 show that overall there are a similar number of businesses using office type spaces (37%) and warehouse type spaces (39%). More flexible workshop type spaces make up 16% of the total, while retail type spaces with street frontages constitute only 4%.

## 70% of floor area is warehouses

However, when looking at the total floor area occupied the story changes significantly (Fig. 23). Small office type space only makes up 4% of the total floor area, whilst warehouse type spaces take up 70%. The floor space occupied by workshop and retail spaces area are relatively small (5% and 1% respectively). Other space types increase their proportion to 4%, largely due to the large footprint of the Central Middlesex Hospital and a handful of hotels.

> Business sectors spread across space types

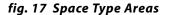
The map (fig. 18) showing various space types highlights the predominance of warehouse type spaces across much of Park Royal. It also highlights the higher concentration of office space in areas where older and smaller buildings tend to be located, such as areas B1, E3, E4, E7 and E9.

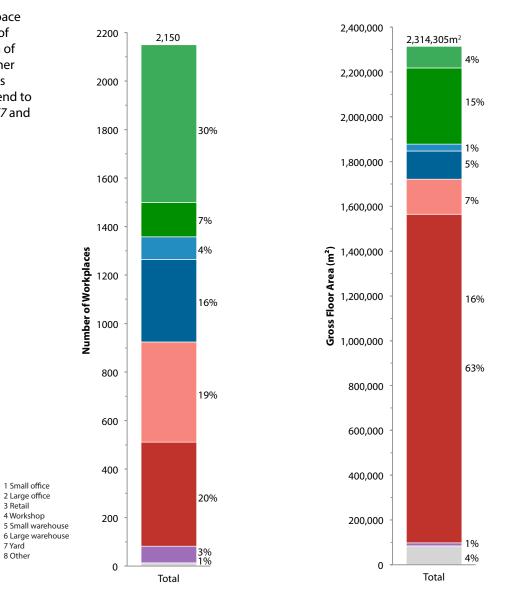
3 Retail

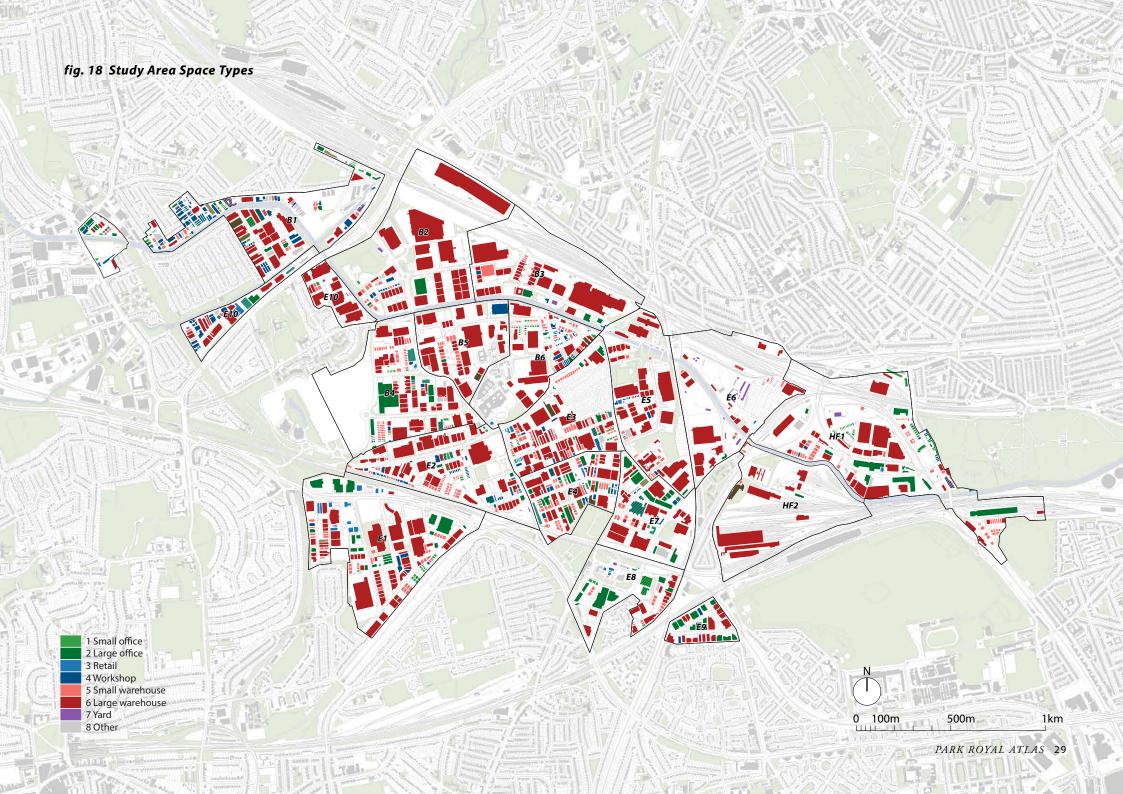
7 Yard

8 Other

#### fig. 16 Space Type Numbers







## SPACE TYPES BY SECTOR

The diverse range of business sectors using each space type is demonstrated in fig. 19. Although info. and comms. and services are the largest users of office type space, all the other sectors, including manufacturing and transport, also use office type spaces. While the wholesale and transport sectors are the biggest users of warehouse type spaces (28%), all other sectors, including services and retail also use them. Workshops are also used by a diverse range of business sectors; however, the car sales and repair sector is the predominant user (31%).

While the overall rate of vacant workplaces is 10%, large office type spaces have the highest number of vacancies (21%). At the same time the vacancy rates for the smallest categories are very low, including workshops (7%), retail (4%) and yard type spaces (4%).

#### fig. 19 Numbers of Businesses by Space Type

A Manufacture Food **B** Manufacture Metal

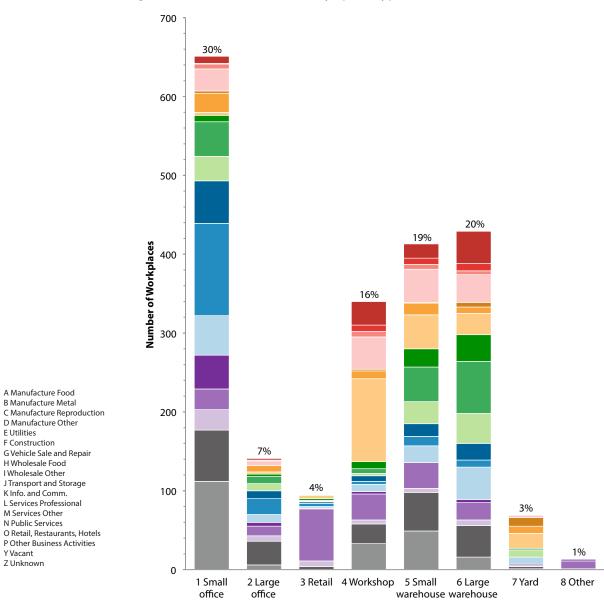
D Manufacture Other E Utilities F Construction G Vehicle Sale and Repair H Wholesale Food I Wholesale Other J Transport and Storage

K Info. and Comm. L Services Professional

M Services Other N Public Services O Retail, Restaurants, Hotels P Other Business Activities

Y Vacant

Z Unknown



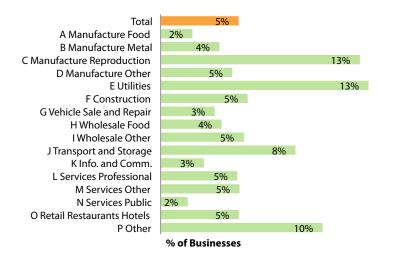
## **SHARING PREMISES**

While the vast majority of workplaces are sole occupiers of their premises, 84 of the 1717 businesses (5%) in Park Royal share their premises with another workplace (fig. 20). However, this number does not include the sharing of buildings that have been subdivided into multiple premises.

Shared premises were rare amongst food manfacturers, a product of strict hygiene controls. However, while the sharing of premises is lowest in this sector (2%), this does not take into account a number of managed commercial kitchens, which rent out small kitchen spaces to multiple micro businesses for short durations. Above average sharing of premises is seen in the utility, construction and transport and storage sectors where businesses will often share exterior yard spaces.

## 2% of food manufacturers share their premises

#### fig. 20 Proportion of Businesses Sharing Premises



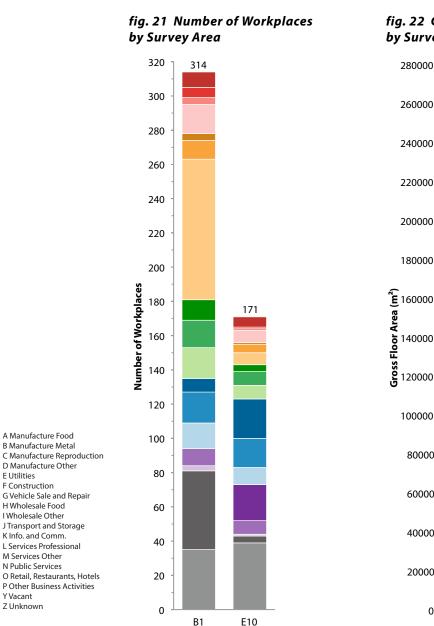
# SURVEY AREAS



# AREAS B1 E10

Otherwise known as Alperton, AREA B1 forms the north-west corner of Park Royal. Bounded by the river Brent and North Circular (A406), the area has the smallest average gross floor area per workplace in Park Royal, around 500m<sup>2</sup>, compared to an average of 1,000m<sup>2</sup>. By far the highest proportion of workplaces is in the vehicle sale and repair sector (fig. 21). However, these workplaces use relatively little floor area compared to much larger floor areas in the food manufacturing sector.

AREA E10 is located along the North Circular. The eastern side is composed of large warehouse units - modest but well-designed brick buildings - for the most part occupied by large food manufacturers. Facing onto the North Circular are a row of large buildings, including a hotel, several retail stores and a business centre with over 100 small workplaces, many of them broadcasting companies and international charities. Although the buildings in the area's western corner seem old and run-down they are occupied by a range of workplace sectors including food manufacturing, various wholesalers and the last remaining gambling machine manufacturers from what used to be a hub of this industry.



A Manufacture Food

**B** Manufacture Metal

E Utilities

F Construction

H Wholesale Food

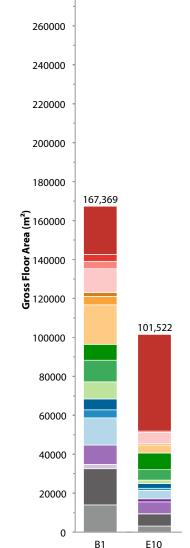
I Wholesale Other

K Info. and Comm.

M Services Other N Public Services

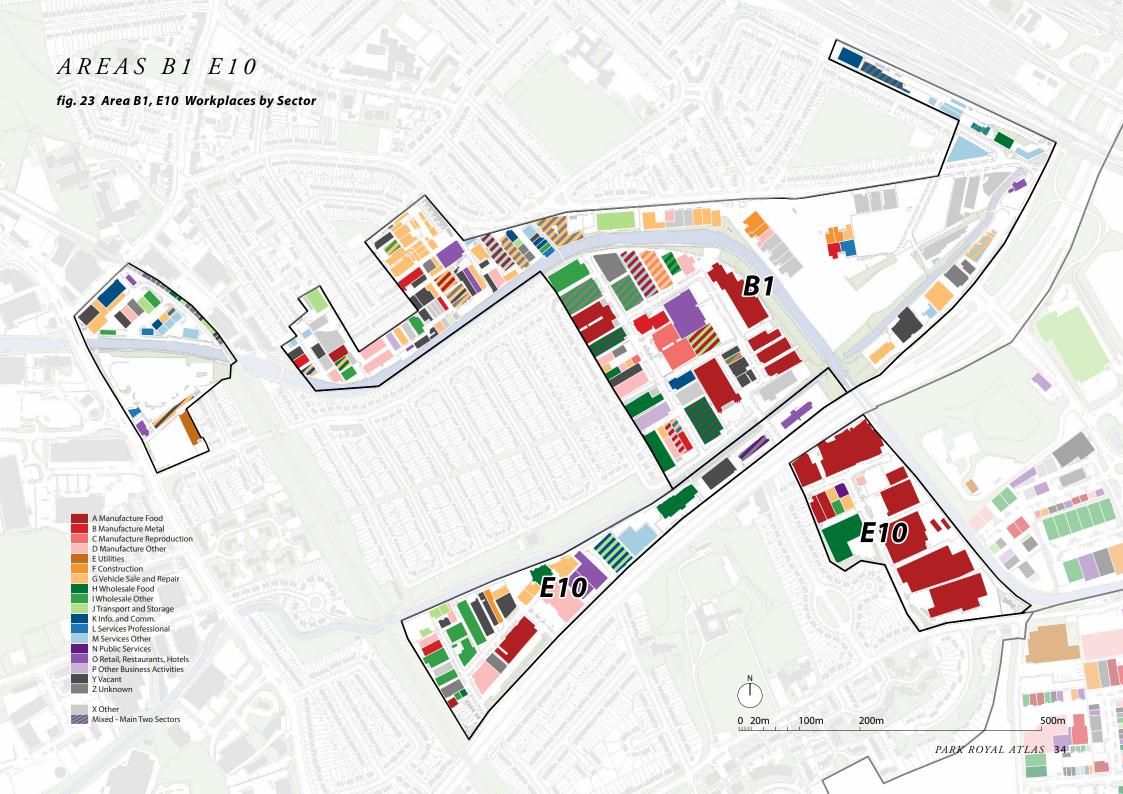
Y Vacant Z Unknown

#### fig. 22 Gross Floor Area by Survey Area



PARK ROYAL ATLAS 33





# AREAS B1 E10





























PARK ROYAL ATLAS 35

# AREAS B1 E10

# CASE STUDY QBS Software

AREA B1 Computer software distribution K. Information and Communication

QBS Software are one of Europe's leading software distributors, and have been located in Wharfside since 2001. At the moment they employ just over 40 people and have a turnover of £10 million. The company owns the unit on Wharfside, which they use as their primary office space. Having decided to invest in their current location, due to its good location and relative affordability, the company owner is particularly unhappy with the general condition and cleanliness of Wharfside. The estate was often extremely untidy, creating a bad first impression for any visiting customers or suppliers. As a result the company is considering relocating to another area, but only if they can find office space that is similarly affordable and with equally good transport links.

> 40 EMPLOYEES 13 YEARS ON-SITE 27 YEARS IN THE BUSINESS 440 SQ.M. GROSS FLOOR AREA £10 MILLION ANNUAL TURNOVER

DATA



# REAS B1 E10 The mild's number one CASE STUDY Ace Café

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LONDON

Sector and

AREA B1 Biker café and restaurant O. Retail Restaurants Hotels

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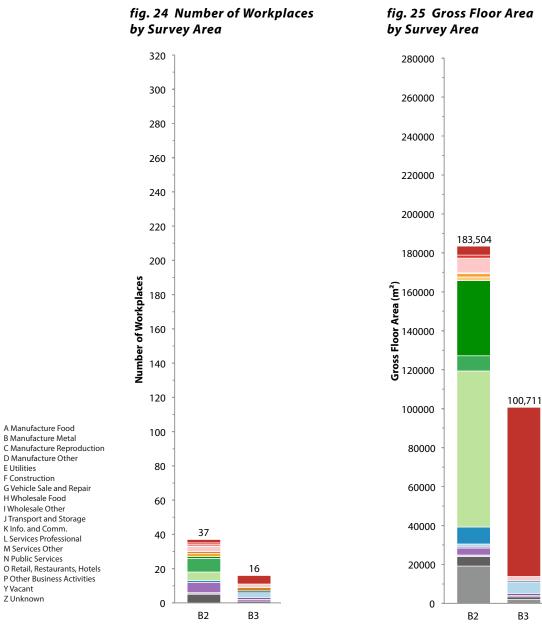
Few businesses in Park Royal can claim to have quite the same legendary status as the Ace Café. First opened in 1938, the café has always been oriented towards the passing motorists on the North Circular (A406). By the mid-1950s the café had become an (in)famous hangout for bikers, attracted to the café's 24 hour opening times, its proximity to the A406, and perhaps most importantly, a jukebox playing the latest Rock 'n' Roll hits from America. Although the original café closed in 1969, it was reopened in 1997 with the help of Brent council and has gone on to win a gold medal in the local borough's "Best Bar None" award. Over the past 17 years the café has continued to grow, producing their own merchandise, sausages and even tea bags. Mark Wilsmore, the founder, told researchers that while they have been growing as a company elsewhere, the business is inextricably linked to their current location.

DATA **50 EMPLOYEES IN SUMMER,** 25 IN WINTER 6 YEARS ON-SITE **17 YEARS IN BUSINESS** 640 SQ.M. GROSS FLOOR AREA £1.5 MILLION ANNUAL TURNOVER



Sandwiched between the Grand Union Canal to the south and the Willesden / Brent train sidings to the north, AREA B2 is dominated by large private business parks, Premier Park being the largest. Other large workplaces include a major Royal Mail distribution centre. Wholesale, transport and storage are the predominant workplace sectors (fig. 24). The area is also home to one of the Park Royal premises of Bakkavor, an Icelandic owned company manufacturing ready meals for UK supermarkets.

Entering AREA B3 via Acton Lane you come across the Grand Junction Arms - one of the few pubs in Park Royal - that has been on its current site since 1861. Just north of the Canal is one of Park Royal's oldest and largest manufacturers, biscuit maker McVitie's, which has been based in Park Royal since the early 1990s. There are also a number of large, recently built warehouse units, including Townsend Industrial Estate. They are primarily occupied by the food industry and sometimes fill the air with a fog of competing smells. The area is also home to Park Royal's fire station.



E Utilities F Construction

Y Vacant Z Unknown

fig. 26 Area B2, B3 Workplaces by Sector

























#### CASE STUDY McVitie's

AREA B3 Biscuit manufacturer A. Manufacture Food

McVitie's may be a British institution but it is also one of the oldest companies in Park Royal. Founded in 1830 in Edinburgh, it has been at its current location in Harlesden since 1902. Particularly known for their digestive biscuits, McVitie's first brought these confectionary icons to the market in 1892. McVities's biscuits have been taken as provision on expeditions, most prominently Amundsen's exploration of the South Pole, and acquired national significance during the First World War, becoming part of the "iron ration". However, McVitie's have always had operations beyond the humble digestive. Since the late 1800s they have regularly supplied Royal weddings and christenings, the most recent example being Prince William's groom cake for the Royal Wedding in 2011. With 735 employees, of which 60% live locally, McVitie's is one of the largest employers in Park Royal. The company thrives on the area's good road connections and transport links for staff.

DATA 735 EMPLOYEES 112 YEARS ON-SITE 184 YEARS IN BUSINESS 18,000 M<sup>2</sup> GROSS FLOOR AREA





#### CASE STUDY Park Royal Fire Station

1H

AREA B3 Fire station N. Services Public

Park Royal Fire Station is responsible for the eastern part of Park Royal. Entering the small 1960s building, we are heartily welcomed by Stephen, one of the stations 20 or so firemen. The walls are covered with every kind of map, charts and tables, lending it a busy air. According to Stephen the station is ideally located, finding itself in the middle of its operational area and with good road accessibility. However, the poor condition of the area's roads, in particular leaked diesel, often makes roads slippery and dangerous. Stephen is a nature lover who has planted the containers in front of the fire station with flowers for insects. He would appreciate it if the canal and its banks were cleaned and could serve as a green corridor for wild life. However, at the top of Stephen's wish list is avoiding the closure of his beloved fire station, as has recently happened to a nearby station.

DATA 40 EMPLOYEES 65 YEARS ON-SITE 65 YEARS IN BUSINESS 890 M<sup>2</sup> GROSS FLOOR AREA

### AREAS B4 B5 B6

AREA B4 has a number of large modern warehouses located in business estates. The empty expanse to the west, currently in the process of being redeveloped into warehouses, used to be the location of the Guinness brewery, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1933. 25% of all businesses in the area are wholesalers. Just outside the western edge of the Park Royal Atlas boundary sits the world headquarters of the British multinational alcoholic beverages company Diageo.

Similarly dominated by business parks and large industrial warehouses, AREA B5 is also the location of the Park Royal centre for Mental Health, part of the Central Middlesex Hospital. The area has the highest percentage of transport and storage workplaces in Park Royal (22%). Up until the 1980s Park Royal Vehicles Ltd was based here, and had built Halifax bombers and Routemaster buses from large warehouses adjoining Abbey Road.

AREA B6 includes the area between the Grand Union Canal and the Central Middlesex Hospital, one of Park Royal's largest employers. The western side is made up of some large industrial units and housing, while the eastern edge comprises a cluster of small, heterogeneous industrial buildings, many of them workshop units. The area was first developed as terraces

in the 1870s. A carriage repair business that started during this period is still at its original location next to the canal, along with a cluster of vehicle repair businesses that have grown up around it. The area is characterised by these types of small independent businesses including trimmers, trailors, metal engineers and joiners, which in many cases have been handed down from generation to generation.

A Manufacture Food

**B** Manufacture Metal

D Manufacture Other

G Vehicle Sale and Repair

E Utilities

F Construction

H Wholesale Food

I Wholesale Other J Transport and Storage

K Info. and Comm.

**M** Services Other N Public Services

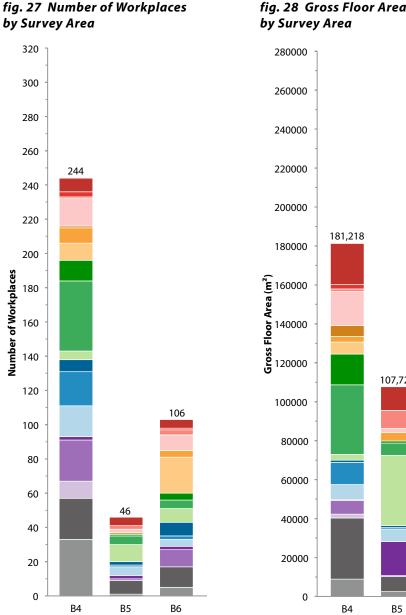
Y Vacant Z Unknown

L Services Professional

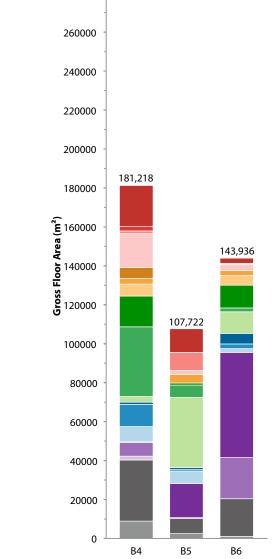
O Retail, Restaurants, Hotels

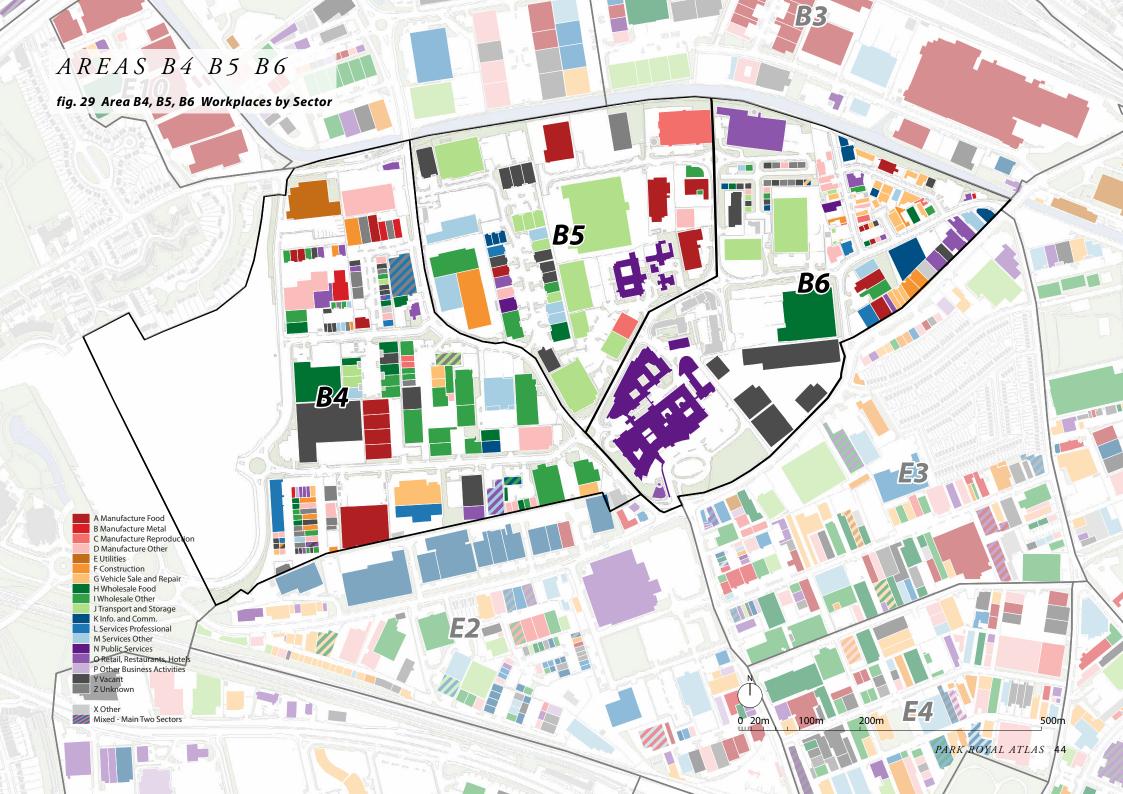
P Other Business Activities

C Manufacture Reproduction









### AREAS B4 B5 B6























#### CASE STUDY RDW Scenery

AREAS B4 B5 B6

AREA B4 Scenery construction D. Manufacture Other

Turning into the Genesis Business Park one is confronted by the miscellany of the everyday past. A forest of old bus stops and traffic signs stands next to stacked ammunition crates (empty one hopes). Just behind them, a Ukranian phonebox sits contentedly next to its more familiar London counterpart. RDW Scenery has over 28 years of experience producing high quality set construction. They employ carpenters, polystyrene sculptors, mobile screen artists, and metal welders; facilities include a metal shop, paint shop, and CNC router/cutter. With sister company Stockyard, a specialist prop hire firm, RDW have produced sets for a number of films and television programmes. However, they have also done more unusual work, including producing a series of elaborate sets for "The Azura", a 115,055 tonne cruise ship. The proximity of some of London's largest film studios (Shepperton, Twickenham, Pinewood) and television industries is a clear advantage of their Park Royal location. However, traffic congestion and poor road maintenance have become a growing problem.

DATA 10 YEARS ON-SITE 35 YEARS IN THE BUSINESS 9,700 M<sup>2</sup> GROSS FLOOR AREA



### AREAS B4 B5 B6

#### CASE STUDY Botanic Lab

AREA B2 Organic juice manufacturer D. Manufacture Other

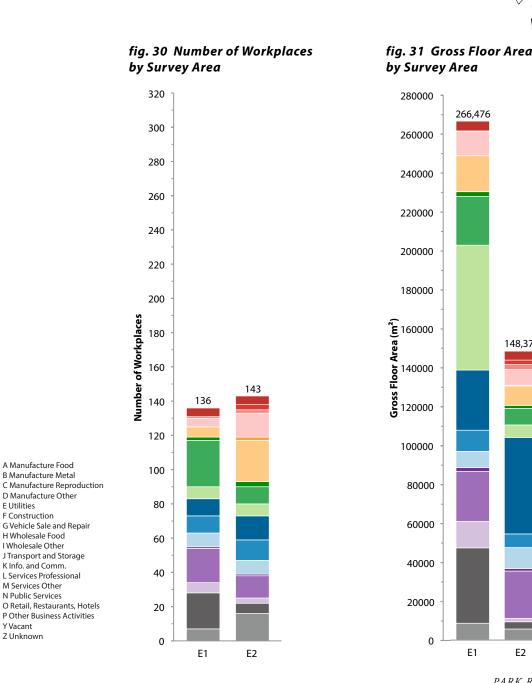
Botanic Lab might very well be Park Royal's latest start-up. Established February 2014, it is located in a kitchen workspace on Acton Lane managed by Dephna Group. Former chef Christophe and partner Rebekah are the owners and happy to show us around. Their neon lit 50sqm stainless steel kitchen space is filled with boxes of small bottles. Today they begin production of a deluxe raw organic juice for the exclusive Fenwick department store on New Bond Street. Botanic Lab takes a scientific approach to health drinks, using a special juicing method to keep all the nutrients intact. Unusual ingredients like schisandra, turmeric and matcha are added to round off a range of organic and invigorating drinks, meant to help boost wellbeing and vitality. Drinking 'Tonic 1' is "like having an espresso but without the crash", Christoph says. The company has recently relocated from East London to Park Royal, mainly because of the good access and cost-effective shared kitchen space, hard to come by as it needs to comply with stringent health regulations.

DATA 2 EMPLOYEES IN BUSINESS AND ON SITE SINCE 2014



Forming the southern tip of Park Royal, AREA E1 contains a large number of workplaces oriented towards the passing roar of the Western Avenue. Following the curve of the A40 are a number of large retailers, including the Park Royal Leisure Centre, as well as several large modern office spaces. To the east, wedged between the Central Line and larger retail units, are a number of small industrial parks with warehouse units of varying sizes. The area contains a large number of film-related businesses, including Black Island Studios, equipment rental companies and a specialist film processing lab.

Located in a triangle between Coronation Road, Park Royal Road and the Central Line siding, AREA E2 is dominated by several business parks. The junction of Park Royal Road and Abbey Road form Park Royal's centre, complete with ASDA supermarket and large parking lot. The northern edge is predominantly large warehouses, the largest of which are occupied by a data centre. Small, independent car repair businesses are clustered on the area's Western edge. Although the small workshops they occupy are in various states of disrepair, these garages provide an important local service and employment for local people.



E Utilities

F Construction

H Wholesale Food

I Wholesale Other

K Info. and Comm.

**M** Services Other N Public Services

Y Vacant Z Unknown



148,375

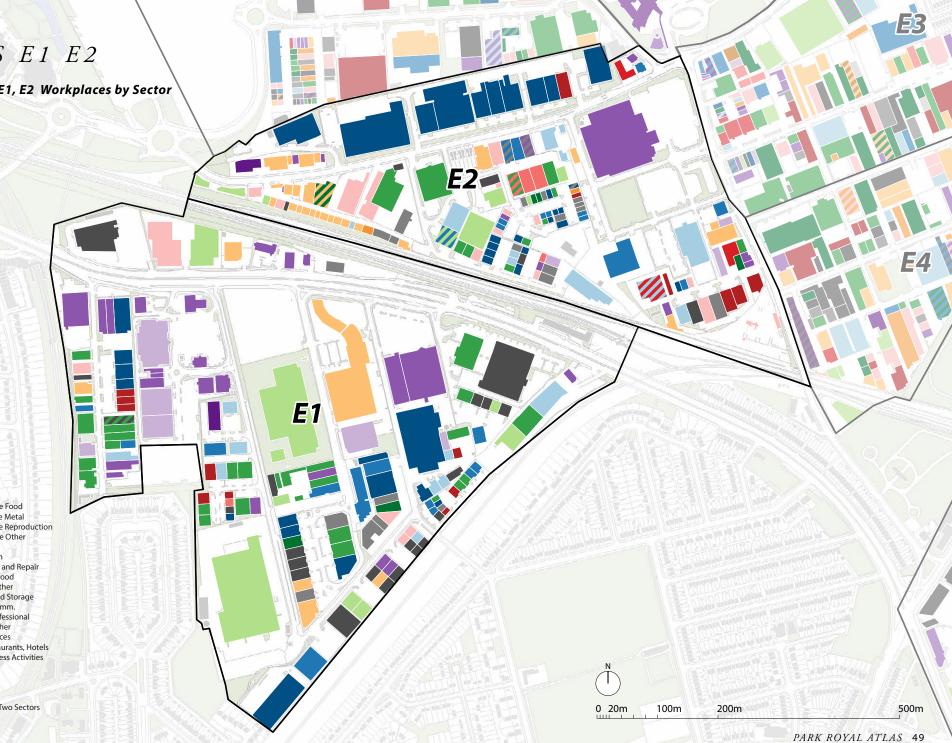
E2

E1

fig. 32 Areas E1, E2 Workplaces by Sector

A Manufacture Food B Manufacture Metal C Manufacture Reproduction D Manufacture Other E Utilities **F** Construction G Vehicle Sale and Repair H Wholesale Food I Wholesale Other J Transport and Storage K Info. and Comm. L Services Professional M Services Other N Public Services O Retail, Restaurants, Hotels P Other Business Activities Y Vacant Z Unknown

X Other Mixed - Main Two Sectors



































#### CASE STUDY Café Royal AREA E2

Eatery **O. Retail Restaurant Hotel** 

Café Royal sits on Abbey Road, opposite Central Middlesex Hospital. With over 100 items on the menu and open seven days a week its six staff members are past masters at fast service, vital for the local workers on their half-hour lunch break. The café has a long history. Founded by the current owner's father in 1975, it had set up camp in Camden and Battersea before finally coming to Park Royal around 20 years ago. Further down Abbey Road is Abbey Point, a café and bed and breakfast run by the same owner. This establishment has a similar feel: affordable, convenient and industrious. The demand for accessible and affordable amenities by hospital patients and staff as well as the workers within Park Royal creates a high volume of trade for both establishments. These cafés, and others like them, are Park Royal's pit stops, connecting the area's many businesses and creating a genuinely sociable meeting space for nurses, mechanics, office workers and tired researchers alike.

6 EMPLOYEES DATA 20 YEARS ON-SITE 24 YEARS IN THE BUSINESS 382 M<sup>2</sup> ESTIMATED FLOOR AREA £800,000 ANNUAL TURNOVER

YAL ATLAS 51

### CASE STUDY Panache Display Ltd

AREA E1 Shop window mannequin designers L. Services Professional

You enter an old brick warehouse. On a table, a bodiless human arm. Behind a screen a group of impeccably dressed men watch you intently. No, not the start of a David Lynch film, you have simply wandered into the showroom and design studio of expert mannequin designers Panache Display Ltd. With their in-house sculptor the company has designed a range of stylistically distinct mannequins, ranging from anatomic realism to more artistic abstraction. Panache prototype mannequins in their Park Royal workshop, before sending off casts for oversees manufacture. The company has provided mannequins for a number of retail giants, including John Lewis, House of Fraser and Topshop. Park Royal has proved to be a suitable location with easy public transport links to central London clients, as well as easy access to Heathrow for overseas delivery. However, the company is surrounded by poor quality public realm, a problem exacerbated by the incessant noise of the passing A40.

DATA 10 EMPLOYEES 4 YEARS ON SITE 25 YEARS IN BUSINESS 315 M<sup>2</sup> GROSS FLOOR AREA

Image source: Panache Display Ltd.

AREAS E3 and E4 form what feels like the heart of Park Royal. Their dense, fine grained physical fabric are primarily made up of small brick warehouses from the early to mid 20th century. Many buildings are shared by several workplaces and have undergone numerous transformations and extensions. This often makes establishing workplace occupants and exact unit sizes difficult. The narrow roads struggle with the high volumes of delivery traffic and many are in need of maintenance. One business has responded by purchasing the road leading up to its premises, paying for regular maintenance out of its own pocket.

However, the area is also one of the most vibrant in Park Royal. The area hosts a number of Lebanese cafés and bakeries that have become important meeting places for the local community. The area is characterised by an ethnically diverse business population, with a predominance of small independent businesses selling or producing Middle Eastern food. This dense area seems able to accommodate every possible business sector, with workplaces ranging from hair extension manufacturers to industrial laundries and pastry manufacturers for some of London's top hotels.

Y Vacant

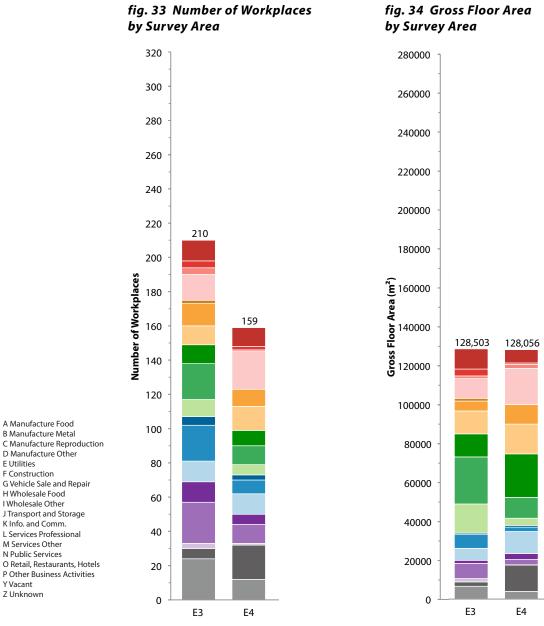


fig. 35 Areas E3, E4 Workplaces by Sector

**B6** 

E3

**E**4

**E5** 

V

T

A Manufacture Food B Manufacture Metal C Manufacture Metal C Manufacture Peproduction D Manufacture Other E Utilities F Construction G Vehicle Sale and Repair H Wholesale Food I Wholesale Other J Transport and Storage K Info. and Comm. L Services Professional M Services Other N Public Services O Retail, Restaurants, Hotels P Other Business Activities Y Vacant Z Unknown

E2-

X Other Mixed - Main Two Sectors

0 20m 100m 200m

**E**7

500m

**E6** 























FIRE EXIT

#### CASE STUDY Sunbeam Group

AREA E4 Shop fitting manufacturers F. Construction

Unlike other roads around Park Royal, Sunbeam Road is smooth and pot-hole free. This is because it is privately owned by the Sunbeam Group, who have been designing and installing shop fittings here for 25 years. During our visit the workshop is in full production mode, with workers busy cutting wood for a Selfridges' window display due to be installed the next day. The cut wood moves to the paint workshop to be sprayed to the inhouse design team's specification, before having metal trim attached. There was a clear sense of camaraderie amongst the team, perhaps an outcome of a shared cafeteria and a lack of other nearby alternative amenities. The company makes its deliveries by van, relying heavily on the North Circular. Despite the familiar problems of traffic and parking the location appears to work well for their scale of production. Perhaps testament to why this family firm has been here so long.

DATA 35 EMPLOYEES 25 YEARS ON-SITE 34 YEARS IN THE BUSINESS 4488 M<sup>2</sup> GROSS FLOOR AREA £3.5 MILLION ANNUAL TURNOVER

#### CASE STUDY Altima Lighting

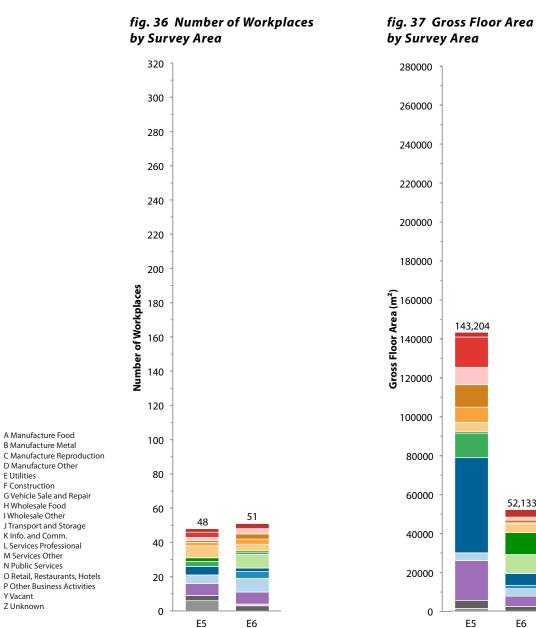
#### AREA E3 Architectural LED lights manufacturer D. Manufacture Other

Behind an unassuming warehouse facade, Altima Lighting design and manufacture a range of lighting and lighting control systems. For David Clarke (managing director) the success of a building often hinges on small details. Altima has a solution to the awkward bathroom pull cord; an elegant push switch, indistinguishable from any other domestic switch, but carefully engineered to comply with strict building regulations. From the chrome and bright whites of the showroom, David introduces us to the functional clutter of the workshop. The work desks are a jumble of parts, tools, and lights at various stages of completion. Putting them together is clearly a fiddly job, and considerable skill and craftsmanship go into their production. For David, this almost artisanal production is a source of great pride. Although he has reservations about the suitability of his current location, in particular the lack of a showroom visible from the street, the company will continue to operate from Park Royal in the foreseeable future.

DATA 15 EMPLOYEES 20 YEARS ON-SITE 34 YEARS IN THE BUSINESS 1667 M<sup>2</sup> GROSS FLOOR AREA

AREA E5, east of North Acton Road, is characterised by a relatively low number of workplaces that nevertheless occupy a comparitively large gross floor area. At the area's northern end is a National Grid substation which was originally a sizeable power plant producing electricity for large parts of London. The area has a mix of older and newer warehouse buildings of various sizes and is home to a fine metal refinery, one of the first manufacturers to locate in Park Royal over 100 years ago.

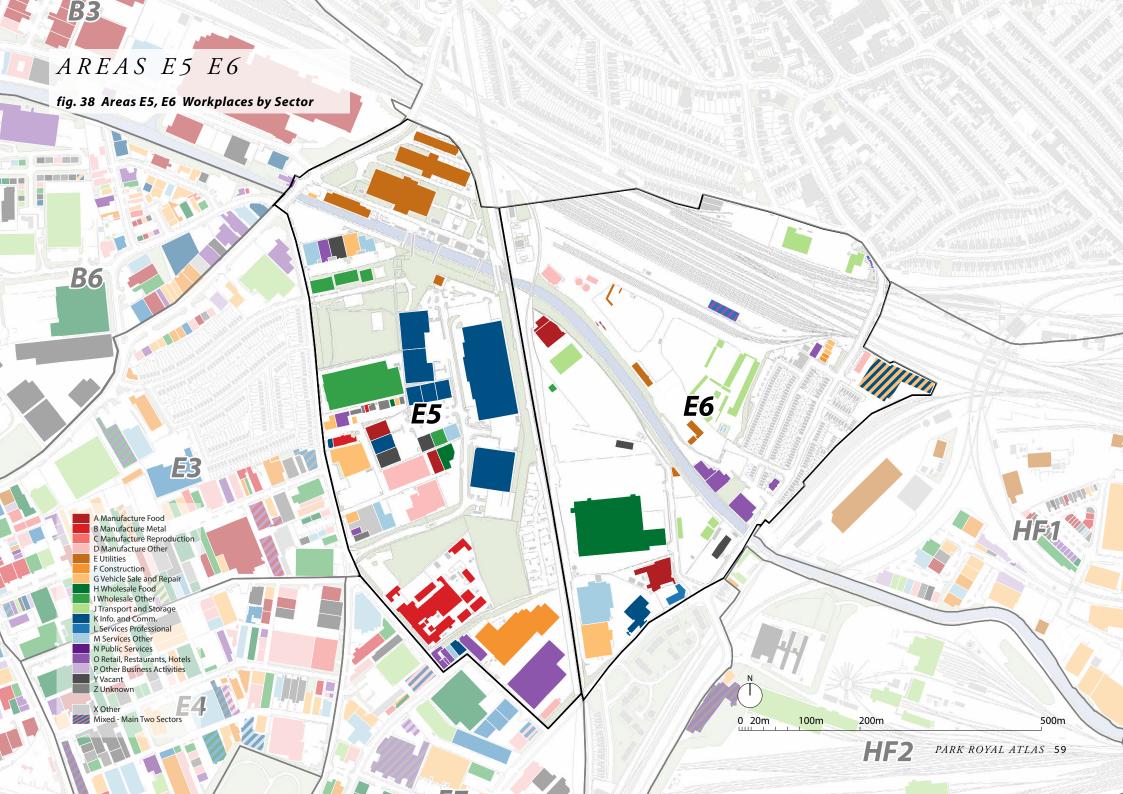
Located in the north eastern outskirts of Ealing, AREA E6 consists mainly of large parking lots and industrial yards with warehouses. On the southern edge sits a small cluster of buildings, including a large historic two-storey brick building housing an impressive prop hire collection. North of the canal is characterised by large rail infrastructure, including the large cranes of the Freightliner Terminal, and a National Grid site. The remaining area consists mainly of large yards with temporary container buildings. Most businesses are in the storage or construction sectors, with a significant number of film-related businesses.



E Utilities

Y Vacant Z Unknown



























Everitt Road

REA E5

n J

1

#### **CASE STUDY** ARY Network

AREA E5 Ethnic TV broadcaster K. Information and Communication

The business started in the building 12 years ago, renting out space that had previously been used by another TV broadcaster. It is located on the two upper floors of a 3-storey corner office building from the 50s, which asserts its presence on North Acton Road but is in need of maintenance. According to Shahzad, the station's manager, the business employs around 13 people who are all from the local boroughs. They broadcast Pakistani TV and news through the SKY and Virgin networks to 7000 subscribers across the UK. The business came to Park Royal because of the existing broadcasting business cluster and accessibility to public transport links. The manager plans to continue the business in its current form and location. However, he says that newer communication infrastructure and a reduction in traffic would benefit businesses like his.

DATA 13 EMPLOYEES 12 YEARS IN BUSINESS 12 YEARS ON SITE

#### CASE STUDY Flash Film Studios

AREA E6 L. Services Professional

Flash Film Studios occupies the largest part of a futuristic metal clad building next to the Willesden Freight Terminal. The film and photo studio has been operating just over a year and is part of the Flash Film Group which includes a lighting company, furniture hire and set construction company. The studio can therefore deliver a complete set of services linked to the film industry. Despite their small size of only three employees, the Studios complete about 12 film and photo productions per month, ranging from fashion shoots to short films, TV commercials and music videos. The studio is optimistic about their future, expecting to hire more staff and to slightly increase their floor space. The business benefits the proximity of other film-related businesses in Park Royal. However, they are critical of the poor access to their building as well as poor public transport links in their area. They would also welcome an increased offer of local shops and eateries.

DATA 3 EMPLOYEES 1 YEAR IN BUSINESS AND ON SITE 500 M<sup>2</sup> GROSS FLOOR SPACE

AREA E7, next to North Acton tube station, has one of the densest collection of workplaces in Park Royal. Two business centres accommodate a large number of micro-businesses, many of them in the food manufacturing and wholesale sectors. Production ranges from Baklava and roasted nuts, to raw detox food delivered to your home or place of work. The garage of a luxury car dealership leads to frequent sightings of Rolls Royce and Lamborghinis. Although less aesthetically appealing, an industrial solder manufacturer with a business history of 150 years, and a waste management company also play important roles in the area.

AREA E8, the site of the former BBC costume store south of the North Acton tube station, is currently being redeveloped with student accommodation and some retail. The area is often blighted by heavy traffic due to its advantageous links to the A40. At its heart are the UK headquarters of Carphone Warehouse, Park Royal's largest employer. The headquarters are surrounded by a number of business parks with large new warehouses, many of which are still empty. A former perfume factory, rents out workspace and accommodates a number of artist studios. It is also the former workplace of a young Elvis Costello, imortalised as the "vanity factory" in his 1977 song "I'm Not Angry".

AREA E9 is cut off from the rest of Park Royal by railway lines and has limited road and pedestrian access. The area features a number of attractive industrial brick buildings from the 1920s and 30s, mainly workshops and small warehouses with offices, as well as some more recent anonymous office and large warehouse units. The area has the second highest percentage of food manufacturers (14%) but also the highest proportion of vacant business units in Park Royal (41%).

320

300

280

260

240

220

200

180

160

140

120

100

80

60

40

20

0

E7

E8

F9

Number of Workplaces

A Manufacture Food

**B** Manufacture Metal

D Manufacture Other

G Vehicle Sale and Repair

**E** Utilities

F Construction

H Wholesale Food

I Wholesale Other J Transport and Storage

K Info. and Comm.

M Services Other

N Public Services

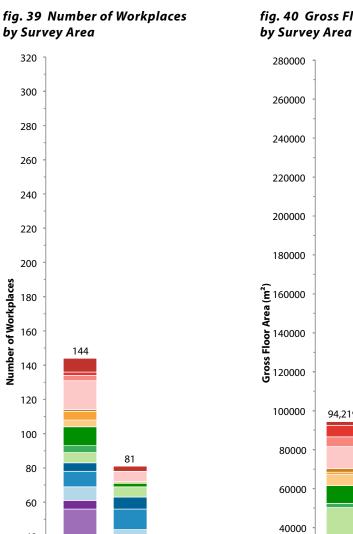
Y Vacant Z Unknown

L Services Professional

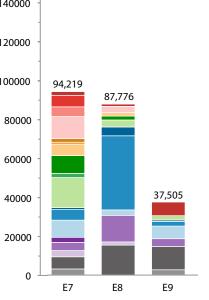
O Retail, Restaurants, Hotels

P Other Business Activities

C Manufacture Reproduction



# fig. 40 Gross Floor Area





6

fig. 41 Areas E7, E8, E9 Workplaces by Sector

**E**4

E7.

**E8** 

500m

A Manufacture Food B Manufacture Metal C Manufacture Reproduction D Manufacture Other **E** Utilities F Construction G Vehicle Sale and Repair H Wholesale Food I Wholesale Other J Transport and Storage K Info. and Comm. L Services Professional M Services Other N Public Services O Retail, Restaurants, Hotels P Other Business Activities Y Vacant Z Unknown X Other

X Other Mixed - Main Two Sectors

100m

200m

0 20m

N

PARK ROYAL ATLAS 64

HF2























#### CASE STUDY JAT Glass

AREA E4 AND E7 Glass processing D. Manufacture Other

JAT Glass occupies several locations around Park Royal, one of them a large warehouse unit on a modern industrial estate off Chase Road. The company was established in 1982, after its founder was made redundant as a result of the economic downturn. Several of his former colleagues formed similar companies and to this day JAT Glass maintains good working relations with many of them, offering assistance in the form of access to specialist machinery and skill sets. The business has flourished and grown ever since, today employing 30 people, and has the ambition to remain at the cutting edge (excuse the pun) of glass manufacturing. Their latest acquisition is a computerised glass cutting machine, which can calculate the most economical repartition, cut and deliver the finished glass plates in under five minutes.

DATA 30 EMPLOYEES 18 YEARS ON-SITE 33 YEARS IN THE BUSINESS 11,604 M<sup>2</sup> GROSS FLOOR AREA

#### CASE STUDY Sweetland Ltd

AREA E7

#### Baklava manufacturer / wholesaler H. Wholesale Food

If Sweetland's premises, a small brick warehouse from the 1970s, seem slightly oversized and empty, it is simply because the company has recently increased their floor space in anticipation of a further business growth. Founded in 1997, the companies moved to Park Royal 10 years ago. Their offer includes a variety of Mediterranean pastries (produced on site), roasted nuts and bespoke cakes, available in their shop and online to private clients as well as bulk buyers. While their ingredients are primarily sourced from UK suppliers, their client base stretches as far as Europe. Sweetland currently employs 10 people, the majority of whom live locally. Given the burgeoning success of the business it is perhaps unsurprising that Mayur (Sweetland's manager) has nothing but praise for Park Royal, in particular the relatively affordable rents. He sees any upcoming redevelopments as an opportunity for new customers and expanding the business.

DATA 10 EMPLOYEES 10 YEARS ON SITE 17 YEAR IN BUSINESS £1.4 MILLION ANNUAL TURNOVER 840 M<sup>2</sup> GROSS FLOOR AREA



annines.

#### CASE STUDY The Soundhouse Studio

#### AREA E8 Spoken word recording studio K. Information and Communications

It is unlikely that you will see many autograph hunters hanging around the Victoria Industrial Estate car park. However, there are few venues in Park Royal that can claim to have played host to as many actors and celebrities as the Soundhouse. Emily Watson, Benedict Cumberbatch, David Tennant and James McAvoy have all recorded here. Originally based in East London, the studio was forced out by the threat of redevelopment. By adapting an empty warehouse, Soundhouse have managed to create a studio building that includes five recording studios, two mastering/editing suites, and a light and airy break room on the ground floor. The studios are primarily used for spoken word recordings, with a particular emphasis on audiobooks and radio. While the security and relative seclusion offered by the Victoria industrial estate has its advantages, the studio is largely invisibile from the street, meaning celebrity guests are often left circulating on Victoria Road.

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SAMEUN

DATA 10 EMPLOYEES 1 YEAR ON SITE 30 YEARS IN BUSINESS 1148 M<sup>2</sup> GROSS FLOOR AREA

PARK ROYAL ATLAS 68

SAMSON

### AREAS HF1 HF2

Bounded by railway lines to the north, east and west, as well as the Grand Union Canal to the south, AREA HF1 is one of the most isolated areas in Park Royal. Access is limited to two road bridges at either end of Scrubs Lane (Mitre Bridge being the most attractive) as well as a particularly unwelcoming pedestrian bridge from the Willesden Junction overground and tube station to the north. Adjoining the northern railway lines are two large waste recycling facilities, south of which is a mix of large brick warehouses and offices, (primarily occupied by Car Giant) and modern industrial estates. The area is also home to a large number of artist studios, with six separate buildings playing host to close to a hundred artists and designermakers.

AREA HF2 is dominated by a two large rail depots operated by Crossrail and Great Western. The resulting tangle of railway lines and gargantuan train sheds has made the area completely inaccessible to the general public. A lone business centre, complete with Jamaican restaurant, on the area's western border adds a little variety to an area otherwise dominated by large scale rail infrastructure.

#### fig. 43 Gross Floor Area fig. 42 Number of Workplaces by Survey Area by Survey Area 320 280000 300 260000 280 240000 260 220000 240 200000 220 215 184,694 180000 200 Number of Workplaces **ĩ** 160000 180 Area ( 140000 120000 160 140 120 100000 100 C Manufacture Reproduction 80000 80 57,123 60000 G Vehicle Sale and Repair 60 J Transport and Storage 40000 40 20000 O Retail, Restaurants, Hotels 20 P Other Business Activities 10 0 0 HF1 HF2 HF1 HF2

A Manufacture Food

**B** Manufacture Metal

D Manufacture Other

E Utilities

Y Vacant Z Unknown

F Construction

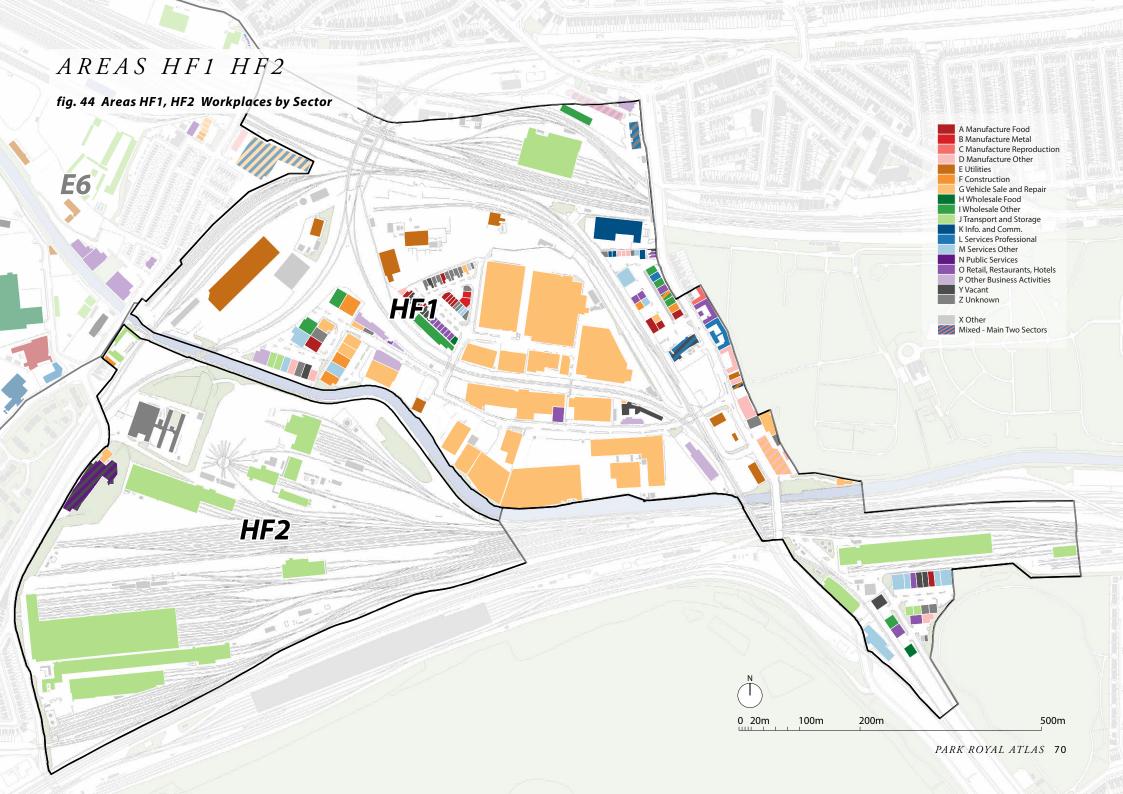
H Wholesale Food

I Wholesale Other

K Info. and Comm.

L Services Professional **M** Services Other N Public Services





### AREAS HF1 HF2























## AREAS HF1 HF2

# **CASE STUDY** NorthWest Studios

Managed artist studios AREA HF1 P. Other

Marooned in the sprawling expanse of the Car Giant estate, NorthWest studios, the creation of German-born artist Markus Blattmann, operate 4 studio buildings. Little distinguishes this ragtag collection of former office buildings from their surroundings. In contrast to the attention seeking murals and hipster baiting signage of their east London counterparts, NorthWest studios do little to draw attention to their presence. Markus explains that this is a product of the studio occupants, characterised by an older "more established" group of artists. One studio occupant has just completed a commission to produce a large red swivel chair, to be used in BBC ratings hit "The Voice". However, despite becoming London's 14th largest studio provider, Markus is pessimistic about the future. With the likely redevelopment of the Old Oak area Markus suspects it will prove difficult to secure equivalent studio space in any new development.

DATA 1 EMPLOYEE 90 STUDIOS ACROSS FOUR BUILDINGS



# AREAS HF1 HF2



## **CASE STUDY** Powerday

AREA HF1 Building waste recycling centre E. Utilities

At first glance it appears that Powerday, a building waste management and recycling company, are occupying a particularly difficult site. Bordered by the Grand Union Canal and by railway lines, the site is accessible only through a gated private road and a narrow pedestrian bridge from Willesden Junction. But the company has made use of the surrounding infrastructure, transporting building waste via rail and even via barges on the canal. This produces significantly less C02 than transporting by lorry, as a single train carries the equivalent of 70 lorry loads of material. Once the waste has arrived a fully automated processing plant is able to sort through its content, extracting recyclable materials such as metals, wood, soil, plastics, aggregates and paper. Any residual waste is turned into either "solid recovered fuel" or "refuse derived fuel", which is then transported off-site to generate electricity. Despite having a capacity and desire for expansion there are concerns that the proposed redevelopment of the Old Oak area will eventually force them out of the area.

DATA 150 EMPLOYEES 14 YEARS ON SITE PROCESSED 0.5M TONNES OF WASTE 395 M<sup>2</sup> GROSS FLOOR AREA



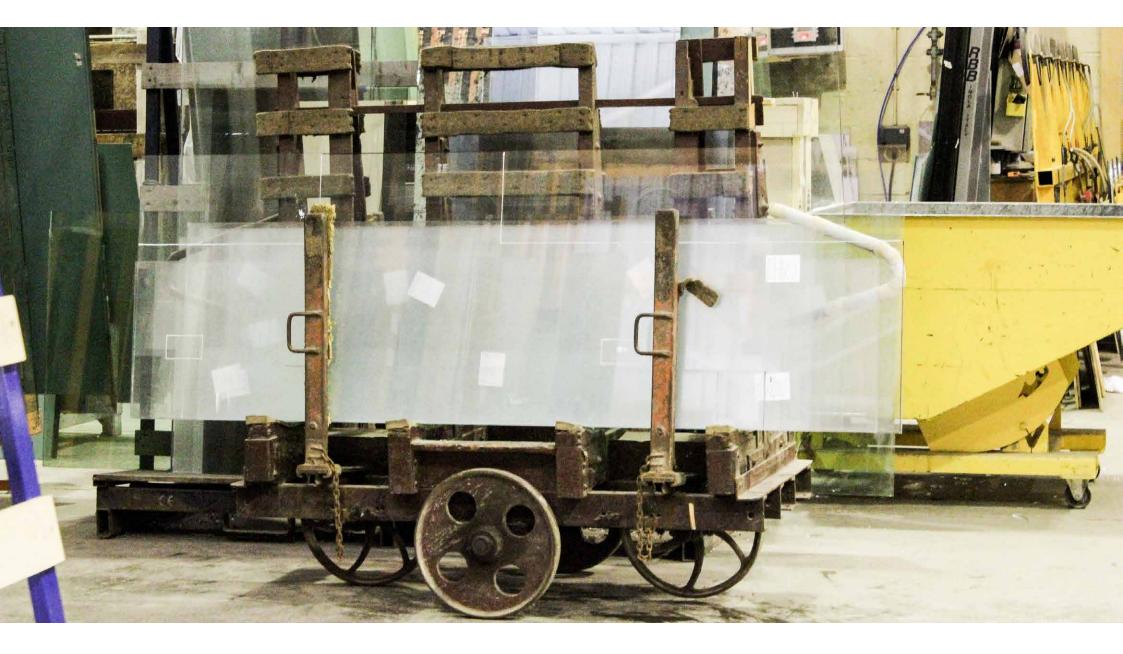
#### CASE STUDY Paul Vanstone AREA HF1 Sculptor P. Other

HF

Down a small pathway off Scrubs Lane, down by the railway tracks, our researchers spy a strange collection of large rocks. Huge and devoid of context they could be the colossal remnants from the construction of the passing railway line, stacked and arranged by a transport planner with a sense for the sublime. Or perhaps the site of some sacred pagan ritual? In fact these mysterious stones are the impressive creations of sculptor Paul Vanstone. Greeting us with a hearty handshake he apologies for the organised chaos that characterises his studio, a precarious looking scaffold and tarpaulin structure. Paul explains that his current location is ideal. With no direct neighbours there is no risk of annoying anyone with the dust and noise that this kind of work inevitably creates. He recounts that he was once made to share a studio with an artisan baker, a partnership that for obvious reasons did not last long! The nearby Light Factory is home to a number of artists and designers, and Paul is only too happy to share his space with others in need of space for noisy or messy work.

DATA 5 YEARS ON SITE 33 YEARS IN BUSINESS £200,000 ANNUAL TURNOVER

# INTERVIEW ANALYSIS



## INTERVIEW ANALYSIS

#### **EMPLOYEE NUMBERS**

During the short interviews businesses were asked what the total number of employees located at their premises was, including the owner(s), as well as for an estimate of the proportion that live locally (within the boroughs of Brent, Ealing and Hammersmith & Fulham).

Workplaces with 250+ full time employees emerged as the largest employers of the workplaces interviewed, with 36% of the total. A few of these large workplaces are in the food manufacturing sector, making it the sector with the largest number of employees at 23%. Although large in number, micro workplaces only make up 6% of the total workforce.

Overall, 51% of the Park Royal employees in interviewed workplaces live locally. Micro businesses employ the largest proportion of local staff (63%) while large businesses employ the lowest proportion (41%). However, this is based on only 4 interviews with large businesses and in terms of employee numbers, large businesses employ more than 5 times as many local people as micro businesses.

## fig. 45 Total Number of Employees by Workplace Size Interviewed workplaces only (14%) 2800 2600 2400 2200 2000 1800 Number of Workplaces 1600 1400 1200 1000 800 600 400 200 0 10 - 49 50-249 250+ 1-9 Micro Small Medium Large

A Manufacture Food **B** Manufacture Metal

D Manufacture Other E Utilities

G Vehicle Sale and Repair H Wholesale Food I Wholesale Other J Transport and Storage

O Retail, Restaurants, Hotels P Other Business Activities

F Construction

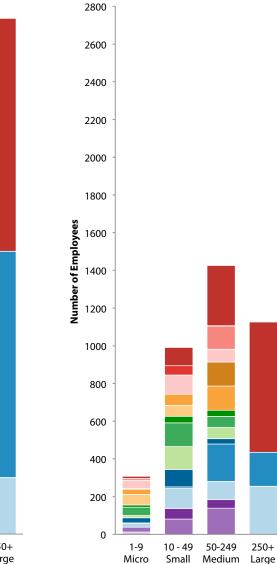
K Info. and Comm. L Services Professional **M** Services Other N Public Services

Y Vacant

Z Unknown

C Manufacture Reproduction

#### fig. 46 Number of Local Employees by Workplace Size Interviewed workplaces only (14%)



PARK ROYAL ATLAS 76

250+

## **TYPES OF BUSINESSES**

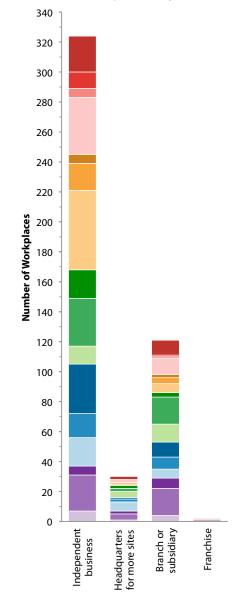
Park Royal is a hub for independent businesses, with 68% of workplaces interviewed listed as independent businesses. While there is a higher proportion of some business sectors, such as manufacturing other or vehicle sale and repair, all sectors are represented. This suggest that Park Royal offers favourable conditions for a wide range of small entrepreneurs.

There is also a wide range of headquarters in Park Royal. Although only 30 headquarters were interviewed, these spanned all sectors, with the exception of metal and reproduction manufacturing sectors and utilities. The largest headquarters is the UK headquarters of Carphone Warehouse, a mobile phone retailer.

Branches or subsidiaries make up 25% of the interviewed workplaces. Again there is a wide spread of all the businesses sectors with a concentration of retail, restaurants and hotels (15%) and other wholesale (15%). Only 4 of the business interviewed were franchises.

## fig. 47 Business Types

Interviewed workplaces only (14%)



A Manufacture Food

B Manufacture Metal C Manufacture Reproduction

D Manufacture Other E Utilities

G Vehicle Sale and Repair H Wholesale Food

J Transport and Storage K Info. and Comm. L Services Professional

P Other Business Activities

F Construction

I Wholesale Other

M Services Other N Public Services O Retail, Restaurants, Hotels

Y Vacant Z Unknown

## **TENURE**

The graphs show that the vast majority (81%) of interviewed workplaces own their premises, of which 39% have a leasehold and 42% a freehold. Less than 20% of interviewed workplaces are rented (17% having a sub-lease, and 2% a licence). However, the rental sector may be somewhat under-represented by the interviews, due to the high number of inaccessible micro businesses located in business centres.

As regards the distribution of tenures depending on business sector (fig. 48), there is a tendency for the manufacturing, vehicle repair, wholesale, construction, as well as transport and storage businesses to own their premises, while a slightly higher rate of information and communication, service and retail restaurant hotel businesses rent their workspaces. When comparing the size of businesses to tenure, micro and small businesses are more likely to rent than medium and large businesses (21% of all small and micro businesses rent, while only 12% of medium and large businesses do).

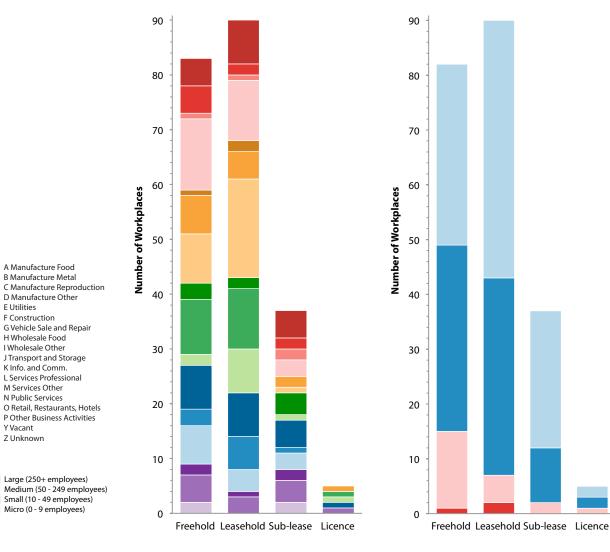


fig. 48 Workplace Tenure by Sector

Interviewed workplaces only (14%)

E Utilities

Y Vacant Z Unknown

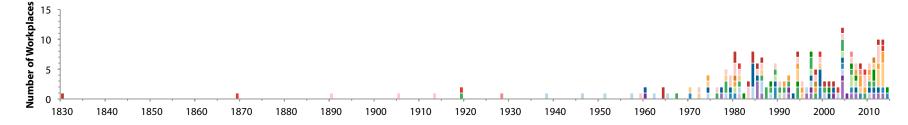
F Construction

#### fig. 49 Workplace Tenure by Size Interviewed businesses only (14%)

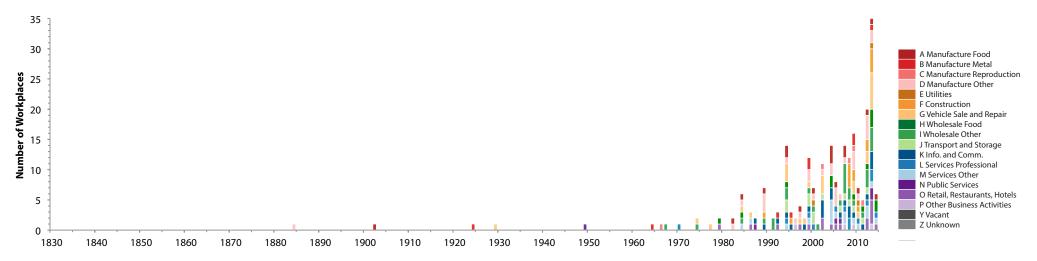
## AGE & LENGTH OF TENURE

Some of Park Royal's oldest workplaces were interviewed, including well-known companies like McVities, established in 1830 moving to their Park Royal factory in 1902. The oldest surviving workplaces interviewed are almost exclusively in the manufacturing sector. Beginning in the 1930s, but becoming a clear trend in the late 1970s, workplaces in other sectors start to appear. The large majority of interviewed workplaces were established after 1980, when a greater number of workplaces in the wholesale, transport and storage and information and communication sectors were founded. In the last two years a greater number of vehicle sale and repair workplaces have been founded. Many of the interviewed workplaces were founded elsewhere before choosing to move to their current Park Royal premises. This is clearly demonstrated by the fact that while 35 workplaces moved to their premises in 2011, only 10 were established in the same year. Many of these businesses had been established several years earlier. The graph clearly shows that food businesses continue to move to premises in Park Royal as they have done throughout its history. 31% of interviewees have moved to their current premises since 2011.

#### fig. 51 Year Workplace Established Interviewed workplaces only (14%)



#### fig. 50 Year Workplace Moved to Current Premises Interviewed workplaces only (14%)

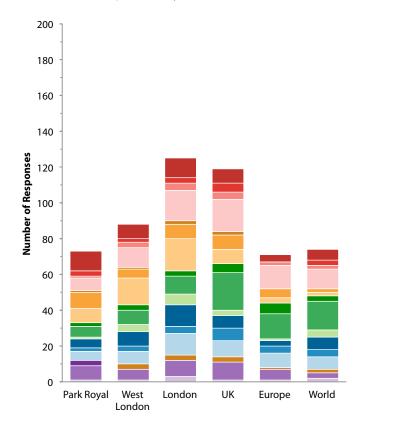


### SUPPLIER AND CUSTOMER LOCATIONS

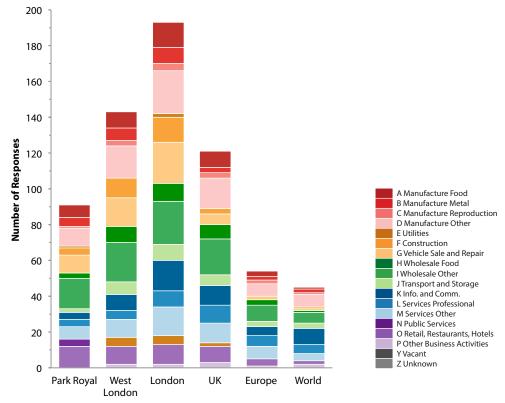
Interviewees were asked to select the locations of their primary suppliers and customers. On a first level the graphs of the accumulated responses show the important synergies within Park Royal of workplaces supplying each other. They also demonstrate that not only most of their customers, but also most of their suppliers are within London. The responses appear to give credence to Park Royal's status as both London's kitchen and workshop, with large numbers of food and other manufacturers as well as car repairs having a primarily local to London-wide customer base. They also highlight Park Royal's importance as a base for London wholesalers, who import huge varieties of products from the UK and overseas for local, London and UK-wide customers. The service sector has a more dispersed customer and supplier base with the biggest focus on overseas customers. From conversations it is clear that links to international transport hubs such as Heathrow and the proximity to London are important factors in the decision of many workplaces to locate in Park Royal.

#### fig. 52 Supplier Locations

Interviewed workplaces only (14%)



**fig. 53 Customer Locations** Interviewed workplaces only (14%)



## **BUSINESS GROWTH**

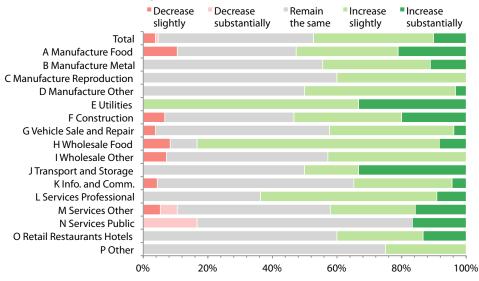
The overall response from interviewees was overwhelmingly positive when asked if they anticipated growth in employment or floor space at their workplace over the next year. 47% of workplaces anticipate an increase in employee numbers, and 27% anticipate that their workplace will need more space. The highest percentages of workplaces expecting growth are in the utilities (100%), food wholesale (83%) and the professional services sectors (70%).

The need for more floor space over the next year is anticipated by a large proportion of food wholesale (45%), followed by food manufacturing (37%), construction (36%) and information and communication sectors (35%). By contrast, the large proportions of workplaces foreseeing a shrinkage in both employment and space were in the public services and other sector.

47% of workplaces anticipate employment growth

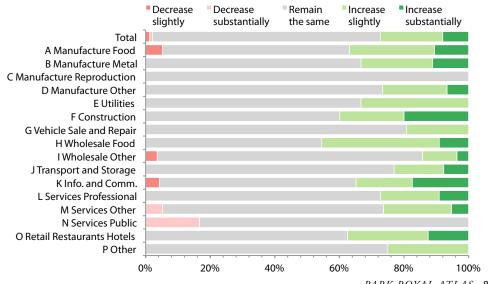
#### fig. 54 Anticipated Employment Growth over Next Year





#### fig. 55 Anticipated Space Growth over Next Year

Interviewed businesses only (14%)



PARK ROYAL ATLAS 81

#### PRODUCTION

Interviewees were asked to provide an approximation of the quantity of products or services they provided last year. The following selection of their responses reflects the diverse range of activities undertaken within Park Royal.

#### fig. 56 Selected Workplace Production Figures

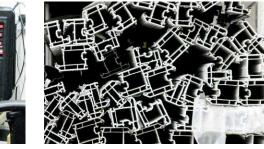
40,000,000 plumbing fittings manufactured 30,000 domestic removals completed 90 online interactive magazines created 24,000 books sold to university libraries 5 residential development projects delivered 8,500 book-related events organised 25,000 units of tools and equipment rented 1,400,000 postal and freight deliveries 12,000 lorries repaired 2,000 custom print jobs delivered 7 full length studio films processed 240,000 bouquets of flowers sold 15 cars converted to ambulances 7,200 sales of music equipment effected 94,000 hotel guests accomodated 3,000 hires of recording studio 42,000 hospital patients transported 1,500 stage and film lights rented 500 tonnes of coffee delivered 300,000 sushi rolls produced 500,000 tonnes of building waste processed 2,000 sqm of natural stone tiles sold 100,000 natural sea sponges sold 1,000 pallets of Balkan food imported 3,900 tonnes of laundry cleaned 1,000 tonnes of nuts roasted 50 tonnes of steel processed 1,000,000 hygiene tests conducted 50,000 car tyres sold













PARK ROYAL ATLAS 82



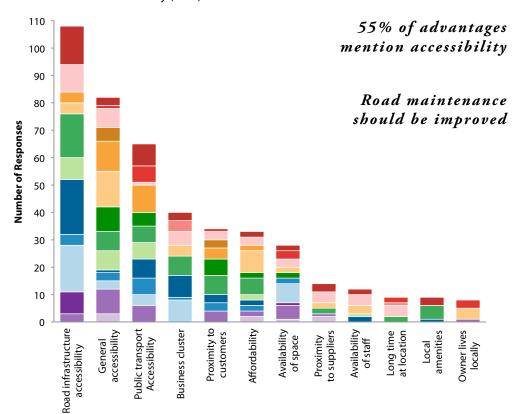


## **ADVANTAGES**

Businesses were asked to identify three features of their current location in Park Royal which most benefited their business. Interviewees gave a wide range of responses which were collated to form approximately 20 interrelated themes. Below are the top 12 themes mentioned by businesses. The top three themes are all about accessibility, demonstrating that transport links are key for businesses across all sectors. Business clustering, space availability and proximity to suppliers and customers are also cited as important advantages of Park Royal.

#### fig. 57 Advantages of Location Mentioned by Businesses

Interviewed businesses only (14%)

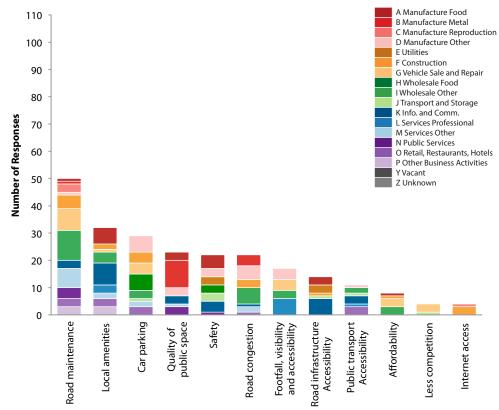


## **IMPROVEMENTS**

Businesses had less to say when asked to identify which three improvements to their locality would most benefit their business. Many of the responses clearly show that interviewees believe that an improved urban environment would benefit their business activities. Interviewees often focussed on specific aspects of their immediate urban environment with which they struggle, such as the quality of the roads and public space, a lack of easily accessible amenities, insufficient car parking, poor footfall, safety and in some areas, poor public transport accessibility.







# CONCLUSION



## CONCLUSION

## FINDINGS

The Park Royal Atlas is the first ever detailed study of the capital's largest industrial estate, often dubbed 'London's Kitchen'. Relatively little was known about the diversity of Park Royal's businesses and their role in London's economy until now. The research uses data collected from months of surveying and interviews to give an insight into what people produce, the facilities they operate from and the improvements they would like to see.

The Park Royal Atlas uncovers a great diversity of thriving businesses. Taking its name from the 1903 Royal Agricultural Show, the area has played an important historical role in supplying London with everything from McVitie's digestive biscuits to Routemaster buses, Elizabeth Arden's cosmetics to Heinz soups. It also has been a longstanding host to the film and media industry due to its proximity to the BBC at White City and West London's many film studios.

Based on a door-to-door survey of workplaces by a team of researchers, the Atlas uses a mix of quantitative and qualitative research tools and techniques to discover Park Royal's local economy and the people it is made up of. Maps, graphs and case studies paint a detailed picture of the area. The analysis of the survey data identified 1,934 active workplaces spread across a broad range of business sectors including breweries, bakeries, metal workshops, storage, contractors, joiners, hospitals, schools, publishers, film studios, software developers, garages, car sales, pubs, hotels, jewellers, cobblers, lawyers, accountants, spice merchants, medical suppliers, churches and artist studios.

Geographically mapped, these sectors form a diverse patchwork with little obvious clustering. The different buildings and space types, such as offices, workshops and warehouses, are each used by a range of businesses, although different sectors have their preferences. 30% of workplaces are small office type spaces, though workplaces in large warehouses make up 63% of the total floor area. The central areas of Park Royal stand out for having the greatest diversity of buildings and space types. Many of these are used by micro businesses which count for 75% of workplaces and contribute to the estimated 31,000 plus employees in Park Royal.

The Atlas divides Park Royal into 18 survey areas each of which has a distinct geography and special character based on its physical environment, buildings, businesses and people. The case studies highlight the important role that entrepreneurs and employees play, their skills, the pride they take in their work and their opinions. They provide the energy that goes into running each individual business. The case studies reveal inspiring examples of entrepreneurs running businesses ranging from biker cafés to advanced electronics and software development, mannequin making to smart recycling, theatrical prop construction to baking and juice pressing.

Of the 14% of total businesses interviewed, 64% of employees work for small or medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and 51% live locally in Ealing, Brent or Hammersmith and Fulham. A large proportion of these workplaces own their premises (81%) and most are independent businesses (61%). A third of those interviewed moved to current premises since 2010. Change and churn is a constant feature in thriving industrial areas, which is why this Atlas can only be seen as a snapshot of the current situation.

Due to the scale of the industrial area there is a large amount of business to business trading and over half of all supplier locations are within London. The workplaces focus on supplying a diverse range of products and services to London. The survey identified that in the last year alone individual Park Royal businesses provided London with 240,000 bouquets of flowers, 300,000 rolls of sushi, 3,000 recording sessions and supplied 24,000 books to university libraries.

Nearly half of the businesses expect employment growth over the next year, which shows great confidence. Seen alongside low vacancy levels this suggests that Park Royal is in demand as an industrial location. Interviewees commented that public transport and road accessibility are the main advantage of their location.

In summary, it is fair to say that Londoners should be extremely proud of Park Royal. Hidden behind infrastructure, fences and non-descript warehouses is a thriving and extremely mixed industrial area. There are many independent small and medium sized businesses, as well as strong and emerging household brands that reflect a broad cross section of the goods and services that are "Made in London".

## NEXT STEPS

There is change on the horizon. The eastern corner of Park Royal, named Old Oak Common, is set to be transformed when a 'super hub' High Speed 2 (HS2) and Crossrail Station is built by 2026. Old Oak Common will become a new district with up to 24,000 new homes and more than 55,000 jobs. This is why this study is well positioned to form the basis of an emerging informed dialogue between businesses, local communities and the public sector on how to strengthen and enhance the important industrial offer. The next steps are to:

Communicate the findings of the Atlas to the Park Royal community and beyond, by, for example, developing a dedicated web platform for engagement.

Further engage businesses, residents, local business groups and other stakeholders to develop more detailed knowledge of particular sectors and their aspiration in Park Royal.

Carry out a more in-depth local employment land planning study of Park Royal based on the data collected for the Park Royal Atlas to define demand and capacity of land and inform planning decisions. Develop a long-term planning framework for Park Royal setting out a long term vision including assessment of existing infrastructure, public realm and building qualities and guidance for development coming forward.

Develop a prioritized project plan of interventions (public and private, people-based and physical) that can help strengthen Park Royal's places and businesses.



