

# Made in Worcestershire: a manufacturing county

In the late 1960s, a national campaign was launched to encourage Britons to buy products from their home country. 'I'm Backing Britain' was short lived and viewed with suspicion by many, including Trade Unions who feared it was an attempt to surreptitiously extend their working hours!

In today's global marketplace such campaigns no longer make sense. International companies have offices and production units spread around the world which means that it's difficult to keep up with who owns what and where they're from. However, with many manufactured goods nowadays coming from China, the Far East and

Eastern Europe, it's reassuring to know that Britain's manufacturing base is still sound – in fact, it's one of the globe's top ten countries in terms of the value of its manufactured goods.

What's even better from the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership's (WLEP) point of view is the fact that Worcestershire is a major contributor. With 14% of its working age population engaged in manufacturing, the county has the fifth highest proportion of manufacturing based employees in a table of all 39 LEPs across England.

This strength comes to a large extent from Worcestershire's perfect location. At the heart of England, it is served by major motorway networks and within easy reach of two international airports (Birmingham and Bristol).

Connections to London Heathrow are also fast and efficient. There has been major investment in local rail and road networks, with considerably more to follow during 2014 to 2020. In short, the infrastructure that manufacturing companies depend upon for the distribution of their products is firmly in place.

The range of goods made in Worcestershire is truly astonishing and includes precision engineering tools, carpets, central heating boilers, wet wipes,



Photo courtesy of Brinton's, Kidderminster

moulded plastics, wheelie bins, rocket propulsion systems, sports cars, particle analysis instrumentation, paint brushes, door locks, latches and handles and many more! It's also home to over 120 automotive supply chain manufacturers. Throughout Worcestershire you will find businesses of all sizes making world class products and components.

Yamazaki Mazak is the world's largest producer of computer controlled metal cutting machine tools, encompassing everything from jewellery to jet engines. The company's European Headquarters and its UK base are in Worcester, which houses one of the most advanced manufacturing plants in Europe. Now employing over 400 people, Damian Cleugh (Head of Marketing at Mazak Europe) explains that the site was chosen because of Worcestershire's great manufacturing heritage, its skills base and transportation links.



Photo courtesy of Yamazaki Mazak, Worcester

Worcester Bosch Group is a market leader in domestic heating and hot water systems. Founded in the City some 50 years ago by local engineer and entrepreneur, Cecil Duckworth, the company is renowned across UK and Europe. Its boilers have recently claimed top spot for the third year running in the 'Which?' boiler report. The company was also awarded Best Engineering Plant and a top Health and Safety award in the UK's 2013 Best Factory Awards. Manufacturing Director, Bob Murdoch, puts the company's success down to their strong commitment to engineering excellence.

Precision engineering is a feature of many Worcestershire manufactured products. For example, in Wychavon - a region perhaps best known for its fresh produce - you will find high performance gearboxes for use in industrial and marine applications being made by Allen Gears in Pershore, whilst a wide range of engineered parts and assemblies for the aerospace, entertainment, oil and automotive industries are being made by Rotec Engineering in Evesham.

Precision goes to the ultimate extreme at Malvern Instruments - in fact, down to the smallest particle. The company provides a wide range of instruments for determining particle size and shape in virtually all types of industrial materials. As one of the largest employers in the region, and set to expand even further, the firm has received seven Queen's Awards for Enterprise in recognition of its export sales and continued growth worldwide.

In contrast but also in Malvern is the Morgan Motor Company, the world's oldest privately owned car manufacturer and going from strength to strength. Morgan's iconic motor cars began life over 100 years ago as three-wheeled 'Run-arounds'. Today the company still hand builds its vehicles using traditional methods and materials but it has three basic models, including a recently launched replica of that original car, now incorporating state-of-the-art technology

Kidderminster, based in the north west of the county, has long been famed for its connection with the carpet industry, although in recent years it has been affected by competition from overseas and changes in market trends.

Brinton's Carpets, based in the town, was in some difficulty, but in 2011 its future was secured in a buy-out by The Carlyle Group. Now it is amongst the leading high-quality woven carpets manufacturers in the world, exporting over 80% of its products. Its high definition weave technology provides customers from both the commercial and residential markets with the opportunity for their own bespoke and original designs. And it's made in Worcestershire!

Also in the north of the county and bordering on Birmingham is



Photo courtesy of Coomers, Worcester

Bromsgrove, which was originally famed for its manufacture of nails. Today it has a mixed economy but amongst its businesses is Harris Brushes, who will soon be celebrating their 100th anniversary. Founded in 1928, the company received a Royal Warrant for product excellence in 1961. Today they supply their paint brushes to millions of decorators around the world.

As the supplier to 90% of all UK Local Authorities' waste and recycling containers, and to a leading private sector contractor, Egbert H Taylor, based in Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire realise that they don't have the most glamorous of businesses. With over one million of their four wheeled, galvanised, steel waste bins dotted around the globe, however, they are nevertheless passionate about their products that are British made, in Worcestershire.

There are far too many products to mention that are Made in Worcestershire. In fact, wherever you are in the county - even in its most rural locations – you will be just a stone's throw away from a manufacturing business!

For example, to the east of Worcester, based on a family owned farm in rural Inkberrow, JSC Rotational provides customers with rotational moulding and assembly services. They provide bespoke moulded components measuring up to 3.1 m in length and 2 m wide, to suit their customers needs. The business has recently expanded and is now able to offer increased assembly services

Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership has identified Advanced Manufacturing as one of its key sectors (alongside Cyber and Defence, Agri-foods and Visitor & Destination economy). Manufacturing is at the heart of the county's future, generating prosperity and jobs for its population for many years to come.



Photo courtesy of Malvern Hills Science Park



Photo courtesy of JSC Rotational, Inkberrow

Not only does the county produce some of the world's best known and well respected products, it also offers training in manufacturing skills. Of particular note is NEW College in the north of the county where you will find state of the art facilities dedicated to motorcycle technologies and the only 'Harley-Davidson University' in Europe which provides training for Harley-Davidson franchise dealerships and technicians from across Europe and beyond.

The LEP is certain that Worcestershire's central location, its manufacturing heritage and skilled workforce will appeal to incoming investors. With a number of development sites already earmarked and continued infrastructure investment in the pipeline, we look forward to welcoming even more world-class manufacturers to the county.

**If you would like to know more about manufacturing in Worcestershire, please contact Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership: +44 1905 346180 or email [enquiries@wlep.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@wlep.co.uk).**

# Made in Worcestershire - some Manufacturing SMEs

AD Transmission . A J S Sheet Metal Ltd . **Able Tooling** . AccurIC Ltd . A E Oscroft & Son Ltd . **Aero Racing** . Airducts Design Ltd . Airojet Limited . **Altara International** . Amdac Carmichael Td . Aquapower Ltd . **Argee Pointing Services** . Arrowvale Electronics . Asiri Foods . **Assistive Control Ltd** . Auto Service Tools Ltd . Autonational Ltd . **B Hepworth & Co Ltd** . B M B Structural Steelwork . Barton Cold Form Ltd . **Beakbane Ltd** . Bennett Mahler Ltd . Bennetts Foods (Worcester) Ltd . **BF Innovation** . Big Bear Plastic Products Ltd . Biotech International . **Birmingham Prototypes Ltd** . Blueprint . Bodycraft 2004 . **Boston Matthews Ltd** . Bridge Bearings Ltd . Brockway Carpets Ltd . **CAP Furnace Spares** . Caption Data Ltd . Central Profiles Ltd . **Central Springs & Pressings Ltd** . Central Supply Teachers Ltd . Chess Plastics Ltd . **Comcount Ltd** . Concept Furniture International . Conveyor Units Ltd . **Cundey Systems Ltd** . Davturn Ltd . Deeley Precision Engineering . **Denvic Ltd** . Dietec . Dingley Dell Enterprises Ltd . **DMS Chromium Plating Ltd** . Droitwich Print . DSM (Chromium Plating) Ltd . **Dynamometer Services Group** . Eaton Timber Solutions . English Braids Ltd . **Essential Supply Products Ltd** . Evenproducts Ltd . Extreme Communication . **Fairfield Group Ltd** . Fairways Pine Fireplaces . Firs Fencing Ltd . **Form Fab Worcestershire Ltd** . Foster Welding (Systematic Doors) Ltd . **Foursome Vehicle Heaters Ltd** . Freddy Products Ltd . G D K Engineering Co Ltd . **G & C Engineering Ltd** . Giclee Fine Art Ltd . Greenbox Company (Europe) Ltd . **Hadley Hargreaves Ltd** . Handling Concepts Ltd . Hard Anodising Ltd . **Harper & Simmons Ltd** . Hatt Kitchens . Hazlewood Trailers . **Helius Design** . Holden Aluminium Technologies . Hycontrol Ltd . **Image Technique** . Industrial & Tractor Ltd . Industrial Material Recycling Ltd . **Inline Engineering Ltd** . Integrated Technology . Integrated Surveillance Systems Ltd . **J & G Engineering (Bromsgrove) Ltd** . J S Optical . James Thomas Engineering Ltd . **JDR Light Engineering** . John F Beavan Furniture . Julu Ltd . **Jump 4 Joy Ltd** . K N Products Ltd . Kelsey Pavey . **K F Alliance Eng Ltd** . Kilby Packaging . Kimal PLC . **Leedan Packaging Ltd** . LFI (UK) Ltd . LMS Precision Engineering . **Lofrix Associates** . Lost Wax Development . M & H Plastics (Holdings) Ltd . **Mac Machining Ltd** . Machined Component Systems PLC . Magal Cables Ltd . **Malvern Boilers Ltd** . Malvern Hills Brewery Ltd . Malvern Plastics (S & G) Ltd . **Malvern Scientific Solutions** . Maple Worcester Ltd . Master Magnets Ltd . **MDM Pumps Ltd** . Mercian Models . Mercian Surgical Supply Co Ltd . **Metrasens Ltd** . Micro Spring & Presswork . Mid West Automation Ltd . **Mirrorobes Ltd** . Morgan Motor Company . MPC Redditch Ltd . **Nicholson & Co (Worcester) Ltd** . Olivers Army Ltd . Optimec Ltd . **Pegoty Hodge Partnership** . Pendower . PGT Inca . **Pharma Packaging Systems Ltd** . Picturesque Reproductions Ltd . Pinstructure Ltd . **Planit Products Ltd** . Practical Pootchwear . Pre-Met Ltd . **Profin Protective Finishing Group Ltd** . Prompting Plus Ltd . Purple Granite . **Quality Storage Solutions Ltd** . Qutec Pershore Ltd . Red Forge Ltd . **Redline Hydraulics** . Redplug Ltd . Rescroft Ltd . **Rhino Recycling** . Rotec Engineering Ltd . S A Mogg Ltd . **Sam Carmidy** . Samuel Taylor Ltd . Sandfield Engineering . **Sign Specialists Ltd** . Sparkfire Ltd . Springpart Manufacturing Ltd . **Star Seating Ltd** . Sterimedix . Stour Precision Tools Ltd . **Stratford Precision Engineering Services Ltd** . Styles Precision Ltd . Submersible Productions . **Swimming Pool Fitness** . Tape Solutions . Teisen Products Ltd . **The Merit Badge & Regalia Co** . The Smart Actuator Co Ltd . The Sunday Girl Co Ltd . **Thermal Transfer Solutions Ltd** . Thermex Ltd . Thorcom Systems Ltd . **Tim Beeston Services** . Topsy Fruit Gins Ltd . Translift Bendi Ltd . **Transport and Plant Services** . Tungsten Carbide Solutions Ltd . TW Controls . **UKF Stainless Ltd** . Universal Safety Systems . Vernier Springs & Pressings Ltd . **Versaduct Sheet Metal Ltd** . WaterBlox . Whitehouse Flexible Tubing Ltd . **Wickens Engineering Ltd** . Widney Leisure Ltd . William Cope Ltd . **Witley Jones Furniture Ltd** . Worcester Marine Windows Ltd . Worcestershire Fireplaces Ltd . **Work Surface Products Ltd** . Worlifts Ltd . Wyvern Sheet Metal & Fabrications Ltd . **Xitek Ltd** . XTA Electronics Ltd . Zephir Ltd