

**ABBOTS LEIGH, HAM GREEN,  
PILL, EASTON-IN-GORDANO  
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN  
Background Paper 5**

**Economy and Employment**



**October 2019**

**Background Papers were prepared over 2018 and 2019 to assist the Neighbourhood Plan Team develop its thinking and proposals. Some of this background work has been overtaken by the development of the October 2020 Plan**

## **ECONOMY AND EMLPOYMENT**

### **SUMMARY**

- The 2011 Census showed 2,829 residents aged 16-74 actively engaged in economic activity (full or part time employment, self-employed or unemployed) with 1,238 residents inactive (retired, long term carer, sick or disabled).
- Of those actively engaged 54.1% were in full employment, 21.6% in part-time employment and 16.7% self-employed.
- Of those in work, 10.2% worked part-time for 15 hours a week or less, 20.6% worked between 16 and 30 hours, 55.1% worked 30-48 hours whilst the remaining 14.1% worked full-time for 49 hours a week or more.
- Of industrial sectors, health and social work (14.0%), wholesale, retail and vehicle repair (13.5%), education (9.4%) and construction (8.5%) were the major areas of work for local residents.
- There are currently 10,000 jobs in the Avonmouth and Royal Portbury docks with around two thirds of the work being within Royal Portbury Dock. The Port Company itself employs 600 with the remainder in dock related businesses,
- Other major local employers included the Eden and Old Brewery Business Parks, Penny Brohn, the Manor Care Home, and Leigh Court. Education and Health provide further employment at St Katherine's School, Heywood Family Practice, and Avon Fire and Rescue.
- Adding in estimated jobs in shops, public houses, and farms, together with those working from, or at, home the total number of jobs in the Neighbourhood Area is estimated to amount to around 3,000, of which around a third are held by local people.
- There is extensive inward commuting. In the morning peak hour 451 cars left the A 369 at St. Katherine's towards Pill whilst 301 cars entered Pill at St. George's Hill. Around 20% of residents work at or from home.
- There is extensive outward commuting with travel to work in Bristol, Portishead and Avonmouth and further. 30% of travel to work is over 10 km. with 5% over 30 km.
- Most travel to work is by car (75%) with 11% by bicycle or on foot.
- 53% of school leavers from St. Katherine's move on to university with a further 19% going to college or taking up an apprenticeship.
- Taking into account commuting patterns it is likely that around 19% of the 8,000 jobs in the NPA are held by local residents.



**Hours worked:** The overall pattern of hours worked for both full-time and part-time working is broadly similar across the Neighbourhood Area – around 30% work full-time. In Abbots Leigh, however, full-time workers work more hours a week whereas in Pill/Easton full-time work is a more standard 31-48 hours.

**Table 4 Hours Worked**

	Abbots Leigh		Pill/Easton-in-Gordano		Neighbourhood Area	
		%		%		%
Part time 15 or less hours	38	11.1	237	10.1	275	10.2
Part time 16-30 hours	71	20.7	484	20.6	555	20.6
Full time 31-48 hours	165	48.1	1319	56.1	1484	55.1
Full time 49 or more hours	69	20.1	312	13.3	381	14.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2352</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2695</b>	<b>100</b>

**Industrial Sectors:** In terms of the industrial sectors found in the Area there are more residents working in wholesale and retail (14% of the workforce), in health and social work (also 14%), education (9%), and construction (8%).

**Table 5 Residents by Industrial Sector**

	Abbots Leigh	Pill/Easton-in-Gordano		Neighbourhood Area		
		%	%		%	
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	10	3	8	0	18	0.7
Mining and Quarrying	1	0	6	0	7	0.3
Manufacturing	16	5	168	7	184	6.8
Electricity, Gas, Steam etc.	1	0	12	1	13	0.5
Water, Sewerage, Waste	0	0	19	1	19	0.7
Construction	31	9	197	8	228	8.5
Wholesale/Retail, Vehicle repair	40	12	323	14	363	13.5
Transport and Storage	12	3	144	6	156	5.8
Accommodation & Food service	8	2	154	7	162	6.0
Information & Communication	22	6	103	4	125	4.6
Financial and Insurance	23	7	133	6	156	5.8
Real Estate	10	3	29	1	39	1.4
Professional, scientific, technical	49	14	148	6	197	7.3
Administrative & Support	12	4	116	5	128	4.7
Public administration & defence	21	6	142	6	163	6.0
Education	34	10	219	9	253	9.4
Health and Social Work	41	12	335	14	376	14.0
Other	12	4	96	4	108	4.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2352</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2695</b>	<b>100</b>

**Socio-economic occupations:** The majority of residents aged 16-74 in Abbots Leigh (58%) are in managerial or professional occupations and own account workers (Table 6), as compared to 35% in Pill and Easton-in-Gordano. By contrast in all other occupational classifications there are larger proportions in Pill and Easton-in-Gordano.

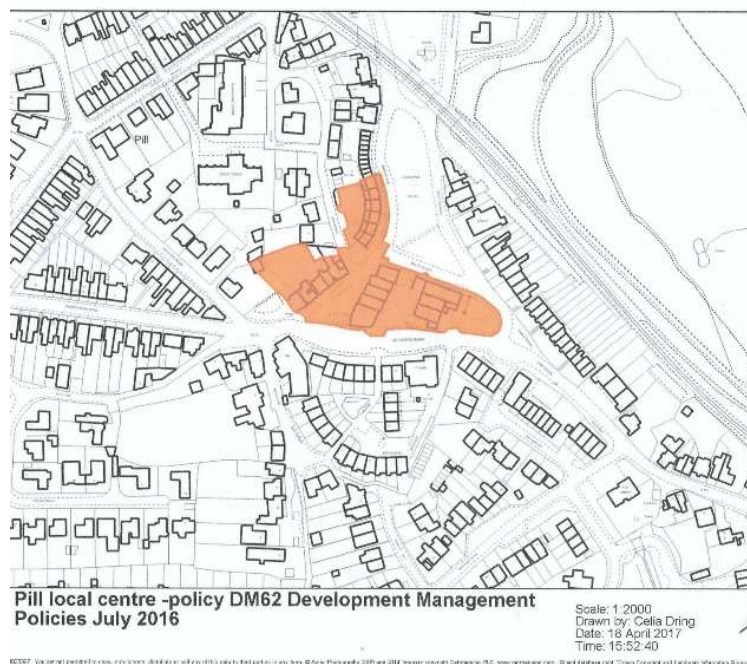
**Table 6 Socio-Economic Classification: Residents aged 16-74**

	Abbots Leigh		Pill/Easton-in-Gordano		Neighbourhood Area	
		%		%		%
Higher managerial	123	23.2	416	11.8	539	13.3%
Lower managerial	181	34.2	818	23.1	999	24.6%
Intermediate	61	11.5	479	13.5	540	13.3%
Own account workers	71	13.4	379	10.7	450	11.1%
Lower supervisory	15	2.8	280	7.9	295	7.3%
Semi-routine	33	6.2	470	13.3	503	12.4%
Routine	15	2.8	415	11.7	430	10.6%
Long term unemployed	8	1.5	95	2.2	103	2.5%
Full-time students	23	4.3	185	5.2	208	5.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3537</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4067</b>	<b>100</b>

## 5.2 Jobs in the Neighbourhood Area

Abbots Leigh, Ham Green, Pill and Easton-in-Gordano are often perceived as an area of limited economic activity and jobs but, rather with heavy peak hour traffic as a commuter feed to Bristol. Pill is an NSC designated local 'service centre' (see below) but provides only limited retail or other employment opportunities. These negative perceptions about the economic base fail to recognise the scale of the local economy and the level of jobs.

### Pill Employment Centre



**Royal Portbury Dock** generates much local employment. There are 10,000 jobs in the two docks (Royal Portbury plus Avonmouth) which 600 are direct Bristol Port Company (BPC) employees and the remainder employed in port and dock related businesses. The majority of Port Company staff work across both Royal Portbury Dock and Avonmouth Dock. The timing and specific location of work-shifts depend on the volume and type of traffic coming in and out of the port as a whole and, crucially, on the tide, so that the majority of BPC staff work at

varying times on both sides of the port. Of the 600 Port Company jobs the majority are operatives, the rest administrative and specialist staff.

The bulk of travel to the docks by residents of the Neighbourhood Area is by car (often in car-share schemes) but there are also work journeys by bicycle – the daily cycle count at Sheepway is over 200.

NSC Core Strategy (CS24) currently says that further expansion of the Port within North Somerset is not supported, that the next longer-term development of the of the Port will occur on the northern side of the Avon and that no further land for port development will be allocated. This view was challenged at the Joint Spatial Plan Examination and the Inspector's letters emphasise the role of the Port as strategic regional infrastructure. Further consideration will be given to the needs of the Port and one possibility is that land owned by the Port at Sheepway in the Green belt will be released – supporting the growth of the Port and generating further traffic around Junction 19 and potentially on the A 369. The Port, however, has no plans to grow inside the M5 or within the neighbourhood Area.

**The Eden Business Park** at Ham Green has 43 business sites, largely occupied but with a few current vacancies (August 2019). The park, with over 300 fully used parking spaces provides an estimated 1,350 jobs. The Park provides a range of buildings of varying sizes and there are both major employers and smaller firms.

The **Old Brewery Business Park** provides office space in the converted brewery premises for fifteen businesses which generate (120) jobs. Business activity includes sale and service of computer equipment and software (4), executive, professional and charity recruitment (3), specialist system design (4), holidays and outdoor activities (2), surveying (1) and management of the business park itself. Employment size ranges from less than five (7 businesses), 6 to 8 (3 businesses), 9 to 13 (4 businesses) with one business employing 26. 96% of the 82 male employees work full-time with 65% of male workers full-time. Most employees work full-time. Whilst there are a few employees who live locally and who walk or cycle to work and some who travel by bus, the majority of work journeys are by car. There is parking available on site but a few businesses rent additional parking from the next-door Memorial Club, estimated at up to 40 spaces a day.

The Old Brewery has considerable advantages for business – accessible to the M5 and hence attractive for commuting as well as for business related traffic, some parking on site and other parking available nearby, up to date and reasonably priced office accommodation, bus (and prospectively rail) services, a pleasant 'out of Bristol' environment. The park is generally full and demand for space sufficient. There are offsetting disadvantages – a lack of local facilities in Pill (e.g. café, range of shops) and there are difficulties of accessing Bristol via the A 369.

Many of those who work at the Old Brewery arrive by car in the morning and leave after work and hence have little contact with Pill other than a walk at lunch time, the purchase of a sandwich and occasional support for community activities (e.g. the Christmas Lights, Pill in Bloom).

**The Pill Precinct.** There are a number of retail outlets on the Precinct and on Bank Place beside Victoria Park. It is the nearest local shopping centre for Abbots Leigh, Ham Green and Easton -in-Gordano for whom Portishead and Bristol are the alternatives. Pill has no High Street and The Precinct, lying on the X4 bus route and stretching from the main road to Pill Creek, is the hub for a number of community facilities – sixteen shops, three pubs, the Fire Station and some housing (both above shops and as individual properties. There is a Co-op, a Post Office, a chemist but no baker, butcher or greengrocer. Local employment is around 100. Parking is messy and insufficient. Residents complain about young people hanging around.



The short business survey produced the following short profile

- There are 21 business premises
- 12 are leased (11 from Alliance Homes) with the rest owned by a range of local and 'elsewhere' owners. Most Alliance leases are of shorter term but the Co-op and Cohens chemist have a 125-year lease.
- Local employment is 67 with 20 male and 47 female jobs and 36 full-time/31 part-time jobs
- 24 employees walk to work, 2 cycle. The rest come by car and park wherever they can.
- Customers are generally local (including Abbots Leigh) but are also drawn from Portishead, Bristol and other surrounds.
- Two businesses offer a service nationally; two businesses are branches of businesses located elsewhere.
- 8 businesses (shops) are open all day; others are open variably (with some only on call).

Elsewhere there is significant employment at the **Abbots Leigh Nursing Home** (78 jobs), **Penny Brohn** (80 jobs), **Leigh Court** (180) and **Freeways** (40 jobs).

Education and Health provide further employment **at St Katherine's School** (100 jobs) and **Heywood Family Practice** (30 jobs). Adding in estimated jobs in retail at The Precinct, public houses, and farms, together with those working from, or at, home (200 residents), the total number of jobs in the Neighbourhood Area, excluding the docks, is estimated to amount to around 2,500.

### 5.3 Travel to Work

**Inward Commuting:** Many of these jobs are filled by workers who live outside the area and who commute in, mainly by car. The October 2018 Traffic Survey counted 451 cars and 31 vans entering Pill from the Bristol direction at morning peak hours (07.00-09.00) and 301 cars and 79 vans entering Easton-in-Gordano at St. George's Hill (also am peak hour). There is extensive parking across the Area - over 300 parking spaces at Eden Business Park, for example and 80 spaces at Penny Brohn as well as parking around The Precinct. Locations, a number of whom known to use the cycle path into the Docks area by bicycle. The Manor Care Home, for example, recruits many workers from Bristol. St. Katherine's School draws teachers from Bristol, some from Wales.

**Outward Commuting:** Information from Datashine indicates the destination of outward work journeys by residents for an area which in broad terms covers Abbots Leigh and Pill. Map 1 shows graphically where residents were travelling to work. The main locations were as shown in Table 7. Around a fifth of residents work from home<sup>1</sup>. A further 18% have work journeys of less than 2 km., and probably work within the Neighbourhood Area.

---

<sup>1</sup> The numbers working at or from home vary between Tables 7,8, and 9. This may be partly because the area covered by MSOA (a Middle Super Output Area) differs from parish boundaries. Again, there may be differences in respondent interpretations of what is meant by 'at home, 'from home' or 'mainly at home'.





Work at/from home is much more significant in Abbots Leigh (8.7%). Very few Abbots Leigh work journeys are less than two kilometres – no surprise given the small number of jobs in Abbots Leigh. Conversely there is more long-distance travel from Abbots Leigh with some journeys over 60 kilometres – some probably to London.

Work at/from home is less important in Pill/Easton than in Abbots Leigh, but short journeys are common (50% less than 5 kilometres) as are ‘middle distance’ journeys (5-30 kilometres). Many are to central Bristol but Table 7 shows that half of the journeys to work from Pill/Easton residents in employment are to Portishead, nearby villages and Avonmouth. In Table 7 the ‘Other’ category probably includes travel to work either in Clifton, in East and North Bristol as well as in Clevedon, Weston-Super-Mare.

**Getting to Work:** Throughout the Neighbourhood Area over seventy per cent of journeys to work are by car or van either as driver or passenger, reinforcing the findings on inward and outward commuting already discussed. Census data on mode of travel to work (Table 9), however, shows that (together with home working), travel to work and on foot and bicycle generate significant employment within the reach of local residents.

8% of Pill/Easton journeys are on foot and, perhaps surprisingly since there are few local jobs, five per cent of Abbots Leigh journeys are also on foot, explained perhaps by the fact that Abbots Leigh Nursing Home and St. Katherine’s School are both in Abbots Leigh.

**Table 9 Method of Travel to Work**

Method of Travel	Abbots Leigh		Pill and Easton-in-Gordano		N’hood Plan Area	
		%		%		%
Work mainly at/from home	48	14	145	6%	193	7.1
Train, Tube, tram etc.	9	2.6	23	0%	32	1.2
Bus, minibus, coach	6	2	93	4%	99	3.7
Taxi	0	0	3	0%	3	0.2
Motorcycle, scooter etc.	0	0	29	1%	29	1.0
Car/Van (driver)	231	67	1635	70%	1866	69.2
Car/Van (passenger)	18	5	133	6%	151	5.7
Bicycle	11	3	88	4%	99	3.6
On foot	17	5	182	8%	199	7.4
Other	3	1	21	1%	24	0.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,352</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,695</b>	<b>100</b>

#### 5.4 Education and Training

St. Katherine’s School makes a small but important contribution to labour supply, both locally in the Area and beyond. The intake of students has risen in recent years and will soon grow to 180 a year with a sixth form of 100.

**Table 10 St. Katherine’s School: Pupil Destinations**

	After year 11	After Year 13
<b>Sixth Form</b>	<b>43%</b>	
<b>Gap Year</b>		<b>6%</b>
<b>University</b>		<b>53%</b>
<b>FE/College</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Apprenticeships</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>3%</b>

	<b>After year 11</b>	<b>After Year 13</b>
<b>Gap Year</b>		
<b>Employment</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>NEET</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2%</b>

After Year 11 over half go to College or take up apprenticeships, whilst 43% go on to sixth form. A fifth of all sixth formers move into a job but the majority move on to University (53%), to college (16%) or take a gap year (6). The School offers careers advice, receives visits from employers and arranges a range of placements, work experience and employer visits.

## **5.5 Jobs for Local People**

Sections 1-4 above describe an active, open local labour market reflecting a significant demand for and supply of a wide range of skills. Within the Neighbourhood Area excluding the docks, there are around 2,500 jobs and, resident in the Area, a labour force of economically active residents of 2,800. The labour force, however, spreads itself over a wide geographical area. There is much outward and inward commuting.

Work at/from Home together with walking and cycling accounts for 22.2% of travel to work journeys from Abbots Leigh and 17.6% from Pill/Easton-in-Gordano. Whilst the bulk of travel by other modes – Train, Bus, Taxi, Motor Cycle, and Car (driver and/or passenger) – is likely to be outwards from the Area there is certainly some use of the car for journeys to work within the Area - for journeys of more than two kilometres for example. Bus and motor bike journeys may also account for some local travel. Taking account of homeworking (199) plus bicycle (99) plus on foot (199) plus travel to work in immediately neighbouring areas within 5 kilometres it is possible that around a third of the 2,500 jobs in the area (excluding the docks) are filled by local residents – 800 local jobs for local people. Adding in the docks would significantly raise this figure.

## BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

The majority of employment numbers are accurate drawn from interviews but the remainder are estimates.

	<b>Establishment</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Employment</b>
<b>Abbots Leigh</b>			
	Real Tennis		4
	Clifton College Sports	Leisure/Sport	6
	Upper Farm		2
	Bristol Rugby	Leisure/Sport	not in operation yet
	Manor Nursing Home		60
	The George	Public House	6
	Fitness Centre	Leisure/Sport	6
	Kennels		4
	Leigh Court		70
	Brackenwood Garden Centre		10
	Freeways		20
<b>Eden Business Park</b>			
61	Acutest		6
61	Elliot Bunker		20
63	Art Bauen		20
63	Craddy's		20
65	Ridge		20
67	Morgan Lloyd		8
68	Wilmot Dixon		30
69	Clifton Asset mgt		100
69	ABF		4
73	Blue Sky systems		6
75	Dental practice	Local Service	10
77	Novo		6
79	Agile Applications		6
81	Mears		2
81	Purple		6
83	Vacant		
87	Channel Communications		6
80	SPIE	Engineering consultants	6
82	Med Serve		6
84	Grosvenor		2
72	Paradigm Norton		40
73	Paradigm Norton		
74	Paradigm Norton		
74	Pathway Care Fostering		6
72	UNDEVELOPED		
70	UNDEVELOPED		
68	Cyton		10
68	Unit 4		10

	<b>Establishment</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Employment</b>
64	JDL Consultants		10
66	Optima		10
	Rydon		20
	Core Assets FCA		20
	Helloe		6
Sanctuary 1	Sold service		6
Sanctuary 2	Alliance		6
Sanctuary 3	T Clarke		6
Sanctuary 4	Times two		6
Sanctuary 5	eKeeper		6
Sanctuary 6	Morgan Lloyd		6
Sanctuary 7	e MAR		6
Sanctuary 8	Blue Poppy		6
Sanctuary 9	Law Express		6
	Upper floor		6
	Upper floor		6
	Upper floor		6
<b>Ham Green</b>	Anchor Inn		4
	Concept 4		6
	St Katherine's School		6
	Chapel Pill Farm		1
	Blue Poppy		6
	Anchor Pub	Public House	2
<b>Pill Precinct</b>	Cohen	Chemist	6
	Co-Op	Food - Store/take Away	2
	Resource Centre		2
	Post Office	Local Service	6
	St. Peter's Hospice		6
	Kebab take Away	Food - Store/take Away	6
	Oven Gleamers		2
	Barber		2
	Lime Tree café	Food - Store/take Away	6
	Style Academy	Hairdressing	6
	Style	Hairdressing	2
	Employment		8
	Vets		10
	Duke of Cornwall	Public House	10
	The Star	Public House	2
	Tattoo		4
	Co-Op (Station Road)	Food - Store/take Away	4
	King's Head	Public House	4
	Chinese take Away	Food - Store/take Away	4
	Dog Grooming		4
			4
<b>Lodway Old Brewery</b>	Pulmolink		4
	Regional games		4

