



# *Honda Car Plant*

**Honda plant (HUM)** In 1970 Honda entered collaboration with Austin Rover and produced the Triumph Acclaim. In 1980, Honda purchased the Vickers site and adapted the runway into a test track, demolished the aviation factory and constructed a 1.5 million square foot car plant.

The factory started out life carrying out pre-inspections on models such as Concerto, Ballade, Accord, Legend, Integra and Prelude. Vehicles manufactured at Austin Rover's Cowley Plant and imported from Japan underwent pre-delivery inspections at the Swindon plant. Soon the plant began to manufacture panels for the Ballade and production began in the new Engine Plant producing engines for the Honda Concerto and Rover 200/400s. At 11am on 8th October 1992 the first car built at HUM was driven off the production line in Car Plant 1 and marked the beginning of car production at the Plant. In 1994 the first Honda Civic was produced. In 1995 a press shop was added.

By 1999 ¼ million Accords and ½ million cars in total had been produced at the site. By 2001 the plant was manufacturing the Honda CR-V and Car Plant 2 had opened and commenced production. This period was an exciting time of growth, change and maturation for a local manufacturing facility that was making a name for itself around the world.

By 2003 a million vehicles and 1.5 million engines had been manufactured at the Plant. In September 2006 500,000 CR-Vs had been produced and in 2007 the millionth Civic rolled off the production line. However, in 2009, with the economic downturn, the factory was forced to close for a four-month period. When it reopened the Honda Jazz had been added to the production range. But in 2011 natural disasters affected Honda globally and production moved to a 2-day week due to severely limited supplies following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan and further production disruptions were experienced in November following the flooding in Thailand.

In September 2012, the European CR-V was launched and an investment of £267 million into the plant for the new model introduction covering the Honda Civic, CR-V and the new 1.6 small diesel developments.