



Vickers Supermarine

With the likelihood of war the Air Ministry agreed to the building of an Aircraft manufacturing site in 1938 to be run by Short Brothers Ltd. and was to shadow the Phillips and Powis Aircraft Ltd. factory at Woodley, near Reading, Berkshire.

Phillips & Powis had their factory on the Highworth Road and manufactured aircraft, originally wooden framed.

1000 Milos 'Master' trainers were built for Spitfire pilots there from 1941-44. Also during WWII they built 121 Mark 21 Spitfires, with a further 50 Seafires some Stirling bombers and Mini subs.

Vickers Supermarine bought the site at the end of WWII. By the 1950's the Attacker is in production followed by the Swift, the last aircraft built on the site was the Scimitar in 1961.

Over the years Vickers also had Hydraulics, Medical, Nuclear, Mixing & Compound, Radiation, Design & Procurement and general Engineering Divisions on the site.

The latter besides making automobile parts for many British car Manufacturers did produce entire light cars at one stage. Called the Frisky, it was the first car with a fiberglass body and there were three and four wheeled varieties produced.

Although they advertised themselves as being at South Marston they were always within the Stratton boundary. The airfield site is now Honda UK factory, the original works site is now a trading estate used by a lot of major companies including Marks & Spencers.