

Top of the hops



A craft brewery with a passion for lager, pale ale and wheat beer is creating hop hits under the London Overground railway at Camden.

The Camden Town Brewery moved into four redeveloped arches at 55-58 Wilkin Street Mews in January and has taken a fifth to keep up with demand.

"We started brewing in a small pub in Hampstead, producing 20-30 casks a week – now we're brewing 150," said managing director Jasper Cuppaige (pictured left), who leads a team of four – all from Camden.

"We're focused on making great quality world-class beer, mostly for local pubs, bars and restaurants, but we plan to expand and put London back on the map for beer."

Jasper's company was among the first to move into the arches – numbering 52-66 – now completely refurbished by Network Rail Property (see below).

The development team recreated a cobbled road from end-to-end, in keeping with the conservation area. "The cobbles



aren't that good for forklifts," said Jasper. "But they look great and create an impression when we bring buyers here. We also have huge glass windows. Breweries are beautiful to look at and we wanted passers-by to see.

"This is a great spot for us – we needed an industrial site close to town and Network Rail Property gave us lots of help and freedom to do what we required. It would have been difficult to put it anywhere else." □

For more information, visit:
www.camdentownbrewery.com

In development

Network Rail invested £17 million last year in property, mainly on transforming its arches for offices, retail and leisure uses.

So how does it decide where to invest?

"The level of investment differs each year, and depends on the viability of each project," said Asset Development Manager Andrew Marsden. "Areas are constantly changing and evolving, and this affects demand. For example, if a predominantly industrial area becomes residential, we would look to convert arches into office, leisure or retail space."

Andrew leads a team of investment surveyors – two in London, the other in York – who work closely with the Portfolio Managers to monitor the changes in different locations and consider how properties could be regenerated to meet demand.

"We have 25 Portfolio Managers who each plan investments in their own patch, where they understand the character of the area and the factors that influence demand. Our role is to work with them to implement regeneration schemes. We work with a range of buildings. At the moment this includes two office blocks, but most of our work is transforming arches into useful workspace to meet customer needs."

