

# Visitor Insights

## March Report 2023

Shaping a  
world-class  
West End

Issued:  
13th April 2023

Prepared by:  
Paul Matthews  
Emma Sharman  
Alex Fox

CONFIDENTIAL  
Do not share unless given  
explicit consent by Heart of  
London



# Background

## Introduction and context

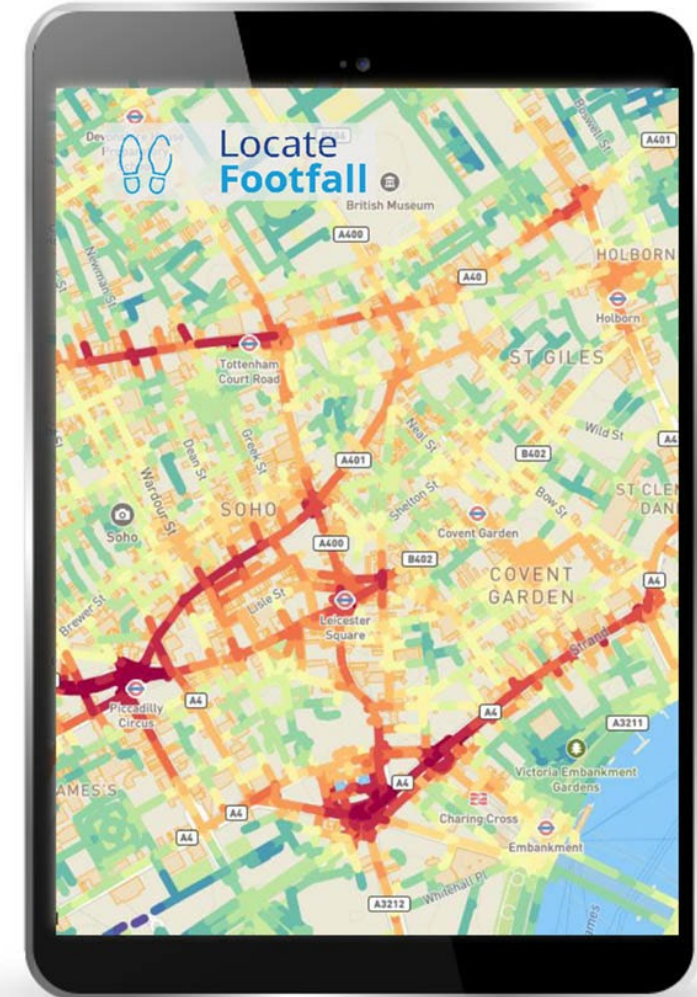


Heart of London Business Alliance (HOLBA) has partnered with Colliers to provide data and insights on visitors to the area.

This monthly report provides key insights from preceding calendar month including information about:

- Visitor footfall & profile
- Visitor behaviour

Colliers' Locate Footfall mobility data platform is central to the delivery of the insights set out in this report. The platform is powered by extensive mobility data covering a growing sample of 9+ million smartphone users nationally.





# Contents



01 SUMMARY

02 VISITOR VOLUMES

03 VISITOR BEHAVIOUR

04 VISITOR PROFILE

05 APPENDIX



01

# Summary





# Executive Summary



- Footfall has increased by 13% across the HOLBA area compared to last month. This is in line with usual yearly trends which usually show a drop in the new year before rising again into spring. Similarly, the HOLBA's catchment area has increased by 14.2% compared to last month. This is largely from the core zone which represents 75% of HOLBA's regular visitors. The dwell time has decreased slightly by 1% which is to be expected with an increase in tourist footfall.
- Footfall distribution across the month follows the general weekly trend, lower in the early parts of the week, rising towards the weekend before dropping on Sunday. There were tube and train strikes in the middle of the month which damped footfall but didn't disrupt the overall trend.
- The United States is still by far HOLBA's largest single international market visiting the West End. However, other markets are surging, South America, Middle East and South East Asia in particular are showing strong recovery.
- The daily and weekly distribution of footfall have remained consistent in the last month. Most HOLBA districts show peak footfall on Saturdays, this is likely due to HOLBA's entertainment and tourist-focused offering.



11.9m  
(+13%)

Visitors to HOLBA  
area up 13% month  
on month



154 mins  
(-1%)

Visitors typically spend  
just over 2.5 hours in  
the area. Down 2 mins  
vs YTD average.



11.7m  
(14.2%)

People live within  
the HOLBA area  
Core catchment



02

# Visitor Volumes



# Visitor Volumes

## Footfall - districts



Footfall up 13% month on month, and down 23% year on year

International visits up across majority of districts versus February



District	Month-on-Month			Year-on-year		
	Total	Domestic	International	Total	Domestic	International
<b>HOLBA area</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>-23%</b>	<b>-14%</b>	<b>-55%</b>
Piccadilly District	17%	17%	17%	-25%	-14%	-65%
Jermyn St District	19%	22%	-4%	-25%	-18%	-59%
Leicester Sq District	19%	23%	3%	-24%	-11%	-61%
Piccadilly Circus District	22%	24%	11%	-8%	2%	-42%
St Martin's Lane District	19%	23%	0%	-25%	-18%	-54%
Haymarket District	17%	17%	14%	-24%	-9%	-68%
Core West End	5%	6%	4%	-29%	-26%	-41%



# Visitor Volumes

## Footfall – street level



Footfall up month on month in all street locations across the HOLBA area

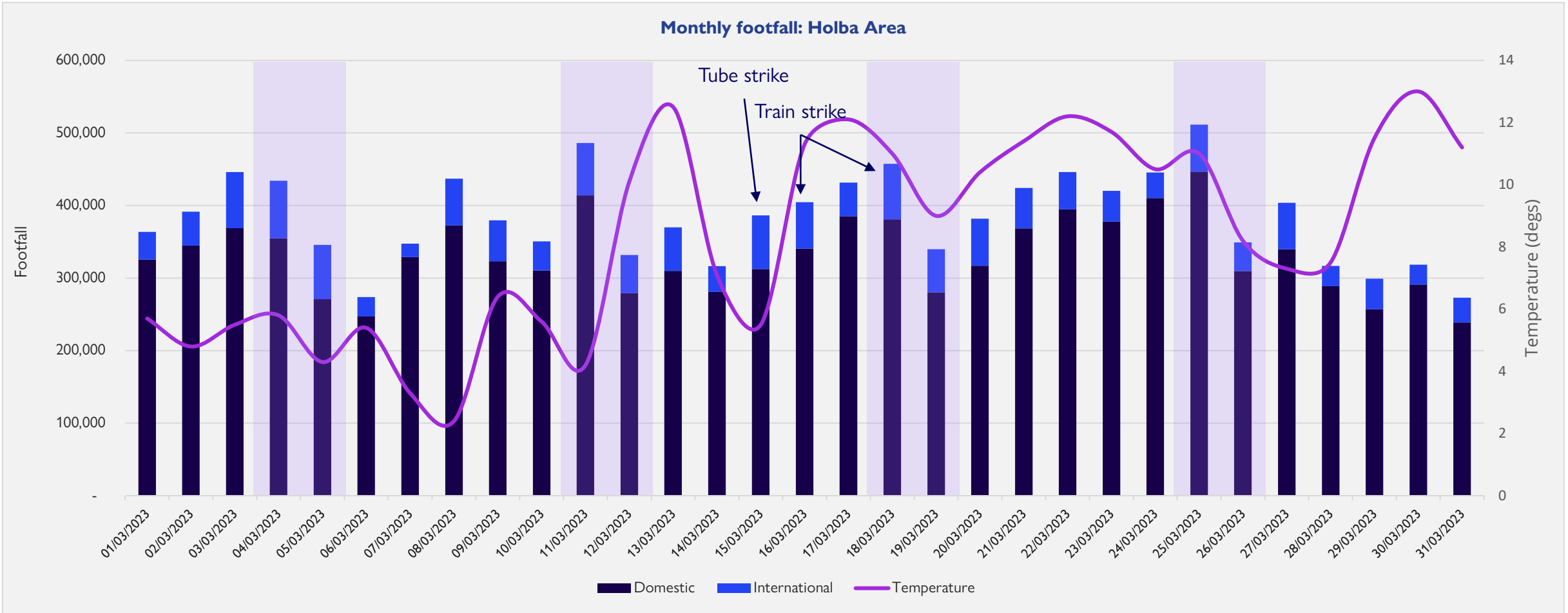
Piccadilly Circus has seen an increase in domestic visits vs. last year



Street	Month-on-Month			Year-on-year		
	Total	Domestic	International	Total	Domestic	International
HOLBA area	13%	14%	4%	-23%	-14%	-55%
Piccadilly	20%	21%	17%	-13%	1%	-63%
Jermyn St	42%	44%	14%	-20%	-9%	-67%
Piccadilly Circus	33%	35%	25%	-1%	14%	-48%
St Martin's Lane	45%	32%	136%	-14%	-16%	-4%
Haymarket	25%	27%	13%	-27%	-10%	-74%
Haymarket - Regent St / St James	31%	34%	4%	-21%	-2%	-77%
Core West End	5%	6%	4%	-29%	-26%	-41%

# Visitor Volumes

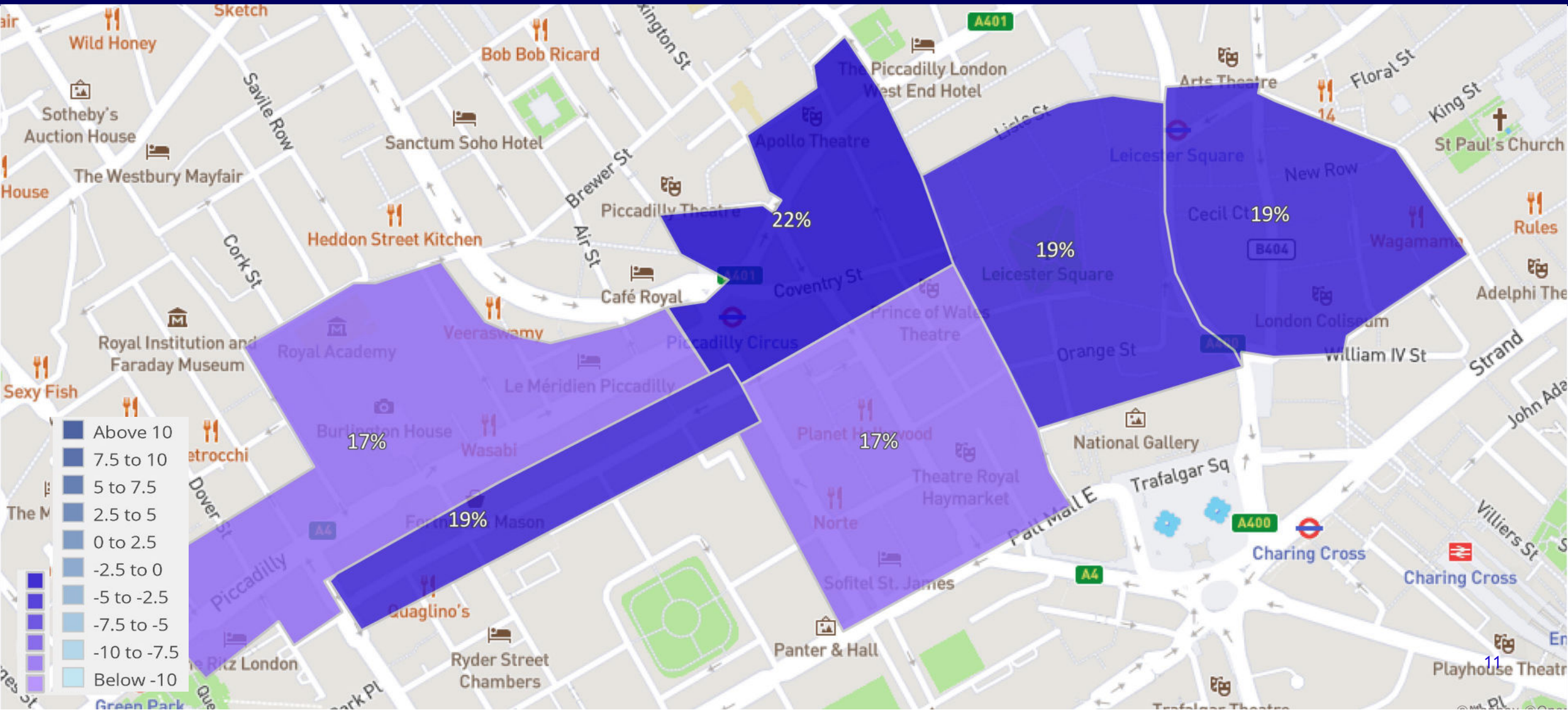
## Strong footfall on Saturdays





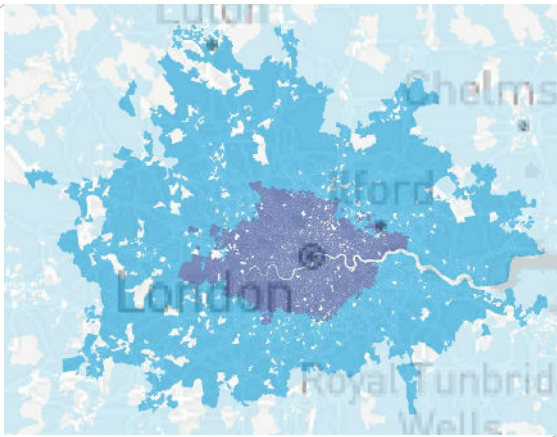
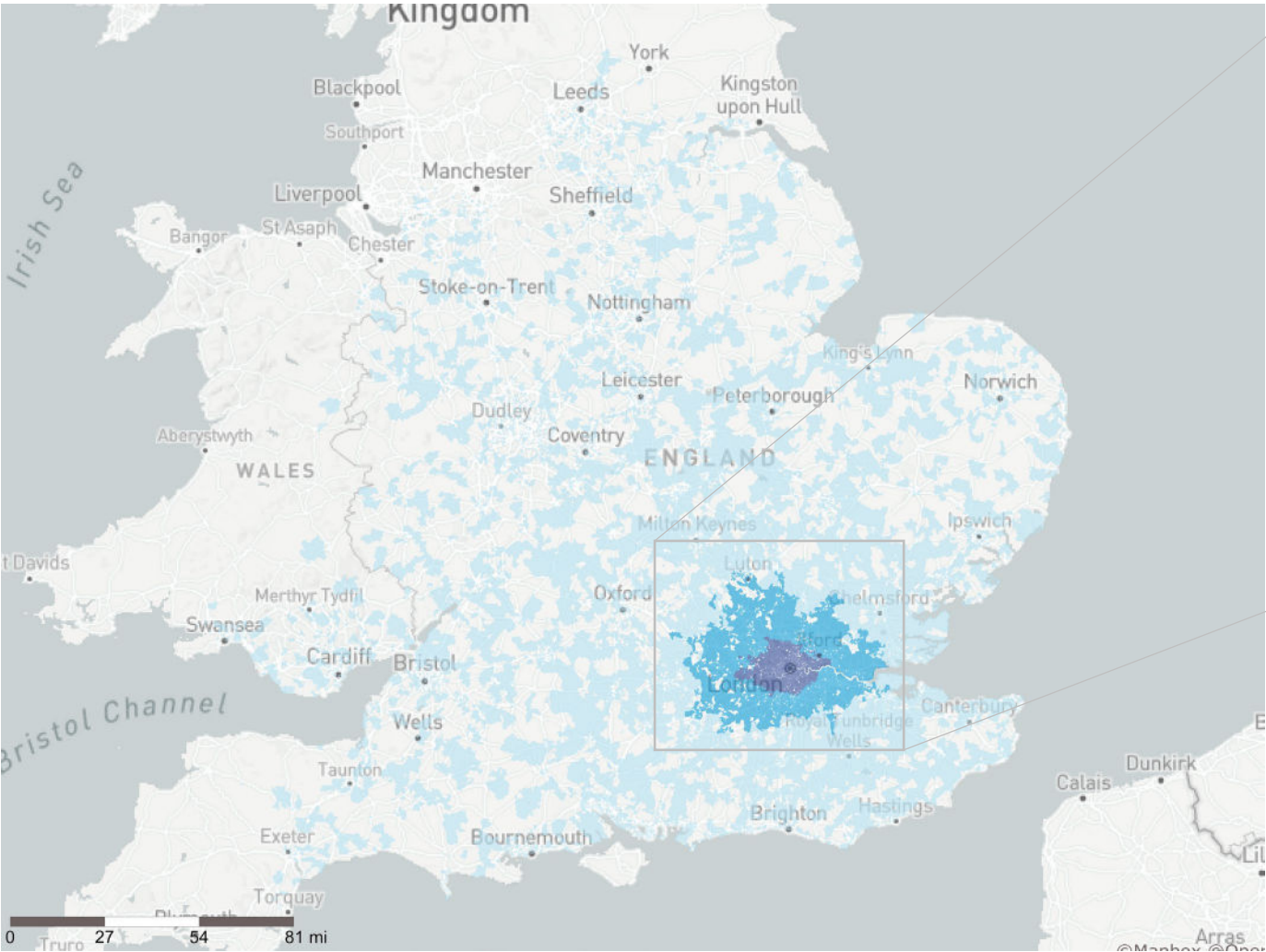
# Visitor Volumes

## March v. February 2023



# Visitor Volumes

Core catchment increased 14.2% in size vs February



Catchment band		Population (Millions)	Change vs. previous month
	-Primary	5.7	6.6%
	-Secondary	6.0	22.4%
	<b>Core (Primary + Secondary)</b> 75% of regular visitors	<b>11.7</b>	<b>14.2%</b>
	-Tertiary	13.5	32.6%
	<b>Total (Core+ Tertiary)</b> 95% of regular visitors	<b>25.2</b>	<b>23.4%</b>



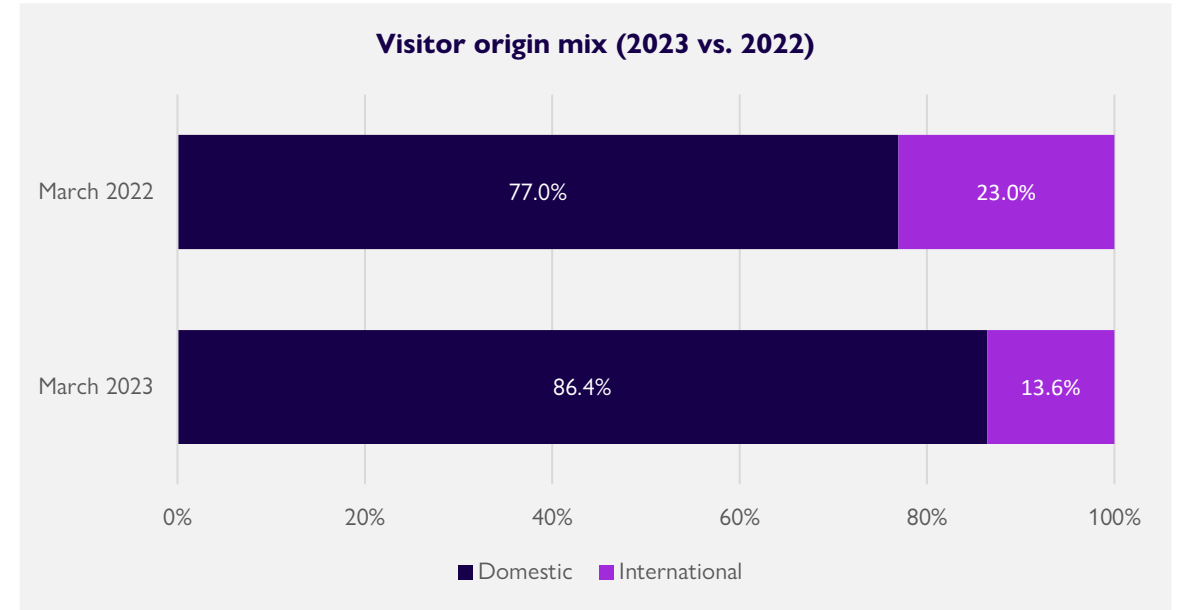
# Visitor Volumes: Visitor mix

## International visitor mix up 4% vs February



Area	International mix (%)	+/- change in volume	
		Month-on-Month	Year-on-year
<b>HOLBA area</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>-54.9%</b>
Piccadilly	9.3%	16.7%	-63.4%
Jermyn St	7.5%	13.6%	-66.7%
Piccadilly Circus	12.6%	25.1%	-47.9%
St Martin's Lane	19.5%	135.7%	-3.6%
Haymarket	8.8%	12.7%	-74.5%
Haymarket - Regent St / St James	7.3%	4.1%	-77.0%
Core West End	16.3%	3.6%	-40.9%

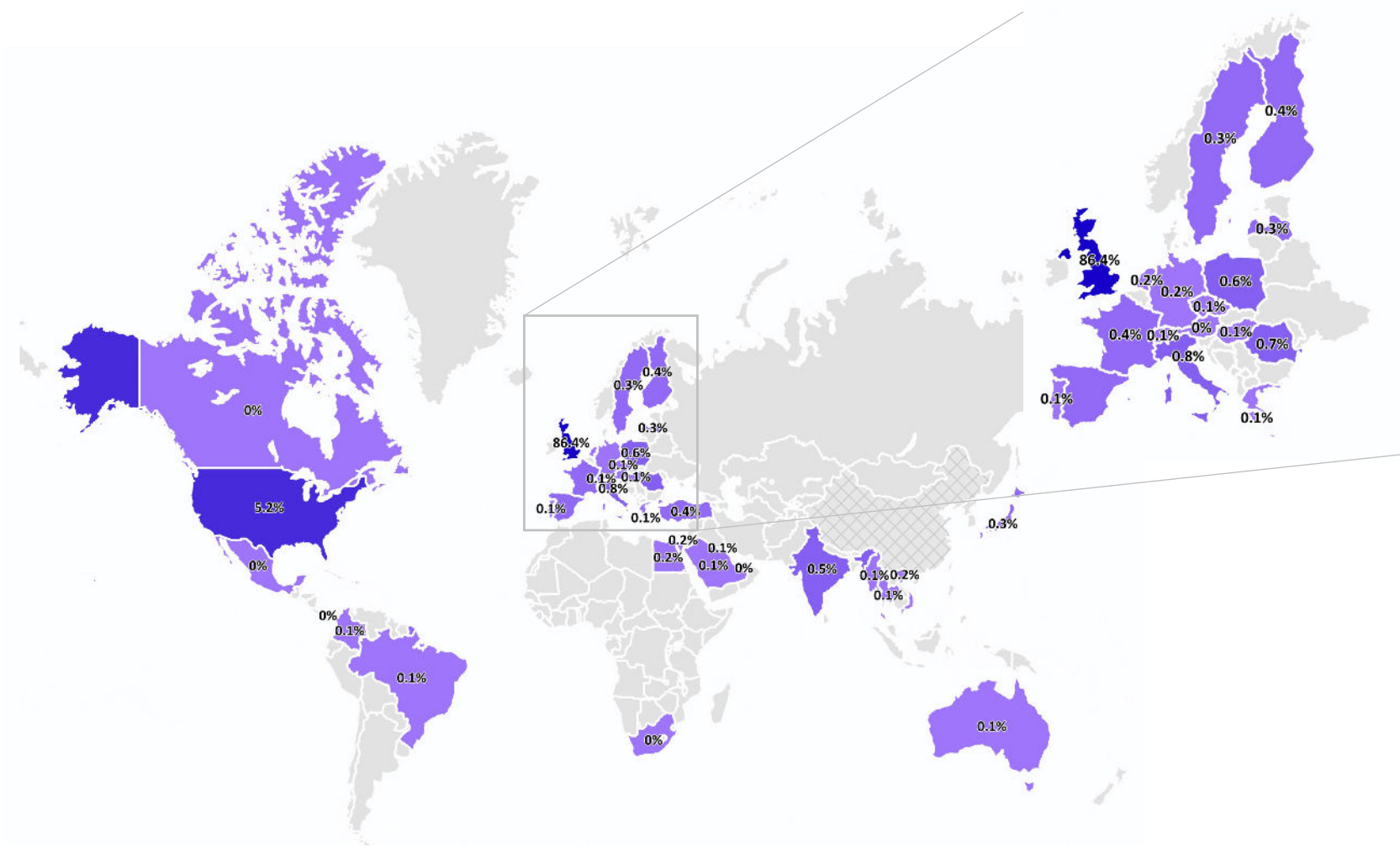
- International visits to HOLBA are up 4% on February
- St Martin's Lane has seen the greatest growth month on month



- International visits accounted for 13.6% of visits in March, vs. 23% last March

# Visitor Volumes: Visitor origin

## 13.6% of visitors to HOLBA from outside the UK



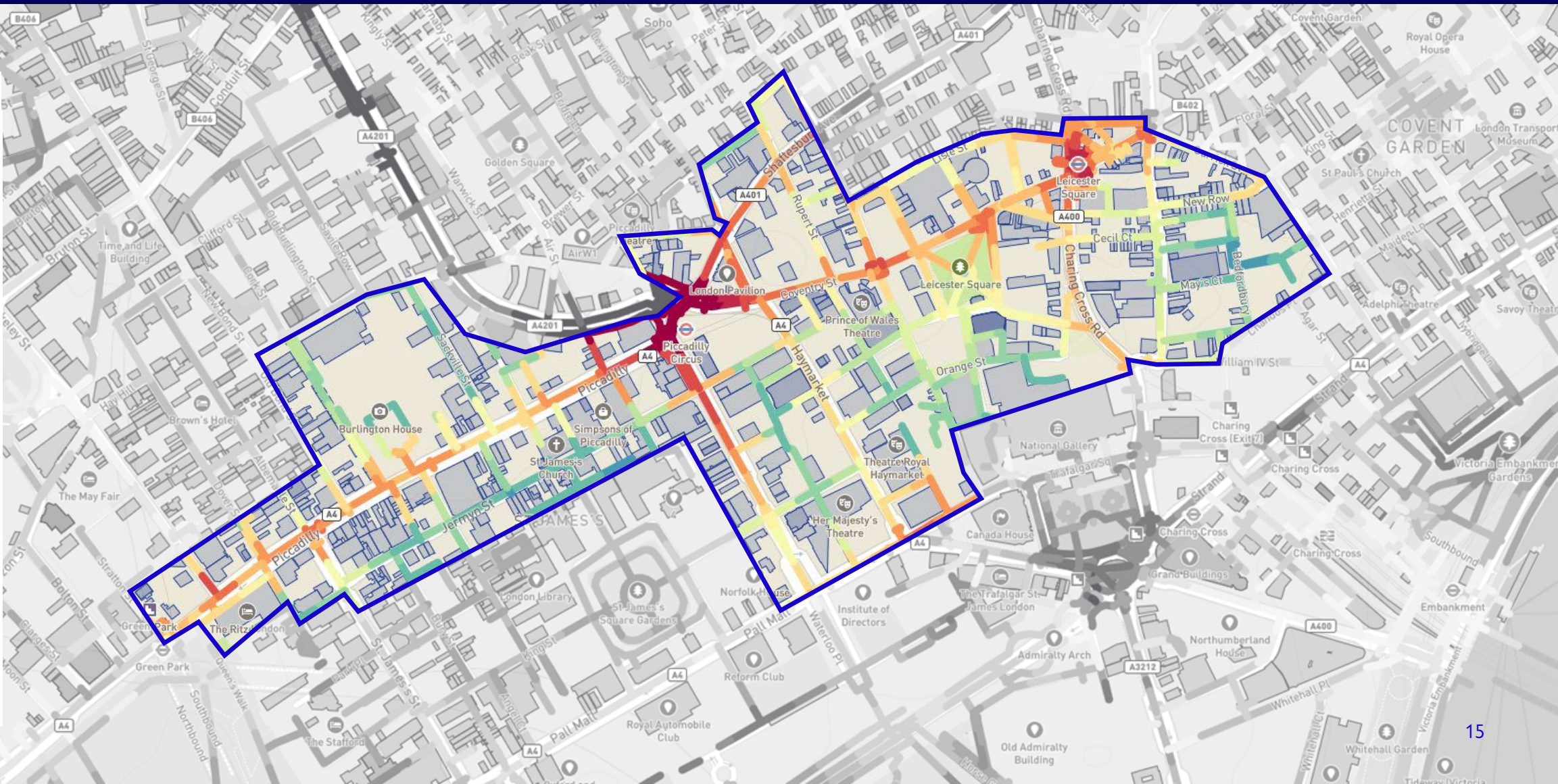
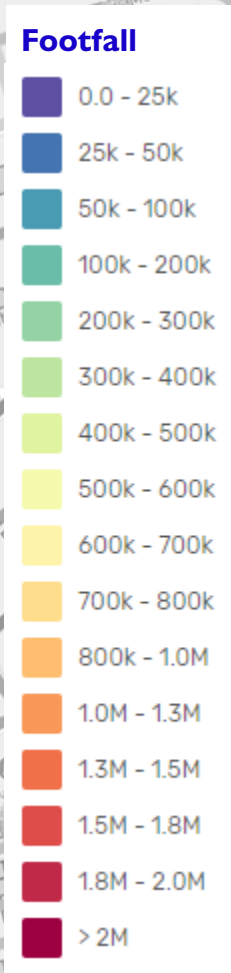
Rank	Country	%	+/- change	
1	United Kingdom	86.4%	↑	1.1%
2	United States	5.2%	↓	-2.2%
3	Italy	0.8%	↑	0.2%
4	Romania	0.7%	↑	0.2%
5	Poland	0.6%	↑	0.2%
6	India	0.5%	↑	0.2%
7	Turkey	0.4%	↑	0.1%
8	Finland	0.4%	↑	0.1%
9	France	0.4%	↑	0.1%
10	Japan	0.3%	→	0.0%
Europe (excl. UK)		4.8%		0.2%
Rest of the world		8.7%		-1.4%
Non UK		13.6%		-1.1%

Note: Data unavailable for visitors from China



# Visitor Volumes

## Segment footfall - March





# 03

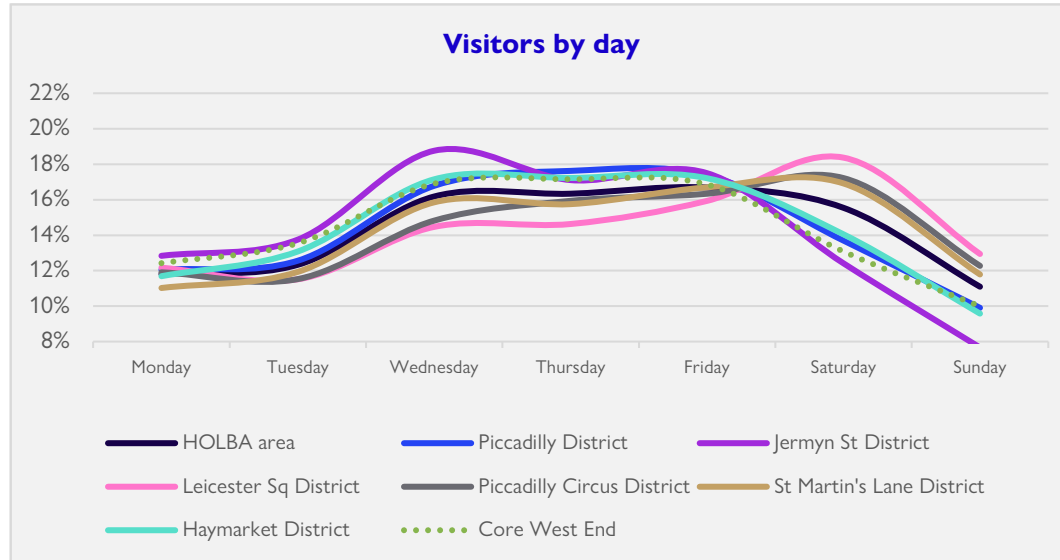
# Visitor Behaviour



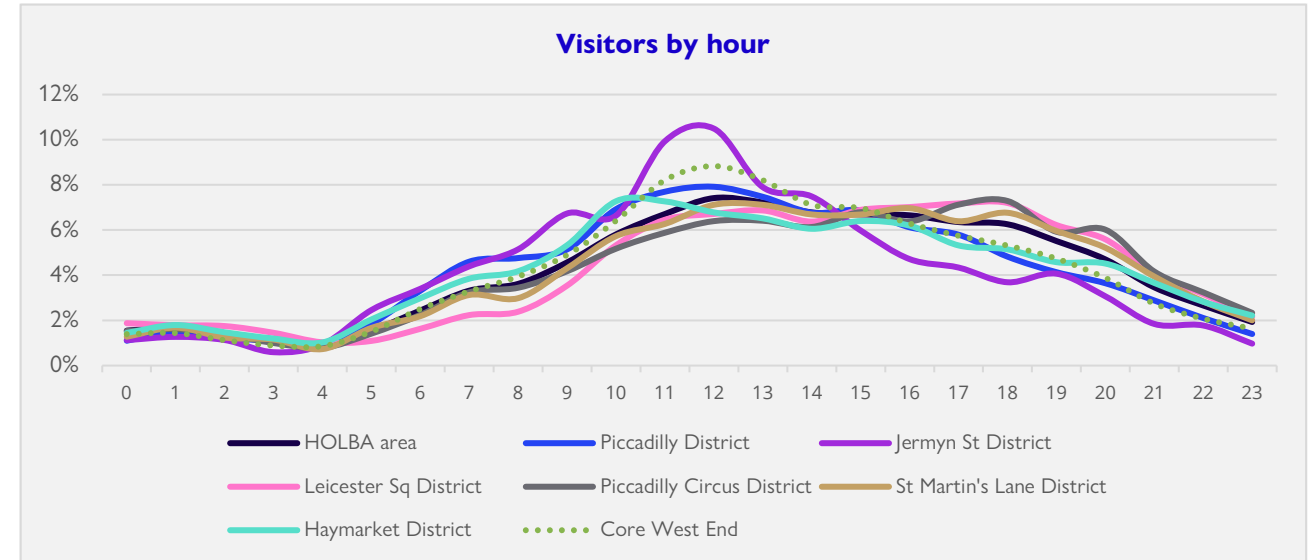


# Visitor Behaviour: Visits by day and hour

## Friday visits most popular



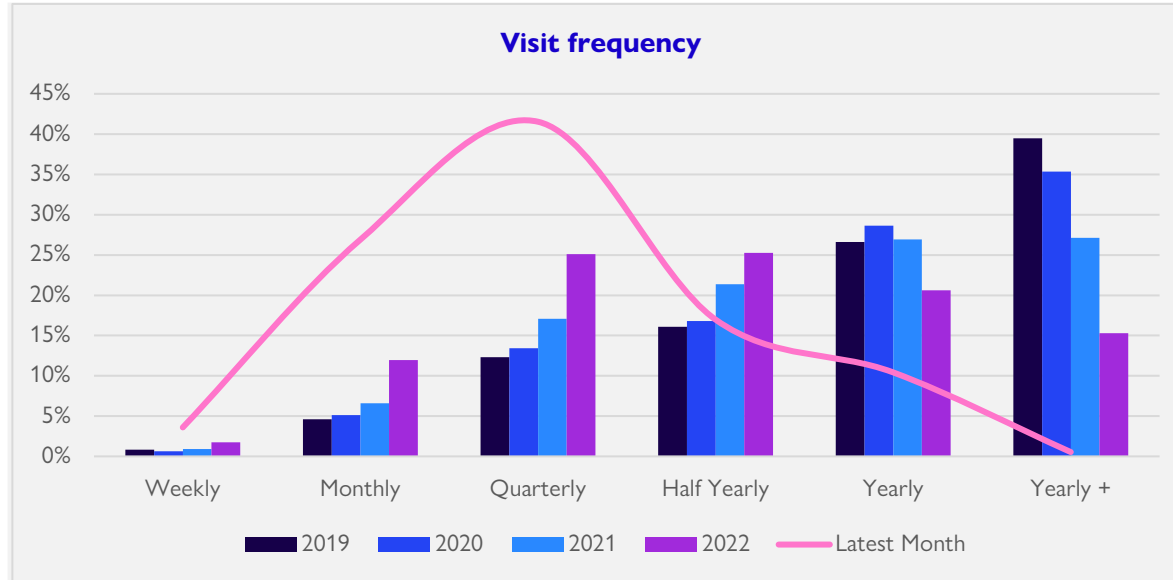
- Thursdays and Fridays typically saw the highest proportion of visitors (16% and 17% respectively), although visits fairly consistent Wednesday - Saturday
- Patterns this month likely affected by rail/tube strikes



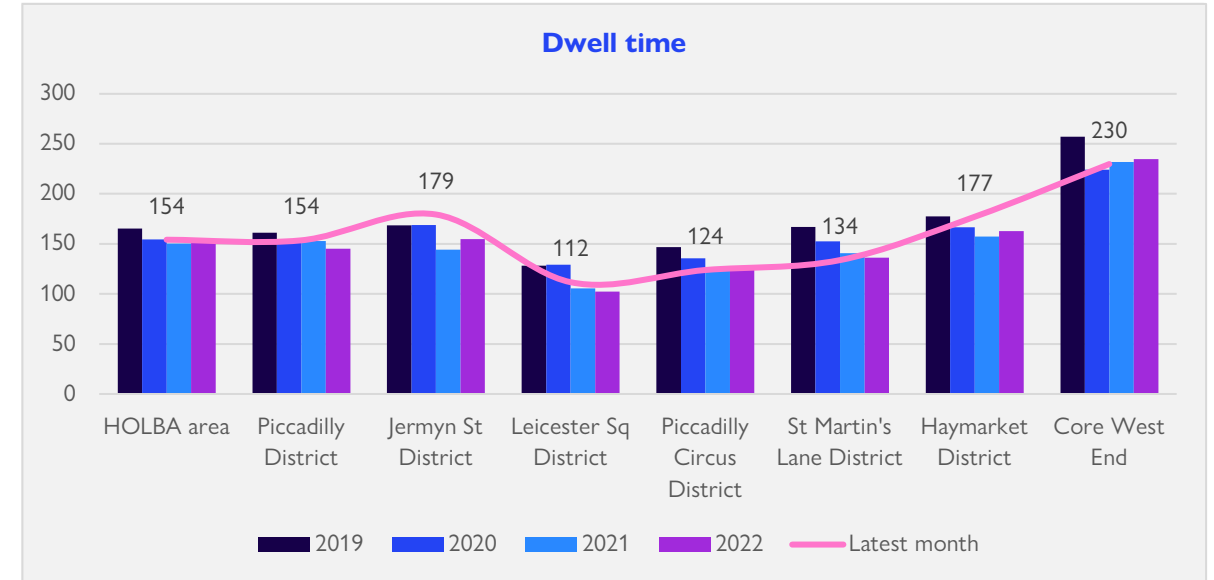
- Visitor volumes typically peak during lunchtime and into the afternoon
- However Leicester Square and Piccadilly Circus peak during the evening, and Jermyn St has a more noticeable midday/lunchtime peak. Visitors by hour patterns fairly consistent month to month

# Visitor Behaviour: Frequency

Visitors coming more frequently but staying for less time



- Increase in proportion of visitors visiting monthly and quarterly
- Conversely decrease in proportion of visitors visiting yearly and beyond

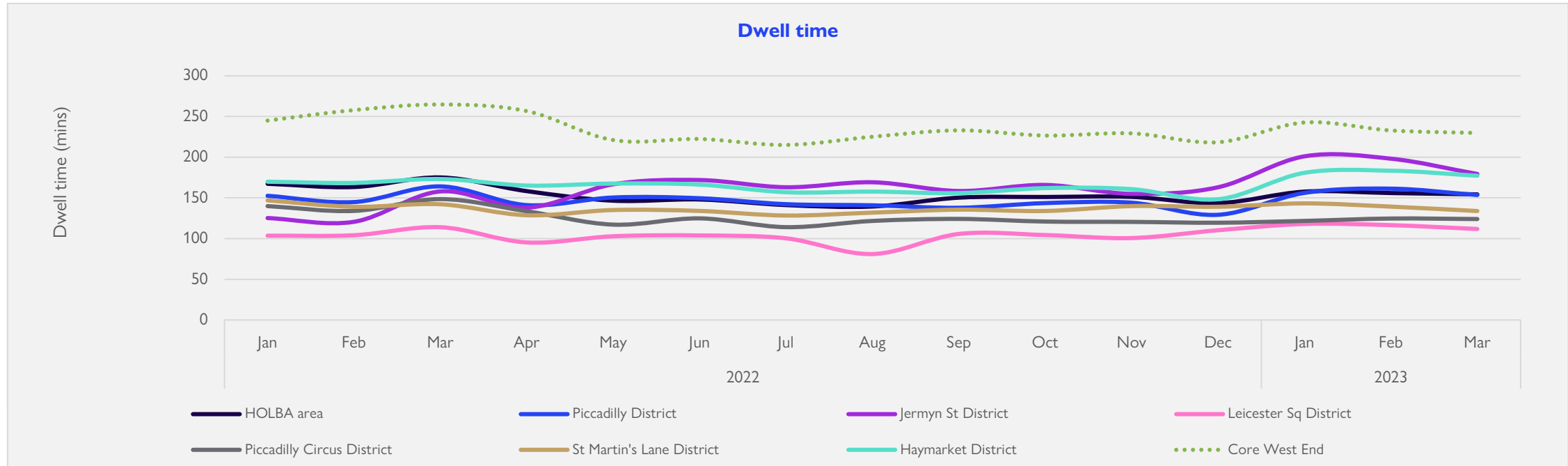


- Dwell time reduced in March versus previous month, 154 mins versus 156 mins
- Jermyn St District has the longest dwell time at 179 mins



# Visitor Behaviour: Dwell time

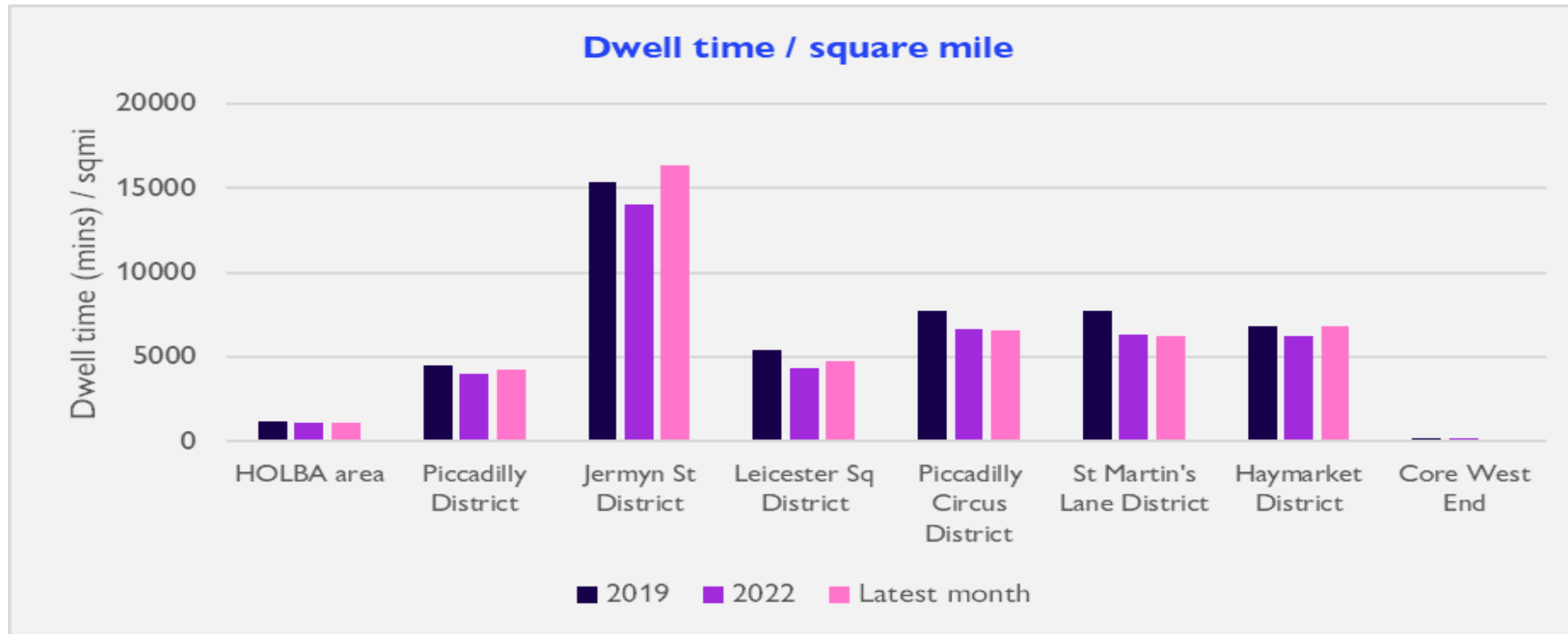
## Little change in dwell times in March vs. February



- Dwell times in March 2023 were consistent with February in all districts

# Visitor Behaviour: Dwell time

## Jermyn Street



- Jermyn St has high dwell times given its comparatively small geographic area. This is likely driven by the high concentration of offices in the area and the comparatively low visitor footfall driving up average dwell times. Jermyn street has also seen an increase compared to 2022 indicating an increase in return to the office.

04

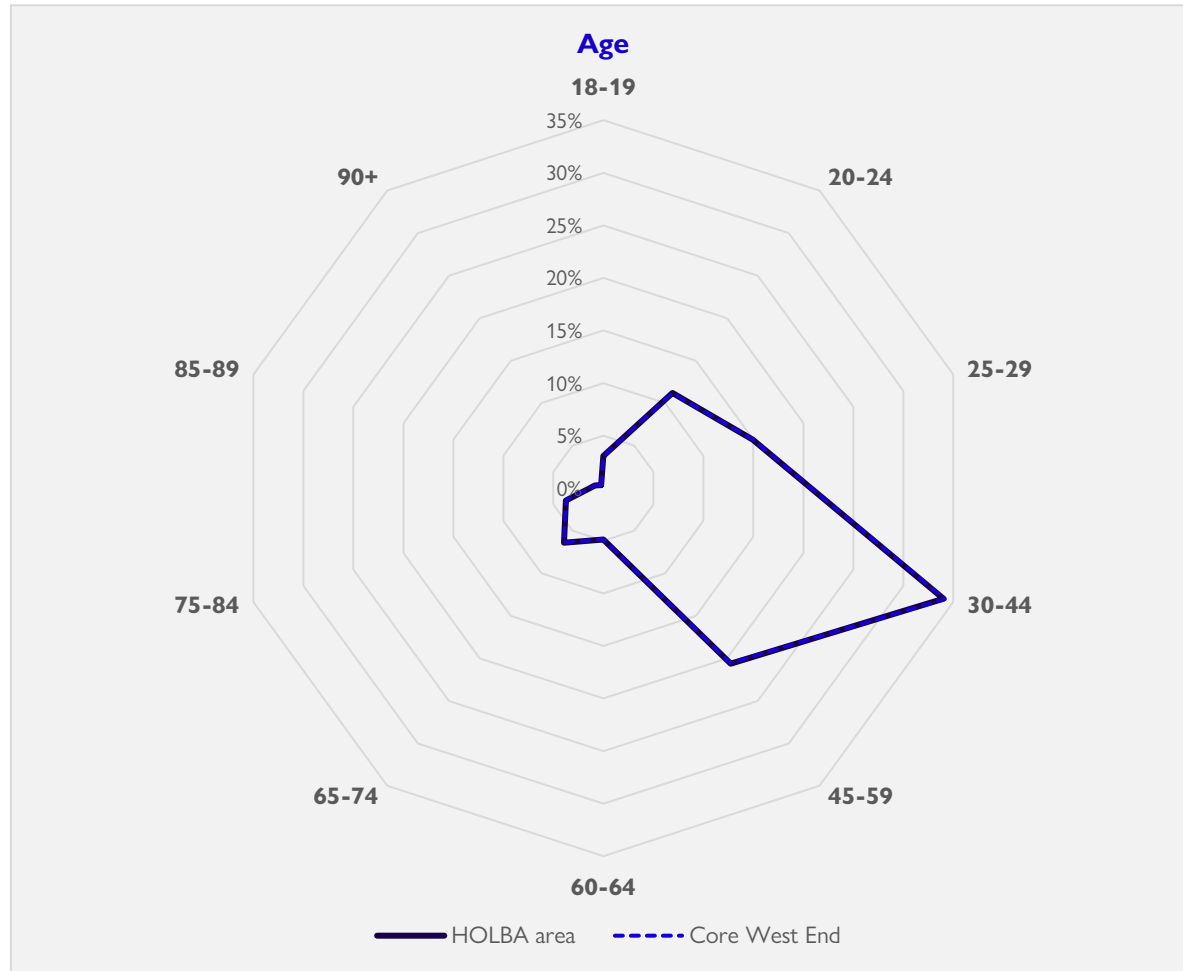
# Visitor Profile





# Visitor Profile: Age & Gender

54.6% of visitors are aged between 30-59 years old

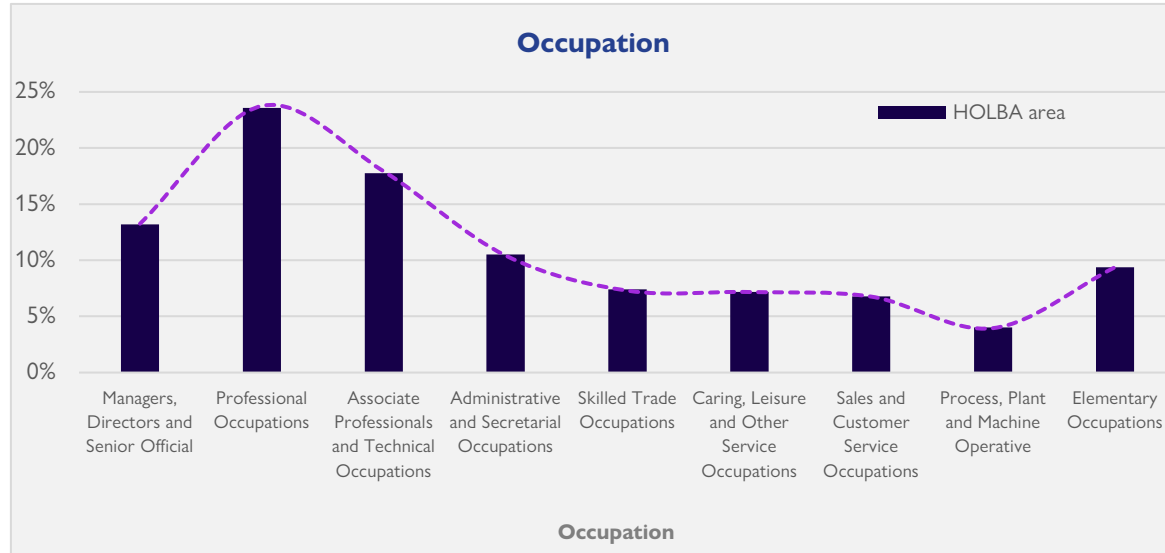


- Visitor profile skewed towards those aged 30-59 years old
  - 54.6% of visitors aged 30-59, versus 54.7% in February
- Average age relatively consistent across the different areas within Heart of London area
- Males & Females are fairly evenly split, and in-line with the make up of the Core West End as a whole

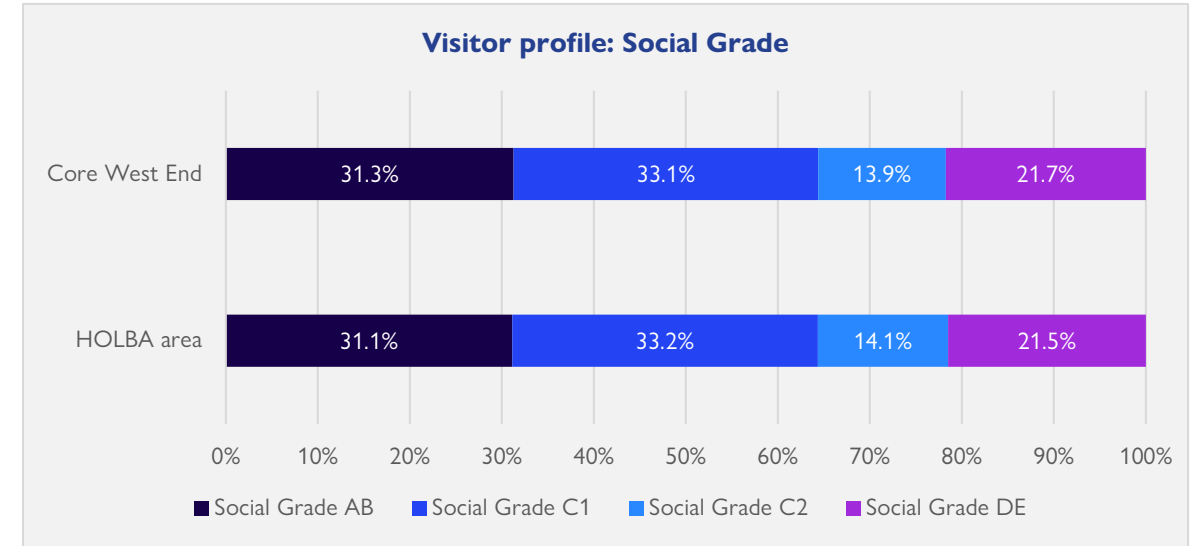


# Visitor Profile: Occupation & Social Grade

## Catchment biased towards white collar workers



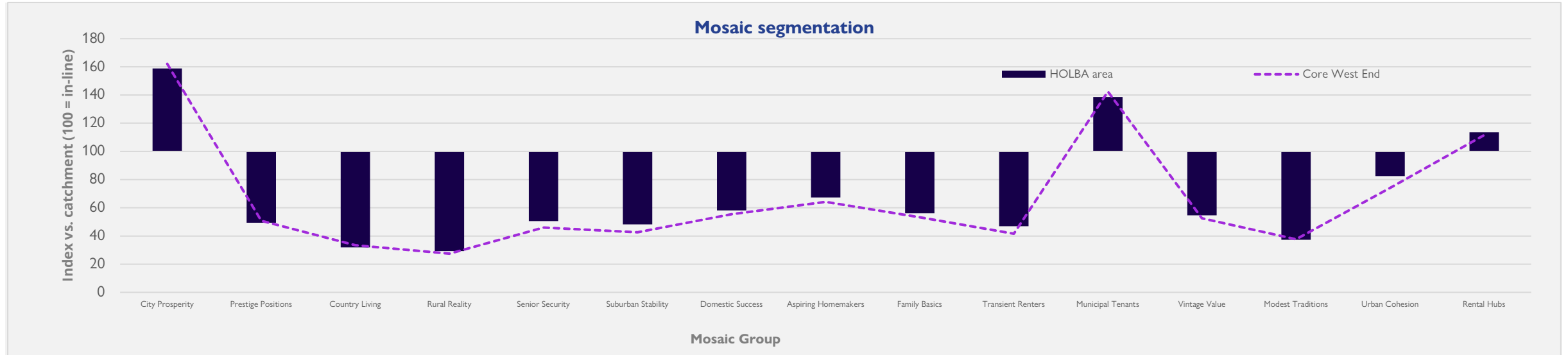
- Visitor catchment profile biased towards 'white collar' occupations, consistent with last month
- In line with wider Core West End profile



- 31.1% HOLBA Area visitor catchment profile in Social Grade AB, vs 31.3% for Core West End
- Little change versus February 2023

# Visitor Profile: Occupation & Social Grade

## 'City Prosperity' is the most dominant Mosaic group



- Visitor profile biased towards 2 Mosaic groups; 'City Prosperity' and 'Municipal Tenants'
- City Prosperity are high income residents who have expensive homes in desirable metropolitan locations
- Municipal Tenants are residents who rent inexpensive city homes in central locations
- Profile very similar to Core West End visitors





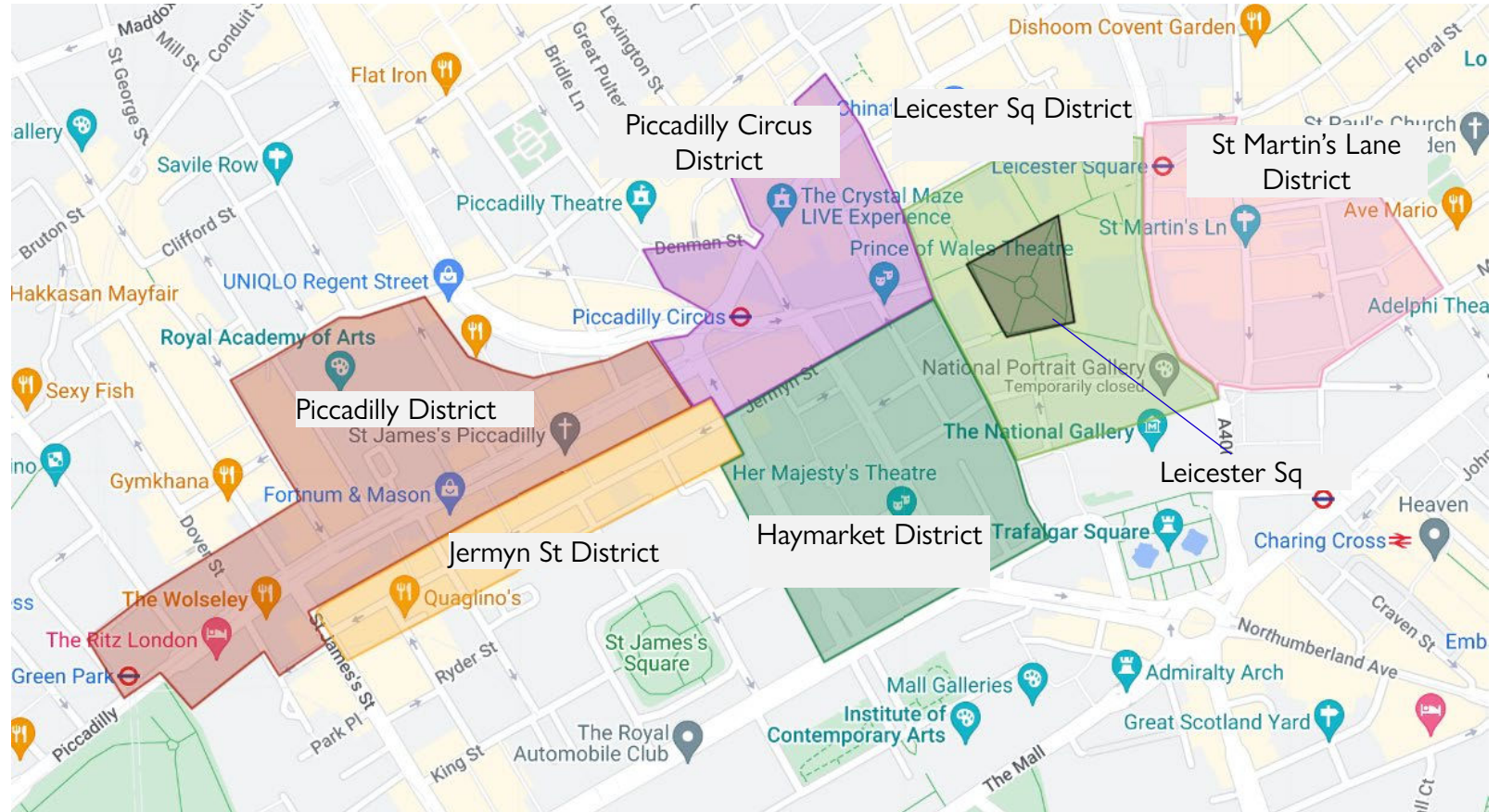


# Appendix

## Location definition



- 7 key areas within HOLBA used for analysis:
  - Piccadilly District
  - Jermyn St District
  - Piccadilly Circus District
  - Haymarket District
  - Leicester Sq District
  - Leicester Sq
  - St Martin's Lane District
- In addition Core West End area has been defined as a benchmark location



# Appendix

## Mosaic Groups



TYPE	NAME	DESCRIPTION
A	City Prosperity	High status city dwellers living in central locations and pursuing careers with high rewards.
B	Prestige Positions	Established families in large detached homes living upmarket lifestyles.
C	Country Living	Well-off owners in rural locations enjoying the benefits of country life.
D	Rural Reality	Householders living in less expensive homes in village communities.
E	Senior Security	Elderly people with assets who are enjoying a comfortable retirement.
F	Suburban Stability	Mature suburban owners living settled lives in midrange housing.
G	Domestic Success	Thriving families who are busy bringing up children and following careers.
H	Aspiring Homemakers	Younger households settling down in housing priced within their means.
I	Family Basics	Families with limited resources who budget to make ends meet.
J	Transient Renters	Single people renting low cost homes for the short term.
K	Municipal Tenants	Urban residents renting high density housing from social landlords.
L	Vintage Value	Elderly people with limited pension income, mostly living alone.
M	Modest Traditions	Mature homeowners of value homes enjoying stable lifestyles.
N	Urban Cohesion	Residents of settled urban communities with a strong sense of identity.
O	Rental Hubs	Educated young people privately renting in urban neighbourhoods.





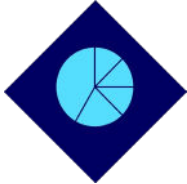


# Appendix

## Mosaic definition

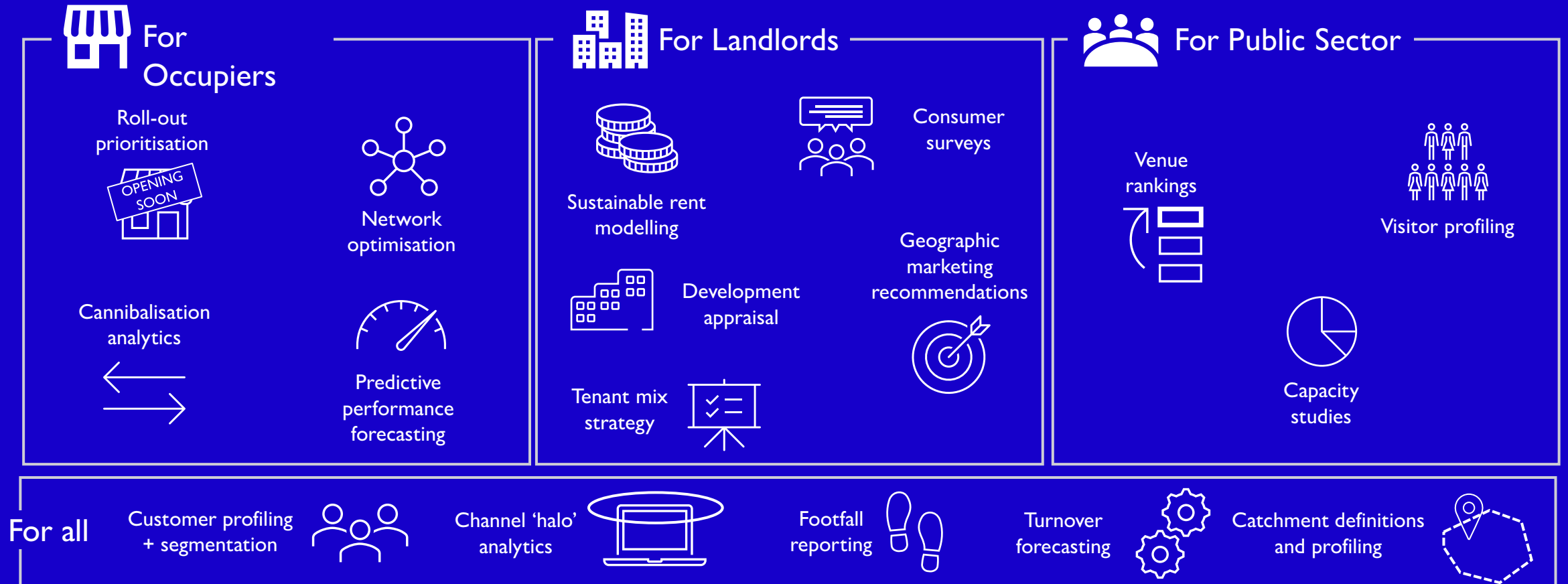


- Experian's Mosaic customer segmentation divides a consumer base into groups of individuals that are similar in specific ways, such as:
  - Age
  - Interests
  - Life Stage
  - Spending habits

UK Population	Mosaic	A02 Uptown Elite
 51m individuals	 15 groups	 Uptown Elite are affluent, older families who live in desirable neighbourhoods within inner suburbs
 25m households	 66 types	

# Appendix

## Colliers Retail Strategy & Analytics: What we do





- This report is confidential to the addressee and Colliers accepts no responsibility whatsoever in respect of this report to any other person.
- Any market projections incorporated within this report including but not limited to, income, expenditure, associated growth rates, interest rates, incentives, yields and costs are projections only and may prove to be inaccurate. Accordingly, such market projections should be interpreted as an indicative assessment of potentialities only, as opposed to certainties. Financial, market and economic projections, estimates and forecasts are inherently uncertain. Colliers cannot accept any liability should any projections, estimates, forecasts, data, recommendations or any other statements made in this report prove to be inaccurate or based on incorrect premises. No warranty is given as to the accuracy of any projections, estimates, forecasts, data, recommendations or any other statements made in this report. This report does not constitute and must not be treated as investment or valuation advice.
- This publication is the copyrighted property of Colliers and/or its licensor(s). © 2022. All rights reserved.
- Colliers is the licensed trading name of Colliers International Retail UK LLP which is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales with registered number OC334835. Our registered office is at 50 George Street, London W1U 7GA.





**HEART  
OF LONDON  
BUSINESS  
ALLIANCE**



**Matt Harris, HOLBA**

Data & Insights Manager  
+44 207 734 4507 | +44 7849 829 756  
matt.harris@heartoflondonbid.co.uk

**Paul Matthews, Colliers**

Director | co-Head of Retail Strategy & Analytics  
+44 207 344 6782 | +44 7920 072436  
paul.matthews@colliers.com

**Emma Sharman, Colliers**

Senior Consultant | Retail Strategy & Analytics  
+44 20 7344 6781 | +44 7873 626188  
emma.sharman@colliers.com