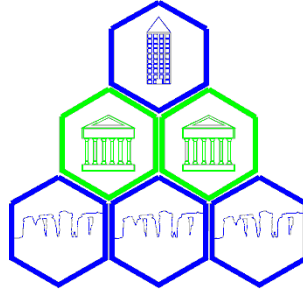


The Historic Environment Consultancy



Level 3
Building Recording of
Manufactory
Blue Bird Park
Bromsgrove Road
Hunnington
Worcestershire
B62 0JW

National Grid Reference: SO 9665 8144

Planning Reference Number: 19/00592/FUL
OASIS ID: thearcha1-516388
HER Event No. WSM80084

Document Reference Number 2023/1681

Version 3.0
19/9/2023

Dr Peter Wardle & Colin Lacey

Building Recording: Manufactory
Dr Peter Wardle & Colin Lacey

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Version Control

Version No	Draft	Content Added/Omitted	Date
0.5	Client Draft		27/4/23
0.7	LPA Draft	Client Comments	
1	Issued Report	OASIS Ref	9/6/23
2	Issued Report	LPA Comments, HER ref	20/6/23
3	Issued Report	Historic Photos	19/9/23

Heritage Statement: Manufactory
Dr Peter Wardle & Colin Lacey 20th June 2023

1. Summary

The building is the former confectionary manufactory of Harry Vincent Ltd, makers of Blue Bird Toffee. It consists of a large central area with two bays to the northeast and two to the southwest. Ancillary rooms are present to the northwest.

Current Function	Vacant
Original Function	Confectionary Factory
Period	Modern
Century	20th
Precise Date	1925-7
Architectural Style	Industrial
Architect	S N Cooke FRIBA
Materials	Brick, concrete
Designation	Listed Grade Not Listed
Conservation Area	Not located within a conservation area

2. Introduction

2.1 The Client

This report was commissioned by J Richards of Seven Capital (Halesowen) Ltd. and subsequently Malvern Estates Ltd.

2.2 Copyright

The copyright of this report belongs to the Historic Environment Consultancy. No liability to third parties is accepted for advice and statements made in this report.

2.3 Location

Site Address:	Manufactory Blue Bird Park Bromsgrove Road Hunnington Worcestershire
Post Code:	B62 0JW
Grid Reference:	SO965814

The general location is shown in Figure 1 and the detailed location in Figure 2.

2.4 Date of Recording

The building was initially visited by Dr Peter Wardle in July & October 2019. Subsequent visits were made by Dr Wardle and Colin Lacey between this point and September 2022.

2.5 Circumstances of The Project

The recording of the building was required as a condition of a grant of planning permission and listed building consent reference Bromsgrove Borough Council 19/00592/FUL for:

“Part demolition and site clearance of the former Blue Bird factory site for its redevelopment to provide 116 residential dwellings (Use Class C3), consisting of both new dwellings and conversion of the Welfare and Administration buildings, along with associated landscaping; drainage; engineering; highways and access works”.

The wording of the planning condition is as follows:

No development shall commence until a programme of research and building recording including a Written Scheme of Investigation(s), has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:

- a) The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording which will include:

 - 1. A Level 3 historic building recording (as defined by Historic England) on all pre 1980s buildings. This will include documentary research.*
 - 2. A Level 1 historic building recording (as defined by Historic England) on warehouses, dating to the 1980s.*
 - 3. Investigative works prior to and during construction works to recover structural information.**
- b) The programme for post investigation assessment.*
- c) Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording.*
- d) Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
- e) Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation*

f) Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.

REASON: In accordance with the requirements of paragraph 194 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

2.6 Location of The Archive

The archive of this project consists solely in the form of digital records. This report contains 667 high resolution photographs and 40 plans and elevations. The drawings are appended to the report as layered vector files. Copies of this report in pdf format therefore represents the archive.

Copies of this archive are therefore given to the Archaeology Data Service and Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment Record.

2.7 Methodology

The building was recorded according to the requirements set out in the English Heritage 2016 *Understanding Historic Buildings A Guide to Recording Practice* and the method statement.

There were no difficulties experienced in the recording process.

The building was visited by Dr Peter Wardle in July & October 2019. Subsequent visits were made by Dr Wardle and Colin Lacey between this point and September 2022.

2.8 Reference Numbers

Planning Reference Number: 19/00592/FUL

OASIS ID: thearcha1-516388

HER Event No. WSM80084

Listing Reference Numbers:

1464601 (Administration Building)

1466995 (Canteen)

1466996 (Walls, Railings and Gates)

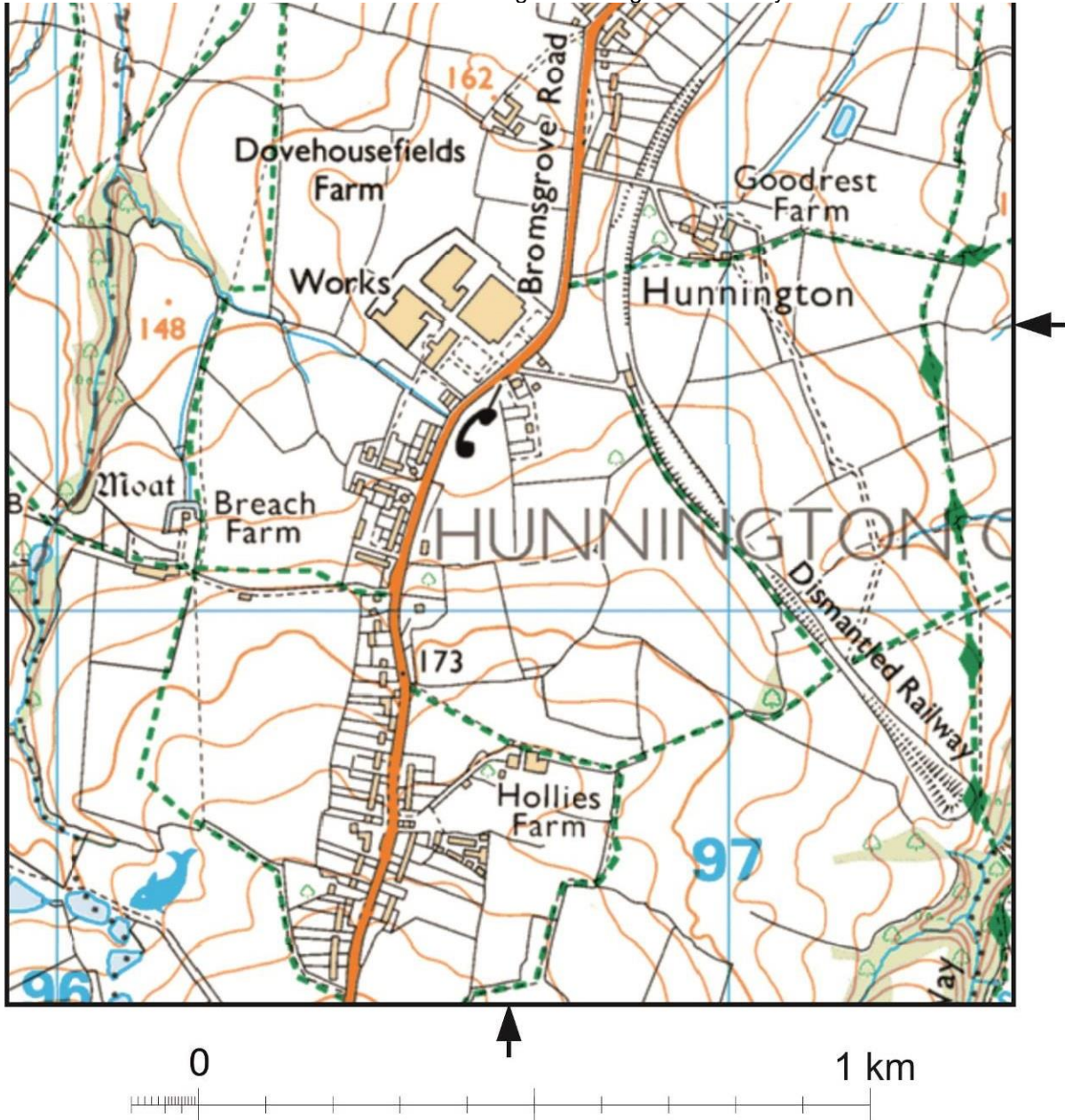


Figure 1: General Location Plan.

Blue Bird Park Building Recording: Manufactory

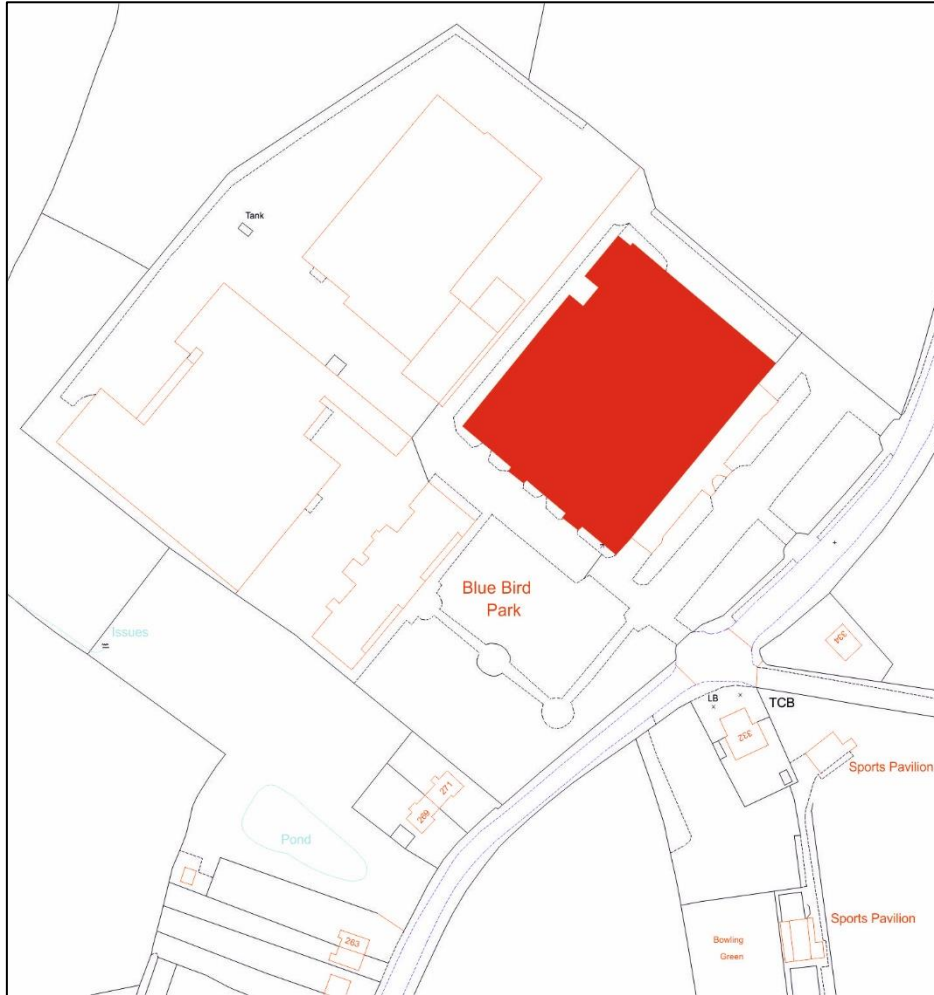


Figure 2: Detailed Location Plan. Scale 1:1000

3. Historic Context

3.1 Documentary Evidence

An article was published in *The Midlander* in February 1927. The article details the background behind the Blue Bird factory and the village of Hunnington describing the history of the Messrs Harry Vincent Ltd and Harry Vincent, himself.

The article describes the manufactory as follows:

The Main Boiling Room measures 200ft, by 150ft, and right up to the apex of the roof the walls are constructed of glazed bricks, which can easily and frequently be washed down, and so be kept perfectly and permanently clean - a vital consideration in the manufacture of any class of foodstuffs.

Rest Rooms, change rooms, first aid rooms etc. indicate the consideration devoted to the welfare and comfort of the workpeople, who will number approximately 1,000 when the works are in full commission.

A newspaper article from the *Birmingham Gazette*, published on the 13th May 1930 describes the processes that were carried out within the manufactory as follows:

When the liquid toffee is taken from the boilers, it is poured on to long metal tables, beneath the surface of which ice cold water flows in a shallow tank of which the table forms the top. Thus the toffee is quickly cooled into solid form.

Machines rather like electric presses mark out the long strips of toffee into little squares and the little squares of toffee are shaken apart from one another in electric shaking machines. The little squares of toffee then travel to the wrapping machines at which many hundreds of girls are kept busy. The girls just feed the little squares into the machines and the toffee comes out wrapped – as one sees it in the shops. These wonderful wrapping machines are each capable of wrapping 7cwt of toffee a day.

When wrapped and packed in boxes the toffee passes into the dispatching department at the other end of the factory, from which it is conveyed either by rail or by the Vincent fleet of lorries to the dealers, and so eventually to the toffee lovers' eager mouths.

3.2 Under Construction



Plate 1: The manufactory under construction, 1927 (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington His Society)



Plate 2: The manufactory under construction, 1927 (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington His Society)

3.3 Aerial Views

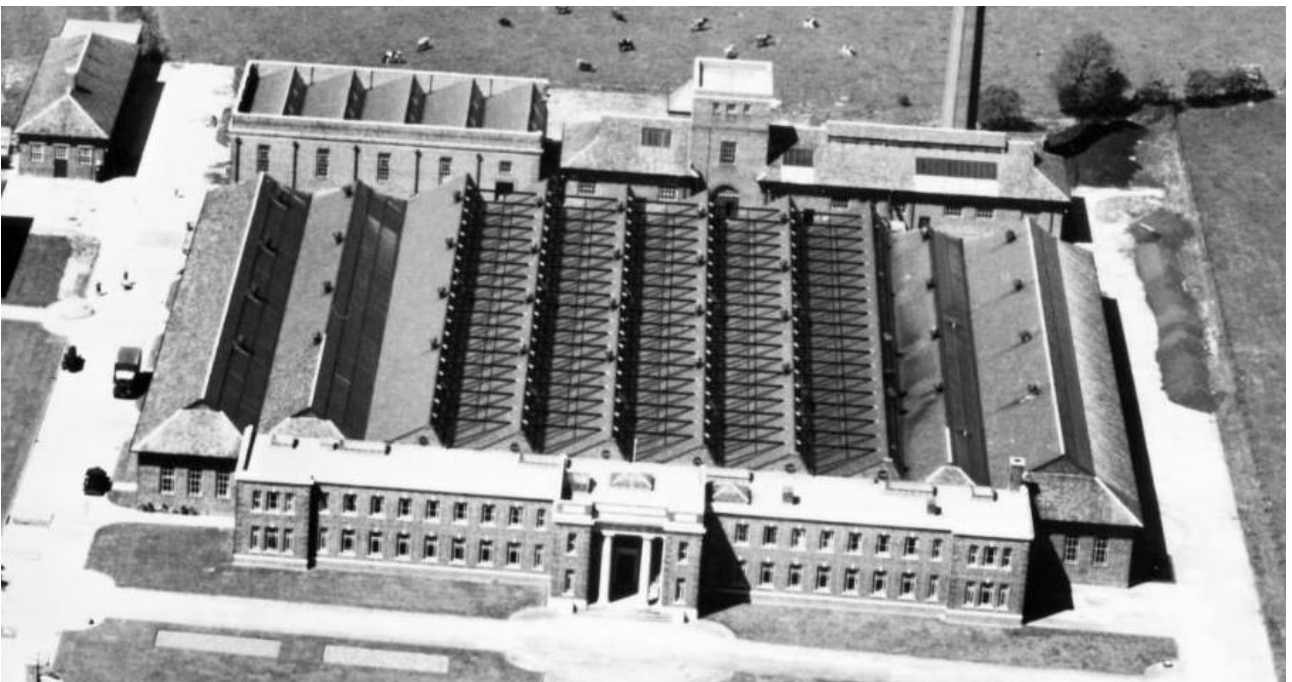


Plate 3: Aerial view, 1936 (Britain from Above)



Plate 4: Aerial view, 1936 (Britain from Above)

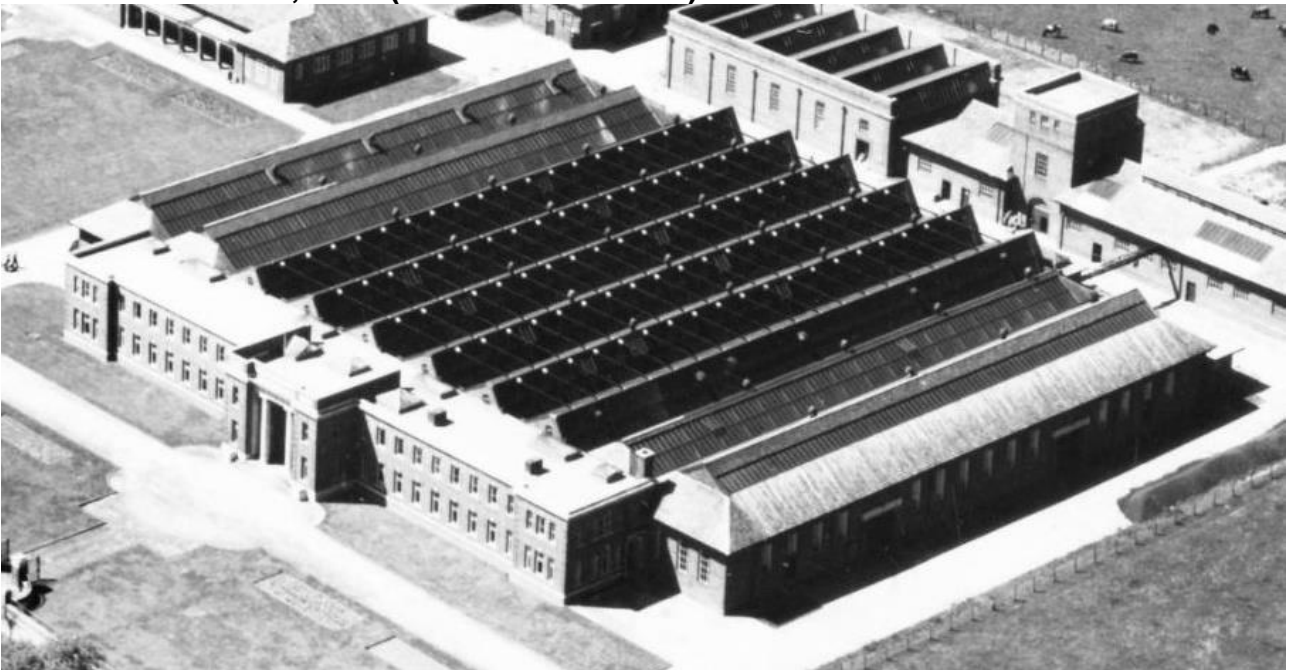


Plate 5: Aerial view, 1948 (Britain from Above)

3.4 General Views



Plate 6: Northeast elevation , c. 1930s (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)



Plate 7: Internal view, 1936 (The New Bond, F. W. Woolworth House Magazine)



Plate 8: Packaging, in a tiled part of the building, 1958 (still from Midlands News, <https://www.macearchive.org/films/midlands-news-02061958-donald-campbell-blue-bird-toffee-factory>)



Plate 9: Machinery between two mezzanine floors / platforms, 1958 (still from Midlands News, <https://www.macearchive.org/films/midlands-news-02061958-donald-campbell-blue-bird-toffee-factory>)



Plate 10: Interior of manufactory in 1958 (still from Midlands News, <https://www.macearchive.org/films/midlands-news-02061958-donald-campbell-blue-bird-toffee-factory>)



Plate 11: Interior of manufactory in 1958 (still from Midlands News, <https://www.macearchive.org/films/midlands-news-02061958-donald-campbell-blue-bird-toffee-factory>)

4. Bay 1 Arrival



Plate 12: Manufactory loading bay, 1930s (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)

5. Bay 2 Weighing



Plate 13: Manufactory weighing area (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)



Plate 14: Manufactory: Storage and weighing, 1930s (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)

6. Boiling



Plate 15: Manufactory boiling pans, 1930s (Mid Pastures Green)

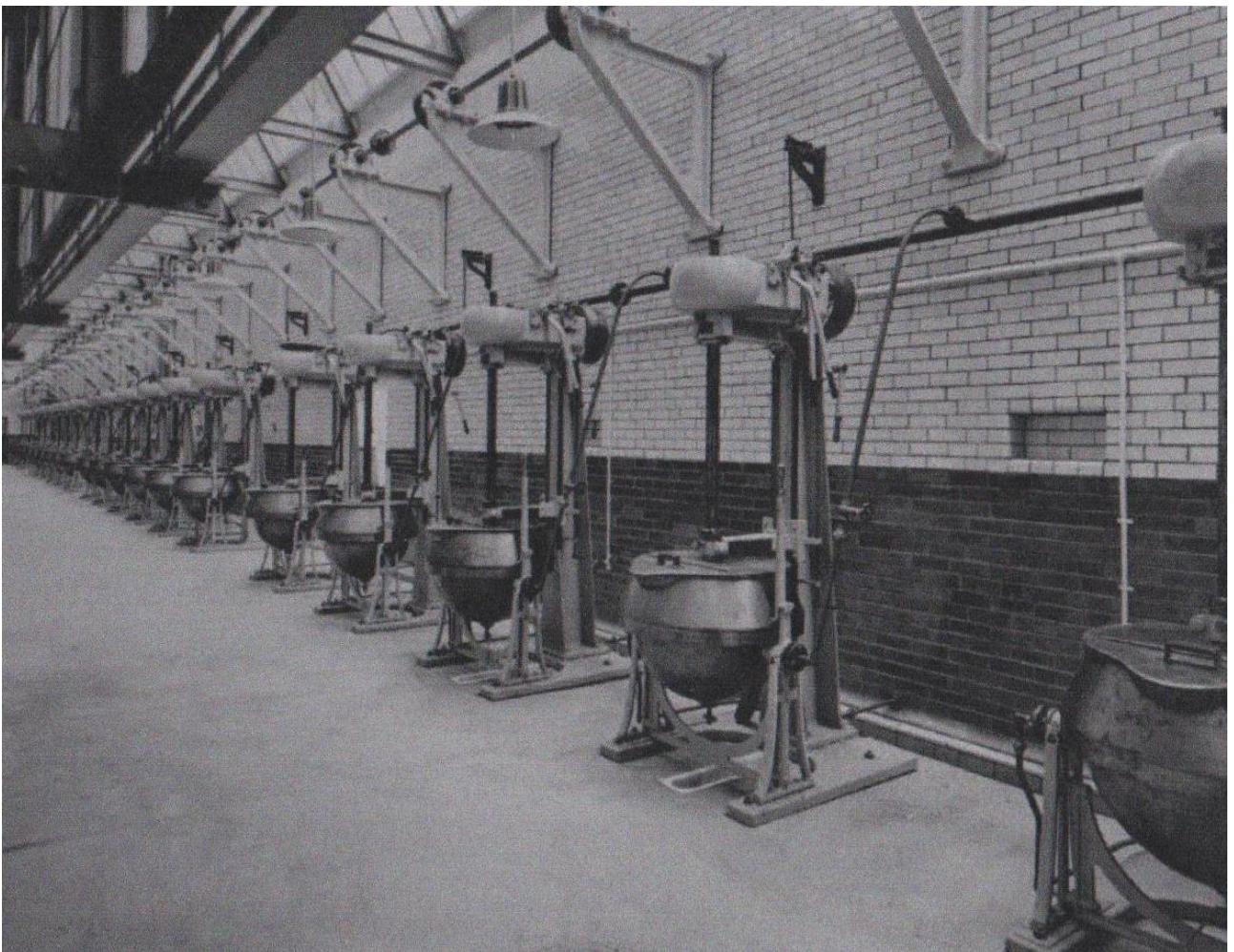


Plate 16: Boiling pans along northeast wall of the manufactory, 1930s (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)

7. Forming



Plate 17: Manufactory Sugar Confectionery Section, 1930s (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)

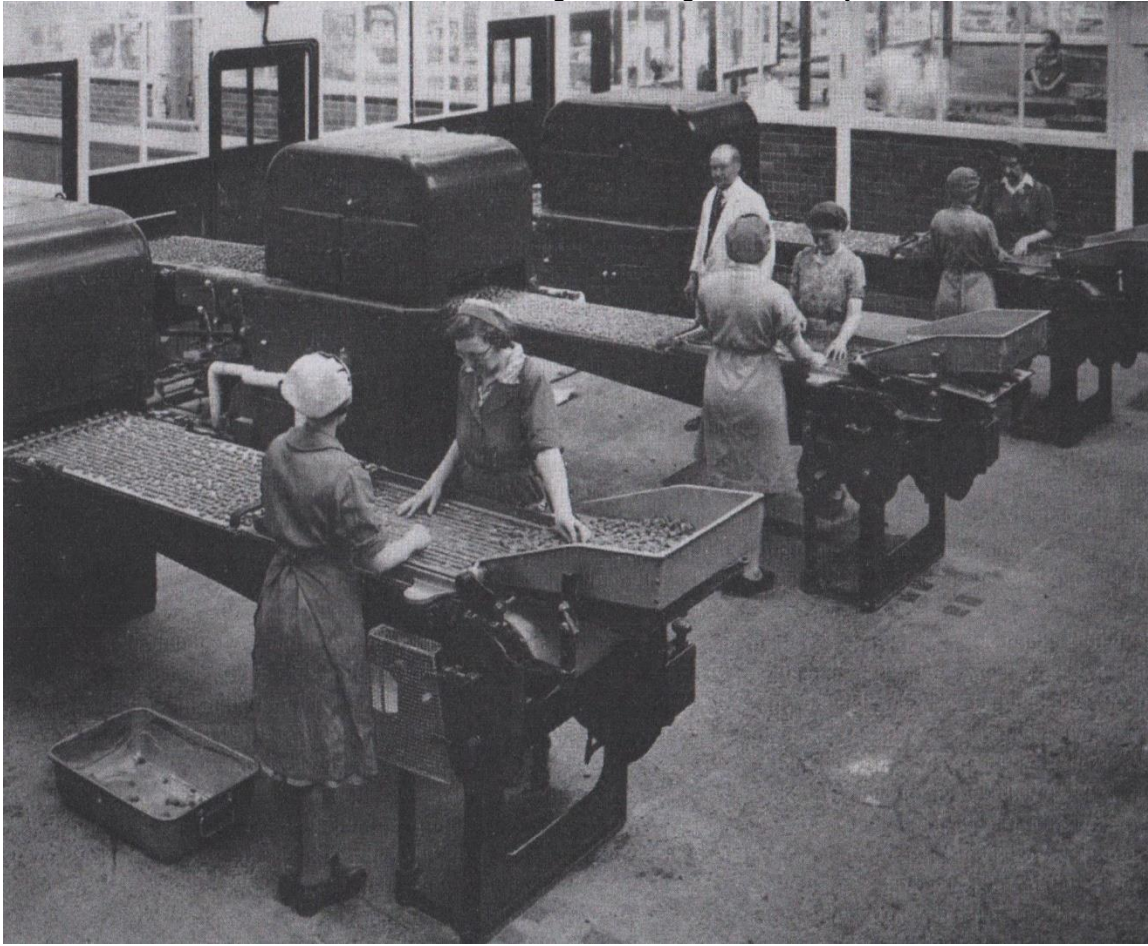


Plate 18: Chocolate coating machines, 1930s (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)

8. Wrapping



Plate 19: Cutting and wrapping, 1930s (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)



Plate 20: Wrapping department, 1930s (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)



Plate 21: Wrapping chocolate toffees, 1930s (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)



Plate 22: Wrapping machines, 1930s (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)

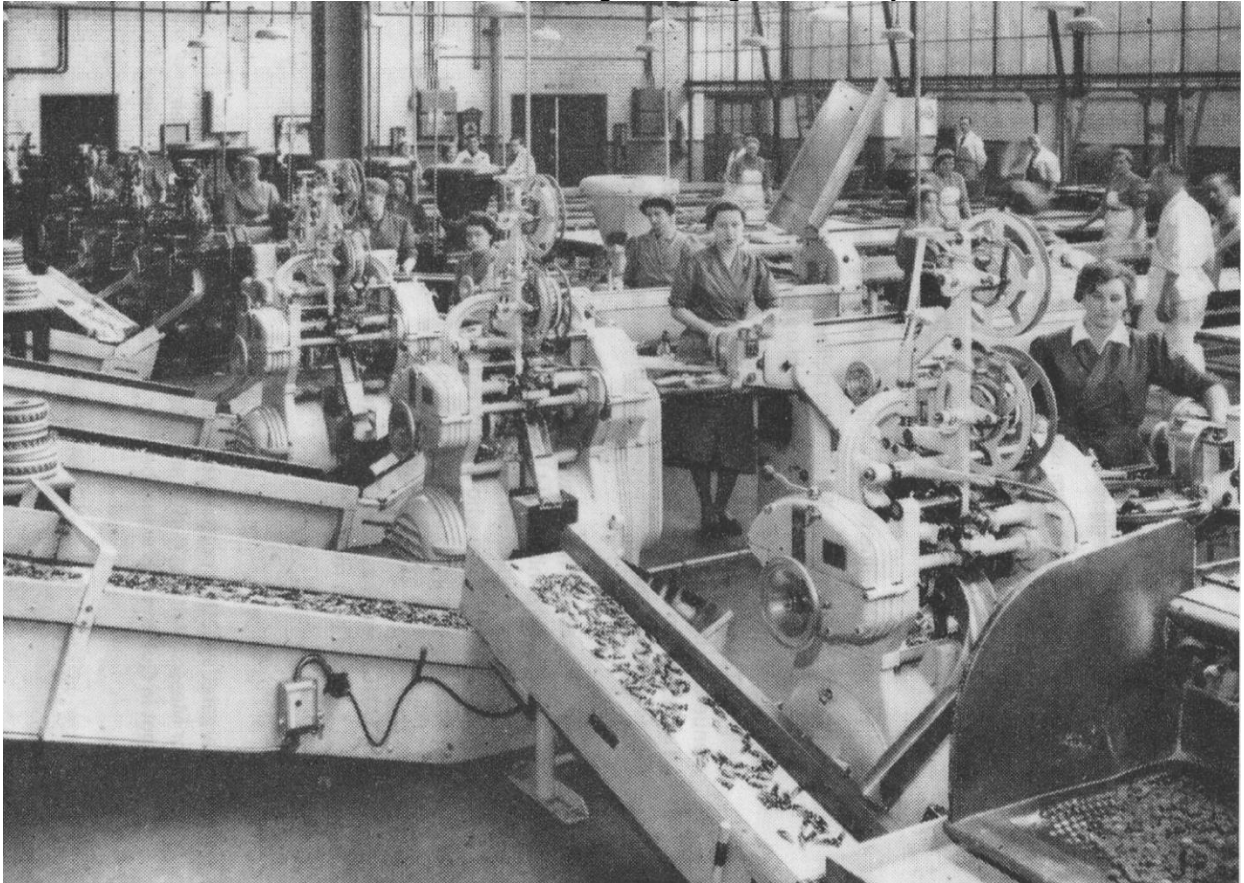


Plate 23: Manufacturing tables, 1930s (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)

9. Packing



Plate 24: Packaging line, 1930s (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)



Plate 25: Northwest aspect, room 4, packing department, 1930s (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)

10. Despatch



Plate 26: Manufactory despatch department, 1930s (Mid Pastures Green)



Plate 27: Manufactory weighing area, 1930s (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)

11. The Building

11.1 The Building

The building is the former confectionary manufactory of Harry Vincent Ltd, makers of Blue Bird Toffee. It consists of a large central area with two bays to the northeast and two to the southwest. Ancillary rooms are present to the northwest.

Current Function	Vacant
Original Function	Confectionary Factory
Period	Modern
Century	20 th
Precise Date	1925-7
Architectural Style	Industrial
Architect	S N Cooke F.R.I.B.A.
Materials	Brick, concrete
Designation	Not Listed
Conservation Area	Not located within a conservation area

11.2 The Importance of the Building – Listing Criteria

Date		For modern buildings one of the other criteria has to be clearly met.
Rarity		Industrial Buildings are a common type of historic building.
Architectural Interest		
	Architect	The building was designed by a prominent architect.
	Type	There is little particular interest in the building type.
	Innovation	This building does not use innovative building techniques or materials.
	Virtuosity	The building does not demonstrate a particularly high standard of craftsmanship.
	Plan Form	The plan form is not significant.
Historic Interest		This building does not illustrate important aspects of the nation's history. It is not associated with a Nationally Important person.
Group Value		There is group value with the other historic buildings.
Contribution of Setting		The building is surrounded by buildings of different dates and therefore there is no added importance from the setting.

11.3 The Importance of the Building using Understanding Heritage – Values Conservation Principles Policies and Guidance 2008

Evidential		The building dates from a period when the physical evidence of the building adds little novel information.
Historical		
	Illustrative	Low The building does not illustrate an unusual historic connection.
	Association	Low The building is not associated with a notable person, family, event, movement or cultural heritage.
Aesthetic		
	Design	The building is a utilitarian building and design is not a factor.
	Detailing & Craftsmanship	The building does not demonstrate a very high standard of craftsmanship.
	Architect	The building was designed by a prominent architect.
	Innovation	This building does not use innovative building techniques or materials.
Communal		Low – The building is visible from the public realm so it does have a communal value albeit a very low one.

11.4 Designations

The building is not listed. It is joined to the Grade II listed Administration Building, the listing description of which follows:

The former Administration Building to the factory designed by S N Cooke and built in 1925-7 for Harry Vincent Limited of Birmingham, manufacturers of Blue Bird toffee.

Reasons for Designation

The former Administration Building at Blue Bird Toffee Factory (Harry Vincent Limited), Hunnington, Worcestershire, is listed at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

Architectural Interest:

** the neo-Georgian design of the Administration Building by prominent Birmingham architect SN Cooke is assured and well-realised, remarkably so for its provincial location;*

** the building retains high quality fittings and fixtures throughout, including sumptuous fittings to the Director's Office and stair foyer in the Administration Building, as well as tiled corridors and lobby spaces, and timber fenestration to internal spaces.*

Historic Interest:

** the factory and Hunnington Model Village was developed in the spirit of the period: sited in a clean, rural location with good modern transport links and with improved standards of welfare and well being; * as a regionally significant element of the continuation of model village development, begun nearby at Bournville in the late C19.*

Group Value:

** with the adjacent former Welfare Building (listed at Grade II) it forms a legible grouping of the administrative and social focal points of a notable interwar factory at the centre of a new model village;*

** the front boundary treatment (listed at Grade II) provides a distinctive and contemporary setting to the building and to the factory site as a whole.*

History

The factory was designed and built in 1925-7 for Harry Vincent Limited of Birmingham, manufacturers of Blue Bird toffee. The factory scheme was by S N Cooke F.R.I.B.A., of Birmingham, and included a model village (24 of the planned 100 houses were built) village shop with post office, cricket pavilion and other leisure buildings. The modern and hygienic factory design was noted in the Birmingham Gazette in May 1920, as part of an article tracing the swift rise to prominence of manufacturer Harry Vincent. It also remarks on the generous facilities provided for the workers and villagers.

The Administration Building is shown as part of the factory on the Ordnance Survey Map of Worcestershire of 1938 (Epoch 4), with the Welfare Building (listed at Grade II) to the south west and two warehouse buildings to the rear (west) of the site. Some alterations have been carried out to the Administration Building in the later C20.

At the end of the C20 the factory ceased operation and parts of the site have served other uses since that time. In 2019 the buildings were subject to proposals for redevelopment.

Details

Former factory offices of 1925-7 constructed to the designs of S N Cooke for Harry Vincent Limited.

MATERIALS: constructed of red brick, with stone dressings. The roof is flat with an unknown covering and lantern lights. The interior has oak, stone and bronze fittings to the Director's Suite and to some other principal rooms. The entrance hall and main stair are stone-clad, and there is glazed tiling to the corridors on each floor. The interior window frames are of timber and the exterior window frames are of powder-coated aluminium. Some internal doors are modern.

PLAN: set back facing the road it is of two-storeys and of single-depth. The building is constructed on a north-east/ south-west orientation and the attached factory to its rear is not of special interest.

EXTERIOR: the principal front is of neo-Georgian design with brick quoins and ashlar dressings to the mixed-bond brick elevations. The central portico entrance is in the Doric Order including two columns with entasis. The brick parapet above has inscribed tablets that read HARRY VINCENT LTD. Set back to either side of the entrance are eight-window wings plus corner bays breaking forward. The wings have ashlar plinths and parapets, and regularly-spaced openings with

later-C20 margin-glazed frames, stone cills and flat brick heads with ashlar keystones. The flank elevations each have margin-glazed openings to each floor and a door with ashlar case. The rear elevation is enclosed within the factory building and finished with glazed tiles.

The recessed, semi-circular main entrance has Doric pilasters between Flemish bond brickwork, and is stone-flagged. To the left is a foundation stone inscribed: THIS STONE WAS LAID/ BY/ MRS HARRY VINCENT/ JULY 25TH 1925. The central door entrance has a stone case with moulded architrave and hood. The double-leaf doors have bronze furniture and leaded glazing to a shell design.

INTERIOR: the entrance vestibule and open-well staircase is clad in stone. The staircase has a steel balustrade with stone newels. The balustrade is carried through to the upper level landing that is lit by a lantern. A stone block to the half-landing wall is inscribed: SIR HARRY VINCENT/ LLD/ 1874-1952/ FOUNDER OF THIS COMPANY/ A man of hope/ and forward-looking mind/ Even to the last. Late-C20 double-leaf doors lead to the tiled first-floor corridor, which is lit by four lanterns. There are single-flight stairs at each end of the corridor with oak handrails, square newels and stick balustrades, which have been enclosed in later glazing at ground floor level. At the north end of the first floor is the Director's office, fitted with oak panelling and columns, a marble chimneypiece with bronze grate, and light fixtures. The adjacent office has oak wainscoting and a stone chimneypiece with marble tiling. Other offices to the first floor include fittings and feature of note: a stone chimneypiece with oak overmantel, a leaded ceiling lantern and a strong room with door by Whitfield's Safe and Door Company, London. To the ground floor are further oak doors, glazed partitions, timber sashes with leaded and frosted glazing, and a stone chimneypiece. The corridor is covered in glazed tiles to dado level. Some rooms have been reordered. A door with upper glazing is at each end of the ground floor and each gave access to the former factory building.

Selected Sources

Books and journals

Pevsner, N, Brooks, A, *The Buildings of England: Worcestershire*, (2007), 581

Websites

Romsley & Hunnington History Society: *An Industrial Romance*, *The Midlander*, February 1927, accessed 10/07/2019 from <https://www.rhhs.org.uk/local-history/bluebird.html>

Other

'Messrs Harry Vincent's Model Factory and Garden Village.', *The Retail Confectioner*, January 1927, 13-17

One of the largest toffee makers in the world, *Birmingham Gazette*, 13 May

11.5 The Date of the Building

The Building was constructed in 1925-7.

11.6 The Layout of The Building

The layout of the building is shown in the following plan:

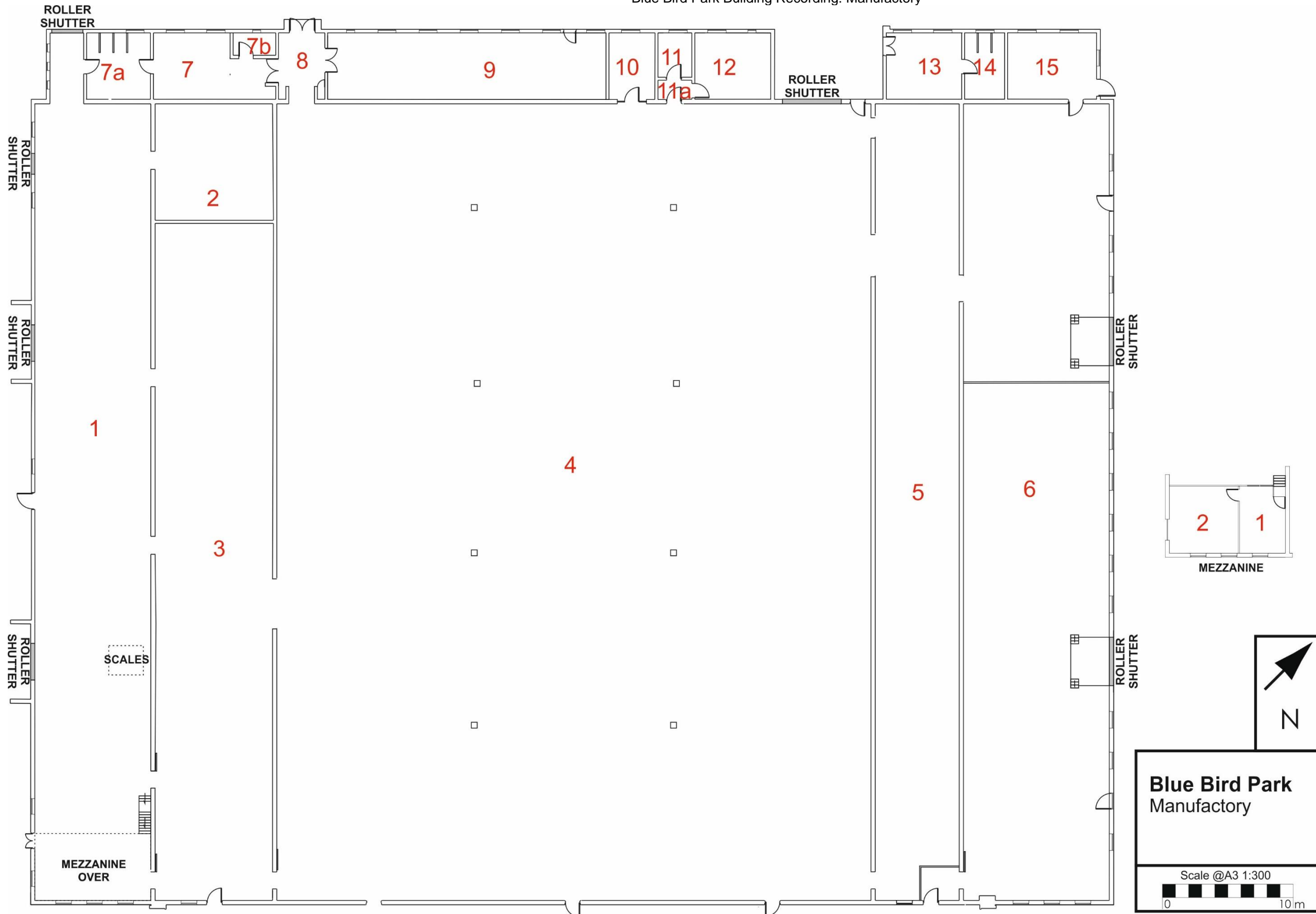


Figure 3: Layout of manufactory, 1:300 @ A3

12. Description: External

The manufactory is joined to the rear (northwest) elevation of the Administration Building. The building is constructed in machine-made red brick in a bond based on Stretcher, Flemish and English Garden Wall bonds.

A number of roller shutter doors are present to the northeast, northwest and southwest. Iron-framed windows are also present on these sides of the building. The window frames are painted white. Smaller doors are of planked timber. All types of door are painted green, excepting one large roller shutter door on the northwest elevation, which is unpainted. This door is considered not to be original.

A sawtooth roof of glass and slate covers the main manufacturing area of the building. The northeast faces of the roof are glazed.

The sawtooth roof does not cover the entire building. To the northeast and the southwest, two bays each are topped with slate roofs, each bearing suppressed gables.

12.1 Southwest Elevation



Plate 28: Southwest elevation

Loading doors on the southwest elevation have canopies over, whereas those to the northeast do not. This may be an indicator of the prevailing wind direction.

The canopies have flat roofs and are supported on angled brick walls either side of the door opening.



Plate 29: Northwest part of southwest elevation



Plate 30: Northwest part of southwest elevation, pre 1927 (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)



Plate 31: Southeast part of southwest elevation



Plate 32: Detail of loading bay



Plate 33: Profile of loading bay canopy



Plate 34: Detail of former first floor fire exit

At the head of the southwest elevation, at its southeast end, a planked door is present. This door is a former fire exit, with the external staircase having been removed prior to the installation of the temporary building located below the door. Scarring on the wall below the door may relate to this staircase.

12.2 Northeast Elevation



Plate 35: Northeast elevation



Plate 36: Southeast part, northeast elevation



Plate 37: Northwest part, northeast elevation



Plate 38: Detail of loading bay, northeast wall

Each of the large loading bay shutter doors on the northeast and southwest walls has brick pilasters on each side and a stucco lintel with raised circle and rectangle decoration.

12.3 Northwest Elevation

The northwest part of the building, the rear, comprises part of the structure lower in height than the main part of the building. This is considered to be contemporary with the rest of the structure, rather than being a later addition. It features glazed lanterns fitted to the roof to admit light to the areas inside.



Plate 39: Northwest elevation

The outermost bays of the rear elevation have tiled roofs with suppressed gables.



Plate 40: Northwest elevation

The double door to the left of the above photograph opens into room 13, gents' locker room and lavatory. The roller shutter and adjacent pedestrian door open into the main

Blue Bird Park Building Recording: Manufactory
manufactory area. The roller shutter is not painted. It features a ramp for vehicle access.
Variations in brickwork and mortar around this door, both internal and external, suggest this
door is not original.



Plate 41: Northwest elevation



Plate 42: Northwest elevation

The pedestrian door in the above photograph opens into room 9.



Plate 43: Northwest elevation



Plate 44: Northwest elevation

The double pedestrian doors are considered to be the main staff entrance to the manufactory.



Plate 45: Northwest elevation



Plate 46: Detail of lantern over room 9



Plate 47: Detail of lanterns over rooms 10 and 12



Plate 48: Detail of lanterns over rooms 7, 8 and 9

12.4 Southeast Elevation

Either side of the Administration building, the southeast wall of one bay of the manufactory can be seen, facing on to the road. The roof profile of these outer bays can be seen, taking the form of a hipped roof with suppressed gable.



Plate 49: Southeast elevation, northeast bay



Plate 50: Southeast elevation, southwest bay

12.5 Aerial View



Plate 51: Aerial view of the manufactory, September 2022

13. Description: Interior

13.1 Room 1

Room 1 is the southwest bay of the building. It is considered likely to have been the part of the building where manufactured and packed confectionary was stored and loaded onto lorries for distribution.

The walls are not constructed with glazed brick, suggesting the foodstuffs had already been packaged before they arrived in this part of the building.

Internally, the walls and roof trusses (of the Howe variety) are painted white. The floor is of poured concrete. Windows and roller shutter doors are present in the southwest wall.



Plate 52: Room 1, northwest aspect

One remnant of the historic use of the building is an industrial weighing scale, left approximately halfway along this room, when the building was abandoned.



Plate 53: 1930s view to northwest (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)



Plate 54: 1930s view to northwest (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)

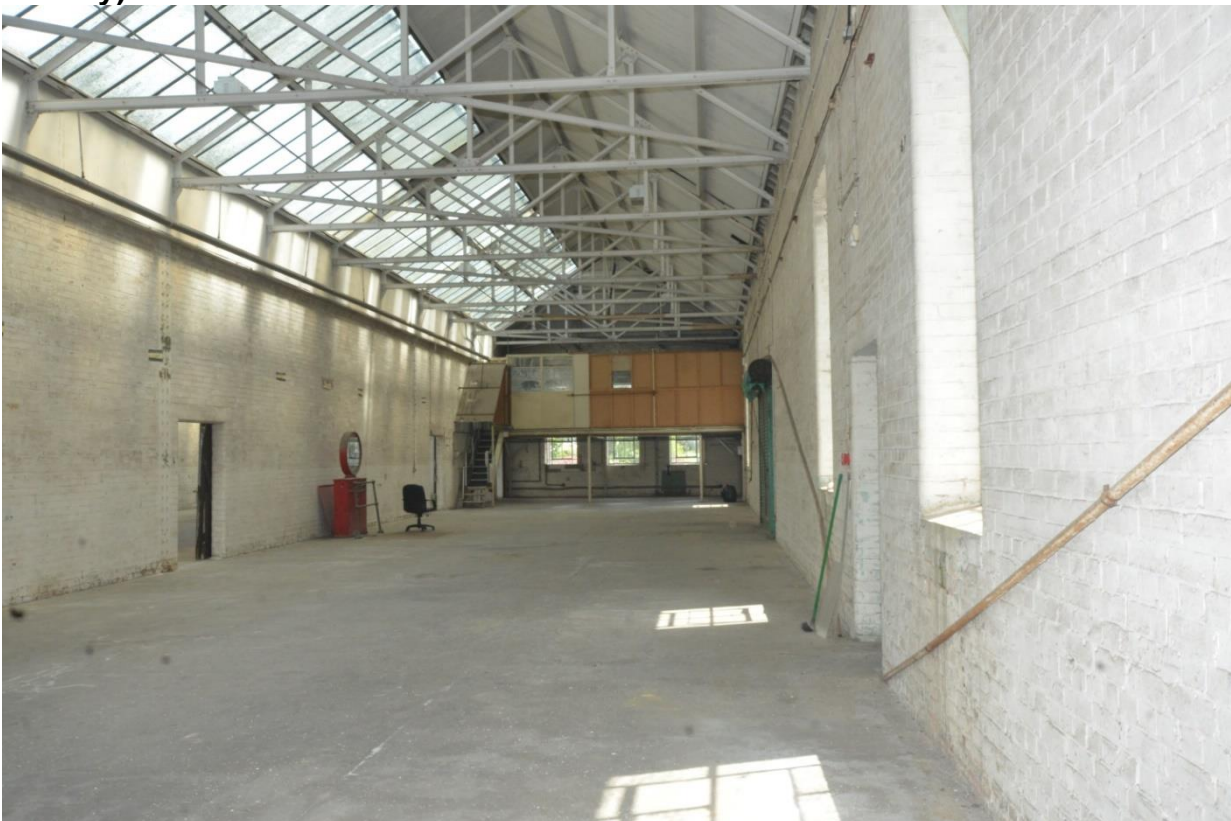


Plate 55: Room 1, southeast aspect

Doors between the rooms of the building are largely substantial ledged and braced timber sliding doors in the style of that depicted below. This door opens from room 3 to room 1, beneath the mezzanine which is found at the southeast end of the room.

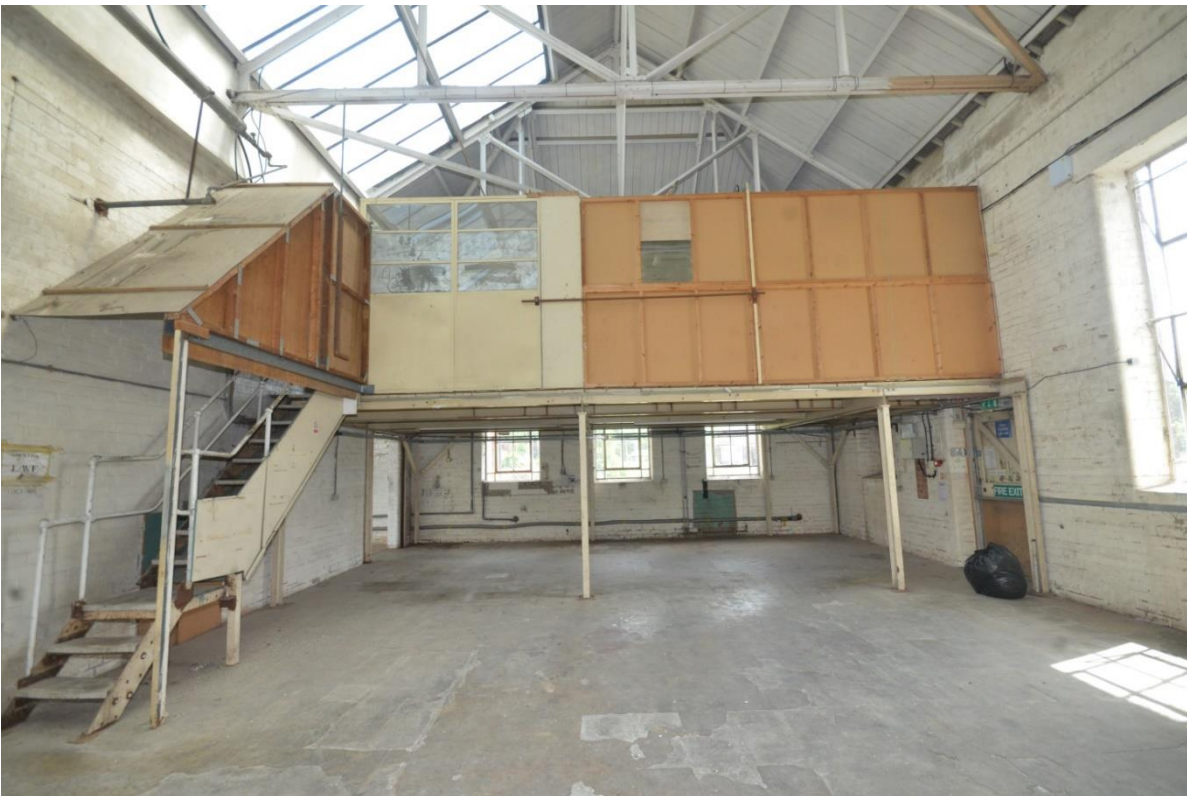


Plate 56: Mezzanine, southeast end of room 1



Plate 57: Detail of sliding door, room 1

13.2 Room 2

Room 2 is a small room at the northwest end of the second bay. Again, the walls and roof trusses are painted white. Electrical distribution equipment and piping can be seen to the northwest and southeast of the room.



Plate 58: Southwest aspect, room 2



Plate 59: Northeast aspect, room 2



Plate 60: Southeast aspect, room 2

Pipework at the head of the southeast wall features a number of valves and pressure gauges. This pipework is likely to have been used for distribution of a pressurised gas, however the lack of insulation to the pipes suggests this was not steam. Some pipework on the northwest wall, however, is insulated, suggesting it is likely to have carried steam.

Signage in this room refer to a 'pump truck quarantine area' and that battery charging occurred in this location. An eyewash station is also present. The room was possibly an store / workshop for electrically powered pallet jacks and / or forklift trucks.

Doors that have been removed from other parts of the manufactory are stored in this room.

13.3 Room 3

The walls of room 3 are painted white. The roof is supported on steel Howe trusses through which pipework is routed, running the length of the building from northwest to southeast.



Plate 61: Southwest aspect, room 3

At the southeast end of room 3, iron-framed fixed windows are present allowing the manufactory to be observed from the administration building. Further pipework and cabling is present on this wall.



Plate 62: Detail of southwest wall, room 3

The lack of glazed bricks on the walls of room 3 suggests the room was used for the storage and / or processing of foodstuffs that have already been packaged.

13.4 Room 4: Main Manufactory Area

The main manufactory area is a large open space taking up the majority of the floor plan of the building. The roof structure is supported on eight steel pillars around the centre of the building. There are minimal overhead services present.

Significant electrical distribution equipment is present on the northwest wall.

Blue Bird Park Building Recording: Manufactory

The walls are constructed with glazed brick over their entire height. The lower parts of the walls have green glaze, with a black band separating white upper parts. The roof structure is painted white.

Windows and doors between room 4 and the administration building have been blocked.



Plate 63: Northwest aspect, room 4



Plate 64: Northeast aspect, room 4

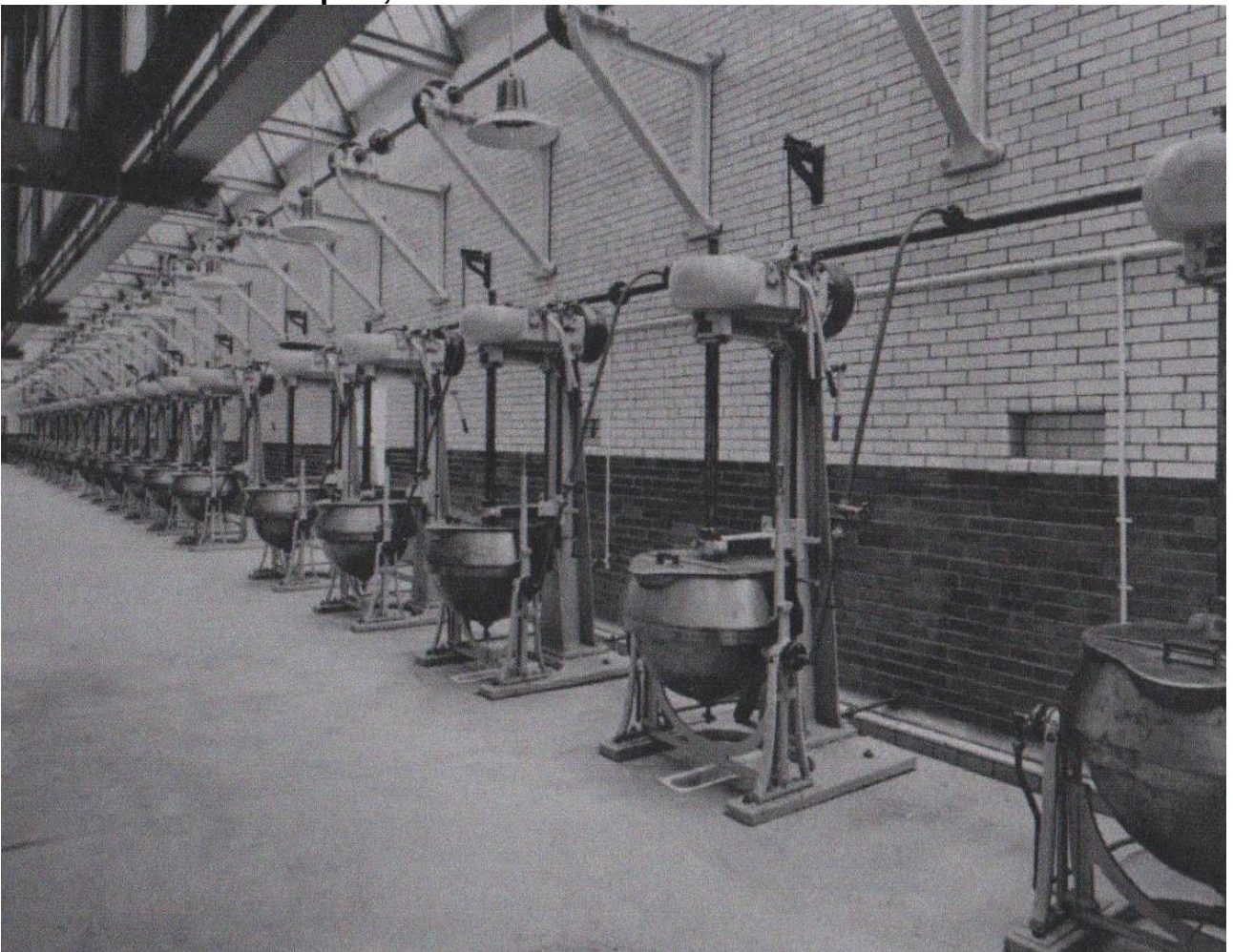


Plate 65: Boiling pans along northeast wall, 1930s (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)



Plate 66: Southeast aspect, room 4



Plate 67: View to Southeast showing boiling pans. 1930s (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)



Plate 68: 1930s photograph, view to southeast (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)



Plate 69: 1930s photograph, view of cooling tables to southeast (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)



Plate 70: Southwest aspect, room 4



Plate 71: Northwest aspect, room 4



Plate 72: Northwest aspect, room 4, packing department, 1930s (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)



Plate 73: Detail of roller shutter

Brickwork around the roller shutter is not painted and there are no glazed bricks present. This suggests the shutter is a recent insertion.



Plate 74: Detail of roof structure, viewed from southeast



Plate 75: Detail of roof structure



Plate 76: Detail of roof structure

13.5 Room 5

The glazed brick from room 4 continues into room 5, suggesting more cleanliness was required for the processes and storage in these areas than in rooms 1-3 and 6, suggesting this area was used to store or process products that had not yet been packed.

Again, minimal overhead services are present, however some wiring is present, the majority being fixed to the northwest and southeast walls.

Historic photographs show this room used for storage of raw ingredients.



Plate 77: Northwest aspect, room 5

At the southeast end of the room, a wire mesh partition is located. A door in the southeast wall leads into the administration building and the mesh partition restricts access through this room into room 6. There is no direct access from the administration building into room 5.



Plate 78: Southeast aspect, room 5

Scars on the walls of room 5 suggest the former locations of industrial equipment. Blocked openings in the lower part of the wall show where equipment once passed through the wall separating room 5 from room 6.



Plate 79: Southeast aspect, room 5, 1930s photograph (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)



Plate 80:Detail of blocked openings in northeast wall



Plate 81: Detail of southeast wall, with mesh partition

Scars on the walls of room 5 suggest the former locations of industrial equipment. A number of blocked openings are present in the northeast and southwest walls. These blocked openings varying in size from pedestrian doorways to small openings show where former access for personnel and equipment through the walls separating room 5 from rooms 4 and 6.



Plate 82: Detail of blocked openings in northeast wall



Plate 83: Detail of blocked openings and former equipment mount positions, southwest wall

Openings are blocked with a variety of materials, with red brick commonly used. More recent blockings have been made with concrete blocks and early blockings have glazed bricks / tiles used in an attempt to match the surrounding walls.



Plate 84: Elevated view

13.6 Room 6

Room 6 is the northeast bay of the manufactory building. The walls are not tiled or built with glazed brick, but are painted, as per those of rooms 1-3, suggesting less cleanliness was

required in this part of the building. It is considered that this area was used for the loading of raw ingredients into the factory.

Loading bays are present along the northeast wall. These are internal loading bays, in that the lorry would back inside the building in order to be loaded or unloaded. This contrasts the loading bays in room 1 in which the lorry remains outside the building and reverses up to the doorway.



Plate 85: Southeast aspect, room 6

The northwest end of room 6 is divided from the remainder by means of a steel mesh partition. Signs indicate that this is a quarantine area. The need for quarantining goods reinforces the suggestion that room 6 was used for incoming ingredients as it is considered unlikely quarantine would be required for outgoing products.



Plate 86: Southeast aspect, room 6, 1930s historic photograph (Blue Bird Album, Romsley & Hunnington History Society)



Plate 87: Southwest aspect, room 6

Scars on the northeast and southwest walls of room 6 suggest the former locations of equipment now since removed.



Plate 88: Northwest aspect, room 6



Plate 89: Detail of loading bay, room 6



Plate 90: Detail of northeast windows, room 6

13.7 Room 7

Room 7 is an ancillary room to the rear of the manufactory building. Doors in this room lead to a lavatory (7a) and a small store room (7b). The room may have been a staff locker room. A lantern in the ceiling admits natural light to the room.



Plate 91: Northeast aspect, Room 7



Plate 92: Southwest aspect, room 7



Plate 93: Northwest aspect, room 7

13.8 Room 7a

Room 7a is a staff lavatory (female) with three cubicles. A door in the northeast wall leads into room 7 and a small loading door is located in the southwest wall. This door leads to the southwest loading bay of the main manufactory space.

This lavatory is considered to have been used by production staff. One indicator of this is the knee-operated taps, so as to minimise contamination by touch.



Plate 94: Southwest aspect, room 7a



Plate 95: Northwest aspect, room 7a



Plate 96: Northeast aspect, room 7a

13.9 Room 7b

Room 7b is a narrow room located in the northern corner of room 7. Access is via a single door in the southeast wall.



Plate 97: Northeast aspect, room 7b



Plate 98: Northwest aspect, room 7b

13.10 Room 8: Rear Entrance

The rear entrance is considered to have been the main entrance for the staff of the manufactory. The walls have glazed bricks in the same form as rooms 4 and 5.



Plate 99: Northwest aspect, room 8

The room has double external doors in its northwest wall and to rooms to the northeast and southwest. A passage leads directly into the western corner of room 4.

Room 8 has a central glazed lantern admitting light to this otherwise windowless area.



Plate 100: Northeast aspect, room 8

13.11 Room 9

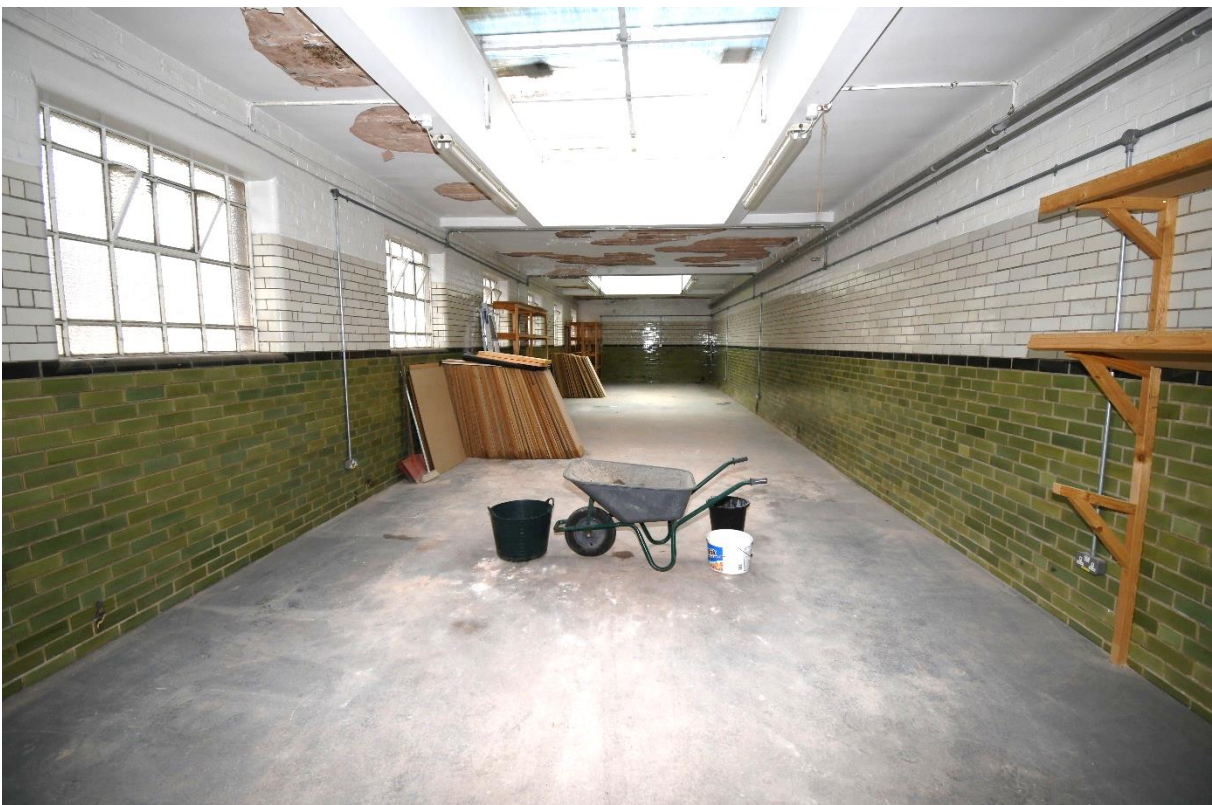


Plate 101: Northeast aspect, room 9

Room 9 is a long room at the rear of the building. The walls are formed from glazed bricks / are tiled, indicating this room was used for wet or dirty processes. Lanterns are present in the flat roof, admitting natural light to the internal space. Windows are also present in the northwest wall.



Plate 102: Southwest aspect, room 9



Plate 103: Detail of lantern over room 9



Plate 104: Detail of flat lantern over room 9

13.12 Room 10

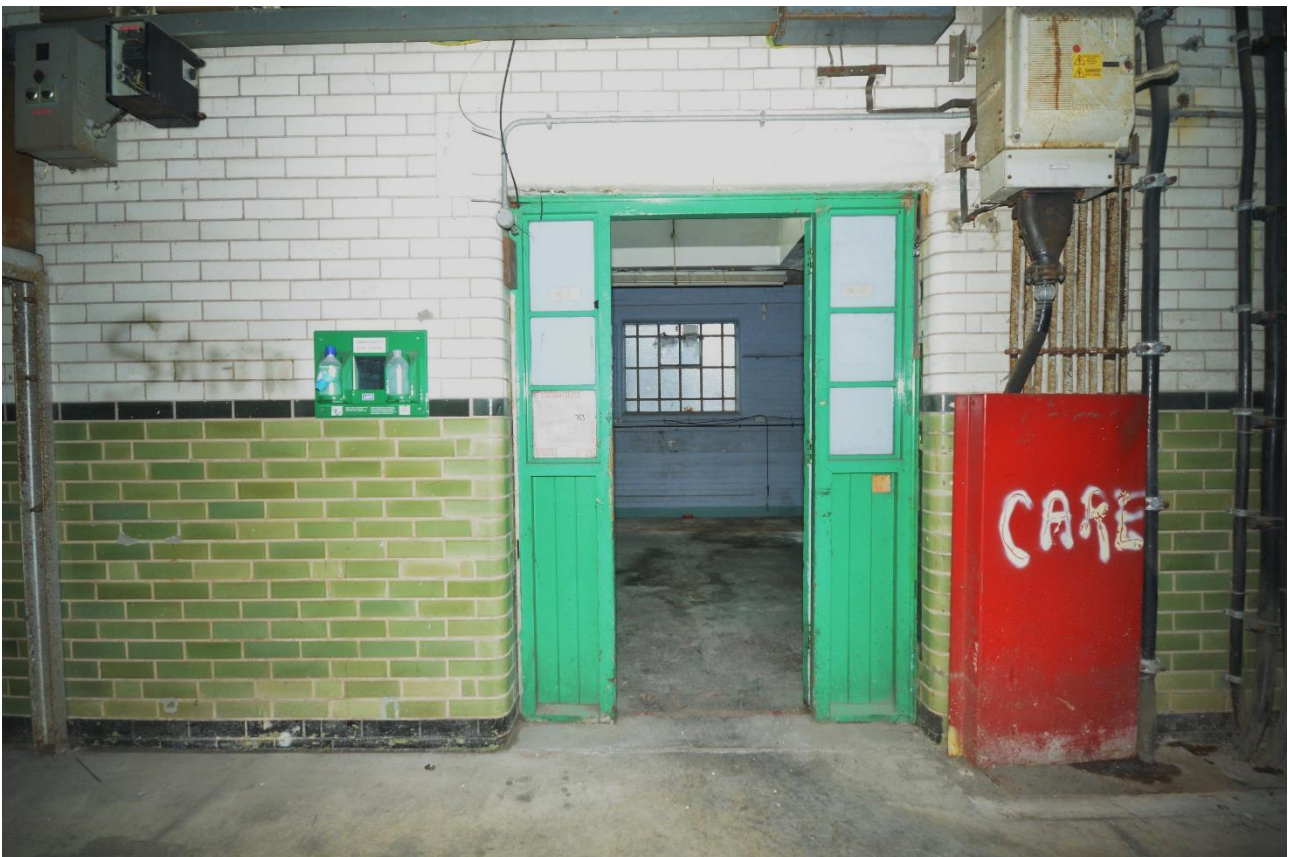


Plate 105: View into room 10

Room 10 is a small room to the northwest of the main manufactory area, The single door leading into the room is set between a pair of panels comprising vertical planks on their

lower parts and three fixed panes above. The door matches the panels with a planked lower part and glazing in 3x3 configuration over.

The room does not have glazed brick or tile, suggesting a 'clean' purpose – possibly the office of a supervisor. A blocked opening is present in the northeast wall which divides room 10 from room 11. The opening is not full-height and was not a pedestrian door.

A gabled lantern is present over the centre of the room.



Plate 106: Northeast aspect, room 10 showing opening



Plate 107: Southeast aspect, room 10 showing opening



Plate 108: Northwest aspect, room 10

13.13 Room 11

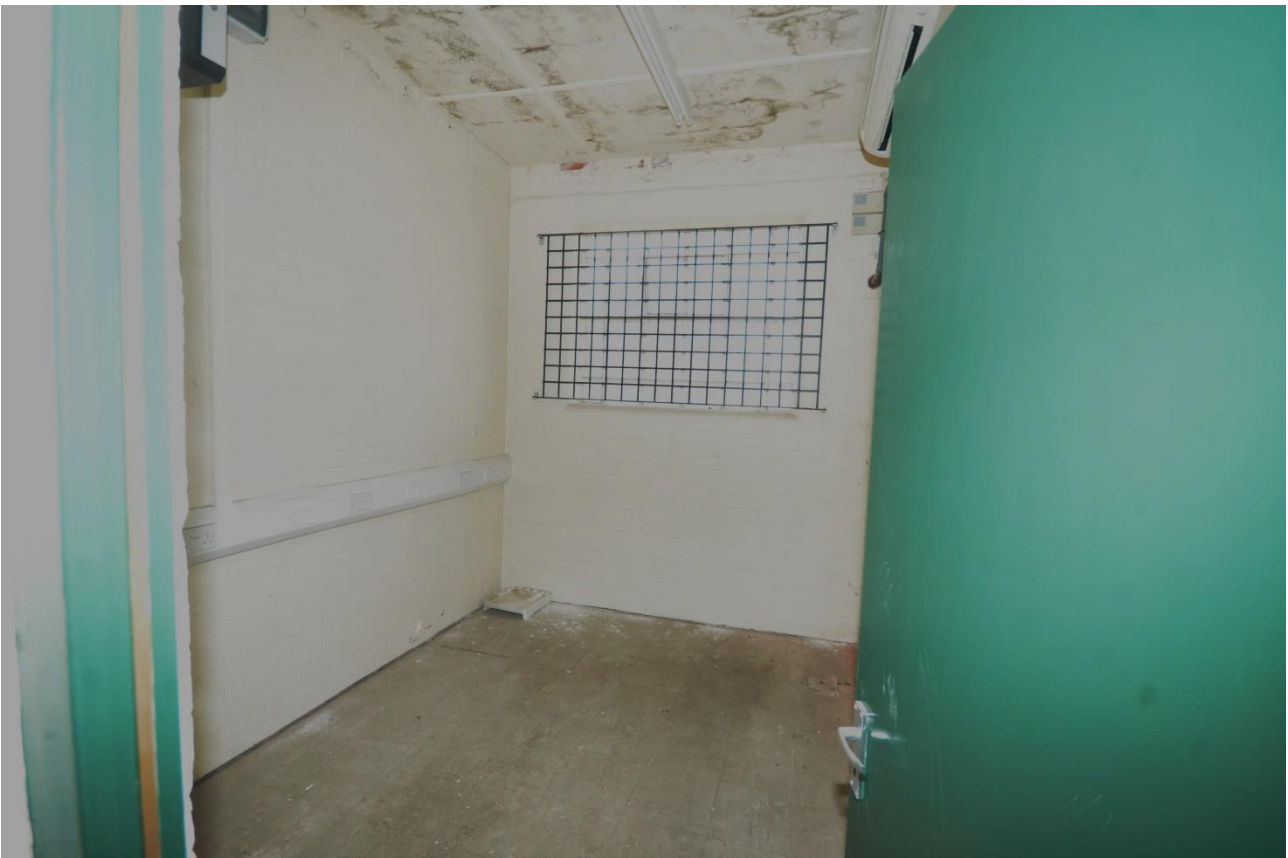


Plate 109: Northwest aspect, room 11

Room 11 is a small room to the northwest of room 10. There are no features of interest.

13.14 Room 11a

Room 11a is a small lobby between the manufactory area, room 11 and room 12. The door is panelled, with a single upper panel and two vertical lower panels.



Plate 110: Southwest aspect, room 11a

13.15 Room 12



Plate 111: Northeast aspect, room 12

Room 12 has glazed brick walls with cream lower parts. The black band and white upper parts are shared with other areas of the building. A blocked door is present in the northeast wall and iron-framed obscure-glazed windows are present to the northwest. A glazed lantern is present in the ceiling of the room. The obscure glazing suggests this may have been a changing room or similar.



Plate 112: Southwest aspect, room 12



Plate 113: Lantern above room 12

13.16 Room 13

Room 13 is accessed via a double door to the northwest loading bay. It is considered likely to have previously been used as a locker room. The windows are obscure-glazed and a possible blocked lantern is present, copying the form of room 12.



Plate 114: Northeast aspect, room 13



Plate 115: Southwest aspect, room 13

The southern corner of the room is constructed with the same green / black / white arrangement of glazed brick as other rooms. The remainder of the walls are painted blue. The floor in this corner of the room is of bare concrete whereas that of the remainder of the room is painted red. It is suggested that this corner was once partitioned off from the rest of the room. The original purpose of this partitioned area cannot be determined from the physical remains present, and it is unclear if glazed brick was used.

13.17 Room 14

Room 14 is a gents' lavatory located at the northeast end of room 14. Fixtures and fittings are considered to be late 20thC in origin. This room also features knee-operated taps as found in room 7a.



Plate 116: Northwest aspect, room 14



Plate 117: Southeast aspect, room 14

13.18 Room 15

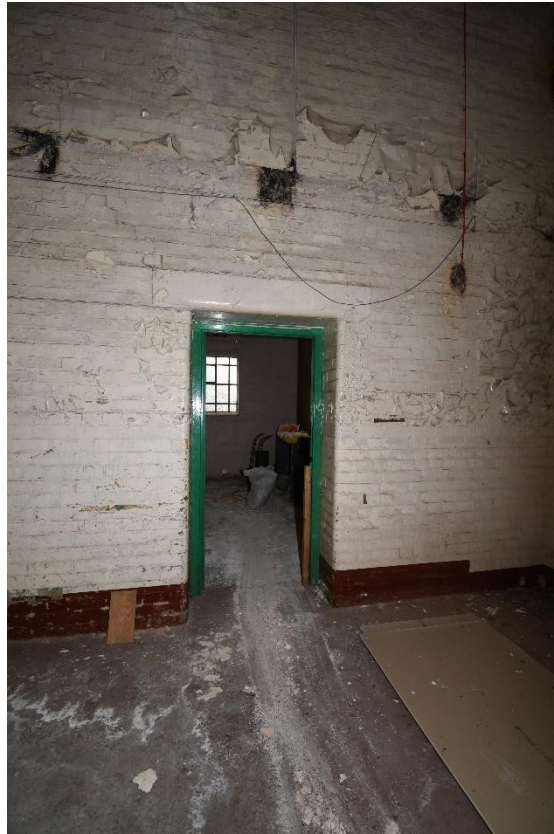


Plate 118: View into room 15 from room 6

Room 15 is located at the northern end of the row of rooms along the northwest wall of the manufactory building. The walls of the room are of painted brick suggesting this did not have to be a specifically clean part of the building.

The room is entered from a doorway to room 6 and features a plank-and-ledge external door in its northeast wall. There are no other features of interest in this room.

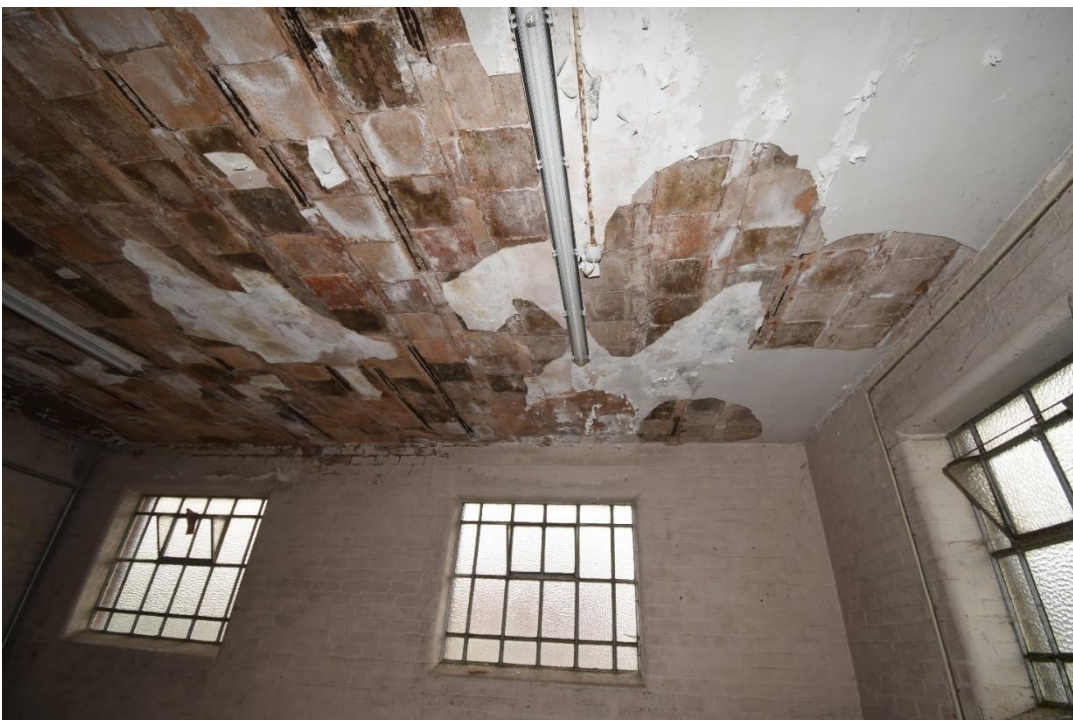


Plate 119: Northwest aspect and ceiling, room 15



Plate 120: Northeast door

13.19 Southeast Wall

The southeast wall of the manufactory is shared with the administration building. A number of windows were originally present enabling those in the administration building to observe works in the manufactory. These windows are present on both the ground and first floor of the administration building where they open into axial corridors running the entire length of the building. The majority of the windows were blocked at an unknown date.

A number of doorways also ran between the ground floor of the administration building and the manufactory. Of these, room 3 had a single door (which is still operational), room 4 had three (which are blocked), room 5 had one (still operational).

In rooms 4 and 5, the wall is clad with the green and white glazed bricks of the manufactory whereas in room 3, the wall is of painted brick.

The manufactory extends beyond the administration building and consequently the southeast wall of rooms 1 and 6 is an external wall and is not shared with the administration building.



Plate 121: Door and windows to administration building in southeast wall of room 3

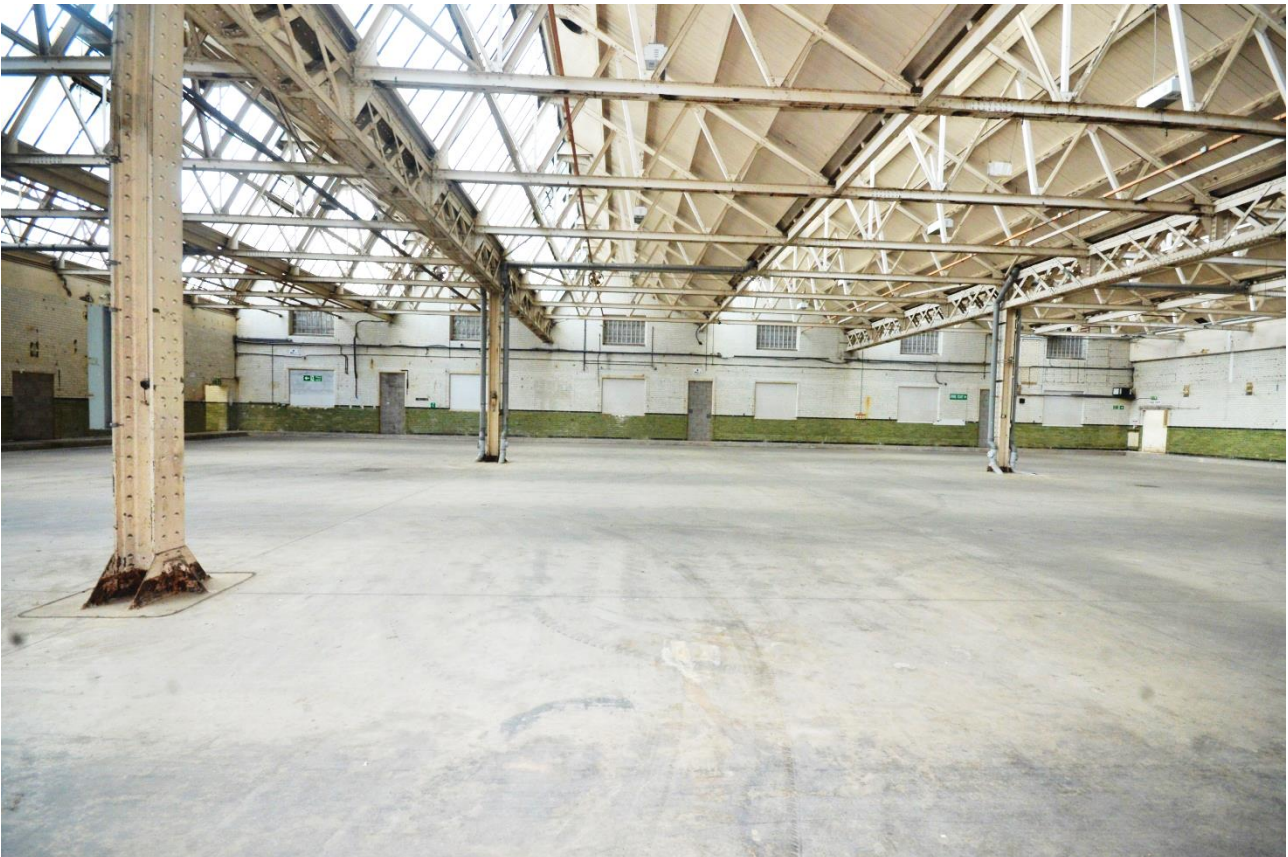


Plate 122: Blocked windows and doorways to administration building in southeast wall of room 4



Plate 123: Door and windows to administration building in southeast wall of room 5

13.20 Mezzanine



Plate 124: Staircase to mezzanine

The mezzanine floor at the southeast end of room 1 contains two rooms. The mezzanine is considered to be a later addition to the building and is not an original feature.

Access is via a steel staircase which leads to a single room with no features of interest. A door in the southwest wall of this room leads to the second room



Plate 125: Northeast aspect, mezzanine room 1



Plate 126: Southwest aspect, mezzanine room 1



Plate 127: Northwest aspect, mezzanine room 1

In the northwest wall of the mezzanine, windows overlook the space below.

The second room has a pedestrian door in its southwest wall. It is clear that this door was once used as a fire exit as there is a fire alarm point next to the opening, however there is currently no external staircase serving this door.



Plate 128: Northeast aspect, mezzanine room 2



Plate 129: Southwest aspect, mezzanine room 2



Plate 130: Details of windows, mezzanine room 2

13.21 Function of Parts of the Building

The function of parts of the building can be gathered from examination of the rooms in each part of the building. For example, uncovered foodstuffs would only be handled and processed in rooms with tiled walls or those constructed from glazed brick.

Raw ingredients are considered to have been brought in via the loading bays on the northeast wall of the building, goods being brought into room 6. The presence of a quarantine compound at the northwest end of the room reinforces this, as it is thought unlikely products manufactured within the building would require quarantine before distribution.

Processing and wrapping are considered to have occurred in the main boiling room (room 4) before wrapped sweets were packed into tins / boxes etc in room 3, which owing to the confectionary now being wrapped, does not need to be constructed of washable glazed bricks. Historic images show freshly wrapped sweets in an area with tiled walls, which is therefore suggested to be the eastern part of room 4.

It is noted from historic images that cooling tables were located in the southern part of the boiling room and further machinery positioned to the northwest outside the door of Room 10.

Goods were finally dispatched via lorry through loading bays in room 1. This system also enables a visual presence of Blue Bird lorries being loaded and dispatched in a vista visible from the public highway and by workers and visitors to the factory, from the centre of the site, whilst suppliers' lorries were concealed behind the building to the northeast.

The illustration overleaf shows the processes considered to have been carried out in each part of the building, and highlights areas of tiling / glazed brickwork.

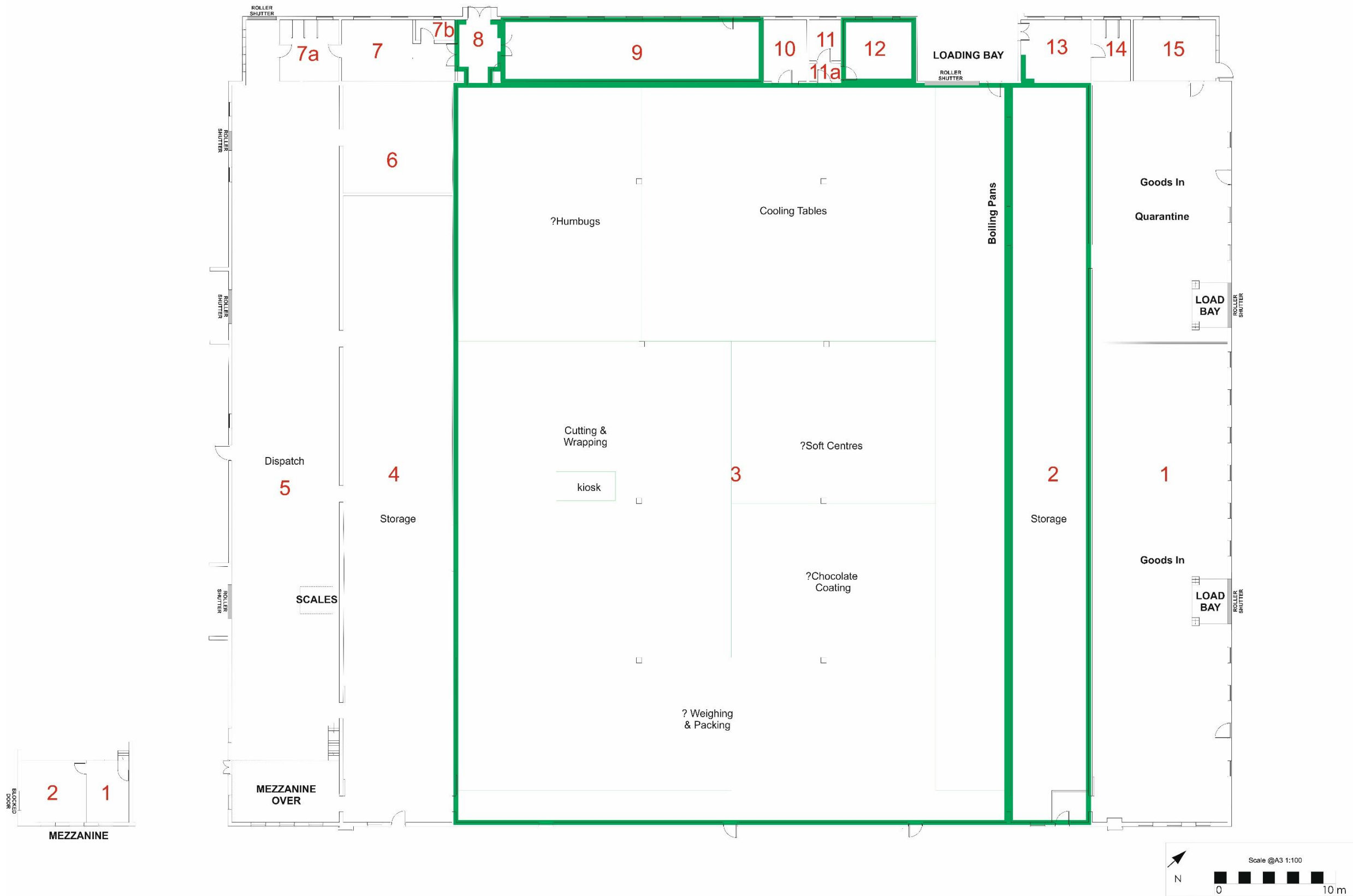
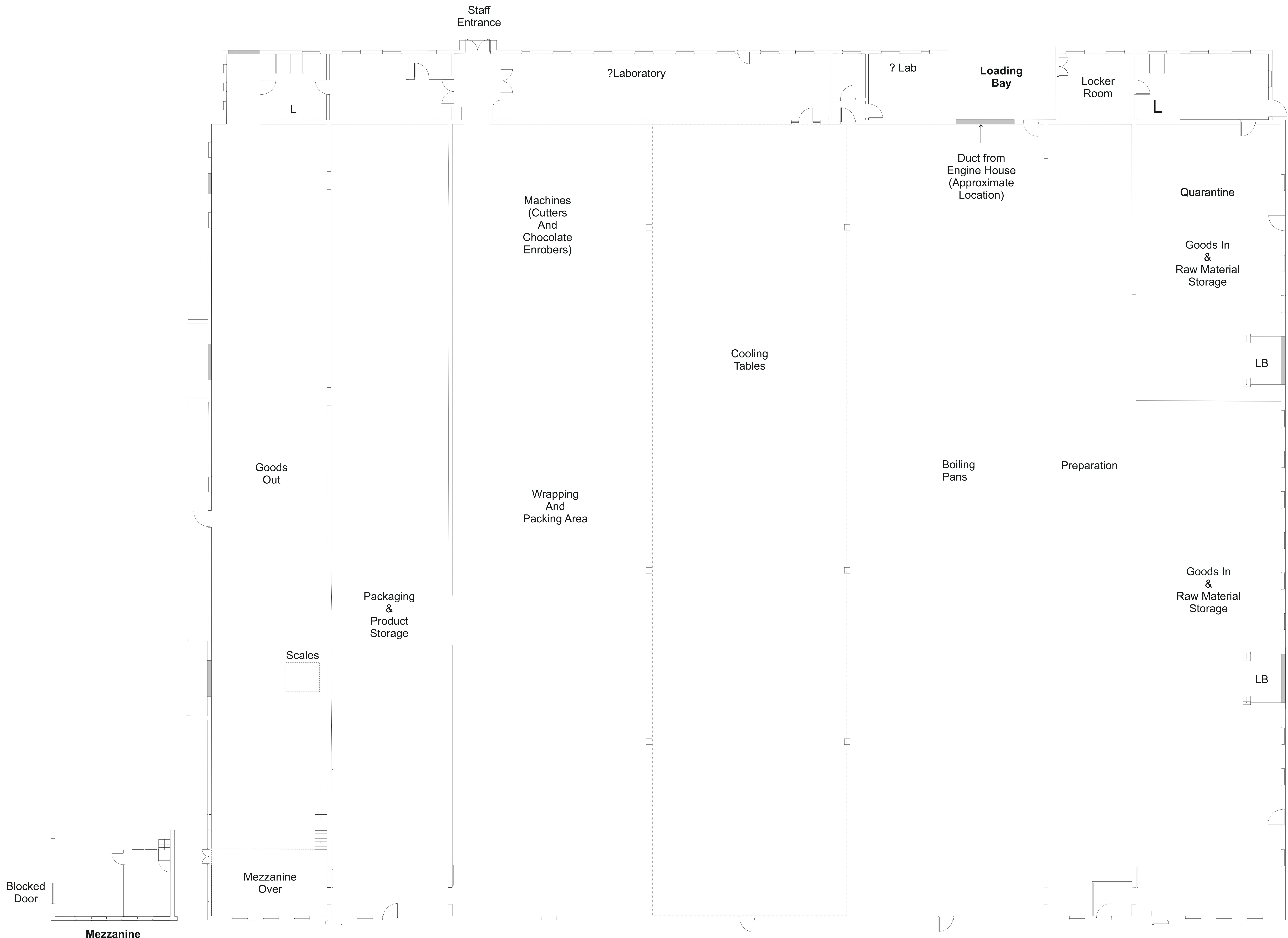
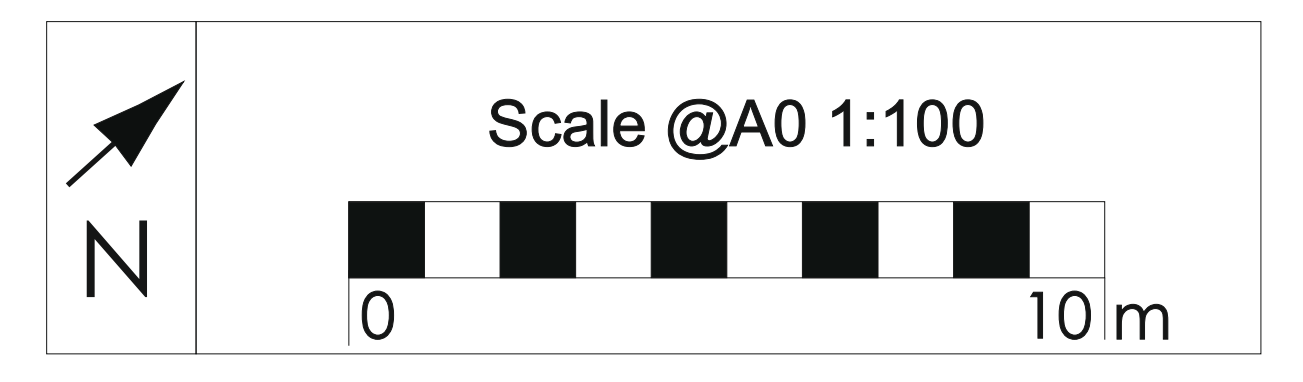
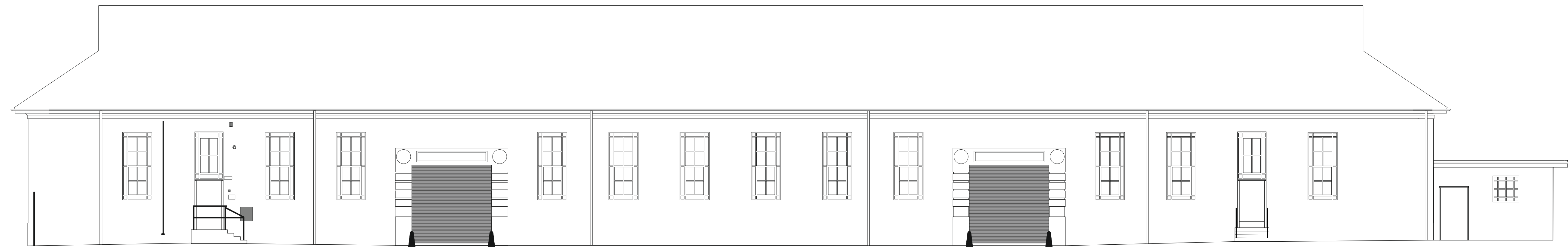


Figure 4: Plan of manufactory showing presumed functions and location of glazed brick walls (green) , 1:300 @ A3

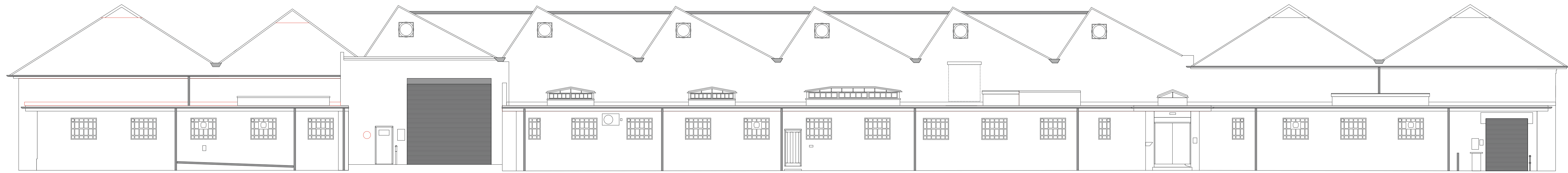


KEY:
 L = Lavatory
 LB = Loading Bay

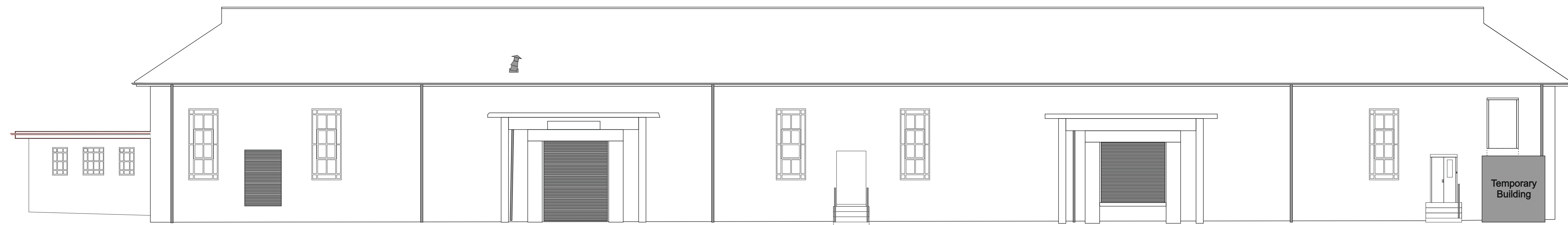




Northeast Elevation



Northwest Elevation



Southwest Elevation

Blue Bird Park
Manufactory

Scale @A0 1:100
0 10 m