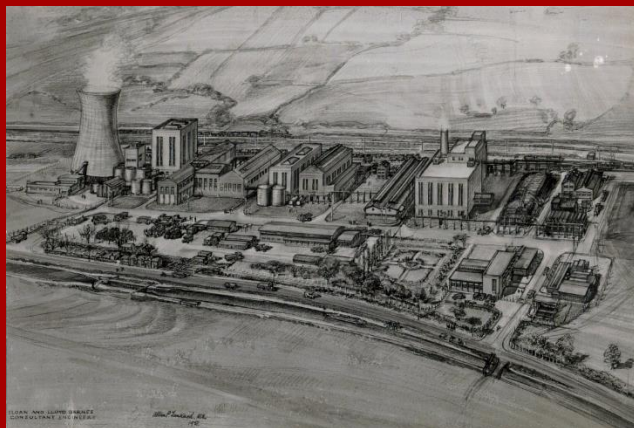


The New Works at Elworth

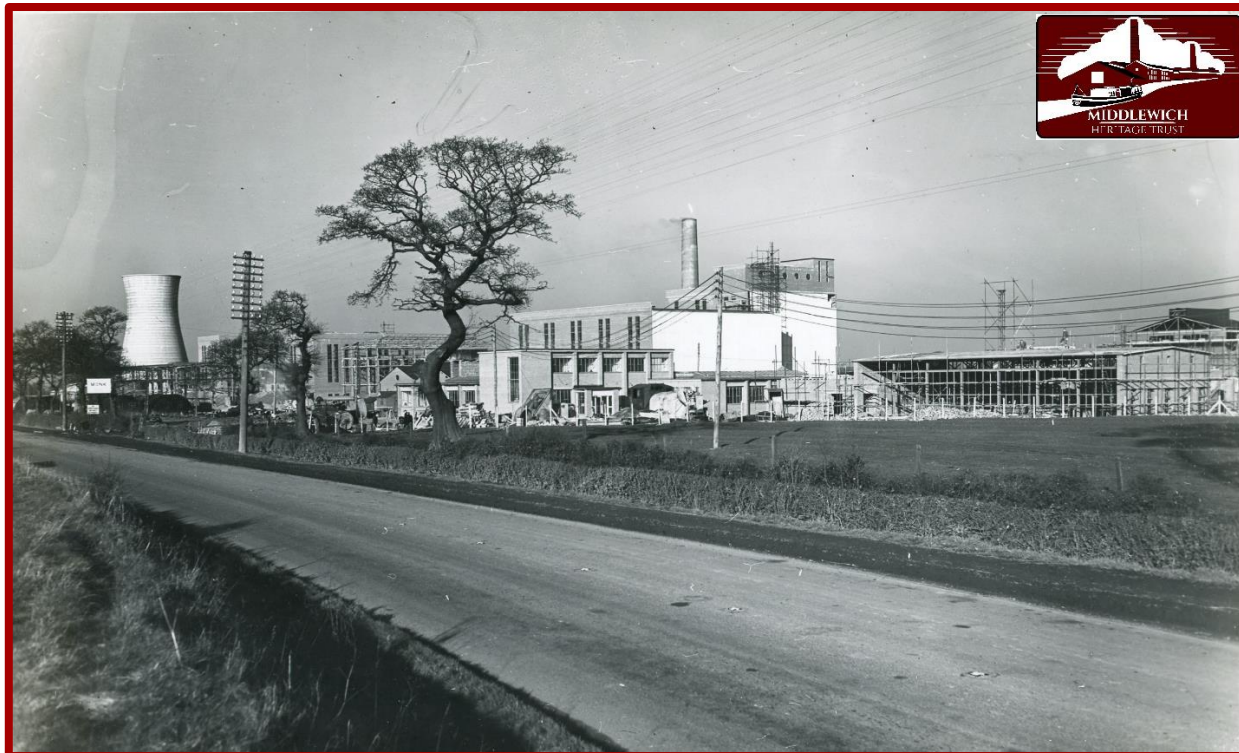
When the new works at Elworth was built, it was decided to pump brine from the existing Murgatroyd's Pump House to the new works. A single storey brick extension to the pump house was built, topped by a steel header tank. This was built at an angle to the existing pumphouse and used higher quality engineering bricks.

Two electric pumps were installed on a concrete slab adjacent to the extension and pumped brine to the new works via a pipeline laid alongside the railway. The pumps were enclosed in an asbestos cement lean-to building. Switchgear and control equipment for the new pumps was housed underneath the header tank. To increase pumping capacity, a new submersible electric pump was installed in the existing shaft.

On 25th May 1947 Murgatroyd's Vacuum Salt Co Ltd was formed by Dr Herbert Levinstein. A few months later, work on a narrow 18-acre site in Elworth between Booth Lane and the railway began. In view of the Company's entry into the chlor-alkali field in 1949, its name was changed to Murgatroyd's Salt and Chemical Co Ltd. The main products of the factory were to be Vacuum Salt, Chlorine, Caustic Soda, Hydrogen, Hydrochloric Acid and Sodium Hypochlorite. Production commenced in 1950, and construction was completed in 1951. A conspicuous feature of the new factory was the cooling tower which became a notable landmark on the Cheshire plain, rivalled only by the Jodrell Bank telescope. Once the new Company became established, it was bought in 1954 by Fisons Limited and the Distillers Company Limited in equal shares.



An idealistic design of the future. The new plant was designed by Sloan and Lloyd Barnes Consultant engineers, whose work included the Liverpool Overhead Railway, the SS Carpathia, and many other well-known projects.



Cast Iron Pipework being installed in 1949, to take brine from Brook's Lane to the new works at Elworth. This cast iron pipe is manufactured in the vertical pit method, a mould is made by ramming sand around a pattern and drying the mould in an oven. A core is inserted in the mould and molten iron is poured between the core and the mould.

Above: 21st January 1950. The new works are taking shape. The works were built by A Monk & Company, civil engineers, who during the war, built airfields and war factories.

Murgatroyd's Salt and Chemical Company Limited was one of the leading firms of the Cheshire Chemical Industry and made significant contributions to the country's chemical economy. Its interests were no longer confined to the salt industry, but also lay in the chlorine-caustic soda field, where for much of the 20th Century it was a major producer.