



Stratton Powder Factory

Stratton Powder Factory [pictured above], which came under the hammer in London this week, but was not sold. The buildings and land cover 60 acres and have not been used for several years, though a sections has recently been in use as a Swindon Corporation 'Bus Garage.

The factory - also called the 'nitrate works' or 'munitions factory' - was a relic of the First World War and is seen here in May 1930. The two chimneys were a landmark in Swindon and had to be demolished at the outbreak of the Second World War in case they acted as navigational markers for German Bombers. Ammonia nitrate was transported to the factory by an aerial ropeway which stretched 300 yards to the Wills tobacco factory in Colbourne Street, which had been turned into a factory producing castings. This ropeway appears to be in the foreground of the picture.

Today the factory site is two trading estates - Elgin and Kembrey Park.

Swindon Advertiser, date unknown