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Judges Comments

*A Large Span Industrial Building moulded into a landscaped area of considerable significance.
An outstanding example of the use of exposed steelwork to provide a striking and attractive solution.*

There are four elements in the Hartcliffe Project, situated on a 55-acre site to the south of Bristol.

- 1 The Western Division Factory, the largest tobacco manufacturing unit in Europe, producing over 400m cigarettes a week. Area 113,240 sq.m (1,219,000 sq.ft).
- 2 The Head Office for W. D. & H. O. Wills. Area 23,340 sq.m (251,200 sq.ft).
- 3 The Power House. 3,240 sq.m (34,900 sq.ft).
- 4 Landscaping: in view of the scale of the buildings and the location of the site this aspect was regarded as of exceptional significance.

The Factory, designed around the manufacturing process, has basically a single level process operation: below this level are service voids, car parking and tobacco stores. Above it are mezzanines for offices and certain process support elements. Below the process level the structure is in RC, above it the superstructure is steel framed. Basic roof structure is 18m span warren braced welded lattice trusses supporting 18m span castellated UB purlins. The making and packing area is spanned by nine 90m span lattice girders at 18m centres 10m high above the roof. The perimeter fascia to the factory is steel plate and the external stanchions are universal sections.

The L-shaped podium of Head Office over the artificial lake is in RC; above it is a five-storey tower in steelwork – the external stanchions, in welded sections, being exposed. Detailed fire loading calculations were involved, and the projecting beams were encased in concrete and clad in steel plate.

The underpass bridge uses 16 steel plate girders spanning 47m. They were fabricated in three sections and site butt welded. All exposed steelwork is in Corten weathering steel. The use of this material and indeed the use of structural steel generally is a major element in the total design concept. The designers considered that the use of Corten in the landscaped setting of Hartcliffe has a particular validity. Additional details of this project are contained in a Constrado publication.

